Sept-Oct 2023

Garden Views

UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County
Newsletter



University of California Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Program of Riverside County

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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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Master Gardeners Fall into Autumn!



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

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The 2024 Master Gardener Class Has Commenced!

Contributed by Jill Hishmeh, UCCE Master Gardener



On September 12th, 2023, we welcomed fifty-three new Master Gardener Trainees via Zoom! At one point there were 75 people on the call with about 20 Master Gardeners joining to support our incoming trainees. The trainees felt a warm welcome from our veteran Master Gardeners. Brad Hardison and I, the new training program coordinators, felt the Orientation was an overall success.

Rita Clemmons, UCCE Riverside County Director, and Janet Hartin, UCCE Master Gardener Program Director, joined the call to greet the trainees. Janet presented a brief history of California's MG program adding that Riverside is one of the most organized groups she has observed. Additionally, she shared pictures of Master Gardener groups from states across the U.S. It is always a wonderful feeling to know that we belong to an International Organization with thousands of members across the country.

Rosa Olaiz kept us on task and provided an overview of the Master Gardener Guidelines which must be presented to each new incoming class.

Advisory Board Chairs, Brad Hardison of the Desert Area and Melody Knox of West County, gave brief welcomes. Brad provided a demonstration of VMS, and Melody, in usual form, encouraged the trainees to "get on their volunteer hours now!"

The Mentor Project Coordinators, Alba Good of Riverside and Barbara Kay-Levin of the Desert area, completed MG mentor assignments,

assigning up to four trainees per group. Mentors are in the process of sending welcome emails to their designated trainees.

Historically, orientation is a challenging presentation, specifically because there is so much information to deliver to the trainees. It can often be overwhelming for the new trainees; it was for me. Today, there is the additional challenge of having it via Zoom. Brad and I did our best to package the presentation, keep to the power points, limit the number of speakers, and ask the trainees to use chat for questions.

Throughout the year, as time allows, we hope to spotlight various projects and invite project coordinators to deliver in-depth overviews of their projects. As our two areas, Desert and West County, move towards becoming a more unified group, we will encourage joint presentations from project coordinators. Our hope is to have more trainees and veteran Master Gardeners crossing boundary lines to volunteer broadly and encourage a cohesive Riverside County group.

So many people have already graciously stepped in to get their projects and opportunities posted for our trainees. We are very pleased to have so many options available. Just as important, necessary orientations for projects have begun to appear on the calendar! Please keep them coming! Brenda Kooiman deserves a thank you for standing by on Orientation night to provide trainees with technical help logging onto the call.

The Class of 2024 appears very energetic and ready to jump in with both feet. This first week several trainees joined a Continuing Education class, and others volunteered for School Garden propagation. Several signed up for some venues that weren't for trainees, but this speaks volumes about their desire to get going!

Thank you again for all you are doing to create opportunities to get the new group moving! Fingers crossed that by next May we will have 53 new certified Master Gardeners who will continue lending their helping hands and knowledge to our communities and beyond.

Our Principles of Community



- Ensure open communication
- Work together to achieve common goals and mutual understandings
- Value the contribution and worth of all members
- Appreciate and celebrate differences and diversity
- Foster a sense of belonging and emotional safety
- Practice mutual respect
- Demonstrate ethics and integrity
- Invest in all members
- Recognize that all members are important

Shared by Missy Gable, Director UCCE Master Gardener Program, January 2022

Desert Helpline: Transplant Challenges and Timing

Contributed by Ralph Thompson, UCCE Master Gardener



We recently received a query on the Desert Helpline from a client trying to establish several Hopseed Bushes. The client purchased the bushes from a reputable nursery and had nursery staff install the three shrubs. Two plants turned brown and died within 10 days of planting and two weeks later one of the replacements died. The client asked the Helpline what we think the problem is and if the Hopseed Bush is appropriate for the Coachella Valley.

The following response was provided to the client.

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the Desert Helpline with your question. And thank you for the photographs.

I'm sorry to hear that your bushes are struggling to take hold. I know it has to be doubly frustrating because the Hopseed bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) is a perfect shrub for the desert. It's easy to grow, doesn't need great soil, doesn't take much water, loves full sun, grows fast, and is green year-round. It's a great bush for the Coachella Valley and Sonoran Desert landscape. So, what's happening and why aren't your bushes happy?

The shrubs were delivered and installed by nursery staff, so assuming the plants were healthy, already adapted to the Coachella Valley arid heat, and handled correctly during the transplant process, the problem is simply bad timing. Transplanting anything in 100+degree temperatures is a gamble. One could even say your 33% success rate is a win.



All plants go through a period of disruption and recovery when their roots are disturbed during a transplant process. Water-wise and desert tolerant plants tend to have deeper root systems and are even less tolerant of transplant. On top of that, summer temperatures in the Coachella Valley have been especially severe, putting even more stress on roots to provide adequate water for translocation and transpiration. Once in the ground in their new location, recovering plants need supplemental water as they reestablish their root system.

We recommend waiting another month or so for temperatures to moderate before attempting another replacement cycle. In the meantime, for the surviving plants, supplemental water and consistent watering properly is essential as they continue to get established. Regular watering for the first year is especially crucial. Do not fertilize until the shrubs look healthy and you see that they are beginning to push new growth. Pruning of newly planted trees/shrubs should be limited to those limbs that are diseased, damaged, or dead. Excessive pruning of newly planted trees/shrubs will increase stress.

Here's the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources link on the Hopseed bush (Dodonaea viscosa).

https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/ dodonaea.html

Good luck. I hope this has been helpful. Please contact us again if you have further questions.

Thank you,

UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County Live honestly, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly

Butterfly Corner: Red Admiral

Contributed by Ann Platzer, UCCE Master Gardener

The Red Admiral, Vanessa atalanta, is another butterfly such as the Monarch, Painted Lady, and Common Buckeye that belongs to the true Brushfoots, family Nymphalidae, which are called "Brush-Footed" because in both sexes the two forelegs are very reduced and covered with hair vaguely resembling a brush. The adults walk on only the four hindlegs.



The Red Admiral is medium sized with a wing span ranging from two to three inches. It is easy to identify thanks to its striking pattern. The sexes appear similar: from the dorsal view, the black forewings feature, prominent red bars, and white sub-apical spots, while the hindwings have large red margins which readily separates the Red Admiral from any other species in the Southwest (Photo 1 left: dorsal view of adult). In contrast, the underside of the hind-wings are delicately mottled with white, brown, black, blue, red, and cream which provides excellent camouflage by blending into its environment (Photo 2 below: ventral view of adult). Now you see me, now you don't!



The female lays single greenish, barrel-shaped eggs on the leaves of its host plants which include stinging nettle, Urtica dioica, baby's tears, Solierolia soleirolii, and hops, Humulus lupulus. An interesting feature is that the young larva lives and eats inside a nest it makes by "silking young leaves together." The mature larva is about one and a half inches long and occurs in a number of forms of varying color. The dark form is gravish-black with yellow patches along each side and many black branching spines. Various pale forms also occur.

The adult Red Admiral nectars on various flowers but often seeks sap from trees, fermenting fruit, and nutrients from bird droppings and carrion. During moderately cold weather adults will crawl into narrow cavities in trees or even into cracks in human dwellings. These Southern California butterflies, which over-winter and hibernate as adults and usually

mate in early spring, are one of the few butterflies that are regularly seen flying on a sunny day in the dead of winter. Although seen all year, they are most common October to April, especially inland.

The range of the Red Admiral is throughout California and North America. In much of North America it is strongly migratory; however, in Southern California there is no clear indication of migration. It is especially common in willow and forest habitats where nettle is abundant such as marshes, woods, fields, and also well watered gardens. It is also encountered in both open and shaded environmants. In Southern California where we live Red Admirals fly all year and are found everywhere except in the deserts.







Behind the Scenes: Michael Fisher

Contributed by Jolene Hancock, UCCE Master Gardener



If you haven't seen Michael at the RCRCD info tables or volunteering at the Demonstration Garden at the Moreno Valley Civic Center, maybe he's been busy deep sea fishing out of San Diego, cultivating plants for donation to local community groups, or maybe being a 'bookworm' at home learning or researching another motif. Because that is what Michael Fisher is all about. Speaking of 'bookworm' Michael shared that he purchased the California Master Gardener Handbook shortly after retirement, which he loved and led him to the Master Gardener training class. Now, as a 6year veteran he is going stronger than ever as he maintains the ability to keep volunteering, keep researching, and keep sharing his expertise through our program to the public.



Michael Fisher graduated in 2018 from the UC Master Gardener of Riverside program with honors, a wonderfully interesting gentlemen to introduce in this edition of *Garden Views*.

Michael is a country boy from Central Ohio. He attended school in Cleveland then entered the Marine Corp where he trained as a helicopter mechanic. He spent 27 years working for the Riverside Unified School District in Nutrition Services responsible for the refrigeration systems. Now retired he is busy with his one quarter acre property in Moreno Valley filled with California natives, an orchard of 30 plus rare fruit trees, and square foot edible organic veggie and herb gardens. But in talking with Michael, his passion seems to be focused on cultivating and donating California native plants and hydroponics for home gardening.

Interests outside of gardening include fishing off the pier in Oceanside and spending time with his wife of 20 years plus their seven children and 28 grandchildren, of course in the outdoors.

I know that people usually get uncomfortable when you put them in the spotlight, and Michael is no different than most. However, I want to highlight the many contributions Michael made since joining the program.



Michael Fisher and Susan Bookman help guests at MoVal Earth Day.

Michael has spent many hours working with the WIC program. He is active in the "Grow Riverside & Beyond Program," multi-stake

holder initiative to cultivate food and agricultural activities across the Inland Southern California Region. It provides a steady source of news and information on local food system initiatives, urban farming endeavors, funding and grant opportunities, farmer training programs, food access, security efforts, and sustainable growing innovations from aquaponics to hydroponics. Providing information and tools necessary to support the development of a robust local food system in Riverside, Temecula, Perris, Corona, Coachella and beyond!

Michael currently holds down the monthly information table at RCRCD and manages the demonstration gardens. He also serves as the Goldminer Coordinator for the City of Moreno Valley. Michael is the reason our number of people served is up 87% from last year!

Thurman Howard shares, "Michael's valued knowledge and his outgoing personality gives me the flexibility to ask for his help in all categories of our program. The demonstration gardens are always at their peak." I say, "I have never met a kinder person with expert knowledge in so many areas." He has a wealth of knowledge and holds a deep connection and passion for gardening. That passion in turn radiates through him as he volunteers. Michael is truly an asset to the MG program and especially to his City of Moreno Valley.

Accolades to you Michael. Keep up the great

work you're doing!



Master Gardeners Celebrate These New Riverside County Recognition Awards! July-September

2500 Hours Platinum Badge Laura Simpson

750 Hours Pruning Shears Pin Jane Payne Patty Reed

500 Hours Watering Can Pin Jill Hishmeh Cyndi Yancu

250 Hours Gardeners Trowel Pin Rose Morisoli

100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin John Shields

Perfect Gift for family and Friends!



UC Master Gardener Program Riverside County

UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County Announces
Home Gardening Basics 101 Series 2023 For All Home Gardeners!



Home Gardening 101: The Basics is offered in https://example.com/html/en-sessions on Saturdays in October 2023 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm in person in Riverside.

- Cost for the 3 sessions is \$50* including all materials.
- Class size is limited to 25.
- Registration Deadline: Saturday, October 7, 2023.
- For more information or to register, contact: Georgia Renne, HGB Coordinator, at grennemg@gmail.com.

HOME GARDENING 101: The Basics

Session 1: Saturday, October 14, 2023

The Basics: Soils, Mulches, Tools, Safety, Water, Irrigation

Session 2: Saturday, October 21, 2023

 What to Plant in the IE: Drought-Tolerant Plants, California Native Plants, Trees, Veggies, Herbs

Session 3: Saturday, October 28, 2023

 What Else: Wildfire Season, Gardening Problem Solving, Garden Design, Tips and Hints

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





Native Garden Begins at Tomas Rivera Middle School

Contributed by Kim Coons-Leonard and Brad Hardison, UCCE Master Gardeners

Development of a native plant garden on a school site has been made possible by a partnership with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Members of our Youth-School Garden Project participated in a "train the trainers" series on how to design a youth-friendly native plant garden. Led by CNPS trainer Orchid Black, a team comprised of Master Gardeners, CNPS members, and Tomas Rivera Middle School staff have been guided through a five- week planning process.



CNPS, Master Gardeners, and Tomas Rivera staff plan the native plant garden.

Tomas Rivera Middle School in Mead Valley (Val Verde USD) expressed an interest in developing an ethnobotanic garden that addresses the use of plants by indigenous people. Teachers plan to integrate these native plants into both art and history-social sciences classes. Central to this focus is the relationship the school has with Native Americans who live in the area and have children attending the school (Shiishongna Tongva Corona Band of Gabrielin).

With that end goal in mind, trainer Orchid Black provided training on resources to identify a wide range of native plants indigenous to the surrounding area. The team learned the importance of identifying multiple plant options as availability of native plants can vary.

The team also learned the importance of assessing the planting location for drainage, sunlight, and soil structure. Soil tests revealed the site's slower draining and alkaline soil that Orchid described as "alkaline meadow."



California Native Plant Society member Orchid Black discusses with Master Gardener Ruben Arias the selection and placement of plants for the native plant garden at Tomas Rivera Middle School.

With initial assessment of the location complete, the next step was to develop "bubble" maps of the site addressing sunlight, drainage, pathways, and possible workstation and/or sitting area. School principal Kristal Subia emphasized that the garden would also serve as a quiet area for students. Located at the entry to the school, the bubble map also addresses screening, fencing and an entry area.



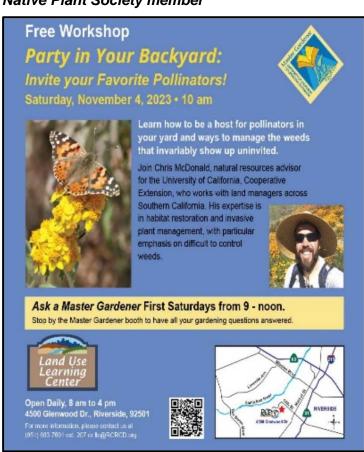
Tomas Rivera principal Krystal Subia (left) discusses native plant selections with Garden Coordinator Robin Baily (right) and a representative from the district facilities department. They are referencing plant lists and pictures provided by the California Native Plant Society.

The final planning session was held Friday, Sept. 22. The entire team of Master Gardeners, California Native Plant Society members and school staff met on the site to finalize a map of the proposed garden area. Actual development of the garden should begin in November, so look for more updates in upcoming issues of the newsletter!



The plant design for the garden. The school district will provide irrigation and decomposed granite pathways.

Photo Credits: Deborah Schnur, San Bernardino Master Gardener and California Native Plant Society member





Incorporating California Natives into Your Landscape

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 | 10 a.m. Speaker: George Spiliotis

Join us for a practical introduction to using our unique and diverse native plants in our landscapes. Presented by Western Water and UCCE Master Gardeners.
Topics will include reasons for planting native species, things to know and do before you plant, basic planning and design considerations, planting and maintenance requirements, and a review of some native plants that can be grown successfully here.
We hope you can join us!

Sign up at: WesternWaterCA.gov/ MasterGardener



Save the Date: Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 Succulents | Linda Powell



Janet's Jottings *Janet Hartin*

Welcome to Fall!

It's my favorite season, in part due to the lovely changes to our

landscape trees. Those that are deciduous start to lose leaves, exposing exquisitely shaped and sturdy trunks. And, of course, there is the lovely fall foliage showcased by many species.

Did you ever wonder why trees "turn" color in the fall? The short answer: It's primarily a function of long, cool fall nights and short, sunny days.

The longer answer? Chlorophyll is responsible for the basic green color of leaves we see in spring and summer and is a necessary component of photosynthesis, which uses sunlight to manufacture sugar (food) that is stored during the dormant period of the year. Carotenoids produce yellow, orange and even brown pigments in crops such as carrots, squash, bananas and many ornamental plants including daffodils and poppies. Anthocyanins are red and orange in color and are most linked to lavish displays of brilliant fall foliage. They also give rise to the coloring of strawberries, plums, and cherries.

Here's the kicker: While chlorophyll and carotenoids are present in leaf cell chloroplasts throughout the entire growing season, most anthocyanins are only produced in fall due to bright light and excess plant sugars within leaf cells.

So, in reality foliage doesn't "turn" orange or red at all. Carotenoids and anthocyanins are always in the leaves; they are simply unmasked once the active growing season is finished, and chlorophyll is no longer produced. This happens when nights lengthen in fall.

Interestingly, the actual timing of color change varies across species and appears to be genetically inherited. The same species will

exhibit a similar color scheme in cool temperatures in higher elevations at nearly the same time as it does in warmer lower elevation climates. The intensity can vary quite a bit, however.

Where do temperatures enter the picture? Both the amount of color and the overall intensity of fall color is very linked to weather conditions that occur prior to and during the actual time the chlorophyll in leaves winds down. The most brilliant displays occur after several warm, sunny days and cool, crisp (above freezing) nights. This is because although lots of sugars are made in leaves during sunny daytime hours, the corresponding cool nights prevent the sugars from moving out. The amount of soil moisture also helps ensure that from year-toyear fall colors vary even in the same trees. So, either a late spring or a prolonged drought can both delay the display of fall color by a few days or even a few weeks.

What's the recipe for the most brilliant fall display? Most likely a warm, moist spring followed by a warm summer and sunny fall with cool autumn nights.

Although fall color is not nearly as spectacular in lower elevations of Southern California compared to other colder areas of the nation, the liquidambar or American sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) offers some pretty impressive fall color and an impressive 300 to 400-year life span. (Did you know that liquidambar got its name because it at one time was a sought-after chewing gum for Native Americans?)

Two "climate-ready" tree species with lovely fall foliage that grow in both the west portion of the county and the desert are the 'Keith Davey' Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis 'Keith Davey'*), a large street and park tree sporting crimson to scarlet colored foliage and its relative, the 'Red Push' Pistache, a hybrid between *P. atlántica* x *P. integerrima*) which has lovely red foliage as it emerges in Spring as well as Fall. Others include the Raywood Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'Raywood') sporting a reddish-purple hue in the fall, and the 'Sunburst' Locust (*Gleditsia*

triacanthos var. inermis 'Sunburst') which offers a vivid display of fall color. Unfortunately, it is susceptible to the Invasive Shot-Hole Borer. If you have one of these lovely trees already, take good care of it to help it stand up to this aggressive pest!



The Raywood Ash (Fraxinus oxycarpa 'Raywood') sports a reddish-purple hue in the fall. Source National Gardening Association



'Keith Davey' Pistache, is a large street and park tree sporting crimson to scarlet colored foliage. (Pistacia chinensis 'Keith Davey')

Happy Fall! Enjoy the cooler weather.

UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County			
UCCE Riverside County Director		Rita Clemons	
UCCE Riverside MG Program Director		Janet Hartin	
Volunteer Services Coordinator		Rosa Olaiz	
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Chair Elect	Pam Elias	Chair Elect	
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Equipment & Inventory	Debbie Leuer	Composting	Dee Kongslie
Gold Miners	Thurman Howard	CREATE	Barbara Kay-Levin
Grow Lab	Debbra Corbin-Euston	CREATE	Vivian Yturralde
Grow Lab	Darrilyn Erickson	Desert Home Gardening Class	
Help Line	Jane Payne	Event Tables	
Home Gardening Class	Georgia Renne	Farmers Markets	Gail Nottberg
Mentoring Program	Alba Good	Farmers Markets	Mike Richardson
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Newsletter	Georgia Renne	Job Descriptions	Marcia Stone
Parliamentarian	Cindy Peterson	Membership	Cynthia Morris-Sotelo
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Public Relations Social Media	Pam Elias	Moorten's Botanical Gardens Docents	Cesar Lopez Barreras
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RCRCD Monarch Habitat	Linda Powell	New Projects	Marcia Stone
School Gardens	Kim Coons-Leonard	Newsletter	Georgia Renne
School Gardens	Kathy Steckman	Palm Springs Animal Shelter	Jan Seaman
Social Recognition	Yvonne Wilczynski	Publicity-eBlast	Barbara Kay-Levin
Speaker's Bureau	Heather Vuyancih	Publicity-Social Media	
Speaker's Bureau	Lynn Coffman	Raices Cultura's Tierra de Raíces	Cesar Lopez Barreras
Tours	Susan Wright	School Gardens	Brad Hardison
Training Class Coordinator	Jill Hishmeh	School Gardens	Jax Patterson
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Yvonne Wilczynski	Social Events/Recognition	Kathy Miller
Website (Countywide)	Ralph Thompson	Speaker's Bureau	Gail Nottberg
		Training Class Coordinator	Brad Hardison
		Website (Countywide)	Ralph Thompson

Hope to see you at the Master Garden Conference in Lake Tahoe!