



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

April 2021

Spring Cleaning, for houseplants! Part 1

By Sheila Skemp UCCE Glenn County Master Gardener



Photo by Sheila Skemp of houseplants

Sounds crazy right? Spring cleaning houseplants? Absolutely! Just like your shelves that get a bit dusty over time so do your houseplants, but the difference is that your houseplants suffer from the dust. That dust that builds up on them makes it difficult for them to breathe and to synthesize the sunlight through photosynthesis for food.

What should you do then? Once a month, I take my house plants to bathtub or kitchen sink for a nice shower. There are a couple of reasons for this and next time I will talk about the cleaning of the soil but for today we will talk about dust and pests. Washing the leaves, top and bottom removes the dust that slows photosynthesis, helps to keep the stomata clear aiding in better transpiration and results in a shinier and prettier plant. Read the linked articles for more information on how to wash different types of plants.

While you are washing your plant looking for any pests that may be present. Be sure to check the under sides of the leaves especially. Many pests can be removed with a strong spray of water, others may require insecticidal soap or you may be able to trim away the infected part of the plant.

Your plants will thank you for the shower, I promise. Be sure to read the articles attached not all plants can tolerate a shower and may be better suited to being wiped down or dusted with a small paint brush.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74172.html>

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/hdnmastergardeners/files/330400.pdf>

Look for part 2 in the next Newsgram.



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Need Help with Insect Identification?

The UC Davis Bohart Museum of Entomology has on-line resources to help with insect identification. It has information sheets on many insects, including pests such as the leaf-footed bug as well as information sheets on beneficial insects such as the lady beetle. The site also information sheets about some non-insects such as earthworms, scorpions and centipedes. The insect Fact Sheets do not have information about control or identification of damage caused by insects. UCIPM is the best source for that information.

The Website has a page about insect "Urban Myths". Here is an example of a common myth we have all heard. All bees die after stinging. That is False, only worker honey bees die after stinging .

The Fact Sheets can be found at the following link. <https://bohart.ucdavis.edu/insect-info-sheets.html>

Toxic and Poisonous Plants

Each year over 100,000 people in the United States call Poison Control Centers about plant and mushroom exposures. Plants and mushrooms can not only be toxic to people but also pets. Pets, especially cats and dogs, frequently ingest plants. If a plant is known to be hazardous to humans, it may be toxic to animals as well. However, some animals and birds may safely eat plants that are unsafe for humans.

One of the best ways to prevent poisonings is educating ourselves about the plants we have and the ones we want to plant. Know the names, both and common and scientific, of the plants you have. In case of a suspected poisoning the poison control center or Doctor will need this information. The University of California has a website that lists safe plant as well as toxic plants. The plants are listed by both common and scientific names. The website can be found at this link. https://ucanr.edu/sites/poisonous_safe_plants/

Information about the safety of drought tolerant plants commonly found in CA landscapes can be found at this link. https://ucanr.edu/sites/PlantSafely/Common_Names/

The UC Davis School Veterinary Medicine's website has information about plants toxic to pets. The information can be found at <https://ccah.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/dogs/dog-health>

The ASPCA has information about plants both non-toxic and toxic to pets on their website . <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

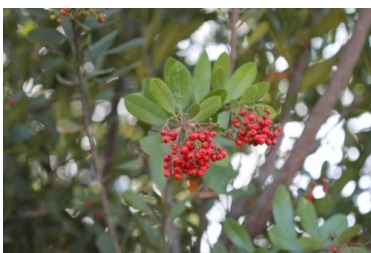


Image of Toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, a CA native plant used in landscaping. Unripe berries are very poisonous, contain cyanide when eaten. The ripe berries are less poisonous but should not be eaten. Image is from the CA Native Plant Society Website.



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Master Gardener Business

Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be on April 7 at 1:00. We will be meeting in the demonstration garden. Bring a chair.

Rusty Wagon Garden Event, Saturday April 17, at the Boysenberry Farm, 10-2. We still need volunteers to work at this event and to help set up and take down.

Ace Hardware Tomato Mania, April 10, Ace Hardware in Orland. Volunteers needed for this event.

Continuing Education

UC IPM is hosting monthly webinars at 1:00pm on the third Thursday of every month to learn more about pest identification, management, and using pesticides around the home and garden. Webinars will run for one hour. This series is free and open to the public but advance registration is required. Find more information and register at this website. <https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucipm-community-webinars/>

The Napa County Master Gardener's holds a Food growing Forum on the second Sunday of month through November from 3 to 4 PM. April's topic is growing tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. See the Napa County UC Master Gardener's website to register.

Placer County Master Gardeners are having a series of on-line workshops this spring. Topics including composting, propagation, succulents and planting for pollinators. The website also has a link to view previously recorded workshops. Visit their website for information. <http://pcmg.ucanr.org/>

Sacramento County Master Gardener's website has links to publications, garden notes and to a video library. The video library includes videos from Sacramento Master Gardeners and well as videos from other counties' Master Gardener programs, videos from nurseries, the Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven and from the State of Oregon Master Gardeners. See the following link for information. http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Video_Library/

Ventura County Master Gardeners are having a series of workshops titled "Trees Make a Better World". A five part series starting on April 22, 1230-130. Register at the following link. <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=33331>

Spring Publications Promo Code

UC Master Gardeners can receive 40% off individual publications and eBook purchases from April 1-15. Use Code LETSGROW at checkout. Printed publications can be ordered on-line at the UCANR Catalog Website. eBooks are ordered through the Kindle Store.