



 UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram
October 2019

Milkweed—Don't rub your eyes

The Master Gardeners will be picking up the plants from the nature conservancy in October. The plants are Milkweed and nectar plants needed to create a monarch waystation. We need to be cautious when handling milkweed. Milkweed contains cardiac glycosides and galitoxin. These chemicals create a digitalis-like effect on the heart. It can cause death in animals, insects, pets and small children if ingested in large quantities. The plant does not taste good so ingestion of a large quantity is not likely to happen but caution should still be used. The sap in the milkweed plant is an irritant that can cause endothelial toxicity to the eyes.

When handling milkweed the following practices should be used:

- Wear eye protection
- Use gloves
- Avoid rubbing eyes or wiping sweat from brow
- Always wash hands immediately after using
- Watch small children and pets in a milkweed garden

More information can be found at the following link. <https://medium.com/usfws/spreading-milkweed-not-myths-5df8c480912d>

Glyphosate AKA Roundup

We have all been seeing and hearing commercials on TV, radio and on-line about the use of the “cancer causing herbicide Roundup”. Glyphosate is the generic chemical active ingredient found in Roundup and many other herbicides. The science about the safety of glyphosate is extensive but some of it is conflicting.

The UCIPM Green Bulletin Fall 2019 addresses the herbicide glyphosate. It discusses the conflicting science and the safe use of the herbicide. For example in In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans. Other groups such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the US-EPA also examined the scientific literature on glyphosate. The joint FAO/WHO report concluded that glyphosate alone or in a formulation is unlikely to cause a carcinogenic risk to humans from exposure in the diet.

Master Gardeners can find this UCIPM Green Bulletin at the following link. <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/PUBS/greenbulletin.2019.fall.pdf>. The information found in the bulletin can be used when discussing or recommending the use of glyphosate to clients in the plant clinic and for the use of glyphosate in the demonstration garden and around our homes.



Master Gardener Business

October meeting on Wednesday 9th, 1:00 at Orland Office

Garden Gleanings in Glenn—Saturday Oct 5

Corning Olive Festival—Saturday Oct 8

Orientation for new Master Gardener Students—Thursday October 24 and November 7

Selling Plants

We have discussed selling plants at the Corning Olive Festival this year as we did last year. The plants should be labeled or a hand out provided with the name of the plant and information about growing conditions. The seed packets we have are labeled, if we get additional seed packets those would also need to be labeled. We can work on this at the meeting on Oct 9 when discussing the festival.

Fertilization

A recent article published by The Garden Professors titled “Fertilizers– a cautionary tale” explains what fertilizer labels mean and how to use them. The article states that fertilizer labels suggest that fertilizing garden plants is a complicated process that requires specialized products but it doesn't have to be. The article recommends the following practices.

- Base your fertilizer program on a soils test
- Fertilize sandy soils more frequently than clay soils but with smaller amounts
- Most gardens require some nitrogen but not Phosphorus or Potassium so look for NPK ratios with X-0-0 as these products will only supply nitrogen.
- Some plants such as palms and turfgrass benefit from potassium so use a product with X-0-X
- Do not fertilize at planting time, wait until plants establish
- Always apply water after applying soluble fertilizers so they are dissolved
- If using Organic fertilizers chose one with a higher N content
- Never over-fertilize. Landscape fertilization can impair natural waterways resulting in algal blooms that kill fish and other aqua

The article was written by Jim Downer, a UCCE Horticulture and plant Pathology Advisor in Ventura County. The article can be found at the following link <http://gardenprofessors.com/fertilizers-a-cautionary-tale/>