

# HELP!!! I have bugs or something in my garden!

Spring is here and the urge to plant and grow flowers and vegetables is irresistible. Nothing tastes as good as a home grown tomato or looks as pleasant as a garden full of flowers. We like our grass green, our trees full of bright leaves and our flowers blooming and colorful. Unfortunately, sometimes the beautiful plants we bring home from the nursery do not continue to grow as desired. How to get garden help when needed? How can I get answers to my garden problems? Do not despair, help is readily available.

The Alameda County Master Gardeners (ACMGs) are available all summer long in a variety of places. Master Gardeners are volunteers trained through the University of California Agricultural and Natural Resource service to assist the home gardener. One place to find a master gardener is at your local farmer's market. Master Gardener's staff a plant doctor booth in the following markets:  
Berkeley Farmer's Market – every Saturday

and Sunday 10:00AM – 2:00PM starting May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Fruitvale Farmer's Market – every other Sunday, 10:00AM – 2:00PM starting May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Livermore Farmer's Market – every other Thursday, 4:00 – 8:00PM starting May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Pleasanton Farmer's Market – first and third Saturday, 9:00AM – 1:00PM starting April 7<sup>th</sup>  
San Leandro Farmer's Market – every other Saturday, 9:00AM – 1:00PM starting May 5<sup>th</sup>  
There will also be an ACMG booth at the Alameda County Fair this summer and it will be staffed every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and some week days. There will be information available on a wide variety of gardening issues.

The ACMG also maintains a hot line to provide answers to your questions. The West County line (510-639-1371) is staffed on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11AM to Noon and again from 1PM to 4PM and the East County line (924-960-9420) is staffed on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:00AM . However, you can call either line at any time and leave a message and one of the volunteers will get back to you in a few days.

The University of California Agricultural and Natural Resource service also maintains a number of very useful web sites. If you have a problems with pests or diseases, get the latest information by downloading the appropriate Pest Note at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu). Go to the Pest Note listing and click on the appropriate problem. For example, if you want to know what to do about aphids on your roses, check the pest note on aphids. You can learn the best way to have a healthy green lawn by going to [www.ipm.ucdavis/tools/turf](http://www.ipm.ucdavis/tools/turf). Problems with your fruit trees, check [www.homeorchard.ucdavis.edu](http://www.homeorchard.ucdavis.edu). Your tomatoes are showing end rot? Go to [www.vnc.ucdavis.edu](http://www.vnc.ucdavis.edu). Finally, if you're just browsing for information on gardening, check the ACMG web site at [acmg.ecdavis.edu](http://acmg.ecdavis.edu). You'll find interesting articles and tips on gardening.

So don't despair, help is readily available from your local Master Gardener.

B.J. May, Master Gardener