



Volume I, Issue II

October 2012

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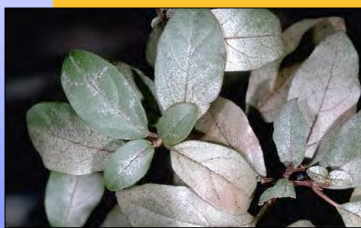
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What is causing this silvery damage to these leaves? Find the answer on page 7

## 2013 MG Training

The 2013 Master Gardener Training will be here before we know it! We are looking at a February 5th start date. Classes will be on Tuesdays from 8:30-1:00 and the training will be \$150.00. Applications are coming in on a daily basis now, which is really exciting! We will be accepting applications until November 16th. Once the deadline is closed we will set up the interview dates. Several MGs have already volunteered to help with the interview process once it is set up. If you are interested in possibly helping let me know and I'll try to work you into the schedule. There will be lots of opportunities to help as class helpers and the sign up for this will be on the VMS calendar once the schedule is finalized. Something new for 2013 will be a mentor program. This was discussed at the conference I went to in Davis and I got some great ideas and examples of what works well in other counties. I'm currently creating guidelines that will work well in our county. Now is the time to think about becoming a mentor for the "newbie's" that will be entering the program. More information on the mentor program will be coming out soon! Remember current MGs can attend MG trainings as refresher courses and they count as CE units.

## Smart Garden Conference Re-cap

The Smart Garden Conference went really well this year. We had 130 people that paid for the smart garden conference which brought in \$2600 gross. Our expenses including lunch, snacks, flyers and other cost was \$ 1775 bringing us a total of \$825.00. I'd like to start planning the 2013 conference earlier so we can add some new topics that aren't part of our typical weekend "dog and pony" workshop schedule. If you have an idea it's not too early to start working on a PowerPoint for next year! I'm still working on summarizing the survey forms (there are a lot!) but as soon as I do I'll share the results with the group. We did get a lot of great ideas for class topics and lots of positive feedback! Here are 2 comments we received: "The best \$20.00 I ever spent on my yard! By far!" and "This is my second year—enjoyed both so much—What a deal for \$20.00. Thanks so much!"

This event was a success because of all the Master Gardeners that put their time, enthusiasm and dedication into the planning and implementation of the program. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this successful event! For more pictures [click here](#).



MG Dennis handing out hose nozzles

*The MG Program now has access to creating our own custom QR codes! If you have a QR reader on your mobile device scan this code and see where it takes you! Look for these to be included on MG handouts in the near future!*



## VMS is Getting a Facelift!



UCCE MASTER GARDENER  
VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM<sup>2-1</sup>



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES



I recently attended the MG coordinators conference in Davis and one of our speakers was Jon Wilson who is part of the team that is giving VMS a facelift! We got to see some of the cool features they are planning on unveiling.

They are formatting VMS so that it is compatible and user friendly on smart phones, and devices like iPads.

There will be a news feed feature similar to face-

book where you will be able to see what has been recently added to calendars, events that you have participated in with a reminder to log your volunteer hours, and some other cool features. The FAQ section is getting an overhaul with the hopes of making it more user friendly. Many of the features are internal and will make my job easier.

They will be looking for Beta testers from various Master Gardener programs. I'd like to get 2

MGs from our county to try out the new system. It would be great to have someone who currently feels comfortable navigating VMS and then having a MG that is not very VMS savvy participate. If you are interested in being a Beta tester let me know and I'll pass your contact info along.

They are hoping for a January (ish) release date for VMS 3.1.

## MG Spotlight—Patty Auckland 2011

Patty is a 2011 MG Graduate. She was born and raised in upstate New York and came to CA in 1976, at the age 24. Four years later she bought her house in

Tracy and she is still there. When asked what she would be doing out in the garden she replied: "If I am outside in my backyard/garden, I am happy. You might see me propagating succulents and

cacti, trimming, pruning, weeding, repotting, rearranging, planting, etc. The 1st and last thing I do every day is go outside to my backyard and admire it. I have made a park."

Her favorite food is Mexican takeout from La Costa on Grantline Rd in Tracy. She enjoys camping or hiking anywhere. You might even find her walking around a nursery or hardware store. What was she doing before the Master Gardener Pro-

gram? "I had just retired a few months before taking MG. I have always worked with a commute." Patty has a rescue dog named Daisy. She is mixed breed mystery, maybe Akita/Chow. Her favorite time of day is late afternoon because that is when she gets her second wind. Favorite day of week, Thursday SPRINGTIME is her favorite time of year. Her favorite quote is "JUST DO IT."

## Invasive Plants Sold in California—PlantRight Survey

### Background

PlantRight works with California’s nursery industry to voluntarily stop the propagation, distribution, and sale of invasive plants. In addition to phasing invasive plants out of production, PlantRight promotes alternative plants that are commercially viable and environmentally safe. Through its Spring Nursery Survey, PlantRight tracks the retail market for invasive garden plants in California each year. Data collected from this survey helps to inform PlantRight’s strategy, and allows it to monitor the effectiveness of its work over time. This fact sheet highlights the collective undertakings and major findings of the 2012 Spring Retail Nursery Survey.

### Methodology

PlantRight randomly selected 282 retail nurseries to survey in 2012, from a total pool of over 3,000 stores operating across California. One-hundred forty two volunteers, many of whom were UC Master Gardeners, surveyed 238 of these nurseries by documenting the presence or absence of PlantRight’s 19 invasive plants (see list at right). The results were collected from 38 counties in California. The 2012 results were compared to the 2011 results, which were gathered using the same process. Results presented reflect only plants found in regions where they are invasive.

### Results

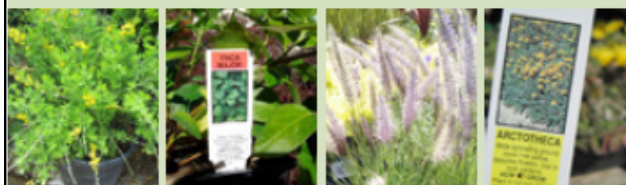
- 70% of the nurseries were not selling invasive plants. Of the stores selling invasive plants, most (82%) only sold one type of invasive. This is roughly similar to what was found in 2011, and therefore the proportion of stores with invasive plants for sale should be thought of as essentially stable from 2011 to 2012.
- As was the case in 2011, Independent Retailers are the most likely type of store to sell an invasive species. However, the percentage of Box Store Retailers selling an invasive rose a statistically significant amount, from 9% in 2011 to 18% in 2012. This increase is entirely due to increased sales of periwinkle (*Vinca major*).

### Results by Retail Type

The proportion of Chain Retailers selling an invasive species went down, from 38% in 2011 to 20% in 2012 – although that decline was not statistically significant. In contrast, the proportion of Box Stores selling invasives rose a statistically significant amount, from 9% in 2011 to 18% in 2012. This increase is entirely due to the increased sales of periwinkle (*Vinca major*). The percentage of Independent Retailers selling inva-

### PLANTRIGHT’S LIST OF 19 INVASIVE PLANTS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Arundo, giant reed
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Capeweed
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Highway iceplant
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	Jubata grass
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	Portuguese broom
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue gum
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Crystalline iceplant
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Myoporum
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Green fountain grass
<i>Retama monosperma</i>	Bridal veil broom
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese tallow tree
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Scarlet wisteria
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Saltcedar
<i>Vinca major</i>	Big leaf periwinkle



Survey volunteers found the following plants on store shelves during the 2012 survey (listed left to right): Scotch broom, periwinkle, green fountain grass, and capeweed.

sive species remained roughly constant. Note: This survey looks at whether invasive plants were for sale at stores and does not focus on sales volumes.

### Results by Plant Species

Eleven of the 19 listed invasive plants were found for sale in California. Eight of the listed plants were not found at any surveyed store, including: arundo, blue gum (which was found in 2011), bridal veil broom, jubata grass, myoporum (also found in 2011), Portuguese/striated broom, saltcedar, and scarlet wisteria.

*The November monthly meeting has been moved to December 5th due to a scheduling conflict. This will be the last monthly meeting of 2012. Mark it on your calendars!*

*Hints and Tips*

*Add heat by using outdoor lights: hang 100 watt drop lights or Holiday string lights to interior of plant. Use the old C7 or C9 large bulbs, not new LED lights which do not give off heat.*



## Certify Your Wildlife Garden

Many of our Master Gardeners already have these features in their gardens but did you know you can certify your landscape as a wildlife habitat. Will the sign [increase your property value](#) by thousands of dollars.. Probably not but its definitely a conversation starter and something to brag about. There are other perks that you will get from the NWF once you have certified including a subscription to their magazine.

From the Wildlife Federation Website: *Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 20-acre farm, you can [create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife](#) and helps restore habitat in commercial and residential areas.*

*By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young, you not only help wildlife, but [you also qualify to become an official Certified Wildlife Habitat™](#)*



Once you have provided these essential elements to make a healthy and sustainable wildlife habitat, you can certify your landscape. The application process is easy and can be done online or by a printed application. There is a \$20.00 application fee and the sign cost \$30.00 as well.

## Get Ready for Cold Weather!

Freezing temperatures in our area can happen as early as the first week of November. Get ready for the rain and cold ahead.

If the predicted low temperature is 32 or below: disconnect, straighten out and drain any water from your garden hoses to prevent cracking.

Protect your plants near the house from becoming waterlogged by extending your home's rain gutters with flexible pipe.

Fix any dripping outdoor faucets and then wrap the exposed portion of the water pipes. Insulation

that becomes saturated from a leaky faucet is of little protective value during freezes.

Turn off and drain sprinkler systems by removing the head from the sprinkler at the lowest point of your lawn; or, install a sprinkler end drain.

Drip irrigation systems should be turned off if a freezing morning is forecast; remove the end plug for drainage.

Move potted plants to a warmer spot next to house or under patio cover, especially on south side.

Wrap trunks of tender trees if hard freeze is expected, using towels, blankets, rags, or pipe insulation.

Harvest ripe citrus fruit. Generally both green and ripe fruit are damaged below 30 degrees, but there is some variation by species (refer to the chart in ANR Publication 8100, "[Frost Protection for Citrus and Other Subtropicals](#))



## What's in that Bag? - Soil Amendments

Chuck Ingels, Farm and Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Sacramento County,  
Presentation developed for Harvest Day 2012



Organic soil amendments are products that are mixed into soil for the overall purpose of benefitting plant growth and crop production. Contrast that with mulch, which is placed on top of the soil surface to reduce soil moisture loss and water runoff, prevent weeds, and moderate soil temperatures. Soil amendments improve coarse-textured (sandy) soils mainly by improving the water and nutrient holding capacity by the addition of organic matter. Fine-textured (clayey) soils are improved by creating larger soil pore spaces and improving soil aeration, which leads to better water infiltration and drainage.

Organic soil amendments contain plant nutrients, but most are not considered fertilizers because their nutrient content is often quite low, and because release of the nutrients to plant-available forms can take weeks, months, or longer depending on the product. The most important benefit of the organic matter additions is to provide an important energy source for bacteria, fungi and earthworms that live in the soil. From an environmental standpoint, using amendments from a local source can reduce fossil fuel use and air pollution compared to shipping products across the country. Consider producing compost at home, using well broken down local manure, or growing cover crops to add organic matter.

In July 2012, UC Master Gardeners purchased nearly two dozen organic soil amendments, also known as soil conditioners, from several retail outlets in Sacramento County. Samples were bagged the next day and taken to Sunland Analytical Lab in Rancho Cordova, who provided a discount on our analyses in support of Harvest Day at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center. A soil analysis panel was selected that included the following tests.

- Percent total nitrogen
- Carbon-to-nitrogen ratio
- pH
- Percent Organic Matter
- Conductivity

Click to download the handout "[Analyses of Soil Amendments](#)" that accompanied the presentation. (PDF 378KB)

## New World Orchid Bees

The folks at the [Bohart Museum of Entomology](#), UC Davis, call them "jungle gems." And "gems" they are. They're New World orchid bees ([Euglossine bees](#)). They were recently featured at a Bohart Museum open house. A sign next to them read: "They pollinate orchids. They also probably have the best memory of any insect. The males memorize the location of all the orchid plants in their patch of forest and visit them periodically during the day." The Bohart houses a global collection of more than seven million insect specimens and is the seventh largest insect collection in North America. It is also the home of The Bohart is open to the public from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. It is closed to the public on Fridays and on major holidays. Admission is free. To allow more visitors to attend, the museum holds a weekend [open house](#) once a month. The next weekend open house is set from 1 to 4 p.m., **Saturday, Oct. 27**. The theme, in keeping with Halloween, is "Insects of Death."





*Did you know... You can hover your mouse over anything that is blue and underlined and by clicking on it you will be directed to a webpage with more information about that subject! Try it!!*



## Garden Calculator & Catalogs Galore—Cool Tools!

[The National Gardening Association](#) has a cool tool on their website. A garden calculator! The calculator can be used to figure out rates for:

- [Limestone](#)
- [Sulfur](#)
- [Fertilizer](#)
- [Mulch](#)
- [Actual Nitrogen](#)

If you have high or low pH levels, want to add some mulch, are trying to figure out how much nitrogen is in a bag of fertil-

izer this is a great tool. You will need to know some information before you can start such as square footage, pH levels, etc depending on which calculator you are using.

Here's an example using the mulch calculator. I put in that I wanted 3" of mulch for 1500 square feet. I will need 375 cubic feet (or 13.9 cubic yards) of mulch.

[Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs](#)—Mail Order Gardening Resources

The home gardener's one stop to find all the mail-order seed catalogs and gardening catalogs in the US and Canada - over 2000 of them! Check here to find the company, read its description and see ratings for price and breadth of varieties. Plus links to mail-order companies outside North America, and other gardening-related sites.

## MG Spotlight—Harry Osell 2007

Harry Osell is a 2007 MG Graduate. He was in the first graduating class of Master Gardeners who jumped on a bus for 17 weeks and headed to Sacramento for MG training. If you were to find Harry out in the garden you would see him picking stuff he grew. He enjoys Mexican food Tepa Taqueria in Stockton. He would like to go on vacation to North Labrador Canada to hike, sleep, fish, see icebergs and wilderness. Besides gardening Harry used to sail a 13ft Laser boat. Before Harry joined the MG Program he was teaching in Stockton and Herald at Arcoe, Fillmore, and Victory Schools. He has two Chihuahuas and an old cat. When asked to share something we may not know

about him his response was: "I am a CASA of a foster kid who just graduated from high school, a member of American Legion post 22 , membership chair of CalRTA (CA Retired Teacher Association) Division 20." His favorite time of day is just before sunrise in summer. If you need help painting Harry is not the person to call... it's one of his least favorite chores to do! Harry has been very involved in the Stockton Homeless Shelter landscaping projects. He is always looking for donated plants that can be used to beautify the land-

scape at the family and men's shelter. If you have any plants that you would like to donate you can contact Harry.



## Sapsucker Damage Mimics Borers

Karrie Reid, Environmental Horticulture Advisor, San Joaquin County

Many trees in the county have suffered serious damage from sapsucking [woodpeckers](#) this year. At first glance the holes may appear to be from wood-boring insects, but holes from the birds digging for sap will be in neat vertical or horizontal rows (depending on the species) rather than randomly scattered.

Sapsuckers prefer certain types of trees: birch, maple, pecan, pine, elm, and some oaks. They also pick certain trees within a stand to use for their feeding. Intensive drilling of a particular tree can block the vital flow of water and nutrients above the damage, and often the branches beyond the drill site begin to die within one or two years. Large portions of bark may die and peel off as well.

Preventing serious damage can be difficult unless the birds are spotted when they first appear in a favored tree stand. Hardware cloth or burlap may be wrapped around the initial drilling



sites on the tree trunks, or sticky barrier may be used. Sapsuckers are attracted to trees with decay holes they can use for nesting, so remove these trees to discourage nesting if the birds begin to be a nuisance. If trees are damaged beyond recovery, be sure to replant with different species.



## What's Wrong Answer– Thrips (from page 1)



Western Flower Thrip

[Thrips](#), order Thysanoptera, are tiny, slender insects with fringed wings. They feed by puncturing their host and sucking out the cell contents. Certain thrips species are beneficial predators that feed only on mites and other insects. [Beneficial species](#) include black hunter thrips and the sixspotted thrips. Pest species (often in the family Thripidae) are plant feeders that scar leaf, flower, or fruit surfaces or distort plant parts. Most adult thrips are slender, minute

(less than 1/20 inch long), and have long fringes on the margins of both pairs of their long, narrow wings. Thrips are poor fliers but can readily spread long distances by floating with the wind or being transported on infested plants. Thrips prefer to feed in rapidly growing tissue. Feeding by thrips typically causes tiny scars on leaves and fruit, called stippling, and can stunt growth. Damaged leaves may become papery and distorted. Infested terminals may discolor, become rolled,

and drop leaves prematurely. Petals may exhibit "[color break](#)," which is pale or dark discoloring of petal tissue that was killed by thrips feeding before buds opened. Healthy woody plants usually tolerate thrips damage; however, high infestations on certain herbaceous ornamentals and developing fruits or vegetables may justify control. For more information [click here](#).

## Advisory Committee Update—New Committees

2013 will be a busy year for the Master Gardener Program and the Advisory Committee (AC). We have been busy working on selecting committees that will help improve productivity, communication and comradery within the group. The idea behind forming these committees is to provide more structure in the program, increase communication within group, provide more accountability from volunteers, and get more MG's involved in projects. There is a wealth of resources and ideas within our group that hasn't been tapped into yet.

We based our selections off of the surveys that the Master Gardener group was given this summer. From there the AC picked 3 topics from each category that they felt was important and reasonable to start working on now. After some discussions the group decided on forming or reviving the following committees:

- Continuing Education
- Help Line Office
- Projects
- Monthly Meetings
- Community Outreach
- Newsletter\*
- Hospitality
- Garden Based Learning
- Demonstration Garden\*

\*Committees already exist, looking for more team members

The AC have prepared chair descriptions and duties for each committee and presented them at the October Monthly Meeting . If you missed the meeting you can still sign up for a committee by filling out the survey form [here](#). Once we have MG's that are signed up for the various committees we will schedule meetings and then select a chair within each committee group. Marcy will be part of all the initial meetings. Each committee will oversee projects or tasks that fall into their category. It does not mean that you will be in charge of planning everything or that you can't be involved in a project that falls under a different committee.

Our program is growing and now is the time to get involved to really direct where we go next. We will be bringing in a new group of "newbie's" next spring and these committees will all be ready for some fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

The AC is also working on the finishing touches for a Program Handbook/By-laws specific to San Joaquin County. We plan on releasing this at the beginning of 2013.

You can help stop a new pest by recognizing and reporting it.

# Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

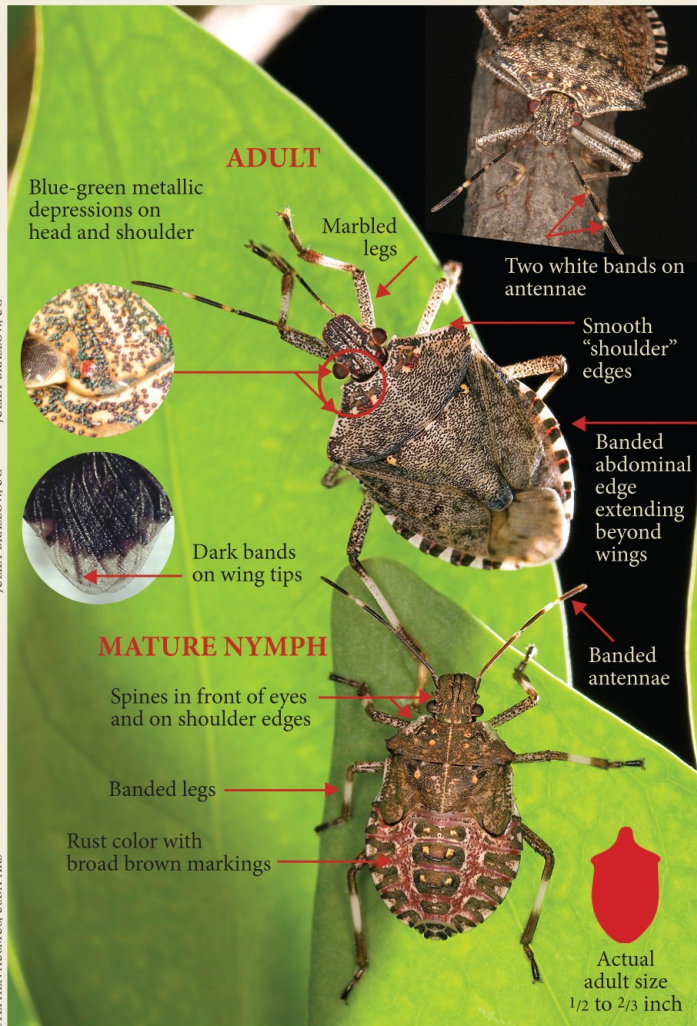
The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys*, has been detected in California. Wherever BMSB takes up residence, it **causes severe crop and garden losses** and becomes a **nuisance to people**. The ability of BMSB to hitchhike in vehicles and planes has allowed it to **spread rapidly** to new areas. Since it was introduced to the United States from Asia in the 1990s, BMSB has become established in the mid-Atlantic States as well as in Portland, Ore., and Los Angeles.

## How to identify BMSB



**EGGS** Laid in clusters of 20 to 30 on underside of leaves, barrel-shaped, white to pale green

**YOUNG NYMPHS** Abdomen orange with brown markings



### ADULT

Blue-green metallic depressions on head and shoulder

Marbled legs

Two white bands on antennae

Smooth "shoulder" edges

Banded abdominal edge extending beyond wings

Dark bands on wing tips

### MATURE NYMPH

Spines in front of eyes and on shoulder edges

Banded legs

Rust color with broad brown markings

Banded antennae

Actual adult size  
1/2 to 2/3 inch

## Similar stink bugs (also known as shield bugs)

BMSB adults look similar to other brown stink bugs. Here are some tips for telling adults apart.



**RED SHOULDERED STINK BUG** Edge of abdomen concealed; antennal bands, if present, are not white; less than 1/2 inch long



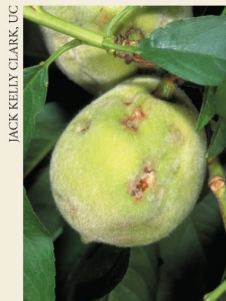
**ROUGH STINK BUG** Distinctive teeth jutting out from shoulder; no antenna bands; 2/3 inch long



**CONSPERSE STINK BUG** Legs dotted with dark spots; no antenna bands; 1/2 inch long

## Impact of BMSB on crops and people

**CROP DAMAGE** BMSB may reach very high numbers, and since one bug can feed on many fruit, losses can be severe. Adults and nymphs suck juices from fruit and seeds, creating pockmarks and distortions that make fruit and vegetables unmarketable. Damaged flesh under the skin turns hard and pithy. BMSB damages fruits (e.g., apple, pear, citrus, stone fruits, and fig), berries, grapes, legumes, vegetables, and shade trees.



BMSB damage to tomato (left), peach (center), and pear (right)

**NUISANCE TO PEOPLE** BMSB seeks winter shelter, and large numbers may congregate on outside walls or invade homes by entering through small openings. It is also a pest in home gardens. These insects stink when disturbed.

## How it spreads

BMSB travels long distances by hitching rides in vehicles or as stowaways when furniture or other articles are moved, often during winter months. As a result, most new infestations are found in urban areas.

## Report any sightings

If you find a stink bug that you suspect might be a BMSB, place it in a container and carefully note where and when you collected it. Take the sealed container to your county agricultural commissioner or local UC Cooperative Extension office.

For more information, visit [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu).

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Statewide IPM Program



JUNE 2012

Win found one in her yard and it was sent to Sacramento and reported within the county!

Just  
because it's  
really cool...



A Gulf Fritillary butterfly in the process of laying an egg on a passion flower vine.  
(Photos by Kathy Keatley Garvey)



(c) Kathy Keatley Garvey



(c) Kathy Keatley Garvey



## MARCY'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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[Master Gardener Web-page](#)

Facebook: Search San Joaquin Master Gardeners

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Advise To Grow By

## Your Pinterest Pumpkin Inspiration



## *Curcubita pepo* L. var *pepo* Pumpkins that is!

- The name pumpkin originated from "pepon" – the Greek word for "large melon."
- Although pumpkins are grown in most counties of California, San Joaquin County produces the majority (81% of California production in 2010), followed by Sacramento County.
- In 2011 San Joaquin County harvested just over 3,000 acres of pumpkins
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
- Pumpkins are 90 percent water.
- The World Record is a 2009 pound pumpkin that was brought to the Topsfield Fair in Topsfield, MA on September 28, 2012
- Pumpkins are fruit.
- Eighty percent of the pumpkin supply in the United States is available in October.
- Pumpkins typically require 90 to 120 days from emergence to maturity
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.

