

# Garden Views

OCTOBER 2015

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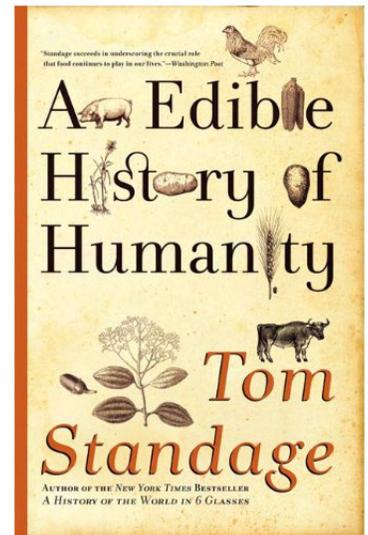


## Recommended Reading

By Beatrice Etchison, Master Gardener

### An Edible History of Humanity, by Tom Standage

This book is easy reading and I appreciate the author diligently pointing out the edible foundations of civilization. This book has heightened my awareness of the intrinsic values of food. The book points out that the invention of farming provided food, wealth, and power for the social structure, eventually giving way to global highways of food. The author has done a fair amount of research from many writings of others before him.



Food, energy and industrialization are anchored in the New World through the steam engine and the potato

famine and its consequences. War has gone hand in hand with civilization and food has been used as both a weapon and the fuel of war, with its by product of war over food.

The book points out that if population, and development demand answers for feeding the world. And then come the paradoxes of plenty.

It is hard to do justice to this book that is already compact with information about food culture through the ages. With topics like food as currency, the curious appeal of spices, seeds of empire and the worst famine in history I felt compelled to make my fellow Master Gardeners aware of this very thought provoking writing. Run, don't walk to check out this book.

## Grow Lab

There is a beautiful addition to the shade structure for the newly started veggie plants. Thanks to Murray Euston and trainees Bill and Britney Judge (with assists from Debra, Sue, Valerie Baule, and Darrilyn Erickson) for all their hard work.

Join us at the Grow Lab on Saturdays for work days.



## Janet's Jottings

Dear UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County,

First off, a heartfelt thanks to MG newsletter editor Donna King and the monthly contributors for their commitment to relaying timely information on a wide variety of topics of interest to you each month in the Garden Views newsletter.



Let me also extend a heartfelt welcome to the new Master Gardener trainees in the valley and the desert (class to start soon). I hope you find the classes informative and enlightening and I know you will make a lot of new friends with 'like-minded' peers during the process. Your volunteer commitment is much appreciated. Master Gardeners do make such a difference! With programs based in 50 California counties and 6,048 active members, UC Master Gardener volunteers donated 385,260 hours last year and have donated more than 4.2 million hours since 1981!

### **Strategic Planning to Increase Visibility and Effectiveness of the MG Program**

Thanks to those of you who completed the questionnaire I sent out last month asking about your specific short and long term goals as a Master Gardener. We used this as a basis for a workshop presented by statewide MG Program Director Missy Gable and myself and as the starting point for strategic planning efforts at our local level. Rosa has posted the taped Power Points in VMS under 'newsletters and documents' for your reference. She and the board are working diligently to move the planning process forward based on your input in the survey and further input at last week's open meeting at WMWD. Rosa and the board will present an update to MGs in January so stay tuned! The core of the strategic planning process is the mission of UCCE Master Gardeners to provide research-based, objective information to the gardening public through the use of trained volunteers.

### **Educational materials housed in VMS.**

Just a reminder that there are many, many UCCE materials for your use at information booths and in answering inquiries from the public at information booths and for making presentations housed in VMS (look under 'newsletters and documents').

Have a great month!

Janet Hartin  
Environmental Horticulturist  
San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties  
Program Director – San Bernardino and Riverside County Master Gardener Program  
UC Cooperative Extension

## To Turf or Not to Turf - That is the Question!!

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

For 25 years, the Western Municipal Water District's (WMWD) demonstration garden has been emphasizing alternative landscaping to grass lawns. However, it has only been in the past year or so that grass has been named as the truly evil water- guzzling demon that should be banished from the Golden State.

So with monetary incentives of over \$350,000,000, Southern California businesses and residents tore out about 150 million square feet of the green stuff. And replaced it with what, you ask? Well, that's a complicated question. Some folks replaced their lawn with nothing, (although turf rebate programs required replacement of about half of the turf with water-wise plants). Others planted some cacti and rock. And many designed wonderful eye-catching yards with lush looking, but water-stingy trees, plants, shrubs, and ground covers. Then there is the rest of us who have not replaced our lawns, and are at a loss as to what is the right thing to do in our circumstances. That's why WMWD's September 12, 2015 class given by Pam Pavela was very timely and refreshing. The course title, "Turf is Not a Bad Word" says it all.



Pam stated that you can have a lawn without nagging guilt if you follow these guidelines.

- Use warm- season turf grass species like Bermuda grass, St. Augustine grass, zoysia grass, and buffalo grass. These lawns perform best in 80 to 95 degree temperatures and can go dormant in prolonged cold weather or lack of water.
- Remove lawn and lawn irrigation within two feet of an impermeable surface like a sidewalk.



Plant shrubs in the two foot zone between the lawn and the impermeable surface. This keeps water from running onto sidewalks and the street.

Of course, Pam strongly suggested that your turf should have a purpose for things such as play, gathering, or for pets. So, if your lawn is mostly aesthetic, let's talk about removing the lawn. First, determine what type of grass you have in your lawn, then proceed.

#### **Killing a cool-season grass like tall fescue**

- Shovel it out or rent a sod cutter since this type of grass does not spread.
- Smother it with sheet mulching if you don't mind waiting a few months.
- Use a systemic herbicide like glyphosate.

#### **Killing a warm-season grass**

- Use a systemic herbicide since warm season grasses root deeply. These grasses spread through stolons, and in many cases, underground rhizomes.

When using systemic herbicides, you will probably need to reapply more than once for the best results. Continue to water the grass so its circulation remains and the herbicide can move throughout the plant and kill all parts. Don't become impatient and repeat the process until all new growth is dead. Check <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7458.html> when dealing with kikuyu grass and <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7432.html> for nut sedge removal.

#### **Exciting New Groundcover to Consider!**

If you would like to replace your lawn with a swath of green, Pam advised us to consider a new groundcover that's becoming popular: *Phyla nodiflora* or *Lippia nodiflora*.

WMWD has planted a sterile variety called *Kurapia* in the demonstration garden and it's growing with success. As researched by UCR, it is a member of the verbena family, very drought tolerant, and long lasting. In 2016 it will be commercially available as sod. Check with your local nursery to see if it can order plugs for you at this time. <http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/industry/kurapia/kurapia>.

Currently there is a debate on whether removing so much grass and replacing it with too much rock/gravel will raise temperatures around homes. But that is a story for another day. Whatever you do, keep deep watering your precious trees!



UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER  
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(951) 683-6491 X221

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Moortens Volunteer Program	Janna Calkins
Living Desert Program	Corky Stevens

Living Desert implementation and symposium  
Janna Calkins

UCR Palm Desert landscaping  
Janna Calkins

Farmers market info tables Ron Jemmerson  
PS- Ron Jemmerson, Tom Edwards, Bill Sleeper  
PD- open  
LQ- open

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

The Garden Views newsletter publishes nine editions per year, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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Janet K. Hough  
Frank Heyming  
Lucy Heyming  
Pauline Pedigo  
Pat Robertson  
Beverley Scray



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

October		
1st	Trainee Class	6:00 - 9:30 pm
2nd	Riverside Citizen Scientist Project	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
2nd, 3rd, 4th	Temecula Home & Garden Show	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
3rd, 10th, 17th	Fall Propagation at Grow Law	7:30 am - 12:30 pm
3rd, 10th, 31st	Palm Springs Farmer's Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
3rd, 17th	Hemet Farmers Market	8:30 am - 1:30 pm
5th	WMWD Garden Committee Meeting	2:00 - 3:15 pm
6th	Drought Tips for Planting a Fall Flower & Vegetable Garden	6:00 - 7:00 pm
6th	October IRIS Meeting	7:00 - 8:00 pm
7th	Fifty and Better Health Fair	7:30 am - 2:30 pm
8th, 21st	Temecula Farmers Market	8:00 am - 1:00 pm
7th, 14th, 28th	Palm Desert Farmers Market	4:00 - 8:00 pm
7th	Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Monthly Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm
8th	Desert Area Committee	10:00 - 11:30 am
8th	Veterans Meeting - Are GMOs Safe for Humans and the Environment	6:30 - 8:30 pm
8th	California Native Plant Society Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm
10th, 17th	WMWD Workshop - Drought Tolerant Vegetable Gardening Using the Keyhole Method	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
10th	WMWD Docent Day	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
11th	La Quinta Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
12th	UCCE Office Closed	8:00 am - 5:00 pm
13th	UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation	9:00 - 11:00 am
15th	Planting for Fall - Veggies and New Plants	4:00 - 5:00 pm
16th	Trainee Class	6:00 - 9:30 pm
17th	Desert Garden Community Day	7:30 am - 1:00 pm
17th	Save Water Workshop and Resources Fair EMWD	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
17th	Master Gardeners Harvest Potluck	3:00 - 6:00 pm
19th	Veterans Meeting - Fragrance/Sensory Gardens for Your Own Backyard	6:30 - 8:30 pm
21st	Advisory Board Meeting	7:00 - 9:00 pm
22nd	Desert Veterans Fall Social	12:00 - 2:00 pm
22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th	UCRBG Moving Plants and Set Up for Plant Sale	Various times
23rd	Riverside Certified Farmers Market	7:30 am - 12:30 pm
24th, 25th	UCR Botanic Gardens Plant Sale	7:30 am - 4:00 pm
26th	First MG Desert Training Class	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
	Phone Squad - Everyday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO HAVE OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Angela Fasano  
Becky Hiroto  
Bill Bair  
Cindy Beck  
Curt Cressman  
Donna Keats  
Frank Heyming  
Gilbert Calzada

Hedy Zikratch-Tyson  
Jean Texera  
Jenifer Aragon  
Jolene Hancock  
Linda Powell  
Lori Briscoe  
Ned Chassagne  
Pat Kircher

Pat Malone  
Pauline Pedigo  
Rhonda Alexander  
Steven Orr  
Susan Cline



### Note From Rosa

Welcome Riverside Master Gardener Trainees! You are now part of a unique group of volunteers and I hope you find your niche within the Master Gardener Program. The desert begins the training in November. If you know anyone interested in the desert training have them contact me.

There are many events coming up this fall for Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Trainees, please check VMS regularly to keep abreast of the latest. The UCR Botanic Garden, Fall Plant Sale, is coming up, you can get volunteers hours before, during, and after the sale, what a great opportunity!!! So mark your calendar for October 24 and 25.

Trainees, if you have any questions about VMS, events or anything else contact your mentor and remember, I am just an email away. We want you to get in your 50 volunteer hours now that there are numerous opportunities.

Finally, if you have not paid your yearly dues and liability insurance, it is time. I will be sending a final reminder. You can go on the following links to pay: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=15890> for annual dues link and to <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=15888> for the insurance fee link.

If you stop by the office to pay, you can pick up the NEW EDITION of the Master Gardener Handbook.

## **WMWD Workshops**

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

### **Drought Tolerant Vegetable Gardening Using the Keyhole Method**

**Saturday, October 10, 2015 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

A keyhole garden is a type of raised bed that uses recycled materials to create a garden in unfavorable conditions. This method is often used in areas where good soil is scarce and drought conditions are frequent. Christine Lampe, a UCCE Master Gardener, will share her successes with this method and give you simple instructions to create your own water-efficient vegetable garden. It's a great way to become a little more self-sufficient!

### **Using California Native Plants in Your Landscape**

**Saturday, November 14, 2015 - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Want to decrease the use of water, pesticides, herbicides and amendments in your garden? Want to encourage wild birds, butterflies and bees? Plant California native plants!!! Beautiful and drought tolerant California native plants create a welcome haven for man AND environment. Dr. Kate Kramer, practicing botanist with SoCal Biology, will share tips on selecting and growing these wonderful plants. Now is the best times of year to plant California natives. Attend the workshop 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.

## **October 17th - Grow Lab**

**POTLUCK, SCARECROW CONTEST, PLANT  
EXCHANGE, PUMPKIN DECORATING**

**See VMS for more details**

## Phone Squad

You can now tell people that not only can they call the Phone Squad M-F mornings, they can also leave us a voice mail!!

951-683-6491 extension 231 or 232

Leave a detailed message, including name, phone number and nature of the gardening problem and someone will get back to you.

Or, you can email the MG Phone Squad at [ANRMGRiverside@UCANR.edu](mailto:ANRMGRiverside@UCANR.edu)



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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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