



University of California Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Program of Riverside County

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Website

www.ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG
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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Where Do Master Gardeners



Volunteer in the Summer?

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

In this issue:

- ~ Pam Elias shares Master Gardeners at the Riverside Home and Backyard Show pp. 2-3.
- ~Janine Almanzor describes the UCR Botanic Gardens Twilight Tours pp. 3-5.
- ~In Memoriam: Nanci Nelson p. 5.
- ~Burt Boss answers kids' questions about peanuts p. 6.
- ~Kim Coombs-Leonard updates summer events for the Youth-Students Gardens Project p. 7.
- ~Master Gardener Recognition Hours Awards p. 7.
- ~Ann Platzer paints the Mylitta Crescent butterfly p. 8.
- ~Congrats to Brad Hardison p. 8.
- ~Checkout upcoming gardening events p. 9.
- ~Invite friends, family, and neighbors to Home Gardening Classes in September p. 10.

Celebrating Our UC Master Gardener Volunteers at the July 2024 Riverside Home and Backyard Show

Contributed by Pam Elias, UCCE Master Gardener



Our Booth at Riverside Home and Backyard Show

Our dedicated UC Master Gardener volunteers were incredibly busy at the Riverside Home and Backyard Show in mid-July. The preparation for this event starts long before the actual dates, showcasing the commitment and hard work of our team.

Behind the Scenes: Preparation and Setup

Thurman Howard spearheaded the event's organization, securing the venue, arranging speakers, requesting flyers, coordinating social media promotion, organizing the setup and teardown crew, and managing the volunteer opportunities on our Volunteer Management System.

The week of the event, our "Blue Crew" took charge of the setup. This team of volunteers, often nicknamed the Blue Crew for their award-winning displays at county fairs, has perfected the setup process to a science. A special thank you to Thurman Howard, Marilyn Howard, Debby Leuer, Debbra O'Brien, Jim O'Brien, and Nan Wiecek for their beautiful and creative displays. Thurman Howard reported that the booth had 553 visitors, well over the number in previous years.



The Blue Crew!

Inspiring Presentations by Our Master Gardeners

We were fortunate to have impressive Master Gardener speakers provide well-attended presentations:

Friday: Christine Lampe presented "Southern California Veggie Growing."

Saturday: Lynn Coffman presented "Turf Removal and Irrigation."

Sunday: Lynn Coffman provided the final presentation on "Water Wise Plants."



Lynn Coffman, Master Gardener Presenter

Each day, volunteers were on site to assist the speakers with their presentations, offer gardening advice to the public, take photographs, and conduct presentations. Due to the work of the Speaker Assistants who handed out flyers for the presentations prior to each one, Thurman Howard stated each presentation had more than the typical number of participants. The gardening advice sometimes included a deep dive into research-based information with a contact to the Master Gardener Helpline team.

Acknowledging Our Volunteers

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made this event successful: Janis Binam, Norma Larson, Thurman Howard, Elizabeth Sanchez, Deborah Anderson, Uriel Esparza-Gonzalez, Xochitl Pena, Marcille Christian, Ann Moore, Mary Ann Van Stockum, Brenda Kooiman, Vilma Raettig, and our photojournalists Linda Cummings, Christal Ferlisi and Rita Kanoka. Special thanks to our wonderful speakers Lynn Coffman and Christine Lampe!

Event Focus: Turf Removal

This year's event focused on turf removal. Our Master Gardeners teamed up with representatives from the Western Municipal Water District and Riverside Public Utilities to promote turf removal. Master Gardener Lynn Coffman gave an informative presentation on turf removal and irrigation. A special thanks to our partners, Jeffrey Diaz from Western Municipal Water District and Michele McKinney from Riverside Public Utilities for their time and effort in providing turf removal information and answering questions from the audience. Highlights:

- Information on turf removal incentives promoted by most water providers.
- For more info, visit the Metropolitan Water District website: bewaterwise.com.
- Check with your local water district for additional rebates on turf removal, trees, and irrigation components.
- Important: You MUST have living, green turf to secure a rebate, so DO NOT remove it before qualifying!



Thurman Howard and Rosa Olajz

Watch Past Presentations

You can watch Lynn Coffman's presentations on turf removal and irrigation from January and February 2024 on the Western Municipal Water District website, <https://westernwaterca.gov/MasterGardenerWorkshops>.



Master Gardener volunteers, Janis Binam and Marcille Christian

Thank you to everyone involved in making the July 2024 Riverside Home and Backyard Show a success! Your hard work and dedication continue to inspire and educate our community. **Contributions by Thurman Howard and Lynn Coffman**

Photos by Linda Cummings, Christal Ferlisi, and Rika Kanaoka

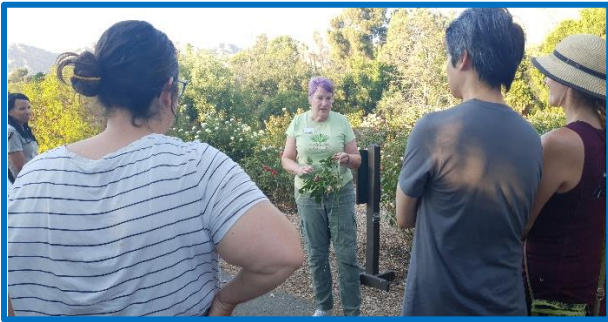
UCR Botanic Gardens Twilight Tours

Contributed by Janine Almanzor, UCCE Master Gardener

There's something special about being in the Botanic Gardens at twilight. The weather is cooling down, the lighting is magical, and the possibility of sighting wildlife is high. The Botanic Gardens holds three Twilight Tours each summer. The first one was Saturday, July 20th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm; the next two will be August 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and a members-only tour on September 7th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

There were close to 50 visitors at the July tour, which is on the lower side, so we were able to have stations throughout the Gardens where docents (many of whom were Master Gardeners) who are experts in the specific area

shared their expertise. The visitors were divided into three groups led by our trained docents, April Wilson, Teresa Wassman, and Laura Simpson. They each led their tour groups through the Desert Gardens and up the switchbacks to the Rose Garden where they met volunteer Jean Gress, who spoke about the Rose Gardens for about 5 to 10 minutes.



Jean Gress at the Rose Garden

The next station was the greenhouse where Curator Janine Almanzor was stationed. The Friday before the tour we had finished redesigning the front section of the greenhouse which we are now calling our Display House. The plants are arranged in phylogenetic order, so it is now an educational experience. The tour started with the earliest, most primitive plants – the non-vascular spore plants (mosses, liverworts etc.), then the vascular spore plants (ferns), then the gymnosperms (cone-bearing plants), and lastly the angiosperms (flowering plants). The visitors loved seeing the corpse plant (*Amorphophallus titanum*), the chocolate and vanilla display, and the coffee and tea plants.



Janine Almanzor at the new Display House

The tour continued on to the Butterfly Garden where volunteer George Spiliotis spoke about the plants and how butterflies use them as a host or nectar plant. They saw Monarch eggs and caterpillars, and even tarantula hawks.



George Spiliotis in the Butterfly Garden

The next station was the Herb Garden where volunteer Jean Weiss spoke about several different herbs and how they were used in the past and present. The groups enjoyed feeling and smelling many different plants. The final station was the Native American Garden where volunteer and docent, Karen Fleisher, shared her knowledge of California native plants and how American Indians used them for generations.



Karen Fleisher (center back) at the Native American Garden

The tour groups continued down to the Turtle Pond to view the turtles, fish, and majestic Montezuma cypress trees (*Taxodium mucronatum*). Then some groups went up to Ficus Grove before proceeding down the steps through Alder Canyon to the Meeting Room where refreshments and bats awaited them, outside and high overhead, of course. Everyone loved the tour and felt privileged to be the first to see the Display House.

Photos by Por Tupsamphan



Twilight Tour: August 17, 6:00-8:00

UC RIVERSIDE
BOTANIC GARDENS
EST. 1963

JOIN US FOR A GUIDED TOUR & ENJOY
THE MAGIC OF THE GARDENS AT TWILIGHT!

Twilight
Tours

JULY 20, 2024, 6:30-8:30 PM
AUGUST 17, 2024 6:00-8:00 PM

TICKET PRICES
\$10/MEMBER, \$15/NON-MEMBER
FREE/SUSTAINER, BENEFACTOR,
PATRON & LIFE MEMBERS

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE TOUR.

PLEASE WEAR WALKING SHOES.

UC RIVERSIDE Botanic Gardens

PAY ONLINE AT GARDENS.UCR.EDU
SELECT MEMBER EVENTS OR NON-MEMBER
EVENTS. SELECT TWILIGHT TOUR, JULY AND/OR
AUGUST

UCR BOTANIC GARDENS
1 BOTANIC GARDENS DRIVE
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507

PLEASE NOTE PARKING IS NOT INCLUDED
IN THE TICKET PRICE

GARDENS.UCR.EDU | UCRBG@UCR.EDU | 951-827-7090

on. Nanci was primarily involved with the Phone Squad/Hotline during her 12 years as a Master Gardener right up until March of 2020 when the MG office closed because of COVID. She enjoyed talking on the phone with people about gardening issues. She was extremely knowledgeable and loved working on the Helpline. Nanci also worked at the twice yearly the UCR Botanic Garden plant sales over the years helping with setup back in the day.

Nanci volunteered at the helpline every Thursday morning. When the Helpline Coordinator position opened, she did not hesitate to step up. After a couple years as Coordinator, she realized her passion was directly answering the public's gardening questions. Nanci thoroughly enjoyed sharing her knowledge with trainees. She would go on forever teaching trainees where to look for science-based websites to find the answer for inquiries. Nanci also volunteered at the MG information tables in Menifee.

Thanks to Karen Fleisher and Rosa Olaiz for sharing their memories of Nanci.

In Memoriam: Nanci Nelson



Nanci ready at the Helpline

Our dear friend and Master Gardener, Nanci Nelson, passed away this last June. Nanci was kind, generous, and dependable. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was an animal lover and devoted Master Gardner.

Nanci achieved 2080 lifetime volunteer hours beginning in 2008, earning a Gold Badge early



Nanci at the Harvest Festival

Editor's Note:
In the next couple of *Garden Views* issues, you can expect to see some changes in format to make your viewing even better. You will still receive the issues through the email address you currently are using to receive the newsletter.
Georgia Renne, Editor

What are you, NUTS? No, LEGUMES!

Contributed by Burt Boss, UCCE Master Gardener

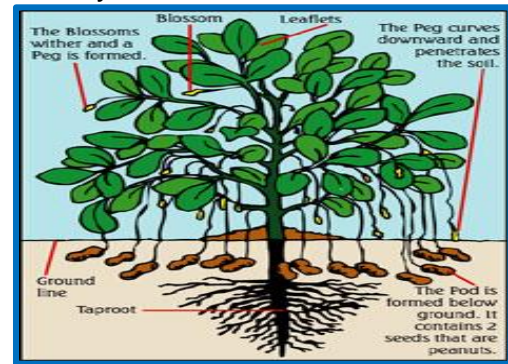
As a Desert Master Gardener, I work with two after-school children's garden clubs. The kids ask about growing a variety of plants that are not necessarily compatible with our desert environment. For some reason, this year their fixation was on peanuts. I had never considered peanuts as a home garden plant, but I was curious and did some research. What I found was a great surprise. I knew peanuts were harvested from the ground and not a plant, but the way they grow is unique in my gardening experience.

First, we need to clarify that peanuts are NOT in fact a nut. They are legumes like peas and green beans. The peanut originates from a flower on the plant that closely resembles the edible pea flower. On the top is the peanut and on the bottom is the pea. Then it gets a bit weird.



As we all know, the pea forms a pod that extends from the flower and will contain a number of individual "peas" in each pod. These are harvested, and the plant will continue to generate new flowers and pea pods. Peanuts are very different. After the flower is pollinated a tendril or PRIG forms, reaches down into the soil to penetrate the surface, and create a new "root" structure, separate from the bush. It is here that the peanuts form. As with the pea a number of

"nuts" will form in each pod. The illustration shows the cycle.

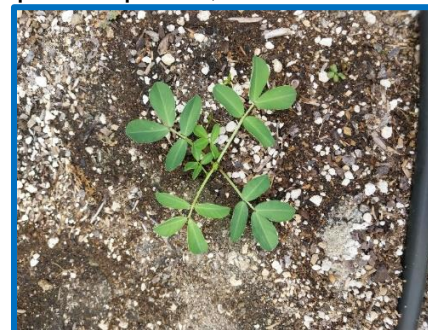


Harvesting requires pulling up the entire plant. It generally takes 5 months or so to reach harvest, so if you want quick results, maybe radishes would be better.

Now how do you plant peanuts?

You must use unprocessed "seed peanuts" for them to germinate, so it rules out anything you might buy in the grocery store including those labeled raw since they have been processed and packaged for human consumption.

Off to the Internet I went and found "seed" peanuts from a well-known seed company. Following the planting directions, we started a bed of peanuts at each garden with high hopes but little assurance. VOILA! Three weeks later we have peanut plants, below.



Understand that this is an experiment and a learn on the fly endeavor. Usually, the beds at these gardens are shut down for the summer, but I will be keeping a couple up and running, monitoring water needs, and plant growth in an attempt to bring the peanuts to harvest. I will provide updates in subsequent newsletters, and if all goes well, a roasting session may be in order come late fall.

Stay cool when you can!

Update: Summer Youth School Gardens Project

Contributed by Kim Coombs-Leonard, UCCE Master Gardener

School ended in May, but youth and family outreach opportunities kept volunteers busy in June with Riverside Unified School District events at community parks and a family gardening event at the Woodcrest Public Library. These events provided our Youth-School Project the opportunity to provide interactive activities and highlight resources we have developed including plant fact sheets adapted as bookmarks and online lessons, all available on our Riverside Master Gardener website, ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/.

Volunteers provided a sunflower seed planting opportunity for the *RUSD SummerFest 2024* which kicked-off the free and reduced lunch distribution program at local parks.



Master Gardeners Betty Balo and Ron Routon helped families plant sunflower seeds at the RUSD SummerFest.



Master Gardeners Nancy Cullen and Valerie Doyle provided families with information on growing sunflowers and guidance on beneficial insect identification at the RUSD SummerFest.

We also coordinated with RUSD and Cal Fresh for *Farm to School* week, providing a lima bean seed dissection demonstration and opportunity for students to sprout lima beans in “seed houses” they took home.



Children decorate their lima bean seed houses at the Farm to School event.

Following lunch distribution indoors at the Woodcrest Library, families received a brief overview using the Master Gardener lesson “What Seeds Need” and planted zucchini seeds to take home to grow.

The total outreach for these three events was 298 children and adults. Yeah, Summer!

Celebrate These New Riverside County Recognition Awards June and July

1000 Hours Gold Badge
Karen Brandtman
Jane Payne

750 Hours Pruner Pin
Susan Bookman
Debby Leuer

500 Hours Watering Can Pin
Larry Dodson

250 Hours Gardeners’ Trowel Pin
Linda Mayo
Sharon Sharpe
Nan Wiecek

Butterfly Corner: Mylitta Crescent

Contributed by Ann Plazer, UCCE Master Gardener

Mylitta Crescent (Thistle Crescent), *Phyciodes mylitta*, family *Nymphalidae*, is the most vibrant orange of the crescent butterflies since its dorsal surface is mainly a bright reddish orange with greatly reduced narrow black markings (Photo 1: dorsal surface of female on thistle).



Photo 1: Dorsal

The ventral surface is yellow orange with somewhat blurry orange red markings (Photo 2: ventral surface of female on thistle).

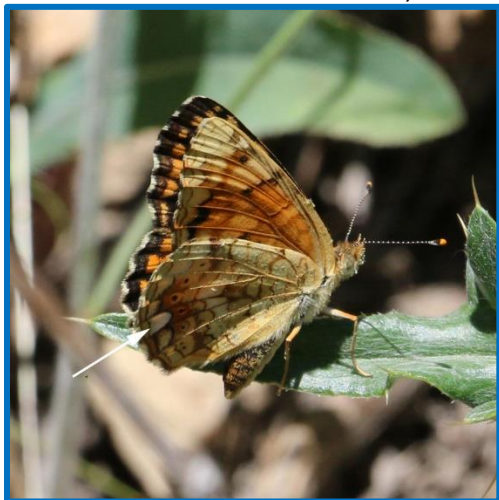


Photo 2: Ventral

Note the arrow that points to the silvered crescent, a diagnostic characteristic for crescent butterflies. This small butterfly has a wingspan of 1 1/8 – 1 1/2 inches.

The female lays a large cluster of pale yellowish green eggs on the underside of the leaves of its

native host plant, the thistle, *Cirsium* spp. Fortunately, the larva eats many nonnative thistles, as does the larva of Painted Lady thus helping combat the spread of invasive thistles. When not eating the larva, it roosts in silk nests to protect itself from predators. If the larva has not pupated before winter, it hibernates until spring. In southern California a larva may be seen sunning itself on warm midwinter days.

Adult butterflies nectar on their host plant California thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*) in addition to many other plants such as seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*), California aster (*Aster chilensis*) and goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*).

Flight time at sea level in southern California is from February to November but only from June to October in the high country. Breeding occurs continuously in warm weather areas. The range of Mylitta Crescent is from southern British Columbia through Baja California. Habitats are from sea level to the high mountain meadows, moist canyons and dry fields. Undaunted by urban spread it is abundant around vacant lots and unattended scrubby fields anywhere thistle grows.


Although the Mylitta Crescent is secure globally, plant a native thistle to welcome this butterfly into your garden.

Happy Butterfly Gardening!

AP (Thanks to Edward Platzer for reviewing this article.)

Congrats MG Brad Hardison!

Brad joined forces with the UCCE Riverside team from Cal Fresh Living plus the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Community Wellness Committee Partnership to receive the first National Cooperative Extension Priester Health Equity Award presented at the National Health Outreach and Engagement Conference in May at Greenville, South Carolina. He shared valuable garden support, resources, and education lessons with the children.



Butterfly Surveys at the Greenbelt Monarch Habitat

**8:00 am • July 6 & 27, Aug 3, 17 & 31,
Sept 7 & 21, 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:

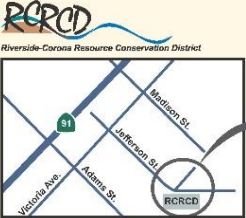
- Water
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy shoes
- Smart phone with iNaturalist app
- Kneeling pad (recommended)

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

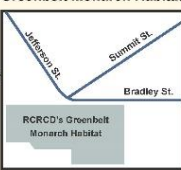

For more information about Monarchs:



To register:
email Felix-Derbarmdiker@rcrcd.org
Please register by the by 3 pm the prior day.




Greenbelt Monarch Habitat


A Western Monarch caterpillar eating a native Narrow leaf milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*.
Photo courtesy of Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker

Permaculture Design Course


**Second Saturdays 9 am - 3:30 pm
Annually October - June**



<p>October Zoom, 1st Saturday</p> <p>October RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>November RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>December RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>January RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>February RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>March RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>March RCRCD, 3rd Saturday</p> <p>April RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>May RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p> <p>June RCRCD, 2nd Saturday</p>	<p>Orientation, Introduction, Lecture: Concepts & Themes in Design - 3 Hours</p> <p>Site Tour: Examples of Permaculture Principles, Lecture: Methods of Design - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture: Pattern Understanding - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture: Climatic Factors - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture: Trees & their Energy Transactions - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture Morning: Water, Lecture Afternoon: Soils - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture: Earthworks and Earth Resources - 6 Hours</p> <p>Workshop: A-Frame Construction and finding contour - 3 Hours</p> <p>Lecture Morning: Climates, Lecture Afternoon: Aquaculture - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture: Dryland Strategies - 6 Hours</p> <p>Lecture Morning: Permaculture Community Afternoon: Final Design Presentations and Graduation - 6 Hours</p>	
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The course is taught by a team of local certified permaculture designers led by Susan Krings, Director of DiHG Eco-Prise, Inc., a 501(c)3 for permaculture education and sustainable infrastructure.



All classes at Bldg F and the LandUse Learning Center:
4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501

Creating A Monarch Garden*



***In the Desert**

You'll learn how to create a pollinator garden in the desert, with a special focus on Monarch butterflies and propagating milkweed for them. You'll also be given your own milkweed seeds (*asclepias subulata*) to start your own garden!


Who:

- Roger Tansey & Barbara Kay Levin
- Master Gardeners of Riverside County

Where:

UCR - Palm Desert
Room B-114
75080 Frank Sinatra Drive,
Palm Desert, CA 92211

When:
August 17, 2024
10:00 am to Noon.



Free Workshop

Saving Seeds to Grow Food

Different seeds, different needs.

Saturday, September 7, 2024 • 10 am





Learn why gardeners might want to save their own seeds and how to go about it.

Find out:

- Which plants are easy or tricky for seed saving
- How to deal with cross-pollination and GMO contamination
- How to store seeds for best germination rates.

Christine Lampe is a Master Gardener, certified Permaculture Design instructor, and California Rare Fruit Grower specializing in organic food production and edible landscaping. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences, with graduate studies in Freshwater Fisheries, and holds a secondary teaching credential in Biology.



Visit the seed library at the LandUse Learning Center.

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) 883-7691 ext. 207 or llc@RCRCD.org






UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
Riverside County

**Classes for: The Home Gardener, Those New to the IE, or
Waiting for Future Master Gardener Classes**

**UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County Announces
Home Gardening Basics 101 Series 2024 For All Home Gardeners!**



**Home Gardening 101: The Basics is offered in three sessions on Saturdays in
September 2024 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm in person in Riverside.**

- The cost for the 3 sessions is \$50* including all materials.
- Class size is limited to 25.
- **Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 4, 2024.**
- For more information or to register, contact: Georgia Renne, HGB Coordinator, at grennemg@gmail.com.

HOME GARDENING 101: The Basics

Session 1: Saturday, September 14, 2024

- **The Basics: Soils, Mulches, Compost, Tools, Safety, Water, Irrigation**

Session 2: Saturday, September 21, 2024

- **What to Plant in the IE: Landscape Plants, Kitchen Garden, Wildfire Season**

Session 3: Saturday, September 28, 2024

- **What Else: Garden Design, Gardening Problem Solving, Wrap Up**

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