



University of California Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Program of Riverside County

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Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!
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UC Master Gardener Program Mission Statement

"To extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives."

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Spring is Here!
Anza Borrego Blooms!

**Garden Views is published bi-monthly by
Riverside County UC Master Gardeners.**

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Yes, Another Blue Ribbon...

Contributed by Jolene Hancock, UCCE Master Gardener

It's a festival- no, it's a fair. It's both! Known far and wide as the one event in California to celebrate distant lands, the Indio Date Festival is held in honor of the region's top producer, **dates.**



“Rooted in History Embracing the Future,” was this year’s theme for the 76th Annual Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. Here our very own UCCE Riverside County Master Gardeners were presented as the Blue Ribbon

Winner! Our exhibit was judged in the category for large display 40’ and on the presentation of the theme. The booth’s display showed that UC Agriculture and Natural Resources have been rooted in the county for over 100 years and continue to support our farmers and gardeners in Riverside County.

We want to say congratulations to the Blue Crew, which are eight volunteers and a sub-committee of the Gold Miners Committee. They handle all county special events that are more than two days. It takes three days to set up/take down, doing everything from transport, heavy lifting, set assembly, design, prop placement, etc. This team of volunteers were given their name Blue Crew because of their previous winning of seven blue ribbons. They presented a fantastic award-winning display that in those 10 days of the event fielded questions,

concerns, offered gardening advice, and shared information about our program to 1,804 recipients!



On a personal note, (and my best description does not do it justice), it was not just a table with a green tablecloth. It was amazing! It was informative! Aesthetically pleasing and

inviting. The entire display was beautifully orchestrated featuring: a colorful display with reptiles, dragonflies, flower filled chickens made from recycled tires, metal yard art, colorful ants, ladybugs, bees, and a host owl. This whimsical approach attracted many families and small children to step inside to take a closer look.

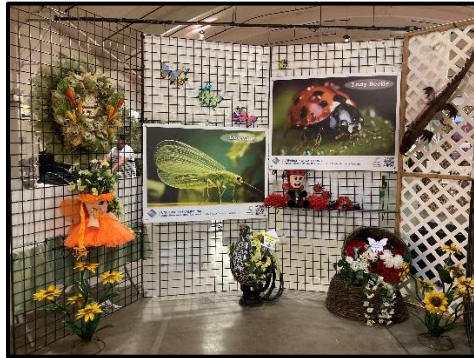


This year we were assigned a prime spot in the Tai Jamaal Building, working closely with coordinator, Amy Paradis. As said by Thurman Howard, MG Coordinator,

“Amy was very steadfast in helping us with the logistics of this event and understood the complexity of having the Master Gardener volunteers coming to work the 10 -day event. Amy was a wonderful liaison. It was helpful that she had some understanding of the MG programs.”

Now a shout out to our fabulous volunteers. Originally there was a threat of us not participating. Preparing for this event was no small feat. Much planning goes into an event of this magnitude and duration including three weeks of planning, designing, setting up, plus logistics of transporting and arranging all the props over 100 miles away.

“There was no room for error. Covering our time slots with Master Gardener Veterans was a challenge. But fellow volunteers from all over the county participated. When we have an opportunity such as this, UCCE should always send their best effort and support. It was a great team effort from **all** over Riverside County,” said Thurman Howard.



There were a few key players on our volunteer task force. Master Gardeners: Ruben Arias, Susan

Costa, Buddy Knoles, and Thurman Howard coordinated closely to oversee the event every day. Thurman stated, “Thank you for helping me coordinate over 51 volunteers. I am so grateful for these individuals and want to say thank you on behalf of myself and the UCCE Master Gardeners.”

By having a coalition of Master Gardeners throughout Riverside County, this event brought us all together all over the county working together to make this a success.

Now a few interesting facts about this annual event:

The Fair started as a festival to celebrate the end of the annual date harvest in Southern California's desert region, the major commercial date-producing area in the Western Hemisphere. Dates were an unknown commodity in the desert until 1903 when date palms were transplanted there from Algeria. By the early 1920s dates became a major crop for the area. Date groves in the Coachella Valley also became tourist attractions.

The Coachella Valley has about 250,000 date palms planted on approximately 5,000 acres (20 km²) which produces 35,000,000 pounds of dates annually. This long-standing agricultural industry is responsible for 95 percent of the nation's crop of dates. With the popularity of the

date gardens the idea was planted for the first Date Festival in 1921 to be held in Indio's city park and developed an international theme that includes annual Camel Races.



It became a unique, one-of-a-kind California event based on a desert theme with camel and ostrich races, and Queen

Scheherazade with her court, including an Arabian Nights Musical Pageant. You'll also see llamas, dairy goats, poultry, WGAS motorsports monster trucks, concerts, art, blue ribbon contests, date cooking competition, Presidents' Day Parade, demolition derby, rodeo, games, food, and a carnival with midway action.

In 2024, 100% of the food vendors now had one item with dates incorporated into their recipes. So, for the first time, every single vendor had at least one date item on the menu. Whether you're looking for sweetness with a date al-pastor taco, or a savory bacon-wrapped date with chipotle sauce, or a date beer-battered corn dog, or sticky date parfait, plus even a date whiskey tasting, you want to save the “date” for February of 2025!

Butterfly Corner: California Tortoiseshell

Contributed by Ann Plazer, UCCE Master Gardener



(Photo 1: dorsal view)

The California Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis californica*), in the family Nymphalidae, often called Tortie, is a medium-sized butterfly with a wingspan of 2 to 2 ¾ inches. The color of the dorsal side of the wings is pumpkin orange with huge black wing borders with slightly scalloped edges (Photo 1: dorsal view). In addition, there are three large, black irregular shapes along the leading edge of the upper front wing. The ventral side is a dark mottled brown with darker wing bases resembling a dead leaf (Photo 2: ventral view below). What a perfect camouflage!



(Photo 2:
Ventral
View)

The Tortie's range is primarily in the mountains of Pacific Coast states, but it also flies east to the Rocky Mountain States and along the Canadian border to the Great Lakes region.

Habitat is mountain chaparral, especially in canyons, also oak woodland, ponderosa pine forest, and occasionally higher mountain zones. It is a rapid flier and thus difficult to capture with your camera unless it is sipping nectar or visiting mud puddles.

The female lays eggs in clusters, and the larvae are gregarious feeding on leaves of various species of mountain lilac, *Ceanothus* sp., of which there are over 50 species in California. The young larvae must have young tender foliage to begin feeding, whereas large larvae can eat mature leathery foliage. Since mountain lilacs put on all their growth only at the beginning of the season, the adult butterflies must migrate to higher elevations to find mountain lilac just bursting out from melting snow in early summer to produce a second or third brood. Individuals

from the last brood will migrate back to lowland California to hibernate over winter.

The California Tortoiseshell also likes manzanita flowers, *Arctostaphylos* sp., for its nectar of which there are more than 40 species that range from shrubs to small trees. Their other nectar sources include thistles and other composites such as asters and daisies. During large migrations to California, Oregon, and Washington, they may feed on virtually any nectar source.

Flight time for the California Tortoiseshell in Southern California is from spring to fall with two to three broods. The adult hibernates at low elevations in our foothills during the winter and on warm winter days in southern California may be seen sunning itself, returning to its roost at night. These overwintering adults will appear in early spring to lay eggs, thus living nine to ten months before death.

Many years this species is quite uncommon, but, like the Painted Lady, it has periodic population explosions and migratory movements in a huge burst of millions as found in the mountains and northern portions of California. This population explosion is first seen as caterpillars covering mountain lilac shrubs. Next, the adults make news as they fly everywhere and stop traffic by smashing into windshields and blocking drivers' views. Although the population dynamics and migratory patterns of the California Tortoiseshell are not well understood, it certainly responds favorably to many healthy host plants by producing millions of offspring.

Update on MG Training Class

Contributed by Jill Hishmeh, UCCE Master Gardener

We are near the end of 2023-2024 Master Gardener Training Classes. We have one more class before Janet Hartin ties everything together in the final lecture on April 16th, when she will also distribute the final exam.

Student presentations will follow on the evenings of April 30th and May 7th, via Zoom from 6 pm to 9:30. This year, the 45 trainees were asked to focus their presentations on six major areas of great importance to our world environment and to our state Master Gardener Program.

I hope many of you will take the time to join the Zoom call and hear this year's student presentations. The students have been creative in researching specific areas of interest to them and others in the community. So far, we are scheduled to hear presentations on a range of topics: mushrooms, herbs, composting, green waste, seed banks, edible flowers, insect pests, deep pipe watering, hydroponics, drip irrigation, gardening on a budget, small space gardening, landscape design, vegetables, pollinators, and citrus. Of course, there will also be a presentation on one of our key topics: right plant, right place.

Please join the calls and support our soon-to-be fellow Master Gardeners as they create their first (of many) Master Gardener Presentations. See the VMW calendar and sign up! Please also come to the graduation for these 50 trainees on Sunday, May 19. Details to be forthcoming on VMS.

(Editor's Note: Jill Hishmeh for West County and Brad Hardison for the Desert are doing exceptional jobs as Training Class Coordinators!)



West County Trainees

Riverside Community Flower Show and Garden Tour

Contributed by Darrylyn Erickson, UCCE Master Gardener, RCFS Committee Member

Flower Show & Garden Tour
Garden Friends with Benefits

Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28
FREE Flower Show • 9 am - 5 pm
 Elks Lodge • 6166 Brockton Ave., Riverside

Garden Tour \$10 or 6 Gardens • 10 am - 5 pm
 Tickets available on our website (Children 16 and under Free)

Submit an entry to our flower show for FREE!
 Accepting entries Friday, April 26 only • 4 to 8 pm

Don't miss our Garden Fair at the Flower Show!

Flower Show Seminars Include:

Saturday, April 27	Sunday, April 28
9:30 am Getting to Know Your Backyard Hummingbirds Suzanne Colquitt Wild Birds Unlimited	9:30 am I'll Be There for You: Be a Friend of the Western Monarch Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker RCRCD Certified California Naturalist
10:30 am Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden Lucy Heyming UCCE Master Gardener	10:30 am Bringing Nature Home: California Native Plant Gardening Linda Powell UCCE Master Gardener



Desert Trainees

If you enjoy people, plants and beautiful places, here is your opportunity to participate in one of Riverside's oldest events. The Riverside Community Flower Show and Garden Tour is coming back on April 27th and 28th. Can you believe this little flower show has been going strong for 76 years? It is a testament to the love

people have of gardening that the show can draw a crowd every year for such a long time. It's such fun to enter a cutting or potted plant for judging and come back to find you've won a blue ribbon! Plus added are the shopping fun at the vendor fair, attending the free garden seminars, and strolling through 6 local gardens to get creative ideas to take home. This year one of the charming gardens belongs to Platinum Badge Master Gardener, Karen Fleisher!

The theme this year is "Garden Friends with Benefits" because it promotes the Riverside Community Flower Show and Garden Tours mission statement to endorse and promote the practice of horticulture among the residents of Riverside County, including the encouragement of local beneficial insects and pollinators, native plants, plus water conservation.

The Flower Show will feature beautiful displays and information from many long-time partners: Raincross Rose Society, Riverside/San Bernardino County Orchid Society, Inland

Regional Iris Society, Inland Koi Society, Gates Cactus and Succulent Society, and Riverside County Master Gardeners. Important parts of the Garden Tours' success each year are the Master Gardener Docents who greet the enthusiastic public, give basic gardening advice, and answer the question of how to become a Master Gardener many times over.

There are docent shifts available on VMS for Master Gardeners for Saturday PM, and both AM/PM shifts are available on Sunday. It is really a fun way to get volunteer hours and is open to trainees and veteran Master Gardeners.



Plant Sale and Compost Workshop

Contributed by Debra Corbin-Euston and Clifford Morrison

The Master Gardener Grow Lab Annual Spring Plant Sale is ONE DAY ONLY Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:00 - 3:00 PM.

We have many vegetables, flowers and herbs as well as a few pollinator and wildflower potted gardens to bring some brightness and joy to your world. There will be Fairies too!

Our prices are very reasonable starting at \$3.00 and up. These plants are propagated, grown, and maintained by the Master Gardeners of Riverside County. All profits go to our program and help us continue to bring our services and knowledge to the community. Cash and Checks are accepted ways for payment.

Clifford Morrison, our expert composter, has a number of activities planned, all of which are both kid and adult friendly continuing at the Compost Lab underneath our brand new, large shade canopy.

THE LIVING DESERT RAIN GARDENS THE LIVING DESERT ZOO GARDENS THE LIVING DESERT RAIN GARDENS

Our own UCCE Master Gardener, Brad Hardison, will be speaking at the Living Desert Zoo/ Gardens in Palm Desert Sunday, April 7th at 1 PM. Brad is also a Certified CA Naturalist. Topic: "Choose Native Plants: Create Wildlife Habitat in Your Yard"

He will give a hands-on, interactive seminar approximately every hour which covers all aspects of composting including the whats, whys, and hows for both composting and vermicomposting. Live demonstrations of these processes with touching and feeling active piles in several different stages along the production timeline are available. And of course, one-on-one Q&As throughout the day. Other activities include compost games and prizes, worm touch and feel station, and compost tea demonstration station.

Desert Helpline: Yellow Leaves on a Non-Flowering Olive Tree

Contributed by Ralph Thompson, UCCE Master Gardener



The Desert Helpline recently had an interesting exchange with a client about yellowing leaves on her Olive tree. The client wrote in about her two-year-old non-flowering olive tree on which many leaves have recently been

turning yellow. She said there is new growth on the branches, and she doesn't see any evidence of disease, providing a couple of photos. Bottom-line she was concerned that the yellowing leaves were an indicator of too much water. Our exchange on this particular puzzle follows:

True, the yellowing pattern could be irrigation related. Yellowing leaves could also be nutrient related and may indicate a need to feed the plant. And the browning tips seen in the photos might be from salt toxicity, also irrigation related.

Inappropriate irrigation is probably the most common cause of landscape plant damage. Too

little or too much soil moisture affects all aspects of a plant's development. Inadequate soil moisture causes foliage to fade in color and wilt, die along margins and tips, and drop prematurely. Overirrigation can drown the root system preventing the intake of vital nutrients including water and oxygen, and ultimately cause foliar symptoms resembling those from underirrigation. So too much water or not enough? The soil will always hold the answer: are there wet spots, or standing water, or is the soil dry several inches down? The client is familiar with the fact that established Olive trees prefer little water and are not tolerant of saturated soils. She has set up a drip head and basin around the base of each tree, seen above.

Their irrigation controller is set to run five minutes twice a week. They have not adjusted for our recent periods of rain, nor have they adjusted (flow nor positioning) for the trees' growth over the last two years. The client also stated that they fertilized "once last year."



Sometimes, to conserve water, gardeners set irrigation systems to provide the plant's direct water needs and no more. Unfortunately, their good intentions to conserve water allow mineral salts to build up in the soil. Salt toxicity from saline soils can only be remedied by leaching. To leach, apply water that is low in soluble salts to move salts deeper into soil. During each irrigation apply a greater volume of low-salt water than needed to wet the root zone. For example, water for a longer amount of time and, if warranted, increase the interval between irrigations to avoid overwatering and waterlogging the soil. Of course, if the soil has poor drainage, one may need to improve soil drainage first by augmenting the soil or adding subsurface drainpipes or tiles.

Basin irrigation is often the easiest way for a homeowner to ensure there is enough but not too much water being applied, and there is adequate flow to leach salts below the root zone. For the most effective tree irrigation, target water application to thoroughly wet the soil in a donut shape that stretches from the tree's drip line inward to about halfway between the trunk and the drip line. Either create a 2-3" deep basin under the tree's entire canopy or a deeper 3-4" ring basin just inside the canopy's perimeter. Then adjust water flow to fill the basin during irrigation to create a shallow pond, which will allow the water to uniformly percolate into the soil over the tree's feeder roots. During summer heat, irrigate by flooding the basin twice a week letting the surface soil dry to an inch or so before applying more water. As temperatures drop, switch to irrigating once a week, then once every two-three weeks during slow growth periods, and back to twice a week during hot/dry spells. How often will be determined by evaporation. What's important is to let the surface soil dry to an inch or so before applying more water but not to wait so long that root-zone soil dries. Learn your soil's pattern by digging into the exposed soil with your fingertip. If it feels damp wait; if not irrigate.

And finally, most sources recommend fertilizing olive trees twice a year. Apply a slow-release fertilizer around the base of each tree once in May and then again in October. Water in well. Feeding your olive trees will help them to thrive.

Remind your neighbors and friends!

Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!



Get help and advice with your garden! Master Gardeners are here to answer your plant, tree, and gardening questions throughout East County Desert areas and West County Inland Empire areas.

Ask us about saving water in your landscape, what's damaging your plants, how to make and use compost in your own backyard, what's ailing your trees, or any gardening-related question. We're here to help!

Email or leave a message anytime.

[Helplines ...](#)

West County (Inland Empire):

- Call 951-955-2647
- Email your question (preferred):
anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu
Include as much detail as possible and any photos that illustrate your problem/question.

East County (Desert Areas):

- Email your question:
anrmgindio@ucanr.edu
Include as much detail as possible and any photos that illustrate your problem/question.

**Celebrate
These New Riverside County
Recognition Awards**

February-April

750 Hours Pruner Pin

Lauretta Kyle

500 Hours Watering Can Pin

Kay Force

David Frelinger

250 Hours Gardeners' Trowel Pin

David Lahti

Barry Mantell

Williams Linda

100 Hours

Susan Costa

GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES








APRIL-OCTOBER

UC Master Gardener docents are available in the Butterfly Garden on the first and third Sunday of every month, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, to answer questions about **Gardening for Butterflies** including the life cycle of butterflies and what to plant to attract butterflies. Stop in anytime between 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

1 Botanic Gardens Drive
Riverside, CA 92507
gardens.ucr.edu

Free Workshop

Invasive Insects

Controlling the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)

By David Morgan Ph.D., Environmental Program Manager for the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Saturday, April 6, 2024 • 10 am



Learn about this invasive insect pest and the production, release, and monitoring of ACP biological control agents throughout Southern California.

Dr. Morgan holds a MS and PhD in Applied Entomology from Imperial College, London University. David started California's program to manage the Asian Citrus Psyllid using biological control agents in 2012. He is in charge of three facilities that produce biological control agents for use in the state's sustainable pest management activities.



Ask a Master Gardener First Saturdays from 9 - noon.
Stop by the Master Gardener booth to have all your gardening questions answered.





Open Daily, 8 am to 4 pm
4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501
For more information, please contact us at (951) 683-7691 ext. 207 or llc@RCRCD.org

Butterfly Surveys

at the **Greenbelt Monarch Habitat**

9:00 am • April 5, April 27, May 11 & 24, June 1, 14 & 29, 2024

Interested in helping conserve the Western Monarch butterfly? The butterflies are in decline due to a loss of habitat, specifically native milkweed. Come be a community scientist and gather data on eggs, caterpillars and butterflies. Training will be provided.

Things to bring:

- Water
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy shoes
- Smart phone with iNaturalist app
- Kneeling pad (recommended)

Surveys involve stooping, bending and kneeling on the ground. Ability to use a smart phone with the iNaturalist app is helpful but not required.




A Western Monarch caterpillar eating a native California milkweed, *Asclepias californica*.

For more information about Monarchs: 

To register:
email Felix-Derbarmdiker@rcrcd.org
or call (951) 683-7691 x218
Please register by the by 3 pm the prior day.



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District



Greenbelt Monarch Habitat



Composting: How to Build a Better Garden

Saturday, April 13, 2024
Free • 10 am



Learn what an enormous difference composting can make in your home garden. Kathy will cover:

- how to start a compost bin
- what to put in a bin
- the benefits of harvesting your own compost to use as a fertilizer, what composters call "black gold."

Kathy Steckman is a UCCE Master Gardener, a Riverside County Master Composter, and a retired teacher. Kathy started compost systems in the schools where she taught, and her composting days go back more than 50 years.




**11875 Indian Truck Trail
Temescal Valley, 92883**

For more information call (951) 683-7691 ext. 218 or email scic@rcrcd.org



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

Trials and Tribulations of Seed Propagation

Contributed by Kim, Coons-Leonard, UCCE Master Gardener

This is a story of the emotional ups and downs for gardeners propagating seedlings in the winter in a shade frame.

Early each February volunteers for the School and Youth Gardens Project gather at the Grow Lab to plant vegetable, herb, and flower seeds to distribute as seedlings to our program's partner schools across the county. This year our efforts were delayed initially by heavy rain, but then sunny weather greeted us the morning of February 8 as we planted seeds in 262 six packs.

Shortly after this, a record overnight cold was predicted to occur over several days. So, the seedlings were set in sealed trays with no drainage to lessen the effects of the cold emanating from the steel planting tables. Then with warm daytime sunlight, the seedlings began to emerge.



Seeds planted in 6 packs stored in trays

However, nature now presented an even greater challenge. An unexpectedly heavy rainstorm arrived on February 20, dropping a record volume of water over a very short period of time. Rushing over to over to Grow Lab in the

downpour, I found all the trays overflowing with water, and soil displaced from about 40 of the six- packs! All the six-packs were immediately removed from the trays, placed in trays with drainage, and covered with the sealed trays to protect from the rain. I made dire predictions to the School Garden Team regarding the number of seedlings that would survive.

Nothing like a stretch of sunny daytime weather with occasional light rain showers to renew our propagating hopes. Our seedlings persevered, growing in all but five of the 40 flooded six packs, and we now have begun distribution of the seedlings to school gardens.

My take-away: Never underestimate the sheer power of nature or the resiliency of plants!



Sprouted seedlings waiting for delivery to schools



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
Riverside County

Tell Your Family and Friends!

UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County Announce Home Gardening Series 2024 For All Home Gardeners!



Sun Burned



Over Watered



Dead??

Home Gardening: “How to Help Your Garden Survive the Summer”

**Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 9:00 am-2:00 pm
in person in Riverside**

- The cost for the class is \$30* including all materials.
- Class size is limited to 25.
- Light lunch is included.
- **Registration Deadline: Tuesday, April 16, 2024.**
- For more information or to register contact: Georgia Renne, HG Coordinator, at grennemg@gmail.com.

Home Gardening: “How to Help Your Garden Survive the Summer”

- ☕ Preparing Your Yard for the Summer
- ☕ Troubleshooting Summer Irrigation
- ☕ Walk Your Yard
- ☕ Problem Solving Q and A

*(*The tuition covers expenses and supports the UC Master Gardener Program. UCCE Master Gardeners are volunteers and are not paid for their time.)*

Janet's Jottings

Janet Hartin



Those Bloomin' Flowers!

I was thinking about the mechanisms of why some plants require long or short nights to flower and thought you might be interested in learning more about this phenomenon. Contrary to what many people think, it's the period of uninterrupted darkness rather than a requirement for long periods of light that triggers when many species of plants flower.

Just as a refresher, plants that require long periods of darkness to flower are called "short day" plants but are more correctly called "long night" requiring plants. They flower when they are exposed to 12 or more hours of darkness over a set period of time. As one might expect, most are plants that bloom in spring and fall, chrysanthemum, Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti are examples.



What is it about this time of year when continuous darkness at night is waning? Plants

that bloom now are in many cases "short night" plants (or, as many people still call them, "long-day" plants). Unlike their "long night" counterparts, they require less than 12 hours of dark to flower. Plants in this category are flowers that bloom in summer and many vegetable plants.

Fortunately, some plants are "night" (or "day") neutral and flower independently regardless of how many hours of dark they receive. Corn and tomatoes are examples of plants in this category. (However, in the desert, tomatoes will not produce fruit when day temperatures rise about 100 degrees for sustained periods of time. Gardeners learn over time to plant tomato seeds in the desert in late fall and early winter or transplants mid to late winter for this reason!)

It is a common practice for growers of horticultural plants to add greenhouse lighting to shorten nights and force flowering plants to bloom at will. In fact, in the United States, Easter lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*) don't bloom naturally during the Easter season. Native to Japan, they bloom later in the summer.



To get them to bloom by Easter (especially an early one like we had this year) growers expose bulbs to cool, moist conditions over a six week period at 42°F. Then, they plant the bulbs in pots and move them into a greenhouse. If everything works right, shoots appear in two weeks in late December to early January. The flowering period is altered as needed by changing temperatures. Buds that measure about one inch open in about one month while buds that

are six inches open the next day. Growers adapt their growing regime based on the actual date of Easter from one year to another, putting the lily in warm conditions or cooler conditions as needed to speed up or slow down flowering.

As you continue to admire your Easter lily, thank the dozen or so northern California and southern Oregon growers who produce about 95% of our nation’s crop, thanks to the favorable microclimate along the coast and their meticulous production timelines. Known as the “Easter Lily Capital of the World” this coastal area produces about 11 million bulbs annually.



Note: All parts of Easter lilies (and many other lilies) are highly toxic to cats. Please keep live plants and vases with cut lilies away from cats at all times. Call the national pet poison control hotline at (855) 764-76611 (available 24/7) and take the cat to the veterinarian if you suspect a poisoning from the cat coming in contact with any part of the plant or ingesting water from a vase containing an Easter lily.



MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING PROGRAM





This hands-on course provides:

- Education on the science and benefits of traditional composting and composting with worms (vermicomposting)
- Hands-on experience building and maintaining compost piles
- The necessary skills needed to teach composting to others
- Students will receive a certificate upon course completion

FREE to Riverside County residents

Registration required!

Register by scanning the QR code, complete the application under the Master Composter Training tab, and choose "Master Composter - In Person, Live" option.



2024 In Person Training Sessions:
Participants **MUST** attend all 4 consecutive Saturday classes within their training session.

- 📅 March 9, 16, 23, 30
🕒 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
📍 St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
47535 CA-74, Palm Desert, CA 92260
- 📅 July 13, 20, 27, August 10
🕒 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
📍 Riverside County Department of Waste Resources
14310 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley, CA 92553
- 📅 September 7, 14, 21, 28
🕒 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
📍 Kay Cenicerros Senior Center
29995 Evans Road, Menifee, CA 92586

Special thanks to host organizations:



St. Margaret's, Palm Desert



New. Better. Best.

951-486-3200
waste-volunteer@rivco.org
14310 Frederick St. Moreno Valley, CA 92553

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WASTE RESOURCES
Document available in alternative formats upon request.

“In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four-and-twenty hours.”

~Mark Twain

