



Glenn Gardeners Newsletter, Winter 2024

A Quarterly Newsletter from the UC Glenn County Master Gardeners

Glenn Gardeners

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UC IPM Snails and Slugs Flyer
Plant Clinic Flyer

UC Master Gardener Volunteers

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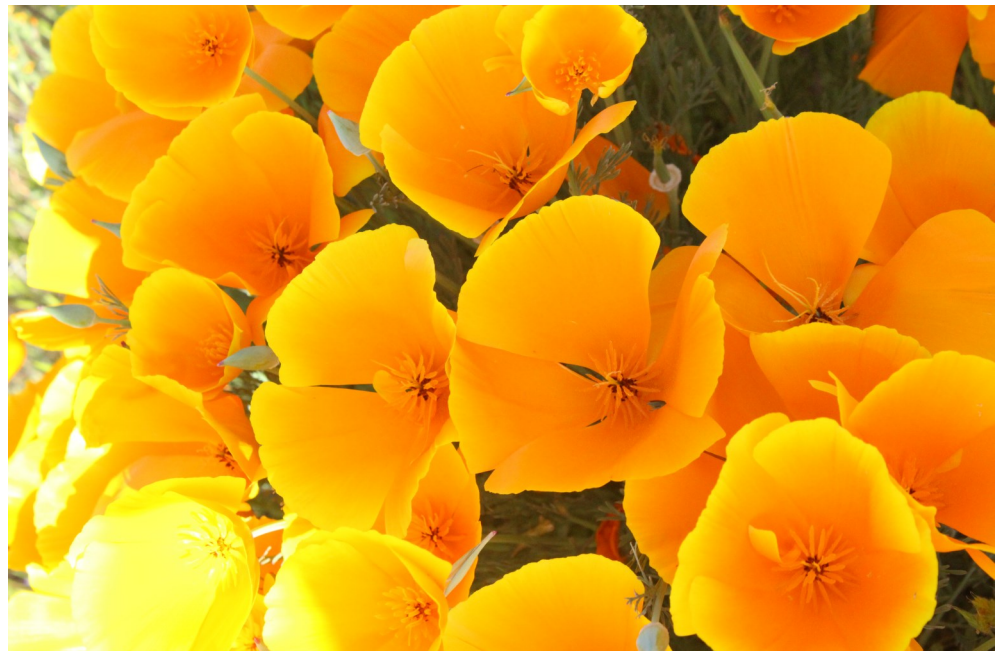
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Spotlight Plant - The California Poppy

By Deborah Storz, Glenn County UC Master Gardener



Picture 1 - The California Poppy, Orland, CA - by Aubree Eddy, Glenn County 4-H

On March 2, 1903, the California poppy, *Eschscholzia californica*, became the official state flower of California. The California Poppy is native to grassy and open areas from sea level to 6500 feet altitude in the western United States throughout California, extending to Oregon, southern Washington, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and the Sonoran and northwest Baja areas of Mexico. The California poppy is an iconic flower of California, appearing on the numerous California Scenic Route signs.

Continued on next page....

The California Poppy....cont.

California poppies are easy to grow. Sow in fall in mild-winter areas, in spring in colder regions. Broadcast seeds on cultivated, well-drained soil. Seeds will germinate after the first fall rains or when the soil warms in the spring. In hot summer areas, the poppies will bloom in spring and early summer, and then the tops will die back, and the plants become dormant during the heat of the summer. They are drought-tolerant but giving them summer water will extend their flowering season. In mild-winter climates, these poppies will survive several years, resprouting each fall. They will reseed themselves if they are happy. Where winters are cold, the poppy behaves as an annual, renewing itself from seed each year. This plant is tough, fast-growing, drought-adapted, self-seeding, and easy to grow in gardens. It is best grown as an annual, in full sun, but it will tolerate part shade. It prefers well-draining, sandy, often poor soils.

The California poppy can grow 2 to 24 inches tall, with alternately branching waxy pale blue-green foliage. The leaves are divided into round, lobed segments. The flowers are solitary on long stems, silky-textured, with four petals, each petal 3/4 to 2 1/2 inches long and broad; their color varies from pale yellow to deep orange, and flowering is from February to September. The petals close at night or in cold, windy or cloudy weather; they open again the following morning.

The plant's bright orange flowers are a symbol of the Golden State, sometimes viewed as a floral representation of the "fields of gold" sought during the gold rush. Its golden blooms were deemed a fitting symbol for the Golden State. The California poppy is commonly seen blooming in the spring and summer along country roads and freeways throughout much of the state, making this plant a highly recognizable symbol of California, and April 6th of each year is officially designated as California Poppy Day.



Picture 2 - The California Poppy, Orland, CA - by Aubree Eddy, Glenn County 4-H

References

- Norris Brenzel, Kathleen, *The New Sunset Western Garden Book*, 2012, Ninth Edition ISBN-10:1-376-03920-5.
- Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture. *About Us - Celebrating Wildflowers*. Forest Service Website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/wildflowers/aboutus>.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. *California Poppy*. 2024. Habitat Conservation Planning Branch. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Website <https://wildlife.ca.gov/>.
- California Native Plant Society Calscape. *California Poppy*. California Native Plant Society Website [https://calscape.org/Eschscholzia-californica-\(California-Poppy\)](https://calscape.org/Eschscholzia-californica-(California-Poppy)).
- Nature Collective. *California Poppy*. 2024. Nature Collective Website <https://naturecollective.org/>.

UC IPM Website

Solve your pest problems with UC's best science, and visit the UC ANR Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program website, at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>, or scan the QR code.



Tree Selection and Planting

By Nancy Milligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

Planting trees around your home has many benefits. Trees shade buildings and paved surfaces, making them cooler. Trees can filter airborne pollutants and remove carbon dioxide from the air. Trees increase the value of a home and provide wildlife habitat.

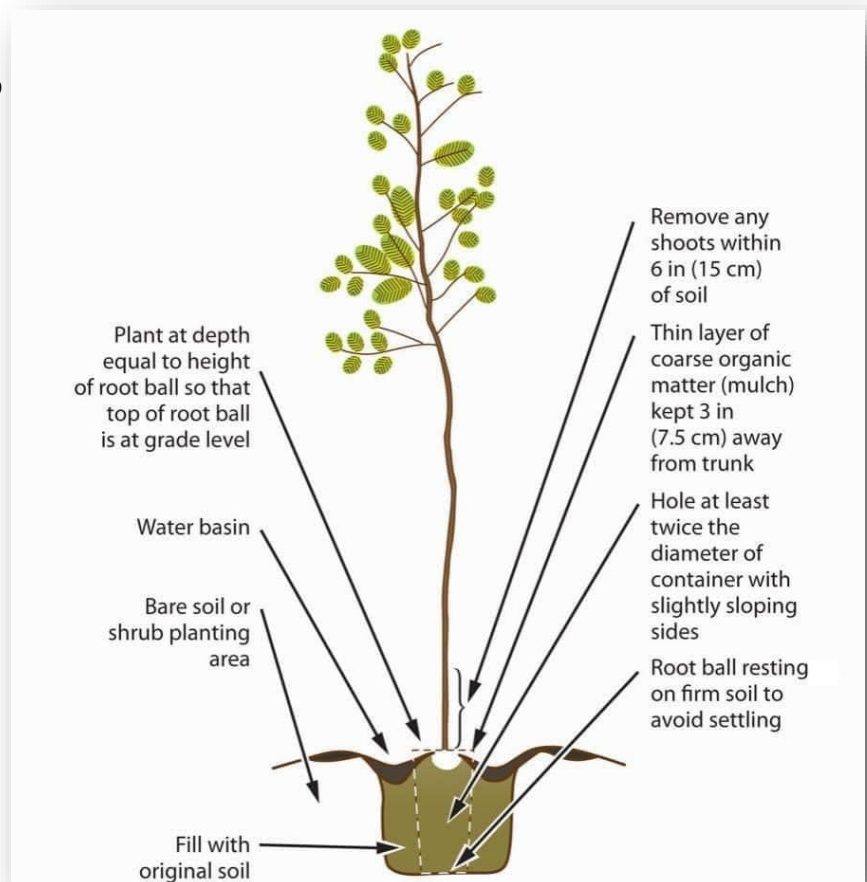
It is important to plant the correct tree species in your location. The location should have enough space for the tree at maturity. Learn what pest problems are common tree species and avoid trees susceptible to pests.

If fall color is one of the features you're looking for in a tree, it is the best time to see what color the tree will turn. Take a walk in a park or a drive through the streets to look at color. When you find a tree you like, take a picture, and collect a few leaves so the tree can be identified. Take the picture and leaves to a local nursery or bring them by the Master Gardener clinic for identification and to find out if the tree is adaptable to your location. If you are still not sure about the species of tree you want to plant, a local plant nursery or a Master Gardener can help you with options of trees well suited to our local conditions.

The best time to plant a tree is in the late fall or winter. It is best for the tree to be in the ground when root growth starts as the soil warms up in the spring. A newly transplanted tree needs to establish a good strong root system to survive. By planting in the winter, the tree can establish roots before the above-ground parts of the tree start to grow.

Properly planting a tree is important to the survival and growth of a tree. See the attached Tree Planting Card for information on proper tree planting.

More information about tree selection, planting, and care can be found on the UC Garden website, at: https://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Landscape_Trees/.



Tree Planting Graphic, UC ANR Publication

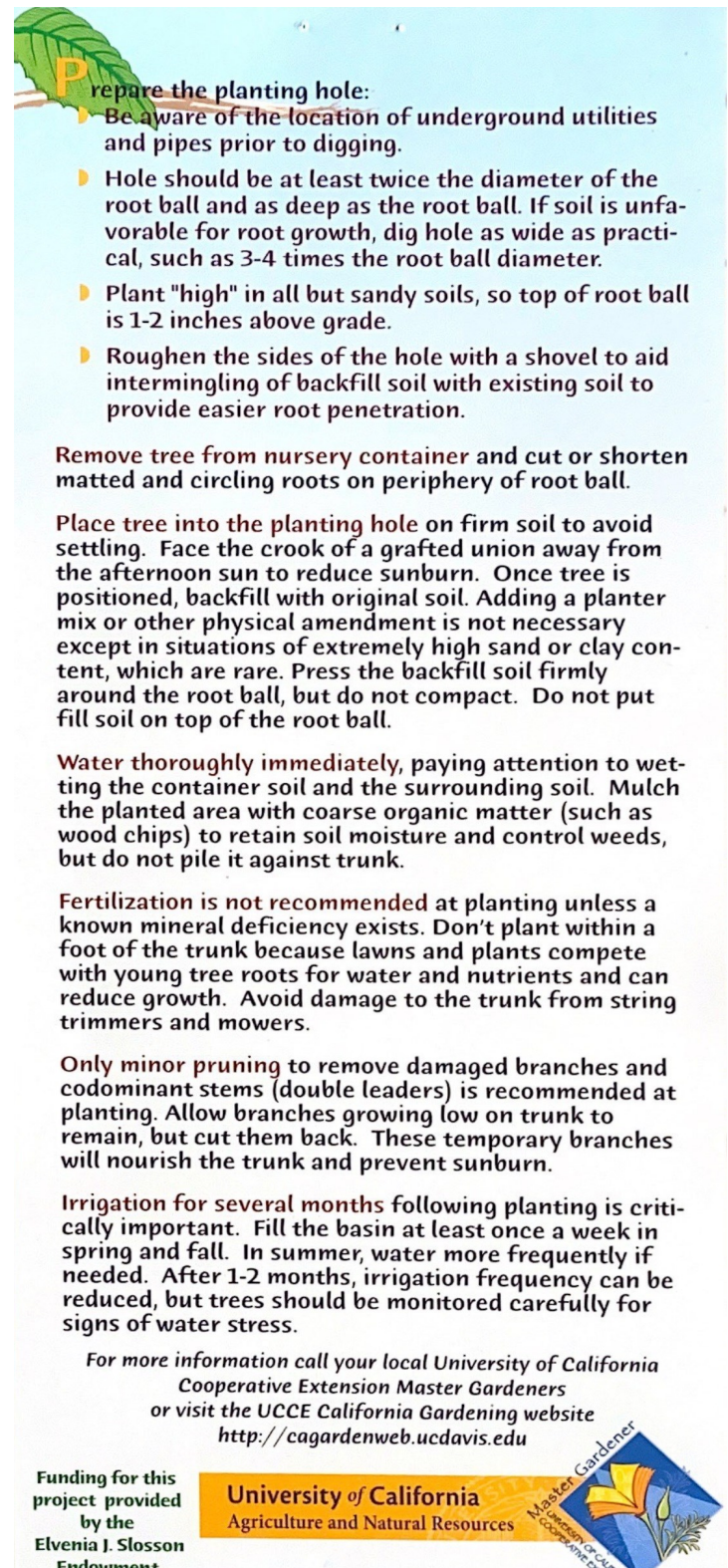
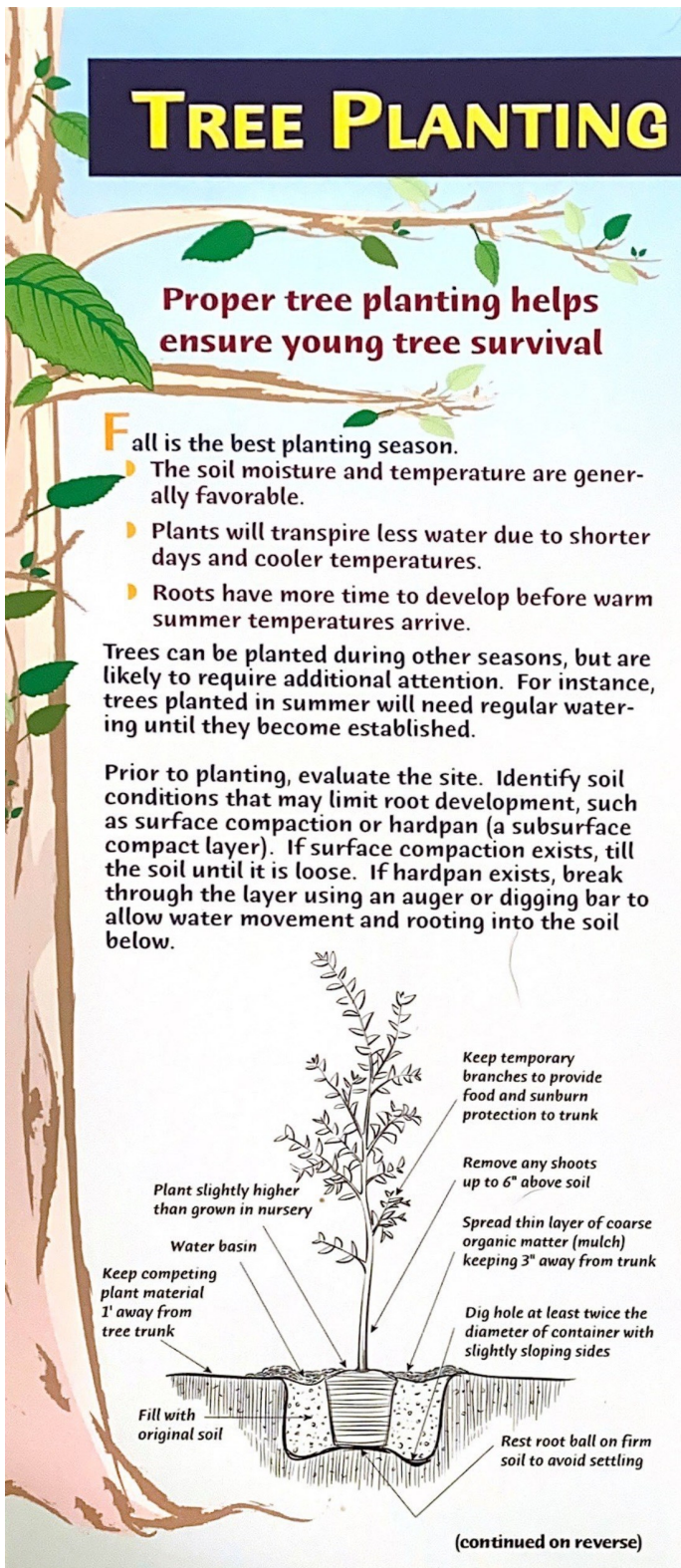
References

- University of California The California Garden Web (2024) *Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*. UC California Garden Web Website https://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Landscape_Trees/.

Quick Reference of Tree Information

Glenn County Master Gardeners have put together a packet of seven quick tip cards about trees. The cards cover all aspects from selection and placement of trees, planting, staking, pruning, watering and fertilizing. An example the tree planting card is pictured below.

The packets are available in both English and Spanish. To get one of these packets, you may call or email the Glenn County Master Gardeners at (530)865-1154. The packet will be mailed to you or you may stop by the UCCE Office in Orland to pick up a packet.



Bug or Pest Spotlight - Good Bug-Bad Bug

By Sheila Skemp-Irvin, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

Good Bug

Aphidius Wasp (several species)

The Aphidius wasp is a beneficial bug because they help to control over 40 different species of aphids. They are $\frac{1}{8}$ " long and have transparent wings. They look a bit like a flying ant. When you discover aphids in your garden, a closer look with a hand lens will reveal to you whether or not the aphidius wasp is present, as there will be aphid mummies present. The aphidius wasp females lay an individual egg inside a single aphid nymph, which, when hatched, will consume the aphid as it grows. To attract them to your garden, include plants that will supply a continuous supply of nectar and plants that bloom at different times. Some examples are alyssum, lupine, oregano, and sage.

Ladybugs also feed on aphids. The ladybugs have a distinct and potent odor that is left behind from their footprints. The wasps can smell this and avoid laying eggs when the presence of ladybugs is obvious due to the smell of their feet.

Bad Bug

Stink Bug Halyomorpha Halys

The stink bug was brought over from Asia in the 1990s. Also known as brown marmorated stink bugs, the adults are $\frac{5}{8}$ " long and are recognizable by their shield shape. They get their stink bug name from a foul odor that they emit from glands under their thorax. The females lay clusters of eggs on the undersides of leaves. They are particularly problematic due to the fact that they may have up to 5 generations in a year. The stink bug begins to look for a place to hibernate in September and will congregate on the outside of homes or come inside if possible. Some positives are that they do not bite or sting humans, reproduce indoors, or damage homes. Some negatives are that they have very few natural predators. They are a sucking insect and damage plants and fruit by piercing plant tissues and sucking out the juices. They are particularly fond of fruit trees, vegetables, berries, grapes, and roses.



Bug or Pest Spotlight - Good Bug-Bad Bug.....cont.



Picture 1 - Adult and late stage nymph of BMSB.

There are currently no biological controls for the stink bug in the US. The best practice is to control the populations through the use of traps that use pheromones to lure them onto a glue strip. This is for outdoors only. Indoors: prevent their entry by sealing up cracks around windows, doors, baseboards, etc. If you see them inside, knock them into a jar of soapy water and flush them.



Picture 2 - The consperse stink bug has no white bands on its antennae.

References

- Chuck Ingels, UC Cooperative Extension, Sacramento and Lucia Varela, UC Statewide IPM Program, North Coast. Produced by University of California Statewide IPM Program *Pest Notes: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug UC ANR Publication 74169* <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74169.html>.
- UC Davis, *Natural Enemies: Aphidius spp.* https://ipm.ucanr.edu/natural-enemies/aphidius_spp.html.
- Walliser, Jessica (2011) *Good Bug, Bad Bug Who's Who, What They Do, and How to Manage Them Organically* St. Lynn's Press, POB.



Picture 3 - Hatched eggs laid on a leaf.

In The Garden

By Deborah Storz, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

January

Planting

- Bare-root plants, including roses, are available now in local nurseries.
- This is a great time to plant artichokes, asparagus, horseradish, strawberries, and rhubarb.
- Bare-root fruit trees are available in local nurseries. Consider adding apples, apricots, blueberries, cane berries, grapes, pears, or plums to your home orchard.
- Order specialty seed from catalogs and check local nurseries and feed stores for seed.

Maintenance

- Divide daylilies, Shasta daisies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials.
- Start pruning roses, cane berries, deciduous trees, grapes and wisteria.
- Top dress asparagus and rhubarb beds with well-composted manure for maximum production later in the spring.
- Finish pruning fruit trees, removing 15% of older growth for plums, apples, and pears; 10% for cherries; and 50% for peaches and nectarines, saving new reddish-colored one-year-old shoots.

February

Planting

- Select and plant summer-blooming bulbs such as amaryllis, call, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, lily, tuberose, tuberous begonia, and tiger flower. Mulch them well.
- Summer-blooming bulbs that have overwintered indoors can be brought outside now; mulch them well.
- There's still time to broadcast seeds of spring-blooming native annuals.

Maintenance

- Finish pruning roses, cane berries, deciduous trees, grapes and wisteria.
- Fertilize spring bloomers and fall-planted perennials.
- Fertilize asparagus and strawberries.
- Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth.

References

- Butte County Garden Guide, Second Edition, UC Master Gardeners of Butte County, UC Cooperative Extension.

Plant Clinic Questions

By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

The Master Gardeners Plant Clinic gets frequent questions about problems with citrus trees. The good news is that many of the pest problems aren't serious and don't require treatment, most of the pests have natural predators and parasites that can keep the populations in check.

Fruit Scaring Pests

These include the katydid, Citrus thrips, earwigs, and caterpillars. The damage occurs to the small young fruit. The damage occurs to the rind, the fruit is not affected. Ignore these pests, the fruit is still edible.

Scales, Mealybugs, and Whiteflies

Scales are insects that attach to the tree and feed on tree sap. Scales that can get established on citrus include the cottony cushion scale, brown soft, red and San Jose scale. These insects produce honeydew, a sticky substance secreted by the insects. Black sooty mold grows on the honeydew. The mold is harmless to the tree but is unsightly and sticky, it can be hosed off.

These insects have natural predators and parasites that can control the populations. Ants can interfere with the natural control insects, controlling ants helps with natural control. Ants can be controlled by putting sticky tape or tanglefoot on the trunk of the tree. It is best to avoid the use of broad-spectrum insecticides on these insects because these insecticides will also kill the natural control insects, making the problems worse.

Leafminer and Peelminers

The damage caused by these insects can usually be ignored. Leafminers only attack the young flush of leaves; they don't affect mature leaves, so they cause little damage to trees. Avoid activities that cause a large flush of new leaves, such as heavy pruning and over-fertilizing. Insecticides should only be used on very young or potted trees.

Slugs and Snails

Slugs and snails often cause damage in the winter. They can eat leaves and bite the fruit. Snails and slugs can be controlled by handpicking, trapping, trunk barriers, and baits.

More information about citrus pests can be found on the UCIPM website, at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/citrus.html>, and the UC IPM Webinar, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqayd2raX4g>.



The UC ANR California Garden Web



The UC Master Gardener Program designed the California Garden Web to serve as a portal to organize and extend the University of California's vast collection of research-based information about gardening to the public. Visit the website, at: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/gardenweb/>, or scan the QR code.

Recipe - Slow Roasted Tomatoes

By Michal Mendoza, Glenn County UC Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

- Oven 350F – adjust for convection oven - 3-5 hours. The recipe can be doubled – a turkey roasting pan works well.
- 15 pounds ripe tomatoes - any varieties - heirloom especially nice.
- 2 pounds onion [2-3 onions] - sliced thick - or in wedges.
- 1 bag frozen bell pepper strips [14 oz.] – 3 colors to the package – or use fresh peppers.
- 1/2 cup olive oil.
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar.
- 1/2 cup sugar - optional.
- 3 Tbs. Sea salt – or to taste.
- Fresh or dried herbs: rosemary, thyme, cilantro, oregano, basil is best added late.
- 2-3 whole bulbs of roasted/pureed or raw minced garlic.

Wash and cut tomatoes in wedges – peeling is not necessary – long roasting softens skins. Place all ingredients in a large, deep pan – turkey roasting pan is perfect. The tomatoes slowly create a large amount of juice. Turn and stir tomatoes every half hour or so. The liquid gradually evaporates until the sauce is thickened. Depending on tomato varieties and quantity, this process may take 3-5 hours. Be sure to stir to prevent the burning of the bottom layer.

Ripe tomatoes can be cut into pieces and frozen until you collect enough for a roasting batch. Tomato varieties may be mixed colors or separate colors. Yellow varieties make an especially pretty sauce.

Some of the liquid may be drawn off to be used as a deliciously flavorful salad dressing.

About Master Gardeners



The UCCE Master Gardener Program in Glenn County provides our community with UC research based information about home horticulture, sustainable landscaping and integrated pest management practices. Master Gardener volunteers have completed extensive training provided by specialists from the University of California. The Glenn County Master Gardeners started in 2012.

The Master Gardener volunteer program was started in the early 1970s at the Washington State University. Farm Advisors became overwhelmed by all the incoming calls from home gardeners and homesteaders so they trained volunteers to answer these questions and the “Master Gardener Program” was born. The first University of California Master Gardener programs began in 1980 in Sacramento and Riverside counties.

Have a Gardening Question? Contact our Plant Clinic

The Glenn County UC Master Gardener Volunteers are available to help you and answer your gardening, landscaping, soil, or pest questions.

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

Call us at **530-865-1107!** Walk-ins are welcome at the UCCE Office at **821 E South Street, Orland CA,** or email us at **anrmglenn@ucanr.edu.**

Photos of the problem are helpful. Pest specimens or plant samples can be dropped off at the UCCE Office and left at the front desk.



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UC Cooperative Extension, Glenn County
P.O. Box 697
Orland, CA 95963



Glenn County UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners

Sick Plant Clinic

Wednesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
UC Cooperative Extension - Glenn County Office
821 E. South St.
Orland, CA 95963



Lawn or Garden Problems?

Glenn County UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners will provide diagnosis and treatment advice at the Glenn County UCCE Master Gardener Plant Clinic.

For more information on the clinic and to learn how to properly collect plant and pest samples, please call (530)865-1107.

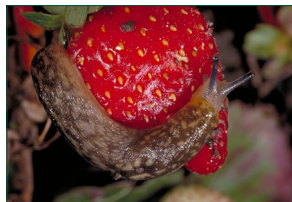


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UC Master Gardener Program

Snails and Slugs

Snails and slugs rank among our most despised garden pests.



Jack Kelly Clark, UCIPM



D. Roosen, UCANR

These slimy mollusks emerge from hiding at night and chew holes in leaves and flowers of many succulent garden plants and fruit. Slugs and snails are similar in structure and biology, except slugs lack the snails' external spiral shell. Management requires a vigilant and integrated approach that includes eliminating moisture and hiding spots, trapping, setting up barriers, and handpicking. Baits can be helpful but by themselves don't provide adequate control in gardens that contain plenty of shelter, food, and moisture.

How do you know snails and slugs are causing damage?

- Because they feed at night and hide during the day, you might not observe these pests at first. Go out at night or in the early morning to view them in action.
- Other pests can cause holes in leaves, flowers, and fruit. Look for the shiny slime trails slugs and snails leave behind.

What can be done to reduce snails and slugs?

- Remove daytime hiding places such as ivy, weedy areas, debris, and boards.
- Place your garden in the sunniest spot possible. Remove garden objects, plants, or ground cover that can serve as shady shelter.
- Reduce moist surfaces by switching to drip irrigation or by running sprinklers in the morning rather than later in the day.
- Make sure the garden is mollusk-free before planting, then erect a copper barrier around it. Use a 4- to 6-inch-wide band of copper, buried an inch below the soil and bent over at the top or attached around the edge of a raised bed.
- Consider snail-proof plants such as impatiens, geraniums, lantana, nasturtiums, and other plants with stiff leaves and highly scented foliage such as sage, rosemary, and lavender.

For more information about managing pests, visit ipm.ucanr.edu or your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

How can I manage snails and slugs without using pesticides?

- Regularly remove snails from shelters such as fence ledges, undersides of decks, and meter boxes.
- Build a trap using a board raised off the ground by 1-inch runners. As mollusks collect under the board, scrape them off and destroy daily.
- Place beer traps in your garden and dispose of trapped snails and slugs daily.



Jack Kelly Clark, UCIPM

Use a board that is raised off the ground about an inch to trap snails daily.

What about pesticides?

- Pesticide baits will not be very effective unless you also remove shelter, food, and moisture.
- Iron phosphate baits are safe for use around dogs, children, and wildlife.
- Ferric sodium EDTA is a newer active ingredient that works similar to iron phosphate. This product is not organically acceptable.
- Metaldehyde baits are especially poisonous to dogs and birds. Metaldehyde also loses its effectiveness rapidly in sunlight and after rain or irrigation.
- Irrigate before applying bait and apply in the evening on warm days when mollusks are active.
- Scatter, don't pile, bait around sprinklers and in moist, protected areas where mollusks travel. Always read pesticide labels before applying the product.

What you do in your home and landscape affects our water and health.

- Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways and harm human health.
- Use nonchemical alternatives or less toxic pesticide products whenever possible.
- Read product labels carefully and follow instructions on proper use, storage, and disposal.