

October 2014

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# Garden Views



## Every Place but Here! (It Seems)

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener



@Depositphotos.com/  
Roman\_Volkov

Recently, I sat down to write an article for the Newsletter. The outside temperature was about 103 degrees and part of the Cleveland National Forest was on fire. The tall plume of smoke drifted over Western Riverside County like a toxic gas. It was the wrong time of the day to run my dishwasher or clothes washer. It was the wrong day of the week to water the yard. Sigh... And, I had just finished reading, MG Karen Bradford's informative September Newsletter article about saving water here in the Inland Empire.

I found myself day dreaming about the wonderful vacation I just returned from a few days earlier. I thought of all the water we saw in Montana and Wyoming on a road trip that took us to Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Everywhere we went we found lakes, rivers, and creeks flowing abundantly. We encountered heavy rainstorms and even snow along the way. Yes, every place but here, there was plenty of water it seemed. No one we met was concerned about water.

We headed home via Oregon and stopped at Redwood National Park on the Northern California coast. The ancient trees looked magnificent as usual, but I noticed that the Eel River, which snakes through the redwood forests, was almost dry. Now I know that rivers are low during late summer, but the condition of the Eel was alarming. The Eel is the state's third largest watershed, covering 3,684 square miles. The main stem of the river stretches more than 200 air miles and over 800 river miles from its headwaters in Lake County to the ocean. And unlike the Santa Ana River, the Eel has a special status as a Wild and



Eel River

Scenic River. This designation is supposed to protect the river from dams and other developments. To me, the Eel's parched look was symbolic of the drought conditions in our fair State. And, I feel very sad about that.

Well, it's midnight so I guess I'll go and water my garden. Let's hope for wet years ahead!!!



Fishing in Yellowstone

## Western Municipal Water District

WMWD Landscapes Southern California Style  
450 E. Alessandro Blvd.  
Riverside, CA 92508

November 8, 2014..... 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Go Native! Gardening with California Native Plants**

Want to attract songbirds, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard? Go natives! Want to decrease the use of water, pesticides, herbicides and amendments? Go natives! Fall and early Winter are the best planting times for California native plants. Attend the workshop and then visit the parking lot for live examples of native plants. The California Native Plant Society will hold a sale of plants in the lot from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Gold Miners Win Search For Excellence Contest

The Riverside County Master Gardener's Gold Miners Project has been selected as the #1 winner in the statewide Search For Excellence Contest. Lucy Heyming formed and heads our Gold Miner Committee, whose goal is to expand volunteer opportunities beyond the Riverside Metro Area and fulfill our mission to "educate the public on sustainable gardening practices." This year, the organizers of the statewide conference held a contest to identify an outstanding project that others could emulate in their counties and the Gold Miner Project won!

Lucy submitted the application because she wanted the Riverside County's MGs to simply be a contender. Now, the program can say it is the best in the State!!

Lucy will be doing a presentation to all attendees at the Statewide Master Gardener Conference and accepting the award on behalf of Riverside County. Congratulations go to Lucy and her team of Gold Miner Volunteers for turning a great idea into a glorious reality. Expect to hear more of the details from Lucy herself. She has definitely earned bragging rights, but she will be the first to say that it has all been a team effort.



First place winners of the triennial Search for Excellence Awards in California, UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County, extended outreach into all corners of their local community.

UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER  
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE  
WHO HAVE OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Eta Takele - County Director  
(951) 683-6491 X221

Chair	David Brandtman
Chair Elect	Cathy Konyon
Secretary	Sandy Starkey
Fiscal Officer	Susan Kitchens
Past-Chair	Lucy Heyming

Gold Miners	Lucy Heyming
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JMDC	Dona Jenkins
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Newsletter Editor	Donna King
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Riverside Training Class Rep	Vacant
Social Programs	Vacant
Speakers Bureau	Vacant
Tours	Sheila James
UCRBG Representative	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Garden	Karen Fleisher

**Desert Area Coordinators:**

Chair	Larry Fechter
Co-Chair	Tom Stansbury
Secretary	Marie Strom
2014-15 Trainee Class	Joan Kyle-Baerman
Agua Caliente School Garden	Cathy Liss
Mentor	Joan Kyle
Phone Squad	Ellyn Smith & Sue Mills
Communication	Marge Robinson
Outreach and Education	Suzanne Jarvinen
Speakers Bureau	Angela Fasano
New Projects/Events	Angela Fasano
Social Programs	Kathy Miller
UCR Palm Desert Garden	Janna Calkins

Garden Views: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>  
Facebook: Google UCCE Riverside Master Gardeners

Rhonda Alexander  
Jenifer Aragon  
Bill Bair  
Cindy Beck  
Alexis Bookman  
Ned Chassagne  
Susan Cline  
Curt Cressman  
Steven Erbeck  
Gilbert Galzada  
Jim George  
Anglea Fasano  
Frank Heyming  
Pat Malone  
Steven Orr  
Pauline Pedigo  
Linda Powell  
Anne Wood

Grow Lab can use your help for

Watering and Propagation

Contact Marco Baldi for more information!

The Garden Views newsletter is published monthly, October through October, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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Beverley Scray

**MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public**

1st	Desert Training Class-Information Day Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Monthly Meeting	9:00 am - 12:30 pm 7:00 - 9:00 pm
1st, 15th, 29th	Temecula Farmers' Market	8:30 am - 1:00 pm
2nd	Riverside Training Class - Intro to Horticulture	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
4th	Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Murrieta/Corona Ramona Bowl Garden Workshop Fall Kick-Off Potluck	8:00 am - 12:00 pm 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 3:30 - 6:30 pm
5th	JMDC Plant Sale	1:00 - 4:00 pm
6th	WMWD Garden Committee Meeting	3:00 - 4:15 pm
7th	Inland Region Iris Society	6:00 - 8:00 pm
8th	Fifty and Better Health Fair - Information Table Frost Protection	7:30 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 - 11:30 am
9th	Desert Area Committee WMWD Basic Docent Training	10:00 - 11:30 am 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
11th	WMWD Docent Day Wildlands Conservancy - Oak Glen WMWD Workshop: Water Conservation in Your Garden	9:30 am - 2:30 pm 11:00 am - 5:00 pm 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
12th	La Quinta Farmers Market "ask the gardener" table	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
14th	UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation Community Health Fair	9:00 - 11:00 pm 3:00 - 7:00 pm
15th	Workday at WMWD Garden Frost Protection IVHP Gardening Series Advisory Board Meeting	9:00 am - 12:00 pm 2:00 - 3:30 pm 2:00 - 3:30 pm 7:00 - 9:00 pm
16th	Riverside Training Class - Soils - Fertilizer - Composting	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
18th	Palm Springs Farmers Market "ask the gardener" table Desert Garden Community Day 9th Annual Desert Garden Community Day in Palm Desert Beaumont Garden Center Drought Tolerant Plants	7:45 am - 12:30 pm 8:45 am - 1:15 pm 9:00 am - 1:00 pm 10:00 - 11:00 am
23rd	Lunch and Learn - Creating a Wildlife Habitat - Bats! Gold Miner Committee Meeting	11:30 am - 1:00 pm 1:00 - 3:00 pm
23rd, 24th, 27th	UCRBG Moving Plants and Set Up For Plant Sale	8:30 am - 5:00 pm
25th	Palm Springs Farmers Market "ask the gardener" table Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Perris Woodcrest Library - Cool Weather Gardening	7:45 am - 12:30 pm 8:00 am - 12:00 pm 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
25th, 26th	UCR Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale	7:30 am - 4:00 pm
26th	JMDC Committee Meeting and Orientation	1:00 - 3:00 pm
29th	Presentation-Planting for Fall	6:30 - 7:45 pm
Ongoing	JMDC Water-Watering, Propagation and Work Days	Various
Ongoing	Indio Call Center	Mondays
Ongoing	Grow Lab Activities - Water, Work, and Propagation Days	Saturdays
Ongoing	Phone Squad Training	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

## Wisley Botanical Garden

By Beverley Scray, Master Gardener

Once a private 60 acre estate of mostly wooded farmland, Wisley was given to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1903 by one of its members. It is one of 4 RHS Gardens in England and is located near London.

On a cool May day the Chelsea Flower Show Tour stopped at Wisley. From the Blue Bird variety of ceanothus greeting us at the entrance to the waddling geese near the Glasshouse Conservatory, Wisley gets an A+ for reaching its goals of providing a wonderful day out filled with learning and pleasure.

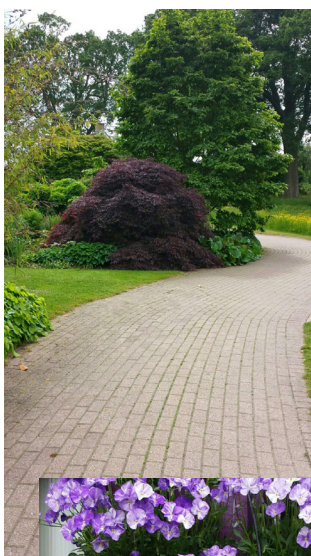
Learning that plants growing in our Riverside area as well as in other California regions seem to like England's climate was a nice surprise. Dutch irises and their cousins bearded irises, marigolds, chrysanthemums, hydrangeas, foxgloves, clematis, rosemary, agapanthus, and of course roses of every type—climbers, hybrid teas, and floribundas were all thriving, healthy looking and in bloom.

Battleston Hill within Wisley comes to life every April and May with its hundreds of rhododendrons (R Yakushmanum). Visitors' spirits are lifted from their winter gloom as they approach this area. Laughing is heard along the Sculpture Trail as people see such whimsical works of art which are for sale.

The trial fruit tree and vegetable gardens serve several purposes. These include the best varieties for this area, and information about maintenance, growth, and pests to watch for—in other words a type of Hot Line, Sunset Garden Book description, and UC Davis research combined.

The Glasshouse Conservatory was divided into biozones including the DRY TEMPERATE ZONE. So familiar were the pelargoniums and succulents of our area. The flower shop was fun. We paid at the TILL not the cashier for a new item called Verti Planter (pack of 2) which brings "eye catching plants to eye level" by hanging them onto a bare fence or wall. Herbs, salad makings or hanging geraniums work best here.

Gardening seemed to be in the heart and soul of all the visitors to Wisley. What a pleasure to see people of all ages and descriptions having a wonderful day out.



## One More Thing About Vectors

By Karen Bradford, Master Gardener

This week seems particularly bad for fruit flies quietly infesting my kitchen: There must have been fly eggs on the bananas I just bought. I am sure that the heat accelerates their reproduction rates, and fruit is more rapidly spoiling for its scent to arouse the fruit flies' activity.



©Depositphotos.com/Mirage3

So how to be rid of fruit flies?

There are several ways that I am trying. Since they are attracted by scent, I left a wine bottle on the counter with a small amount of wine in the bottom: The flies fly in and are not bright enough to find their way up the neck to freedom.

I've also made a trap that I found suggested online: Using a small amount of apple-cider vinegar in a cup, I put cling plastic wrap over the top, flattened it over the edges to the side and pierced four or five holes with a toothpick in the top. It's the same rationale about "flies fly in but they can't fly out." I'm underwhelmed by the death rate and have had better success by swatting them with my hand as they perch on the glass.

Another suggestion was to make a small funnel from a piece of paper, invert it into a glass or other container that has a piece of very ripe fruit in the bottom, run tape around the funnel to the glass' edge and wait for the pests to fly in and die. You decide.

Who remembers 34 years ago when there was a fruit-fly infestation of near-Biblical proportions, it seemed, in Mira Loma? The northwest corner of Wineville and Limonite, where the Harvest Villages model homes now stand, became a breeding ground extraordinaire when citrus peels, probably commodity feed supplements at one of the dairies, were dumped there and started rotting ... and rotting ... and rotting.

The headline of an article in The Press-Enterprise suggested something like "Sky Country Has Become Fly Country," which set off my neighbor two doors, Diane Laramore, over who was the wife of one of the Sky Country developers. (At that time, Sky Country was the only development in Mira Loma: It was just us and the cows.)

We were so new in our home that the air-conditioner unit had not yet been installed, so I had no alternative but to leave the windows open, which allowed the tiny flies to enter through the screens. My proverbial last straw was when Travis, at 18 months old, sat in his highchair and cried when the fruit flies buzzed between him and his sippy cup on the tray. I called Second District Supervisor Donald Schroeder's office and said SOMETHING must be done! (Thus began my acquaintanceship with local government.)

## My Adventure in Lavender Propagation

By Janet K. Hough, Master Gardener

It is always exciting when I visit our local 123 Lavender Farm in Cherry Valley; it is the largest organic lavender farm in Southern California and was started in 1854. Over the years we have attended several Lavender Festivals with friends and family, celebrated our wedding anniversary with a stay-over at the Highland Springs Resort, and now I finally get to add “helping propagate lavender plants” to my list of “done that” activities.

It was a cool and pleasant Saturday morning. I found out the lavender propagation was a fundraiser for our local MGs – new starts that grow and prosper would be purchased by the folks at 123 Lavender Farm for replanting in their fields [about April 2015]. Some of our MGs have volunteered to tend to the new cuttings through the winter season to ensure they are watered, kept warm, etc. You go ladies and gentlemen! I hope to make a few visits, myself, to see how things are going between now and April.

I met two very nice ladies from the Farm – Christina and Tina – who graciously provided instruction in the fine art of selection, cutting, clipping, and planting the delicate and somewhat fussy lavender plants.

Our instructions included:

1. Start with a sharp edge on our pruners; sharpening tool available if needed.
2. Fill 6-8 pack pots with a mix of peat moss and vermiculite (ratio 3 to 2).
3. Water the potting mix, three times, so we could get it properly wet.
4. Locate the specific type of lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*,) that needed to be cut included – Vera (light purple), Hidcote (dark purple), Provence (medium purple), White Provence (white), and Melissa (pink).
5. Cut 48 sprigs about 5” long, bring them back to the shade trees and work table where we plucked all but 4-5 small leaves off the new stems; then make a delicate slice at 45 degrees across a leaf node about 2” below the leaves we had saved. This strategic cut encourages better growth as the hormone concentrate is strongest at a leaf node. Ever notice the small size of those leaves? They are very tiny when you are trying to salvage just a few of them at the tip of a new growth stem.
6. Pot all 48 plants, write their variety name on popsicle sticks, spritz the new cuttings with water, and carefully slide the potted cuttings into clear plastic bags so they would remain moist for their trip to the Farm hot house where they will remain under MG tending.

The smell was very pleasant around the tables where we worked – crushed lavender leaves give off a delicate, hard-to-describe-fragrance, both calming and dreamy. But did you know that that same pleasant aroma from the lavender plants works just



as dramatically as a natural insecticide in your garden – the smell is pleasant to us – but it is NOT liked by garden insects and will keep pests such as fleas, moths, and whiteflies away from your plants.

On our journey around the fields to see the various varieties of lavender, Christina, mentioned that several rows of plants were not doing well because of the shortage of water. It was very evident that the drought condition in Southern California, for the past three years, has been taking its toll. Yes, the plants are pretty drought tolerant, but they do need some water. It seems that the water system at the 123 Farm relies on an underground river of water. They have to water approximately 20 acres of lavender plants. When the underground water supply dwindles so dwindles the amount of water the plants get. Our MG work this weekend became even more important as we help stabilize new starts and get them ready for next year's planting season.

The one variety I worked with was the Hidcote (sounds like Head-cock); there were very few plants available for us to clip and take cuttings. Blooming season is June through August, so most plants were not in bloom, but many more were just tired and not displaying a lot of new growth potential. This variety of lavender only grows to about 20" high so there was a lot of bending and stooping involved. The farm staff said that they needed approximately 625 new Hidcote starts to replace plants lost this year. Drought is a special challenge for this variety which seems to have suffered the most from lack of water.

Hard to see in the picture to the right – but the size of the cuttings were very small. This fine cutting will give the plants the best chance to develop new roots over the winter months.

Lots of MGs were on hand to help, some from Riverside County and some from San Bernardino County. I gleaned some interesting things from our various discussions. Did you know that a mix of rose and lavender, with a little mint and some lemon juice [to activate the alkaloids] can make both a brilliant pink dye and some very tasty pink lemonade? A must try experiment. I also found out that lavender gets its name from the Latin word lavare, which means to wash. Ancient Romans used the aromatic herb to scent their bathwater.

Overall it was a great day at the 123 Lavender Farm. My thanks to all MGs, and 123 Farm Staff, Christina and Tina for a delightful day.



An extra note: anyone not familiar with the 123 Lavender Farm can take a virtual visit [www.123farm.com](http://www.123farm.com). The Farm is located on a portion of 2,400 acres of the Highland Springs Resort. Did you know that the Resort is Riverside County's First Historical Landmark? Their Grand Oak Steakhouse, established in 1884, offers some really great food, much of which is grown on their organic farm. Throughout the year there are lots of activities to take advantage of for the whole family. Their school programs encourage our children to visit the Farm first hand and learn about healthy food and farming practices.

### Fall Kick Off Potluck

October 4th from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the  
UCR Botanic Gardens

We are having a plant exchange as well as a potluck, so  
bring your favorite dish.  
If you would like to participate, please bring a plant to ex-  
change for a new one to take home.

RSVP through VMS



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