



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

February 2021

University of CA Economic Impact

An independent analysis of UC's economic and fiscal impacts on CA found that the University of California is a major contributor to the state's vitality, generating \$82 billion in economic activity per year and supporting more than a million jobs.

In the area of public service over 5,900 UC Master Gardeners volunteer in 50 CA counties, these volunteers worked close to 500,000 public service hours with an estimated value of \$14.8 million.

UC's Agriculture and Natural Resources division provided 41,000 community-based short courses, classes, workshops, demonstrations and field days across the state in 2018-2019.

A summary of the report can be found at the following web site.

<https://universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/economic-impact-report-2021-fact-sheet.pdf>

Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) is the most devastating insect ever to strike a North American tree. The borer is native to Asia. Since the borer was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, it has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees and caused tens of billions of dollars of damage. The beetle has now been found in 35 states and Washington DC. The borer has not been found in CA yet, but is predicted to reach CA in the near future.

At the CA Statewide Master Gardener Conference in 2017 a presentation by Igor Lacan a University of California Cooperative Extension Advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area specializing in urban forestry, recommended that ash trees not be planted in urban areas due to the threat posed by the emerald ash borer.

There is some good news on the horizon for ash trees. There a project underway at the USDA's Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Ohio to identify trees resistant to the borer. These resistant trees are crossbred to create resistant trees that can be planted across the landscape.

There is also a biocontrol research project underway. In the insects home range in Asia, researchers have found three species of tiny wasps that lay eggs inside the EAB larvae. Researchers have released these wasps in 30 states where the borer is present. Early results are promising.

For more information about the efforts to save ash trees see this article printed in Science magazine.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/can-ambitious-breeding-effort-save-north-america-s-ash-trees>

Information on EAB and other invasive pests affecting California's trees can be found on Igor Lacans website. https://ucanr.edu/sites/Igor/Tree_Pests_to_Watch/

Reading articles and learning about invasive pests affecting CA is a great way to get Continuing Education hours.



Emerald Ash borer photo from the EAB information network



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What's blooming this winter in Glenn County?

Azure bush germander, (*Teucrium fruticans* "Azureum")

This is a fast growing evergreen shrub, tough and drought tolerant. It can handle poor soil and rocky slopes. The dark blue flowers attract beneficial insects, it flowers winter thru early spring. It can be sheared annually to shape and keep bushy or it can be cut to the ground to rejuvenate. Water once a month once established. It can also be grown in a container.

The above information was from the UC Davis Arboretum publication "life after lawn, 45 plants to color your empty canvas".

https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsl1546/files/inline-files/life_after_lawn_plants.pdf



Low purple Mexican sage, Santa Barbara Sage. (*Salvia leucantha*, "Santa Barbara")

Low purple Mexican sage is native to most of Mexico. This cultivar was discovered by Kathiann Brown, from Santa Barbara, CA. It was named in her honor.

The plant is drought tolerant and blooms throughout the fall and into winter. It loves sun and needs little to no water. The deep purple-blue flower spikes are favored by hummingbirds and butterflies. The plant can be pruned to ground level in the winter.

Information on this plant from the UC Davis Arboretum.



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UC Master Gardener Program 2021 Program Priorities; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Focus

The UC Master Gardener Program published a new article on the Statewide blog on January 27, 2021. The blog states "California's strength is its diversity: our mission has always been to serve **all** communities in our state's population". UCANR is committed to making sure the UC Master Gardener Program's resources are relevant and available to all gardeners across California. The blog outlines key statewide priorities for 2021, focusing our responsibility to improve diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

The blog can be found at the following link; <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/statewidemgnews/index.cfm>

Two new UC implicit bias training courses are now available online to UC Master Gardener Program volunteers. There is a link to this training in the blog.

Reading the blog, learning about UCANR's program priorities for DEI and completing the implicit bias training is a great way to earn continuing education hours.

Master Gardeners Presentation at the Rusty Wagon

The Master Gardeners have been asked to hold an event at the Rusty Wagon in April. The event would be a Live Virtual Facebook event. This workshop will be discussed at the next meeting on February 3. Think of some ideas that could be presented using this format.

Master Gardener Business

Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be on February 3 at 1:00. We will be meeting using Zoom. Link to the meeting will be emailed.

UCCE Office Status

The office is closed to the public but the public can contact the offices by phone or email.

Volunteer and CE Hours

The state office ran a report in VMS and the results show 57% of volunteers have completed *both* volunteer and CE hours (omits first-year). The Glenn County Report is showing only 4 volunteers have entered any hours. More volunteers have hours to enter so please input the hours you have earned. Volunteer and CE hours will be a topic at our meeting on Wednesday February 3.