



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

June 2021

Plant Clinic

We are back to in office plant clinics. The sign-up sheet will be at the next meeting for you to sign-up. Have you ever wondered if the advice you are giving is correct and valued by our clients?

This past spring three people have contacted the Glenn County Master Gardener plant clinic with questions. They were repeat clients. They said that they had contacted us in the past, were happy with the response we gave them, said the advice we gave worked. They did not hesitate to call us with more questions. The clients had called us in the past about dying redwoods, cottony cushion scales on citrus and weed identification.

The new questions we got were about pruning landscape trees and citrus trees, dying landscape trees and a question about yellow needles on a pine tree. Keep up the good work everyone.

Dangers of homemade pesticides.

Many people think that making pesticides at home using dish soap, vinegar, bleach, salt and other household items are safer than pesticides purchased at the store. But these homemade pesticides can cause harm. These homemade pesticides have not been tested for efficacy, health, or safety, so their impacts are unknown. Because of this, homemade pesticides have the potential to harm human health, damage plants, be toxic to pets and wildlife, and pollute the environment.

Commercially available pesticides are required by law to have a label with instructions on use, mixing, storage, and first aid. Home remedies don't have instructions for specific dilution or use rates, nor do they identify how often mixtures should be applied. Home remedies also contain no guidance about wearing protective equipment like gloves or how to properly store the mixture.

Applying ineffective homemade pesticides can make pest problems worse, may not control the pest, could be harmful to the plant, or contaminate waterways. They may kill the good bugs along with the target pest. One of the more common ingredients used in homemade pesticides is dish soap. Dish soap, which is a powerful detergent, can injure desirable plants by stripping the waxy layer off the leaves. Commercially available insecticidal, fungicidal, and herbicidal soaps, which are registered pesticides, are highly effective against the targeted pest and will not damage plants when used correctly.

For more information see the following link. <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=46532>



Many pests in the home and garden can be managed without pesticides. In a garden, grow plants suited to the environment and keep them healthy with proper irrigation and fertilization. Weeds can be controlled by hand-pulling, mulching, or weeding tools. For more information, see the [UC IPM Home and Garden pages](#).

The internet and social media sites contain numerous recipes for making home weed killer and bug killer. Here is an example for making weed killer.



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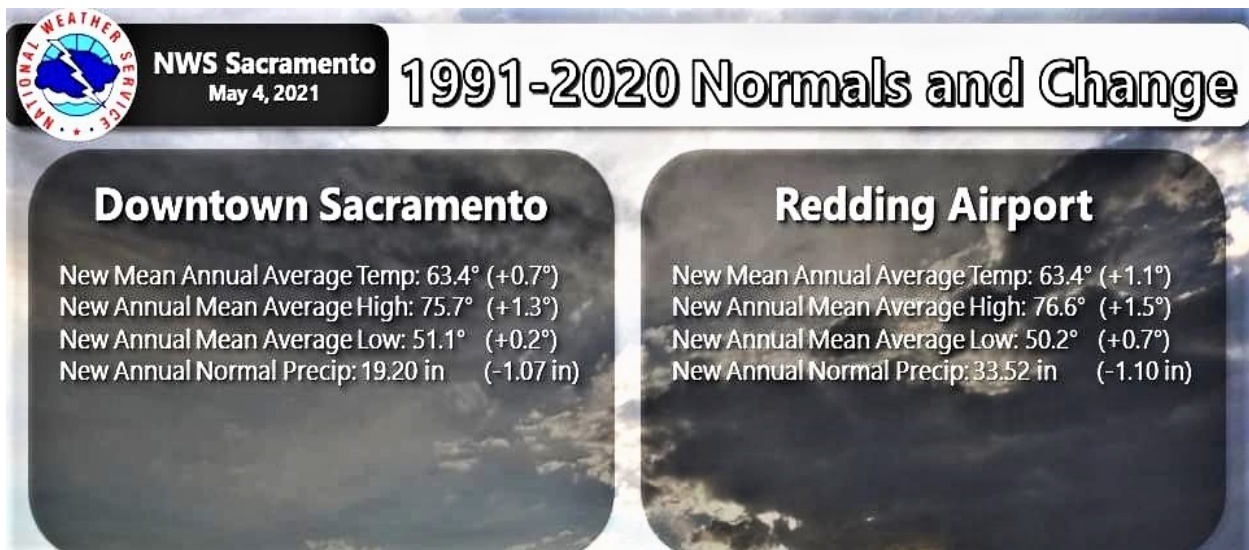
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The new normal

The National Weather Service published new normal temperature and precipitation 30 year averages. The new normal are based on the years 1991-2020. It's not surprising that the temperatures have gone up and precipitation has gone down. The previous normal was based on the years 1981-2010, the changes reflect differences from the last 10 years.

There is searchable data base that can be used to find weather data from weather stations around the country. The data base shows monthly, daily, hourly and seasonal data. The data base is found at the following link.

<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/us-climate-normals/>



Precipitation and water levels in CA

California is experiencing another extremely dry year. The state saw only half its annual snow pack and precipitation. In a recent UCANR Green Blog post Safeeq Khan, Cooperative Extension Specialist in Water and Watershed Sciences at the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resource has found that state may be at more risk of drought than in the past. Climate change has created a new hydrologic regime with more precipitation falling as rain than snow and higher evaporative demand. The transitional precipitation zone (i.e., elevation range where phase of precipitation shifts frequently between rain and snow) in California to be shifting upward and estimated area with seasonal snow pack at the end of 21st century will likely decline by over 50%. The shift in precipitation phase will likely create average conditions being worse than the historical average conditions experienced in the 10 warmest winters.

In order to prepare and preserve water available, Khan suggests California use a multi-pronged approach that, among other things, focuses on increasing storage, increasing efficiency, and maintaining watershed health.

The blog post can be found at the following link.

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=46586>



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Master Gardener Business

Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be on June 2 at 1:00. We will be meeting in the demonstration garden. Bring a chair.

Continuing Education and Volunteer Hours

This is it, the last month to get your volunteer and CE hours and input the information into VMS. A reminder that a copy of the current direction on volunteer and CE hours is posted in VMS under the News/Docs tab on the home page.

The Reappointment documents are available in VMS. When you sign into VMS you will see the 3 documents for you to approve.

Contact Reporting

The reporting on contacts has changed. Master Gardeners will now only collect race, ethnicity and gender (REG) data at workshops or events where registration is required. During registration clients will self identify their REG data or they can decline to give the information. Visual observations of REG is no longer allowed. The data from registration is entered into the contacts section of VMS by one person.

People Master Gardeners help at the plant clinic and interact with at events where Master Gardeners have a table are now counted as outreach and not contacts. We will only collect a headcount of people we reach. There is not a way in VMS to report the headcount information yet. VMS will be changing in the near future to accommodate these changes.

Big Dig Day

June 4, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and the UC Master Gardener Program will launch its statewide day of giving! Big Dig Day— is a day to “dig in the soil, dig in your heart, and dig in your wallet to support the programs you care about!”

Demonstration Garden

There is still some work to get done in the garden this summer. The new planter boxes need to be moved to the location where they will be used. The boxes are heavy, it will take several people to move. The boxes then need to be filled with soil, another labor intensive project. At the June meeting we can come up with a plan to get the work done.