



May Garden Tasks



May is a very busy month for people who garden and do landscape maintenance. It is time to plant warm season vegetables. Transplant vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant that you started from seed or plant small plants that have been purchased. Vegetables such as corn, squash, melons, cucumbers and beans can be directly seeded in the garden. When planting vegetables, it is a good idea to remove any flowers or fruit that may have formed before planting. When plants are transplanted, the plants need to grow and expand their root systems into the new environment. Removing any flowers and fruit allows the plant to spend its energy on root growth. After the roots have established the plants will flower and set fruit.

This is also the time of year many pest problems start to show up. Aphids are commonly found on roses, fruit trees and many vegetable plants. Before resorting to chemical options, first try and remove aphids by hosing down the plants with water. Be sure to spray the underside of leaves.

Many people have noticed that the leaves of sycamore and Modesto ash trees have started to fall off the tree. The leaf fall is due to the disease anthracnose. Anthracnose is a fungal disease that is active during wet spring conditions like we had this year. There is not an effective treatment for this disease in landscape trees. Many trees are resistant to this disease so when replacing trees select resistant species. Contact your local UCCE Master Gardeners who can help you select a resistant species to fit your needs.

Another disease that starts to show up in the spring is Botrytis blight, a fungus disease that causes flowers to become spotted or discolored. It also causes buds to rot and flower buds may fail to open. Botrytis is found on roses and many other ornamental flowers such as peonies, geraniums and tulips. Botrytis is favored by high humidity. To control this disease remove and dispose of fallen leaves and debris around plants. Prune out diseased tissue. Avoid overhead watering and improve air circulation around the affected plants.

Powdery Mildew will also start to show up on plants such as apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits. It will show up as a white powder on plant leaves. In many cases it can be controlled by avoiding overhead watering, placing plants in full sun and providing good air circulation around foliage. There are resistant plant varieties available for crape myrtle and roses. Consider planting resistant varieties when planting new plants

For more information on pest management visit the UCIPM website at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html> or contact the UC Glenn County Master Gardener's Plant Clinic on Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 PM in the UC Cooperative Extension Office. Phone: 530-865-1107.

You can also send an email to anrmglenn@ucanr.edu or submit a question on our website at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/glennmg/>.

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