



Beyond Citrus

Promoting Alternatives to Citrus for Backyard & Community Gardeners in the Fight Against ACP/HLB

Fall 2019

Do you love fruit trees? We do! We hope you enjoy the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter, which will offer seasonal recipes, tree care tips, and more that will help you care for your backyard orchard.

We will also provide information on the fight against Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), a tiny pest that carries a disease, huanglongbing (HLB), which is fatal to citrus trees. In some places in the Los Angeles area, due to ACP/HLB, it's no longer practical to plant citrus trees and it's necessary to consider alternatives. We'll keep you posted on ACP/HLB as we explore the many types of fruit that can be grown in Southern California. If you'd like more information on ACP/HLB, please check out our [website](#). Also, be sure to read the article by our Master Gardener "Alternatives to Citrus" project coordinator, Sara Harris.

The UC Master Gardener Program is here for all of your gardening questions, from fruit trees to vegetables to lawn care. If you live in Los Angeles County, you can email our Master Gardener Helpline with your gardening questions, at mglosangeleshelpline@ucdavis.edu or leave a detailed message at (626) 586-1988. If you live in another county, you can find your local program [here](#).

Thank you for reading, and happy gardening.

Rachel Surls, Sustainable Food Systems Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County

Want to find out how close your citrus trees are to identified HLB outbreaks? - *There's an App for that!*



Read [here](#) to find out more about HLB outbreaks and what you can do to help halt its spread. Included in the article is a list of fruit trees suited to Southern California's climate that can be planted instead of citrus. Then use the [app](#) to see how close your trees are to HLB infected trees.

Add More Fruit To Your Plate



Eat more fruit at breakfast, lunch, dinner, and in between. This [article](#) provides simple ways to add fruit to every meal!

Enjoy Persimmons!

This versatile fruit is a great alternative to citrus and can be used in many dishes including this [tasty salad](#).



Do you have more backyard fruit than you can handle? *Donate to Food Forward!*



Food Forward is a local non profit organization that will come pick your backyard fruit and donate it to those in need.

Meet Sara Harris

Alternatives to Citrus Special Project Coordinator



The Mandarin orange and Mexican lime trees that preside over our central L.A. alleyway-adjacent backyard garden are as much a part of our community and daily life as our dogs and cats. The orange tree has served as a Lunar New Year ambassador and as a forgiving teacher in how to prune (and not prune) a citrus tree. The lime tree has dressed many a nopal salad and accompanied many a homemade-lemonade birthday party in my Cantonese Mexican neighborhood. My personal connection extends into my Master Gardener work. For two years, I have enjoyed the honor and challenge of advising and teaching with Megan Laird and Toya Regan (Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust garden manager and community garden president, respectively) at Fremont Wellness Center and Community Garden in South L.A. around the best practices to care for a diverse, citrus-dominant, fruit orchard shared with Fremont High School students and community gardeners. All of this on a biweekly, bilingual basis and with the excellent biannual attention of the Master Gardener Orchard Team led by Herb Machleder.

When I saw the opportunity to apply for a position with the University of California Master Gardener Program as a coordinator assigned to “Promoting Alternatives to Citrus for Backyard and Community Gardeners in the Fight Against Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing Disease (ACP/HLB)”, I looked into

Huanglongbing disease only to find that it is fatal to citrus trees and is present in Southern California, and thought: “Wow, that is one wicked problem.”

So I applied for the position. I was thrilled to be hired to work on the project! As a career-long community advocate, teacher, and public media journalist, I have enjoyed the diversity of people and places to engage with in Southern California. As cross-county coordinator for the Alternatives to Citrus project, I am immersed in the science, geography, seasons, and culture of how gardeners relate to the range of fruit and trees we are so lucky to be able to grow in Southern California. One of the great joys of this job is meeting Master Gardeners from Ojai to Lancaster to Long Beach – so many microclimates, so many community gardens and farmers markets, so many dedicated Master Gardeners who are teaching me as they learn best practices for preventing and managing ACP/HLB.

Scientific research and translation of that information into visual language, as well as Chinese and Spanish, is fundamental to this project. Our challenge, as Master Gardeners, is to communicate this information to one of the most geographically extensive and ethnically diverse urban areas in the world, where we garden for food and for a future during a transitional moment in our world’s climate and California’s water realities.

Sara Harris

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For more information on *Promoting Alternatives to Citrus in Backyard and Community Gardens in the fight against ACP/HLB*, please contact Sara Harris at srharris@ucanr.edu.

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