



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

January 2019

On December 10 Master Gardeners Bob Scoville, Nancy Mulligan, Donna Moore and Michel Mendoza along with Amanda Geahry and Mabel a volunteer at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge met at the refuge and helped to sort milkweed seeds. See Picture.

According to the Xerces Society the Monarch population in California was critically low this year during the annual Thanksgiving count. The California overwintering population has been reduced to less than 0.5% of its historical size and has declined by 86% compared to 2017. Here is a link to the full article about this year's count. <https://xerces.org/2018/11/29/critically-low-monarch-population-in-california/>

Milkweed is the only plant that the Monarch butterfly caterpillar feeds on. Without milkweed, monarchs can't successfully reproduce and the species declines. By planting milkweed in your garden or landscape you can help the monarchs.

At the refuge we sorted narrowleaf milkweed also known as Mexican whorled milkweed, (*Asclepias fascicularis*). The refuge gives these seeds to people who want to grow milkweed to help the monarch populations. The Master Gardeners have some of the milkweed seed and are planning to plant some in the demonstration garden this winter. If you would like some seed contact one of the Master Gardeners listed above. Along with growing milkweed there also needs to be a source of nectar for the adult monarch butterflies. Providing nectar-rich flowers that bloom when monarchs need them is critical to their survival. UCCE Master Gardeners from Alameda County have prepared a guide for providing monarch butterfly habitat in your garden. Here is a link to that guide.

<http://acmg.ucanr.edu/files/264644.pdf>



Narrow-leaved Milkweed Seeds (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

Help Monarch Butterflies by planting native Milkweed!

**This is a perennial, flowers throughout the summer, needs very little water, gets 2-3' tall, great nectar source for pollinators. Roots go deep into ground—do not plant in a pot.

The seeds are more successful with cold stratification (need to go through cold weather). Put between damp paper towels in plastic bag for at least 3 weeks in the refrigerator. Then plant in warm soil (in sunny place). Put the seeds within the top 1 inch of soil and at least 1 foot apart.

Does not require regular watering, but in order for it to flower the first year, water 1-2 times a week. It does not need to flower for monarchs to find it to lay eggs. Each year the plant will get larger and have more sprouts. Yellow aphids will find it and do not cause major harm. Do not spray plant if you want monarchs!

If you have any questions, contact the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge 530-934-2801 or sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov.





Demonstration Garden Update from Tammy.

Donna's fall vegetable garden is looking amazing. The snow peas are going crazy, they look beautiful and are producing well.

Nancy has offered to start some milkweed seeds at home to plant in the garden in hopes of attracting some Monarch butterflies. I made room in the herb bed, since the yarrow and Echinacea already there are recommended nectar plants for the Monarch caterpillars.

I know I've mentioned this before, but I still need someone to help me extend the irrigation line in that one bed. Irrigation lines aren't something I'm knowledgeable about. If you can help with that call me, 865-4257. And if anyone has some compost or mulch that would work in the beds let me know. I can pick it up.



The Demonstration Garden. Photo taken on Dec 12.

Plant Sales - One activity we have are considering for 2019 is a plant sale. As we start making plans for a plant sale here is some good information.

Oregon State University Extension Service and the Oregon Department of Agriculture have developed Best Management Practices (BMP) for non-profit Plant Sales such as those done by Master Gardeners. The BMPs were developed to reduce the risk of spreading invasive pests and diseases. CA Master Gardeners are not required to follow these BMPs but we should consider them for any plant sale. I have not been able to find any BMPs for non-profit plant sales in CA. If any of you know of any, please share with the Master Gardeners.

1. Obtain a permit from the State. In CA each County Master Gardener Program receives a permit to sell plant material from the state.
2. Only sell plants that are free from Pests. Use clean containers, pots and trays. Use commercial or sterilized planting media. Only propagate from clean plant material. Visually inspect plant stock and remove diseased or infested plants before selling.
3. Only sell plants that are properly identified, cross-checked against state and local noxious weed lists and tagged.

For more information on the Oregon BMPs here is a link. http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/files/2018/11/Plant-Sale-BMPs-V6-10_31_2018-FINAL.pdf



From Tammy: I went to Moonbeam lavender and loofah farm in Corning a while back. It's a great spot. I went on their loofah harvest night. They gave a tour of the gardens and taught everyone about loofah. It was very interesting. I recommend going when they're having an event, so you can get a garden tour, check out their website www.moonbeamfarm.com. I don't think there's too much going on right now though. Also, the lady said she's thinking about doing yoga classes in the lavender field in the spring. If that interests you, you might want to inquire about it.

Master Gardener Business

Monthly meeting—January 9 at the office in Orland. We will be discussing plans for the upcoming year. Please bring ideas and if you are not able to attend send a note with ideas or items to discuss. January 9 is also Tammy's birthday. Happy Birthday.

The native plant society in Chico has a field trip on the 12th that looks interesting. They'll be walking through Bidwell park looking at ferns. Check their site mountlassen.cnps.org for details



BettyAnn Stephens sent me this picture of some fun she had in her Orchard painting trees. The paint is diluted latex paint so it will not harm the trees.

Good job. Looks very nice.