



## UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram December 2018

### Why do leaves change color in the fall?

Chlorophyll, is the green pigment in leaves that absorbs sunlight, is necessary for photosynthesis. During the growing season it is a dominant pigment, masking the other pigments in the leaves. In the fall the chlorophyll breaks down due to changes in daylight and temperature. As the green color disappears the other pigments become unmasked and yellow to orange colors become visible. In the leaves of some species the development of red anthocyanin pigments occur. This pigment gives leaves a reddish to purplish color. It is the mixing of varying amounts of pigments and chlorophyll residue that give each tree a unique color.

Each fall the quality of the color changes. According to the United States National Arboretum , a dry, cool, sunny autumn with warm days and cool nights provides the best conditions for the development of bright fall colors.

Another thing happens to deciduous trees in the fall. At the point where the stem and leaf meet, and abscission layer is formed. This layer gradually severs the leaves from the stem. The tree seals the cut where the leaf was attached leaving behind a leaf scar.



Fall colors in Sycamore Park in Willows. The yellow is a ginkgo tree, the middle red tree is a flowering pear and the far left large reddish tree is a Chinese pastiche.



## National Climate Assessment

On November 23, the National Climate Assessment was released. The assessment summarizes the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. A team of more than 300 experts guided by a 60-member Federal Advisory Committee produced the report, which was extensively reviewed by the public and experts, including federal agencies and a panel of the National Academy of Sciences. The key findings in the report for California conclude that “increased heat, drought, and insect outbreaks, all linked to climate change, have increased wildfires. Declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, health impacts in cities due to heat, and flooding and erosion in coastal areas are additional concern”. “Snowpack and streamflow amounts are projected to decline in parts of the Southwest, decreasing surface water supply reliability for cities, agriculture, and ecosystems”. To those of us who have experienced the heat waves, droughts, water restrictions and fires of the past few years, this conclusion is not a surprise.

What can we do as Master Gardeners to adapt to these changes? Sustainable and resilient landscapes are the solution. If we are installing our own landscape or giving advice we need to recommend plants that can tolerate heat and are drought. In the September issue of the Newsgram, there is an article about trees and climate changes. The same recommendation for trees applies to other plants. Recommend and plant plants that grow in our climate zone but also grow in warmer and drier climate zones. Install and recommend efficient irrigation systems for landscaping to reduce water use.



## Willows Craft Fair

On Saturday December 1 the Master Gardeners had a table at the Willows Craft Fair. Bob Scoville and Nancy Mulligan handed seeds packets and had several of the quick tips available. We made contact with about 30 people, including one person who is interested in joining. There are follow ups to do this week from people who requested more information.

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

An IPM program includes the proper use and disposal of pesticides. Glenn County is having a **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event** on December 8 at the Glenn County Landfill from 9 AM to 1 PM. Residents of Glenn County can drop off pesticides, fertilizer, oil, batteries and cleaners. If you have these items around your home this is a great way to properly dispose of them and protect the environment. For more information visit the following website <https://www.countyofglenn.net/news/20181126/household->





### Master Gardener Business

Discount publications - UC Publications are 40% off for Master Gardeners until December 25. Order on line using promotion code MISTLETOE to receive the discount.

Sad News - Former Master Gardener Coordinator John Shovein recently passed away. A memorial gathering for John will be held on January 16 from 1-3 at Nash's restaurant in Chico.

VMS - There is a new project in VMS titled "Plant propagation and Seed Collecting". Use this project to record hours spent preparing plants for plant sale and collecting and packing seed to give out at event. Remember to record your hours as you earn them, don't wait until the last month.

### Upcoming events

Holiday Lunch - There will not be a regular meeting in December. We will meet for lunch on December 5th at the OHV Hives Café in Orland at 1:00. Hope to see you all there.

Plant Clinic - There will not be a plant clinic on December 26 or January 2. This will give us all time to spend with family and friends and recover from the holidays.

Monthly Meeting - Next meeting is January 9, at the office in Orland. We will be making plans for the year. Bring ideas for workshops, plant sales and other events that we could do as Master Gardeners.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal - December 8 at the Glenn County Landfill.

