

September 2014

University of California
Cooperative Extension
Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Road #202
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-8781

Phone (951) 683-6491 X228
Fax (951) 788-2615
TDD (951) 276-9539

Website:

ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG
Email: anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu
anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

In This Issue	Page
Saving Water is Serious Business	1-2
Got Figs?	3
Pumpkin Imprisoned	4
Events Calendar	5
Chelsea Flower Show	6-7
WMWD	7
Ann Platzer	8
Summer Birthdays	9
Aqua Caliente School Garden Party	9
Fall Kick-Off Pot Luck	10

Garden Views



Saving Water is Serious Business

By Karen Bradford, Master Gardener

How many times have you heard the expression: “Pick the low-hanging fruit”?

I recently heard it again at the California-friendly landscape seminar at our Jurupa Community Services District Office . . . and it was NOT about how to harvest anything in your yard.

Instead, speaker Diane Downey encouraged us to do the easiest-possible thing “pick the low-hanging fruiting” to save water: watch our various irrigation systems to make sure they are at their peak efficiency . . . Do they water only the grass or plants, not the driveway, walkways or street? Do they apply the right amount of water during each season for your plants’ needs? Do they keep from applying too much or too little: mushy areas or dry spots?

The next low-hanging fruit, in Diane’s opinion, as a former landscape contractor and now an advocate of water-use efficiency, is something you’ve heard from me in many columns: mulch, mulch, mulch.

As a matter of fact, many of the things Diane discussed during the three-hour class are subjects you’ve already read here, including the importance of beneficial bacteria, and how to construct a rain garden.

The topic for this seminar was the six elements of a California-friendly landscape.

First, taking a “watershed approach” encourages viewing your property as a sustainable system: one where your water needs are determined by climate, plants and your soil type.



©Depositphotos.com/logoff

Saving Water is Serious Business (continued)

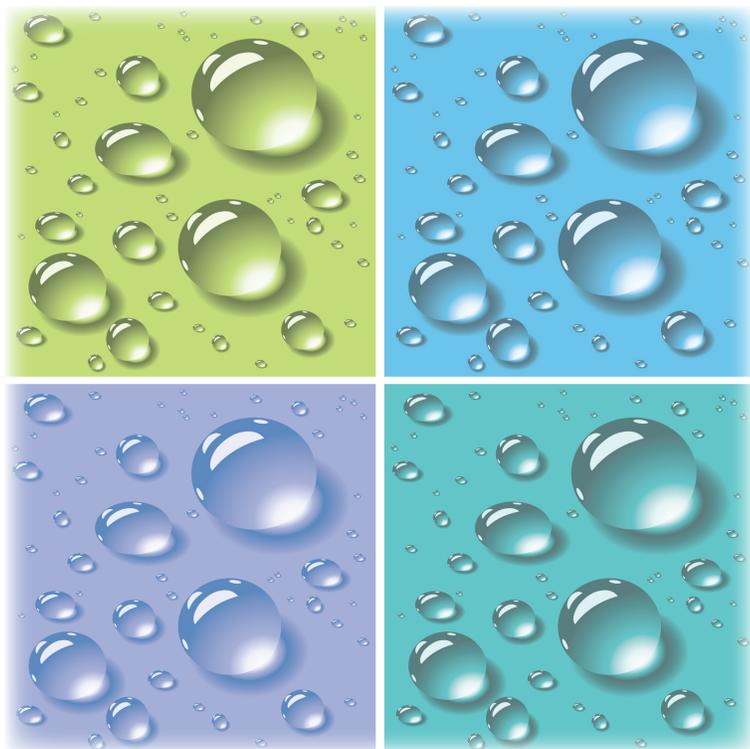
Secondly, do everything possible to make a living sponge of your soil: one that holds water and nutrients in a balance remembered by the acronym OWL for oxygen, water and life. Like icebergs, most of what happens with plants occurs below ground, so as Diane said, "A balance of OWL guarantees garden success!"

Third, evaluate your site: Your microclimates determine your water needs, and as much as 50 to 60 percent of household water consumption is used OUTSIDE: Whatever that dollar-figure is at your house, would you prefer to merely whittle some off or whack at it "with extreme prejudice"?

Fourth, select the right plant for the right place and group them for appropriate watering as a unit: The needs of Mediterranean plants are a little different from California-friendly (which can be more tolerant of dry, hot summers and wet, cool winters).

Fifth, start viewing rainwater as a resource. I was very surprised to learn that a roof of only 1,000 square feet during only one inch of rain can shed 600 GALLONS to be collected for storage instead of running down your driveway and into the street. How's that for astonishing?

If you don't want to start keeping barrels of water around your property (which is a very advisable part of your earthquake-preparedness plan), then at least consider constructing a rain garden that allows better percolation of rain in your own yard.



Sixth, manage your irrigation; grab that low-hanging fruit with gusto! Consider converting your sprinkler heads to drip irrigation wherever feasible. If you still need sprinklers, however, take a look at changing from fixed-spray heads to rotating nozzles: One of the benefits you might not realize is that rotary nozzles emit larger drops or streams of water that are not as easily vaporized into mist as do some current sprinklers. This means that in a breeze, your water has a better chance of falling in your yard where intended rather than being carried away on the wind.

A few final words: Go to <http://savewater.jcsd.us> for more information; and definitely go to <http://socalwatersmart.com> to find rebates that might net you some cash now as well as long-term savings of water and on your water bill.

Got Figs? Predator Alert

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

My "Mission Fig" tree crop had been phenomenal this year despite our warm winter and drought conditions. A while back, I went into the garden to pick a few and got quite a surprise. As I sauntered towards the tree, I noticed several iridescent green beetles clumsily flying and buzzing around. It seemed odd to see so many beetles in the small area as I usually only notice one or two in the yard. When I got closer, I said "whoa" and jumped back in my tracks! Hordes of beetles were in the tree eating my plump, juicy, and perfectly ripe figs. I witnessed at least 10 beetles or more on one fig having the meal of their miserable lives. Not small, these beetles were about an inch long.

I knew the flying beetles were pretty and harmless to humans, but, "Excuse me, find your own figs." For the past few years, I had been faithfully tending this fig tree and now my precious crop was being devoured before my eyes. I turned on the hose and tried to spray them away so I could salvage a few pieces. I didn't mind sharing some fruit with birds, but beetles – no way.

Out of curiosity, I Googled "iridescent green flying beetles." Guess what? I found dozens of websites on the "Figeater" Beetle. Figeater beetles (*Cotinis mutabilis*, formerly *C. texana*) emerge in the summertime especially in monsoon-type humid weather. Well, we've had a humid summer and these guys were thriving. Members of the Scarab

beetle family, they are active during the day, unlike their dull-colored cousins. They enjoy sweet tree sap, nectar-filled flowers and can damage soft fruits like peaches, plums grapes and figs. A pest they are, but can be somewhat controlled if you cover or screen thick mulch, dropped leaves, etc., areas where their larvae find food and shelter.



Despite this year's invasion, I did make a couple of great fig desserts. If interested, send me an email for recipes.

<https://www.sdnhm.org/archive/fieldguide/inverts/coti-mut.html>

UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

Eta Takele - County Director
(951) 683-6491 X221

Chair	David Brandtman
Chair Elect	Cathy Konyon
Secretary	Sandy Starkey
Fiscal Officer	Susan Kitchens
Past-Chair	Lucy Heyming
Gold Miners	Lucy Heyming
Grow Lab	Marco Baldi
JMDC	Dona Jenkins
IT Team	Bill Reid
Membership Coordinator	
Mentoring Program	Carol Hafftner
Newsletter Editor	Donna King
Phone Squad	Pauline Pedigo
Properties	Sandy Starkey
Public Relations	Sean Nealon
Recognition/Awards	Cathy Godfrey
School & Comm Programs	Cindy Peterson
Riverside Training Class Rep	Vacant
Social Programs	Vacant
Speakers Bureau	Vacant
Tours	Sheila James
UCRBG Representative	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Garden	Karen Fleisher

Desert Area Coordinators:

Chair	Larry Fechter
Co-Chair	Tom Stansbury
Secretary	Marie Strom
2014-15 Trainee Class	Lori Robin Wilson
K-6 School Gardens	Vacant
Agua Caliente School Garden	Cathy Liss
Mentor	Joan Kyle
Phone Squad	Sue Mills
Communication	Marge Robinson
Outreach and Education	Suzanne Jarvinen
Speakers Bureau	Angela Fasano
New Projects/Events	Angela Fasano
Social Programs	Kathy Miller
UCR Palm Desert Garden	Janna Calkins
Tours	Vacant
UCR Palm Desert Garden Coordinator	Janna Calkins

Garden Views: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>
Facebook: Google UCCE Riverside Master Gardeners

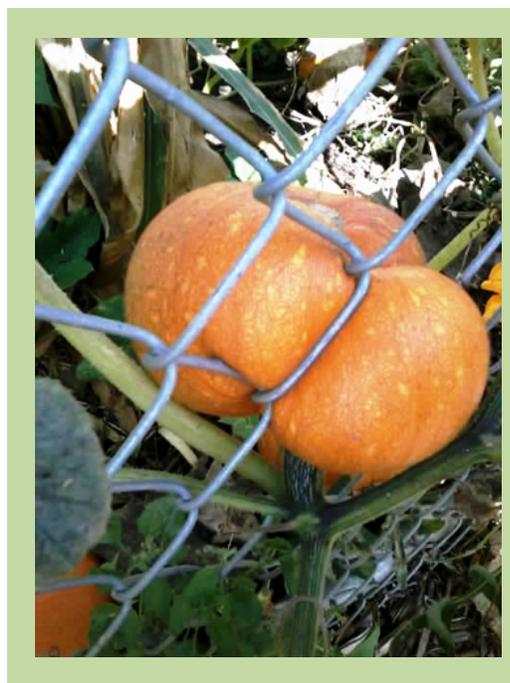
The Garden Views newsletter is published monthly, September through September, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

Editor: Donna King -- jaszyking@gmail.com
Marco Baldi
Beatrice Etchison
Cathy Godfrey
Mike Henry
Janet K. Hough
Frank Heyming
Lucy Heyming
Pauline Pedigo
Pat Robertson
Beverley Scray

Pumpkin Imprisoned!!

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

On a recent visit to the Community Garden at Ryan Bonaminio Park at the Tequesquite Arroyo, I came across a pumpkin trying to escape! This growing gourd wasn't going to let a chain-link fence stop his bulging "muscles" from developing in time for Halloween!



Propagation at the Grow Lab

Propagation activities begin soon in preparation for the Fall UCR Botanic Garden sale. New and unusual vegetables and herbs will be propagated this year along with some of the more popular varieties.

Pony packs (4 and 6 cell) and 4-5 inch plastic pots are needed.
Donations are welcome.

Stay tuned to the calendar for the propagation days. Sign up for as many days as you would like.

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public

3rd	Gates Cactus and Succulent Society Monthly Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm
4th	Riverside Training Class - Orientation	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
6th, 13th, 20th	Palm Springs Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:00 pm
7th	JMDC Plant Sale	1:00 - 4:00 pm
9th	UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation	9:00 - 11:00 am
9th	Murrieta Garden Club - Cool Season Vegetables	9:30 - 11:00 am
10th	Sun Lakes Garden Club - Container Gardening	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
10th	Sun Lakes Garden Club - Vermicomposting	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
11th	Desert Area Committee	10:00 - 11:30 am
13th	Grow Lab Propagation Begins	8:00 am - 2:00 pm
13th	Youth Fest 2014	8:00 am - 2:00 pm
13th	WMWD Docent Day	9:30 am - 2:30 pm
13th	WMWD Workshop: Cool Season Vegetable Gardening	11:00 am - 12:30 pm
18th	Riverside Training Class - UCCE and UCRBG Tours	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
19th	Kaiser Health Fair	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
20th, 21st	Fall Iris Rhizome and Plant Sale	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
22nd	Valley Mesa Gardening Club	12:00 - 3:00 pm
24th	Speaker - Overseeding the Right Way	6:30 - 7:45 pm
27th	Presentation on Fall Vegetable Gardens (Spanish) - Chino	10:00 - 11:00 am
28th	JMDC Committee Meeting	1:00 - 2:00 pm
28th	JMDC Orientation	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Ongoing	JMDC Water-Watering, Propagation and Work Days	Wednesday, Fridays & Saturdays
Ongoing	Indio Call Center	Mondays
Ongoing	Grow Lab Activities - Water and Work Days	Saturdays
Ongoing	Phone Squad Training	Thursdays, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Chelsea Flower Show 2014

I was so lucky to see a tour going to this show in a garden magazine. This show is one of the biggies in the world of plants and just sharing the winning Plants of the Year Category with you in this newsletter gets me all excited about this wonderful experience all over again. It is definitely international in flavor. Attendees I saw and heard were from many of the former British colonies, natives of Britain who took the train from their small villages and towns near London to spend the day with family and friends, some gals from Dublin who were spending the weekend in London, plus tour groups of all languages and backgrounds. Plant growers and nurseries competing for medals and honors at the show were also international. Let's look at some of the winners of Show Plants to see who competed in this category at the Chelsea Flower Show of 2014.

The Plant of the Year 2014 winner is *Hydrangea macrophylla* "Miss Saori". It is a ten year effort by Ryoji Irie of Japan. He is a young plant man with ten hydrangea patents who named his winning hydrangea after his then fiancée who is now his wife. Google his name and you will see a picture of this as well as other winners in the Plants of the Year category. Miss Saori is a new form with long lasting double flowers forming mopheads that increase in size over the growing season. It is a repeat bloomer on new wood. Its deep rose margins soften into white centers giving it a lacy, wavy appearance. Burgundy leaves add beauty to the plant. Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centers of England presented the flower. The plant will be available in select nurseries in 2015.



Second Place winner is Iris "Domino Noir" bred by Richard Cayeux of France. He has been propagating irises for 20 years in an effort to get black falls and white standards and a hint of lavender and gold beards. As a novice, I was surprised to see a simple iris, a hydrangea, and the third place winner a gerbera daisy be winners of this world class show. Upon studying each plant and the breeders' effort to achieve specific qualities and characteristics of common plants, I learned a lot.



A hardy Gerbera Garvinea Sweet Glow®, third place winner, can produce up to 70 flowers from spring to autumn (probably in a European garden). It was presented on the Scott's Miracle-Gro stand in the Great Pavilion. This pavilion is a huge indoor show place of thousands of plants and exhibits honoring WWI vets from the city of Birmingham. Other exhibits included the show winner, Mr. McGregor's Garden honoring farmers, edible plant growers, bulbs, David Austen roses, succulents and more.



A British winner, a clematis was bred by Szczepan Marczyński honoring Madam Marie Curie. And not to be left out a narcissus won. It was propagated for 20 years and called *Georgie Boy* to celebrate the birth of Prince George. *Rose Indigo*, a tomato developed by Jim Meyer of the University of Oregon is another of the 20 winning plants for 2014.



Be sure to visit the many web sites about the Chelsea Flower Show 2014 to view all the other categories of plants, gardens, garden design and sculpture etc. You can Google any of the plant persons and nurseries mentioned in this article for a more complete and thoroughly enjoyable view of this wonderful tradition in London.

Thanks for your support!



Western Municipal Water District

WMWD Landscapes Southern California Style
450 E. Alessandro Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92508

October 14, 2014.....11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Water Conservation in Your Garden

Water conservation is a critical subject. How do you manage it with your current landscape? What are the steps to implement a water-wise landscape? What are the maintenance considerations? Pam Pavela is the Water - Use Efficiency Specialist with Western Municipal Water District. In this workshop she will help you understand the many methods of water conservation.

November 8, 2014.....11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Go Native! Gardening with California Native Plants

Want to attract songbirds, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard? Go natives! Want to decrease the use of water, pesticides, herbicides and amendments? Go natives! Fall and early Winter are the best planting times for California native plants. Attend the workshop and then visit the parking lot for live examples of native plants. The California Native Plant Society will hold a sale of plants in the lot from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer Exceeds 5,000 Hours

Content provide by Ann Platzer

Ann Platzer has exceeded 5,000 volunteer hours during her time with the Riverside Master Gardener program. She is both an inspiration and a role model.

Ann's interest in gardening started, in Canada, at age 10, when her Mother showed her how to grow vegetables. In addition, she had cactus plants on her kitchen windowsill.

Ann, Ed, her husband, and Linda, her daughter, have lived in Riverside since 1971. In 1973, they moved into their current Riverside home. During their spare time, they started serious gardening.

As biologists whose passions encompass insects to mammals, they converted their lot into a drought tolerant and native plant garden with cacti, succulents, vegetables, fruit trees and host plants for butterflies. After years of hard work, they became certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat and also a Monarch Waystation where 60 species of butterflies & birds visit yearly.

Since Ann and Ed worked at UC Riverside, they frequently visited the UCR Botanic Gardens and soon became volunteers in the succulent area. Master Gardener members suggested she join their ranks. In 2006, Ann became a Master Gardener and, in 2007, the Friends of UCR Botanic Garden made her an Honorary Friend For Life.



“Gardeners are a wonderful, friendly people who willingly share knowledge and plants and don’t mind getting their hands dirty!!”

Ann Platzer

During a visit to the Patagonia Butterfly Garden in Arizona in the mid 1990's a light went on. Why not introduce a Butterfly Garden into the UCR Botanic Gardens? With Riverside's dwindling natural habitats, what better way to encourage children and adults alike to consider adding butterfly friendly plants to their own home landscape? After years of preparation the UCR Butterfly Garden is now open to visitors. This led Ann to write "The Butterfly Corner" in the UCRBG Newsletter. She also joined the MG Speakers Bureau to provide information about introducing common butterflies seen in Southern California into home gardens.

Ann's interests mainly revolve around the Botanic Gardens where she enjoys working with her garden friends, particularly Barbara Hayes, John Kitzmarck, and Steve Morgan, the curator of the UCR Botanic Gardens. Steve is a fantastic, friendly, wealth of knowledge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE
WHO HAVE SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Beatrice Etchison
Becky Feller
Bill Sleeper
Christine Lampe
Cyndy Dupree
Faye Wons
Fernando Ruelas
Hugh O'Brien
Jackie Smith

Kathy Swanson
Kayla Lax
Launa Wilson
Lauren Shone
Lauretta Kyle
Marco Baldi
Mickey Ask
Pat Hughes
Paul Martin

Roland Rumbold
Ron Peterson
Sally Logan
Sheila James
Stephanie Pocock
Steve Little
Susan Harris
Susan Kitchens
Suzanne Lawson
Valerie Tripp

Agua Caliente School Garden Party

By Cathy Liss, Master Gardener

One of our Desert Area Master Gardener Projects is the vegetable garden at Agua Caliente Elementary School in Cathedral City. The garden has been operating since 2009 and has been maintained by the school staff, families, and the local community. On June 9th, 2014, Master Gardeners (Cathy Liss and Jeff DeBeck) assisted the entire graduating class of ninety-seven fifth graders and families with a Garden Party. Each student selected two vegetable seedlings—one to plant in the school garden, and the other to take home to grow in his or her family garden. A team from UC CalFresh, headed by NFCS Advisor Chutima Ganthavorn, also participated with information about MyPlate family nutrition for the parents, grandparents, and guardians. Many of the fifth grade students were encouraged to learn about the nutrition information as well. Although the weather was intense, everyone stayed well-hydrated, sprinkled by the garden hose, and had an amazing garden celebration. The school wishes to thank the Master Gardener Program and UC CalFresh for making this a memorable event.



Save the Date

Fall Kick Off Potluck

October 4th from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the UCR Botanic Gardens

**We are having a plant exchange as well as a potluck, so bring your favorite dish.
If you would like to participate, please bring a plant to exchange for a
new one to take home.**

RSVP through VMS

University of California and U.S. Department of Agriculture

The University of California Prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person employed by or seeking employment with the University on the basis of race, color national origin religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). University Policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies September be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agricultural and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200 (510) 987-0096.

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Rd. Ste 202

Moreno Valley, CA 92557