



Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2012

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LOOK



What is wrong with these tomatoes? Find the answer on page 7

Just for You!

You may be saying to yourself... another newsletter?!? Well whaddya know... this one is just for the Master Gardeners in our county. It's a revived and better version of the newsletter we had at the beginning of the program (2007). I hope to use this newsletter to keep you updated on events that are happening in our program as well as on a statewide level. You will find MG Spotlights where you get the opportunity to get a little personal with your fellow MGs. The advisory committee will have updates as well as other committees that are formed within the program. I hope to make it fun yet a educational as well. I am open to your suggestions of things you would like to see in the upcoming newsletters. You should still review meeting agendas that are posted on the MG Collaborative tools as well as any posts regarding events, etc. since I wont be able to cover everything in this newsletter.

Along with the everyday program tasks I've been busy working with the Smart Garden Conference Committee in planning our event in September along with preparing for the 2013 MG training. The Advisory Committee will be meeting during the first full week of August for our initial meeting. The goal of this group is to take your feedback and suggestions and help guide the program in the direction you want it to go. They will also have other duties but this is one of the main areas we will address first. Let me know what you think of this newsletter. Any feedback is appreciated.

A Little About Marcy

Skydiving in Acampo for my 30th

Some of the "newer" MGs might not know much about my background so I thought this issue would be good to give you a brief background on ME! I am a Stockton native of 32 years. Johnny and I got married in May of 2011. I have a step-daughter Chloe who is 2 and I think everyone knows baby John who is now 6 months. I have 1 sister and no brothers, but married into a Portuguese family and gained a big family including 25 nieces and nephews! I graduated from CSU Stanislaus with my BA in [Permaculture](#). Before the MG Program I worked at the Farmers' Markets as the assistant manager (10 years) and before that I worked with local farmers selling produce as a vendor at the markets. I collect "I Love Lucy" stuff for my Lucy office/spare room. I have 2 dogs (Eng. Springer Spaniels) and a cat. Love spending time in the mountains or at a quiet beach! I enjoy taking pictures and have even done a couple of weddings for friends. Dark chocolate and a good beer are life's simple pleasures.





Tomato Tasting at the August meeting!

This will be our 4th tasting event. We need your tomatoes! (Lee has lost 1/3 of his crop!) If you have some tomatoes you would like to bring early to the meeting please contact Lee Miller who is organizing this event.

E-mail: leemiller38@hotmail.com



Hartford Insurance Master Gardener Insurance Coverage

This insurance is secondary to the primary insurance you may carry. It will cover the out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of injuries sustained while working as a volunteer. It is not medical insurance but rather a supplemental insurance policy. Even though UCCE 4-H volunteers & members have been covered by Hartford for years, this is new for the Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver programs statewide. Recently UC completed a risk assessment analysis and discovered that MG's and MFP's will benefit from

this coverage. This required accident insurance is a group policy that covers every MG that is Active, Limited Active, First-Year, Gold, and Platinum Badge, as well as Master Food Preserver volunteers for accident and injury. Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver volunteers are provided limited accident coverage when taking part in or attending an approved, regularly supervised/sanctioned MG/MFP activity. They are also covered while traveling to and from a MG/MFP activity, and while traveling directly

between home and a MG/MFP meeting place for a scheduled activity. However, in the event of an auto accident and when there is other medical payments coverage available, the Hartford Policy will not provide coverage until the other insurance is exhausted, or it will provide reimbursement for uncovered out of pocket expenses. The cost for this mandatory insurance is \$6.00 a person. Our program will be covering the costs for the 2012-2013 fiscal year so you do not have to worry about making a payment this year.

MG Spotlight—Carol Roby 2011

If you found her in the garden she would most likely be: Pulling weeds & figuring out where to put the latest quirky item we've added to our collection

Her favorite place to eat is: Chinese Yen Ching in Lincoln Center or...steak at Woodbridge Inn

Favorite place to travel: Beach...anywhere beach I feel at absolute peace at the ocean

When she's not gardening she can be found: Reading crime & mystery novels and following the San Francisco Giants! I'm a die-hard fan & cried when they won the World Series

Pets: 2 parakeets & about 10 koi

Odds and ends: I work for the City of Stockton and have since 1991, part-time. Raised 3 kids..all grown up now. Have 4



grandkids..2 boys 2 girls, 3 of them live in Norfolk, VA and one lives in Stockton. Played clarinet in her high school marching band and hate ironing.

New Statewide Program Representative



Aubrey Bray is the new Program Representative for the Statewide Program. She has replaced James Sigala who recently left the MG program to move onto other adventures. She is excited to be a part of the Master Gardener team and has already made plans to visit a number of programs in order to gain

a better understanding of local Master Gardener programs and how she can be most effective at the state level. Aubrey grew up in the Kern River Valley where she found a love for agriculture through high school agriculture courses and the FFA. She later attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where she majored in Agriculture Business and was a member of the Horticulture Club and a competitor on the Floral Design team. After college, Aubrey spent some time in retail management but is now pleased to return to the agriculture industry and bring that valuable experience and training into play. In her free time, Aubrey can either be found holed away

with a book somewhere or spending time outdoors with her husband, Andrew, and their yellow lab puppy, Tule.

Her contact info is:

530.865.1261

Ambray@ucdavis.edu

VMS—Did You Know?



University of California

Volunteer Management System (VMS)

Links There have been several times where volunteers have asked me “how do I find the book order form?” or “what was that site our speaker referred to?” On the VMS website over on the right hand side I have made a list of useful UC and non UC links. Next time you are looking for a UC site make sure you look here first. There is a good chance that it is part of this list of links.

Hours & CE units—When entering your hours and CE units there is a way to filter out hours by a certain date range. When

you are viewing hours you will see 2 boxes that say start and end date. You can put the dates you would like to check in the appropriate boxes. This helps when you are trying to figure out if you have enough hours for the year.

MG Contact Book— You can look for fellow MGs by looking through the roster, but unless they have a photo uploaded it might not help much in figuring out who you are volunteering with if you can’t see their face. Under the documents tab (far left near bottom of home page) you will find the current version of the MG roster that includes pictures. If you have any updates to make on the roster please let Marcy

know so we can make sure it stays as current as possible.

[UC ANR Publications \(MG books and other free handouts\)](#)

[UC Arboretum All Star Plant List](#)

[UC CA Backyard Orchard](#)

[UC California Gardening](#)

[UC Center for Urban Horticulture](#)

[UC Childrens Garden Program](#)

[UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity](#)

[UC Discount Publication Order form](#)

[UC Good Life Garden](#)

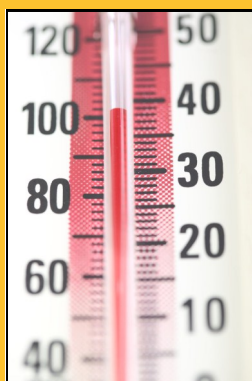
[UC IPM](#)

[UC Vegetable Research & Info](#)

[UC Victory Grower](#)



When looking on the internet for an answer to a gardening question put "UC" in the search box along with your question. This will help to filter any UC related material to the top of the search results.



Don't Miss Out!!

Smart Gardening Conference 9/29/12

Master Gardeners can earn volunteer time by helping out and CE units by attending. Make sure you fill out [the survey](#) to let Marcy know what you would like to help with. MGs will be able to register after August 10th. There will be a special registration form for our MGs. We are looking for volunteers to help with displays and still have a few openings left for speakers.

Clothing Order Step 1 due August 7th

Don't miss out on this falls group clothing order. I need the pre order forms by August 7th so I have time to get the order together, collect money and get it all in so we can have items back before the smart gardening conference. Find the order form on the MG Collaborative tools under clothing orders.



Sacramento MG's Harvest Fair Saturday Aug. 4th



Hear presentations by local gardening experts, tour the unique Horticulture Center demonstration gardens, taste tomatoes and tree-ripened fruit. Bid on gardening-related items at the silent auction, visit educational booths, enjoy a snack from food vendors. This event can count towards your CE units. For more info [click here](#).

MG Safety

At the July monthly meeting Karrie gave us some helpful reminders about staying safe in the summer heat! Here are a few things to remember.

Precautions to Prevent Heat Illness Disorders

1. Master gardeners and others should acclimatize themselves to the prevailing weather conditions.
2. Always drink plenty of fluids such as water and sports drinks. During warm weather, plan to have at least one quart of water

available per person per hour of the outdoor activity. Avoid caffeinated drinks.

3. Wear a summer hat with a brim and loose-fitting, light-colored, and lightweight clothing like cotton.
4. Schedule vigorous activities during coolest portions of the day and take frequent breaks on hot days.
5. If someone is feeling symptoms of heat illness, they should take a rest period in a shaded area. Master gardeners should

help find access to shade – this may be any area where the affected person is protected from direct sunlight, such as under an umbrella, a portable structure, or inside a ventilated building or vehicle. The University has prepared a series of [Thinking Safe and Green Notes](#) that cover many other areas that MGs may be volunteering in.

The Master Gardener Safety Manual can [be found here](#).

Jumping Oak Galls Are Interesting and Harmless to Oak Trees Ed Perry

If you have a Valley oak tree growing in your landscape, or if you visit one of our local parks where Valley oak trees are growing, you may notice a strange phenomenon occurring this year. The ground beneath many Valley oaks this year is covered with pinhead-sized yellow or brown seed like objects, most of which are hopping around. The tiny things are called “jumping oak galls”, and are formed by a tiny, dark wasp. The wasp belongs to an interesting family of wasps called the “cynipids.” The galls are actually malformations of plant growth. The tiny gall-forming wasp lays an egg in an oak leaf at a precise moment in the tree’s growth cycle, causing normal plant cells to multiply at an unusually high rate. As a result, the tiny egg becomes encased in the gall composed of oak leaf tissue. When the egg hatches, the gall provides both food and a living chamber for the larvae. In summer, the oak gall drops to the ground with the tiny wasp larvae inside. The insect moves in jerks, causing the entire gall to jump around on the ground. It’s believed that the larvae hop around in an attempt to find a crack in the soil to hide up in. At maturity it transforms into a pupae, and later into an adult which chews its way out of the gall. The wasps themselves are dark colored, so tiny that you’ll probably never see them, and harmless to people.



A few insect-formed plant galls are found on willow, poplar, rose and other plants, but more than 100 different kinds are found on oaks. The entire oak tree is fair game for the cynipid wasps, which form wasps on leaves, buds, twigs, branches, roots and even the acorns. Each cynipid wasp species forms a gall of particular size, shape and color; no other species forms one quite like it. Also, each one lays its eggs in a specific plant part. Besides the jumping oak gall, you be familiar with the common oak “apple”, a large gall up to three inches in diameter. These large galls are common on the deciduous Valley oaks, and contain one or more tiny cynipid wasp larva inside. You may also find a pink, star shaped gall on the undersides of Valley and blue oaks. Other galls are cone shaped, or round and fuzzy, or shaped like tiny loaves of bread. In California, most insect caused galls are not harmful to the plant. In some cases the galls may damage leaves or even cause twigs to die. However, the insect galls cause no serious permanent injury. Because of their complex life cycle, it is very difficult to prevent cynipid wasps from forming galls; in most cases, it is unnecessary to do so.

**Don't miss Kathy Schick's
Gall presentation at the
September meeting!**

Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing Disease



Adult and nymph psyllid (left)
damage done to citrus (right)

Say that three times fast! Be on the look out for a new Quick Tip on Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing Disease. This was created to meet the crisis in southern California. Now that HLB disease has been detected in a tree in Los Angeles, there is even more pressure to keep the psyllid and disease from spreading. Residents in some areas are now being asked to treat infested trees themselves. The Quick Tip and PDF of the card are posted on the [UC IPM site](#). For more information and pictures click here to go to the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing Disease IPM site.



Sunset Plant Finder—Cool Tool!

What type of plant?

<input type="checkbox"/> Annuals	<input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen	<input type="checkbox"/> Perennials
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic	<input type="checkbox"/> Ferns	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-evergreen
<input type="checkbox"/> Bamboo	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowers	<input type="checkbox"/> Shrubs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bulbs and bulblike plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees
<input type="checkbox"/> Cacti and succulents	<input type="checkbox"/> Herbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Turf Grasses
<input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous	<input type="checkbox"/> Orchids and bromeliads	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables
<input type="checkbox"/> Decorative fruit or berries	<input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental grasses and grasslike plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Vines
<input type="checkbox"/> Edible fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Palms and cycads	

What is your Sunset Climate Zone?

How much water?

How much sun ?

What height?

What spread?

What color flower?

Have you used [Sunsets Plant Finder?](#)

If not you're missing out! You can **search the database** for lists and **descriptions of plants** that fit our particular climate zone, yard size, sun and shade, favorite types of plants, and special needs. Many plant listings also include color photography and illustrations, and more are on the way.

Use the [Advance Search](#) page to find plants for:

- Birds and butterflies
- Rock gardens
- Slopes
- Dry areas
- Shady areas
- and more special situations

Filter your selections by your climate zone, color, size, and more. Then choose your plants and save them to a favorites list to print and take to the nursery.

MG Spotlight—Rosalie Osman 2009



Where does she like to travel? "Loved Greece, would go there again. Last year I was in India for almost a month, I had an incredible experience. Still want to go to Portugal and Spain, then maybe Bali and Fiji before I am really old!"

About Rosalie: I am a certified Interior Designer and am still working on a variety of projects, the latest being a very cool house 2 blocks from the harbor in Santa Cruz. I am a native Californian and have been married to my husband Don for almost 53 years; we have 5 children and 4 grands. I am involved in my

community of Oakdale and have played bridge over 40 years. I am a member of a reading group that reads and shares books.

Am very involved with literacy in our community, I run an all volunteer group that teaches mostly Hispanic adults to read and write. I have a consignment space in a shop downtown that makes garage sales imperative...Yea! after the MG meetings n Santa Rosa, I was so inspired, I came home and took out 1/2 of my front lawn and the other half is getting smaller each season , I can mow the sucker

in 10 minutes. I am a nut about recycling and still have happy worms in my bins.

Pets? This is a pet person, I have a 3 dogs R.C., Ravioli and Chaquita, one cat, Chloe an African Grey Parrot, Stoli (his vocabulary is amazing), 2 fish ponds and one has 3 turtles, have not named them....

The dreaded chore?? I am kinda tired of cleaning my house, would rather pull weeds than iron...

Little Of This.. A Little Of That Earthworms

- There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms.
- Worms have five hearts! All of these hearts pump blood through their blood vessels just like your one heart.
- Worms do not have lungs but they breathe through their skin.
- Worms make cocoons for their babies that are smaller than a grain of rice. Their babies will hatch in 2-3 weeks. The new baby worms are whitish, and you can practically see through them. Babies are only 1/2 to one inch long. Worm babies are on their own as soon as they are born. In about six weeks, they will produce their own baby worms.
- In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.
- The largest earthworm ever found was in South Africa and measured 22 feet from its nose to the tip of its tail.
- Earthworms' bodies are made up of ring-like segments called annuli. These segments are covered in setae, or small bristles, which the worm uses to move and burrow.
- Research has shown that eating earthworms can reduce cholesterol. The basic essential oil of earthworms is Omega 3.
- Earthworm castings (dung) contain 5 times more nitrogen, 7 times more phosphorus, 11 times more potassium, and 1000 times more beneficial bacterial than the material the earthworm initially ingested.
- Worms can eat their weight each day
- Worms have a gizzard, this is why coffee grounds and egg shells help in home vermicomposting.
- Worms are hermaphrodites, but they still need a mate to produce an egg



What's Wrong Answer– Blossom End Rot (from page 1)

Plants with blossom end rot show small, light brown spots at the blossom end of immature fruit. The affected area gradually expands into a sunken, leathery, brown or black lesion as the fruit ripens. Hard, brown areas may develop inside the fruit, either with or without external symptoms. The disease is not associated with soil contact or with damage to other plant parts.

Solutions: Blossom end rot results from a low level of calcium in the fruit and water balance in the plant. It is aggravated by high soil salt content or low soil moisture and is more common on sandier soils. To reduce rot, monitor soil moisture to make sure that the root zone neither dries out nor remains saturated. Follow recommended rates for fertilizers. Some varieties are more affected than others. The disease is not caused by a pathogen;

there are no pesticide solutions.

This is a common question we get in the office and out at events.

Zucchini with B.E.R.



Meet the Advisory Committee Members



Sheila
Beauchamp
2011



Kathy
Grant
2009



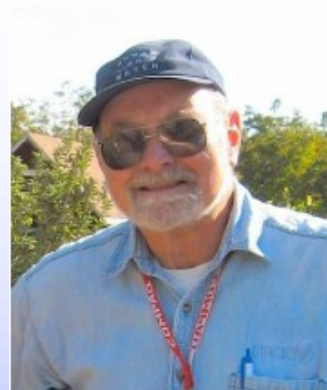
Bob
Hurst
2007



Betty
Liske
2007



Sharon
McDonnell
2008



Lee
Miller
2007



Leslie
Oliver
2009



MARCYS CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail:
mdhachman@ucdavis.edu
or
mdhachman@ucanr.edu
(new as of 7/30/12)
Cell Phone: 209-423-2336
Office: 209-953-6111
[Master Gardener Webpage](#)
Facebook: Search San Joaquin Master Gardeners

Like Us On
facebook 

Advise To Grow By

Thank you Pinterest

Polka-Dotted Tiered Planters

I admit I am an electronic hoarder on Pinterest. If you don't know what Pinterest is here is their definition: "Pinterest lets you organize and share all the beautiful things you find on the web. People use pinboards to plan their weddings, decorate their homes, and organize their favorite recipes. Best of all, you can browse pinboards created by other people. Browsing pinboards is a fun way to discover new things and get inspiration from people who share your interests."

My version: It consumes you into all hours of the nights finding projects, tips and recipes that you will probably never have time to get to half of. Here is a funny definition that I found on

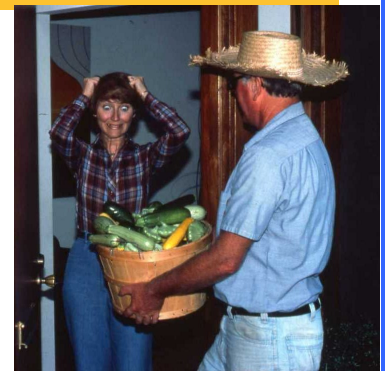
Pinterest: "Where women go to plan imaginary weddings, dress children that don't exist and decorate houses they can't afford." Ha-Ha! Pick your definition, there are some really neat and crafty ideas on there that I plan on sharing!

[Click here](#) to view the link on how to make these planters for the front of your home.



Clear indications that you have too much zucchini

- Your neighbors run inside and turn out the lights when they see you coming.
- You have a zucchini bread for breakfast, a zucchini omelet for lunch, zucchini casserole for dinner and chocolate zucchini cake for dessert.
- You have a flute made out of a Zucchini.
- Even the field mice stop eating it.
- You till under the Zucchini plants, but still have more today than you had yesterday.
- Nightmares about a giant Zucchini wakes you in the night.
- Your boss posts a sign in the office—"No Zuchinis. Violators Will Be Punished."
- You allow the neighborhood kids to use the zucchini for batting practice
- You spray your zucchini plants with sugar water to attract insects. But, they won't bite.
- You're planning a party and only serving zucchini.
- You lie awake at night trying to think of new zucchini recipes. Zucchini wine? Chocolate covered zucchini?



San Joaquin UC Master Gardeners

Smart Gardening CONFERENCE

- Gardening on a Dime
- Save Water and Money
- Lazy Gardener's Garden
- Common Garden Pests
- Succulents are Fun & Easy
- Best Plants for Your Yard
- Growing Your Own Vegetables
- Feeding Your Plants - Understanding Fertilizers



Smart Gardening Conference

Saturday September 29, 2012 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
at the

Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E Earhart Avenue, Stockton 95206

Space is limited so reserve your spot today!

Register today and learn some easy and practical ways to make your landscape sustainable from Master Gardener experts who are trained to help you create a healthier garden and yard. Choose from 8 class topics!

Cost is \$20.00 (includes lunch)

For more info call 953-6112 or visit our web-site at <http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

