



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram September 2018

Summer of Fire Editorial by Nancy Mulligan

Most of us will remember this summer as the summer of fire. Smoke, ash and soot that has been in the air since the Carr fire began on July 23. Followed by the Mendocino Complex on July 27. Some of us probably know someone who lost a home or other property in one of the fires. The Carr fire was very destructive burning over 1,100 homes. The Ranch Fire, the biggest single fire in California's history is currently 410,182 acres and is 97% contained. It burned about 390,000 acres of the Mendocino National Forest, about 1/3 of the forest. Having worked on the Mendocino National Forest for many years it is difficult to see the effects this fire has had on the forest. The fire area is still closed to the public so I have not seen it first hand but have seen a few pictures, it does not look good.

What effect has all the ash had on our plants. Leaves of the plants are covered with ash. See Picture. The leaf has probably seen a reduction in photosynthesis due to the reduced amount of sunlight getting to the leaf. This also means the plant is using less water so that maybe a good thing. I don't know if there has been enough ash fall on the soil to affect soil ph or fertility. There maybe some studies looking into this.



I wiped the ash off half of a redbud tree leaf to show the amount of ash on the leaves.

Many of the species in CA are fire adapted. These pictures are from the Ranch Fire, the brush has started to sprout and the gophers are already active building new tunnels. Photos from US Forest Service





The impact of climate-change induced temperature increases on the suitability of street tree species in California (USA) cities.

The Journal of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening recently published a research paper that was co-authored by Igor Lacan, UCCE Urban Horticulture Advisor for the Bay Area. The paper is titled “The impact of climate-change induced temperature increases on the suitability of street tree species in California (USA) cities.” The author states that “Urban foresters in inland cities of California should begin reconsidering their palettes of common street trees to prepare for warmer conditions expected in 2099 due to climate change”. In the paper the authors compared the most common street tree species in cities representing each of the 16 California climate zones with trees in cities that currently have climates that approximate the expected warmer conditions in the 16 cities 80 years from now. Of 16 cities examined, 7 inland ones may suffer substantial species losses. Between 55 and 82 of the 140 species found may become locally unsuitable in some cities. For example the City of Ukiah will have the climate of Fresno, Yuba City will have the climate of El Centro and Susanville will have the climate of Barstow.

When planting trees which will persist in the environment for a long time, consider planting tree species that are more adapted to warmer climates. See the following link for more information.

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=27888>

What can Master Gardeners do with this information about tree species and climate change? The Sunset climate zones for Willows and Orland are 8 to 9, the same as Yuba City. The Sunset Zone for El Centro is 13. When recommending a tree species to plant or planting one at your home look for one that is acceptable to a wide range of climate zones that includes both Sunset Climate Zones for Orland and El Centro. For example, the Chinese Pistache, *Pistacia chinensis* is recommended for Sunset zones 4-23.

A good resource to use to find information about trees species is the Cal Poly Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute SelecTree Data Base.

<https://selectree.calpoly.edu/>



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It is not all bad news this month. Here are a few pictures that show the good things the Master Gardeners are doing.



Sue Stone is growing these tomatoes called Shimmer. Smaller than a roma, bigger than a cherry and a great taste.



Alyse in her garden with eggplant.



Here's our new sign! It is out in front of the office along the road. The "Today" banner is put up during clinic hours. A big thanks to Donna Moore for designing the sign and getting it made.

Master Gardener Business.

Our next meeting is Wednesday September 5 at 1:00 at the office in Orland.

A reminder that all active and limited active Master Gardeners are required to pay a \$6 insurance fee. If you have not paid you can bring a check or cash when you come to the meeting on Wednesday or mail a check to Starr at the office.

The Master Gardener Office is looking great, thanks to Donna for doing a great job of organizing the office. It is much easier to find things and less clutter.

Master Gardeners can order UC Publications 40% off from August 27 to October 6. Use code FALLVEG at checkout. You must sign in to get the discount; don't checkout as a guest. Check out the UCANR Publications Catalog. The sale includes both hardcopy and ebooks.