

Master Gardener Monthly Newsletter

May 2020



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

Events

SPRING GARDEN MARKET - CANCELED



We are very sorry to report that our annual UCCE Master Gardener plant sale scheduled for April 18, 2020, has been canceled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis. Since the Spring Garden Market was our major annual fund raiser, please consider supporting our organization with a donation.

Please continue to view our plant [database](#) and [climate zone chart](#) to help plan your home garden.

We need your support for future events. From our [online link](#), select San Mateo as the County, select UCCE SMSF Master Gardener Fund from the Designation Box, and type Spring Garden Market (or leave blank) in the Comment Box.

Checks can also be sent to UC Regents, 1500 Purisima Creek Road. Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, with the memo line notation reading "SMSF Master Gardener Program" and you can also add "Spring Garden Market." Thank you for your support!

SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR - CANCELED



The County of San Mateo has activated the San Mateo County Event Center as support in its response to the Covid-19 Pandemic Emergency. It has been directed by the County of San Mateo that for the next 90 days (from April 2) at minimum, the San Mateo County Event Center will continue to be used as support in this response. Hence Dana Stoehr (CEO), Justin Aquino (Operations Manager), and the rest of the management team regrestfully announce that the 2020 San Mateo County Fair that was to be held June 13-21 is hereby canceled.

The San Mateo County Fair has been held every year since 1934, with the exception of one year during World War II. This is the second historic closure where the San Mateo County Fair has not been held.

MONARCH MYSTERY CHALLENGE



A team of researchers from Tufts University, UC Santa Cruz, Washington State University, and the Xerces Society is working on a project to help halt the recent population collapse of the western monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*). The western monarch overwinters in coastal California and breeds across the West. The researchers know where they overwinter and where they breed in summer, but there is a gap in the spring after they leave the overwintering areas. Less is known about where the monarchs are and what they're up to. Having a better understanding of this gap may be crucial to developing conservation plans to recover western monarchs. The

researchers need community volunteers (that's you!) to participate in their Spring 2020 campaign, "Western Monarch Mystery Challenge." They want everyone in California to be on the lookout for monarch butterflies from Valentine's day (February 14th) to Earth Day (April 22nd). Their area of interest is anywhere outside of overwintering. [Read](#) on how to participate.

Gardening Tips & Tricks

PLANT PROBLEM DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

Choose the affected plant from photos displayed, click on the photo, remove any selections that do not apply, click on the plant names, and continue to filter selections to view the results for a possible diagnoses. [Learn more](#).

GARDENING RESOURCES

Select links to access gardening resources, California Backyard Orchard, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), publications, and finding a local Master Gardener program. [Learn more](#).

ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

Do you need help picking plants for your sustainable home garden? Selecting from the "Arboretum All-Stars" list is an easy way to start making "green" choices for your great looking garden. Arboretum All-Stars are top plants recommended by the horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum. They thrive in California's Mediterranean climate and have qualities that make them great choices for sustainable home gardens. Use a [searchable plant database](#) to pick the perfect All-Star for your garden conditions. For more information, view their [website](#).



CODLING MOTH has the greatest potential for damage of any apple pest, yet it can be effectively controlled with properly timed treatments. It causes two types of fruit damage: stings and deep entries. Stings are entries where larvae bore into the flesh a short distance before dying. Deep entries occur when larvae penetrate the fruit skin, bore to the core, and feed in the seed cavity. Larvae may enter through the sides, stem end, or calyx end of the fruit. One or more holes plugged with frass on the fruit's surface are a characteristic sign of codling moth infestation. Calyx entries are difficult to detect without cutting the fruit. [Read more](#).

Videos



MAY GARDENING CHECKLIST

Tips (19 of them!) to keep your organic garden healthy in May. [View video](#).



DIVIDING PLANTS. There is a special technique for dividing each type of plant that depends on its root system and growing habit. With the health of the plant at stake, you want to make sure that you do it right. This [link lists videos](#) to help you learn what is the right and the wrong way to divide perennials so that you can keep your garden growing strong year after year.



HOW WATER MOVES IN SOIL

With the help of sound management practices, water can move into the soil rather than running off. This video describes how and why soils transmit water at different rates. [View video](#).

[View videos](#) created by the UCCE Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.

Classes & Clinics

Check our [calendar](#) for the status of future events
which cannot be listed at this time

[View Prior Monthly Newsletters](#)

Advice to Grow By...Ask A Master Gardener Available During COVID-19

Ask a UC Master Gardener! Our Helpline assists home gardeners with questions about gardening and pest management. Visit us in three locations at (1) Elkus Ranch, 1500 Purisima Creek Road in Half Moon Bay, from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Mondays; (2) Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue in Redwood City,

from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Thursdays, and (3) at the San Francisco Botanical Garden Library, 1199 9th Avenue in San Francisco, from 10:30am to 2:00pm on Wednesdays. You can also contact us at (650) 276-7403 or by [email](#). For more information view our [website](#) or read more about the [Helpline](#).



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