



# Glenn Gardeners Newsletter, Spring 2024

A Quarterly Newsletter from the UC Glenn County Master Gardeners

# Glenn Gardeners

## IN THIS ISSUE



- Spotlight Plant: Tulips...1-2
- Herbs.....3-4
- Bug or Pest Spotlight: IPM at Home.....5
- Gardeners With Heart.....6
- Jr. Master Gardener Project.....7
- Plant Clinic Questions.....8
- Trivia: Word of the Season.....9

## INSERTS

- UC IPM Quick Tip: What is IPM?
- Plant Clinic Flyer

### UC Master Gardener Volunteers

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## Spotlight Plant - Tulips

By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener



Tulips are a plant that is a symbol of spring. Tulips are native to Central Asia and were brought to Holland in the 1500s. Tulips became very popular, and their value skyrocketed. Tulip mania occurred from 1634 to 1636 when people bought bulbs and resold them at great profits. But too many speculators bought them, and the tulip market crashed in 1637. Tulips still play a large role in the Dutch economy; The Netherlands is the largest producer of tulip bulbs in the world.

Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands, also known as the Garden of Europe, have a display of 7 million spring-flowering bulbs. Bulbs in the gardens are supplied by 100 commercial growers to showcase the varieties of plants available.

## Tulips....cont.

During tulip mania, the most prized tulips were multi-color flowers, with colors in stripes, feathers, and flame patterns on the flower. These bulbs were called “breaking” bulbs meaning the tendency for a single-color flower was broken. Folklore about these broken bulbs mentions a single “breaking” bulb selling for the same price as a house. Over the years, this broken bulb would get weak and eventually die. In the 1930s it was discovered that the “breaking” in tulip bulbs was caused by a virus spread by aphids. Today you can buy tulips with these colorful patterns that have been created by hybridization.

Tulips grow well in this area when planted in containers. Bulbs



can be purchased in the fall and placed in the refrigerator for 6 to 8 weeks, then planted in December or January in well-drained soil. Tulips need sun when in bloom and will follow the sun when planted in partial shade. Provide some shade in the hot weather. In the fall dig up the bulbs and start the process of refrigeration and planting again. In the spring, fresh soil should be used in the container where tulips are planted.

More information about growing tulips and how to control their pests can be found on the UCIPM website, at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FLOWERS/tulip.html>.



## References

- UC Davis, *Flowers: Tulips*, University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM). UCANR Publication

## 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.



## Herbs

*By Deborah Storz, Glenn County UC Master Gardener*

Many culinary herbs, used to season food, are very easy to grow and a bountiful harvest can be achieved with minimum care. A few plants of each kind of herb add color and fragrance to the garden and provide an adequate supply for the kitchen.

Herbs vary in their life cycle by species. Examples of annual herbs include basil, coriander and dill. Caraway and sage are biennials while chives, marjoram, and thyme are perennials.

In the garden, group herbs according to their light requirements (full or partial sun) and choose a soil that is well drained for best results.

Propagation by seed, rooted cuttings, or division of a mother plant may be used depending on the species. Seeds may be started either indoors or outdoors. Transplant or direct-seed all herb plants after the danger of severe frost is past. Control weeds during the growing season to prevent competition for water and nutrients. Irrigation is necessary for most herbs, although once established, many perennial herbs tolerate some drought.

Herb leaves that are used fresh may be picked whenever the plant has enough foliage to maintain continued growth. Pick herbs for drying just before the flowers open, when the leaves contain the highest content of aromatic volatile oils. Discontinue harvesting leaves of perennials in late summer to allow the plants to store enough carbohydrates for overwintering and renewing growth next season.

Herbs may be dried by tying the cut stems in small bunches and hanging them in a well-ventilated, low-dust, darkened room. The herbs will dry properly if leaves are dried rapidly without artificial heat or exposure to sunlight. When drying is complete, remove the leaves from the stems or trays and place them in sealed glass jars in a warm place for a week. Then examine the jars to determine whether any moisture has condensed on the inside of the glass. If there is condensation, remove the contents and spread them out for further drying. Store herbs in airtight bottles, preferably brown glass, in a cool place out of direct sunlight.

**Thyme**



**Cilantro**



**Parsley**



## Herbs....cont.

Some common Herbs and their uses:

- **Basil** - The leaves are attractive and have a spicy flavor that makes green salads, tomato and cheese dishes, soups and omelets extra delicious.
- **Cilantro** (Coriander) - The plant is Cilantro while the seeds are Coriander. The leaves have a distinctive flavor and are used as a garnish in salads and soups. The seed is used in meat and seafood dishes.
- **Dill** - The leaves are popular for seasoning, and seed clusters are used for pickling.
- **Oregano** - The bushy plant produces leaves that are an essential ingredient in Italian and Spanish dishes and are also used in salads stews, stuffing, fish, egg, and cheese dishes.
- **Parsley** - The leaves are used in salads, casseroles, and omelets. Parsley's flavor improves with successive cuttings.
- **Sage** - One of the most popular herbs for seasoning because of its mildly pungent flavor and pleasant aroma.
- **Thyme** -The leaves have a marked, but agreeable aroma and pungent flavor and are used fresh or dried for seasoning soups, stews, sauces and meat dishes.



**Basil**



**Oregano**



**Dill**



**Sage**

## References

- California Master Gardener Handbook, Second Edition, Dennis R. Pitterger Editor, ISBN-13: 978-1-60107-857-5
- Photos from Santa Clara County Master Gardeners & UC IMP

## Bug or Pest Spotlight - Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at Home

*By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener*

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? It is a strategy that focuses on **prevention** of pests or their damage, using environmentally friendly methods for managing insects, weeds, diseases, and wildlife. IPM combines several methods to reduce harming you, your family, and the environment.

In your garden and landscape, the best way to prevent pest problems is to plant pest-resistant and well-adapted varieties of plants. An example of using IPM when choosing plants would be to choose a tree species that is not susceptible to aphids; this would avoid having to treat for aphids and the sticky mess caused by the honeydew secreted by aphids.

Plants that are stressed are more susceptible to pests. To keep plants healthy, plant at the proper time recommended for your specific area. Follow irrigation and fertilization requirements for your plants. Too little water results in small plants, poor root systems, and slower growth and exacerbates the effects of pests.

If you do get pests in your landscape or garden it is important to properly identify the pest and the damage it is causing. The presence of a pest is usually not the indicator that treatment is needed; it is the level of damage being caused. Some level of damage may be tolerated, and treatment is not necessary.

Most pests can be treated without pesticides. IPM uses non-chemical means first to control pest. Non-chemical methods include:

- **Biological Controls:** Includes the use of insect predators, parasites, and pathogens. Examples include lady beetles to control aphids and letting natural predators control cottony cushion scale on citrus trees.
- **Cultural Controls:** Includes maintaining good growing conditions for plants and cleaning up around plants by removing weeds and dropped fruit.
- **Mechanical or Physical Control:** Includes removing and smashing insects such as tomato hornworm, trapping rodents, and covering plants and trees with netting to prevent damage from birds and insects.

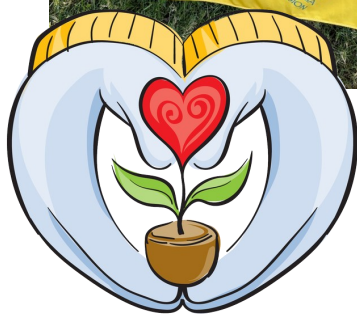
If pesticides are needed, use the least toxic yet effective material that targets the pests but has little impact on human health and the environment. Less toxic pesticides include soaps and oils used to control aphids and borate products used for ants.

Master Gardeners can help you implement IPM around your home at every step. We can help you identify plants appropriate for this area, we can give advice on watering and fertilizing, and with identify pests, and recommend treatments.

For more information about using IPM around your home visit the following websites:

- UCIPM website, at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/GENERAL/whatisipmurban.html>.
- UCANR Pests in the Urban Landscape Blog, at: <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=58958>.

And see the Quick Tip titled "What is IPM" attached to this newsletter.



### About National Volunteer Month and Gardeners with Heart

During National Volunteer Month (April 1 - 30), the UC Master Gardener Program celebrates its dedicated volunteers and their significant contributions to communities across California. Gardeners with Heart volunteers are nominated for their exceptional work in community outreach and communication efforts, highlighting their commitment to promoting gardening education and fostering community resilience. Join us in honoring their dedication and passion for making a positive difference in the lives of others. If you are interested in learning more about gardening in your community or getting involved, you can find our program online by visiting: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/glenmg/>.

## Gardeners With Heart - Volunteers Making a Difference in Community Outreach

In celebration of National Volunteer Month, the UC Master Gardener Program was delighted to highlight UC Master Gardeners who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to community outreach and communication efforts. These volunteers have worked to enhance the visibility of the UC Master Gardener Program, engage with new and diverse audiences, and foster gardening connections within their communities. Join us as we recognize our Glenn County UC Master Gardener Volunteer, Sheila Skemp!

**Shelia Skemp**, a UC Master Gardener in Glenn County, has wholeheartedly embraced every opportunity to contribute. All ideas and activities suggested by Sheila are very much focused on ways to publicize the program. She was able to create a banner showcasing UC Master Gardeners and their help-line plant clinic, and have it displayed prominently over Highway 32 in downtown Orland twice a year. Additionally, Shelia created an engaging activity book for children about plants and gardening, distributed with crayons featuring UC Master Gardener contact information. Her innovative ideas and proactive approach have made a significant impact in Glenn County.



## UC ANR Master Gardener Giving Day Save-the-Date!

The UC ANR Master Gardener Giving Day will be **May 16-17, 2024**, from noon to noon. The gifts from this campaign will support the UC Glenn County Master Gardeners and the Master Gardener Program. To donate on Giving Day, visit: <https://donate.ucanr.edu/?program=UC+Master+Gardener+Program&county=Glenn>, or scan the QR Code below.



## 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.



## Glenn County 4-H County-Wide Jr. Master Gardener Project



In March/April, the Glenn County Master Gardeners will begin a multi-session project for all Glenn County 4-H members. The focus of the program is to introduce the youth of Glenn County to Gardening. As an introductory course, it will touch on many aspects of gardening, by using the Learn, Grow, Eat, and Grow, Junior Master Gardener curriculum as a guide. Some of the topics that will be taught include, a discussion about being a gardener/ What is a garden, Plants/seeds and how to plant, Herbs, Pollinator plants/Bees, Worms, and their purpose, and Creating a raised bed mini garden.

Our goal is to instill in the students a love and appreciation for gardening and to give them the confidence to grow a garden of their own, taste new foods, and give them a basic knowledge of what it means to be a gardener. They will showcase what they have learned at the Glenn County Fair in May by entering a display that will include their mini raised bed herb garden and a display highlighting the concepts and lessons that they learned.

For more information about this project, call the UCCE Office at (530) 865-1107.



# Plant Clinic Questions

*By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener*

The Master Gardeners Plant Clinic gets frequent questions about problems with landscape trees. One of the trees we often get questions about is Redwood Trees. The questions are about dead needles, dead branches, and dying trees.

Redwood trees are planted because they are fast-growing and can quickly provide shade and screening. Locally, they are widely available in the spring in garden centers and big box stores.

Redwoods are not native to our local climate. They are high water users and will always need lots of water during the summer months. They need well-drained soils. They do poorly in sites where the soil is compacted, poorly drained, or over-

irrigated (saturated). Redwood trees are often planted in lawns and depend on lawn irrigation to meet their water needs. During drought years, when lawn watering is significantly reduced or turned off, nearby trees decline in appearance and health and possibly die.

Redwood trees are susceptible to canker diseases. The symptoms of canker disease are scattered dieback of twigs and branches and top dieback. Cankers are areas of dead wood located on tree branches or trunks. Cankers are caused by fungi. These fungi are called opportunistic pathogens, commonly attacking trees that are stressed due to being planted outside their normal range and those subject to unfavorable growing conditions, e.g., dry soil, compacted soil, wet soils, and overcrowding.

Keeping redwood trees healthy is the best way to manage canker disease. Provide summer irrigation and mulch under trees to conserve water. Remove and dispose of infected branches and tops to minimize the spread of 'within' tree disease. Disinfect tools are used to remove infected branches before using them on healthy branches; this also helps to stop the spread of disease. There is no chemical control of this disease. Fertilizing is not recommended unless there is a nutrient deficiency in the soil.

More Information about pests of redwood trees, can be found on the UCIPM website at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/redwood.html>.

More information about canker disease in redwood trees, can be found at: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/Mendocino/files/347575.pdf>.





## Trivia - Word of the Season

By Sheila Skemp-Irvin, Glenn County UC Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

# Petrichor

noun

pe·tri·chor 'pe-trə-,kôr

: a distinctive, earthy, usually pleasant odor that is associated with rainfall especially when following a warm, dry period and that arises from a combination of volatile plant oils and **geosmin** released from the soil into the air and by ozone carried by downdrafts

## References

- <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/petrichor>

## 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.



## How to Subscribe

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# What is IPM?

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) involves the use of environmentally sound and effective practices to keep pests from invading or damaging your home, garden, or landscape.**

IPM usually combines several methods for long-term pest prevention and management to reduce harming you, your family, or the environment. Successful pest management begins with correctly identifying the pest and selecting the appropriate and most effective methods and materials.



CA Reynolds

Monitoring for pests using a hand lens.

## Pest prevention and control around the home and landscape includes:

- Monitoring for the presence of pests and their damage
- Altering the home or garden environment to deprive pests of food, water, and shelter
- Keeping pests out by using barriers, screens, and caulk
- Planting pest-resistant or well-adapted plant varieties, such as native plants
- Discouraging various pests by modifying the way you design, irrigate, fertilize, and manage your garden
- Squashing, trapping, washing off, or pruning out pests
- Using mulch for weed control
- Encouraging beneficial insects to live in your garden

## Biological control

Most gardens contain far more “good bugs,” or beneficial insects, than pest insects. Beneficial organisms (also called natural enemies) kill pests and play an important role in IPM. Help beneficials by choosing plants that provide pollen and nectar, keeping ants out of pest-infested plants, and avoiding the use of certain pesticides that kill or harm the good bugs.

## Learn about the adult and larval stages of common beneficials.

- Lady beetles (ladybugs): adults and larvae eat aphids.
- Lacewings: larvae feed on many insect pests; you’ll often see adults around lights.
- Syrphid flies: larvae eat aphids; adults resemble honey bees and hover around flowers.
- Parasitic mini-wasps: many species lay their eggs inside pests such as aphids or caterpillars; after hatching, the larvae consume the pest and kill it.
- Spiders: all spiders feed on insects and other arthropods.



Lady beetle adult



Lady beetle larva

Jack Kelly Clark

## What about pesticides?

- Most pests can be managed without using pesticides.
- Use pesticides only if nonchemical controls are ineffective and monitoring confirms that pests are reaching intolerable or damaging levels.
- If pesticides are necessary, use them in combination with the nonchemical methods described above.
- Choose pesticides carefully. Use the least toxic, yet effective material that targets the pests but has little impact on human health and the environment.
- Examples of least toxic pesticides include:
  - Soaps and oils for soft-bodied insects like aphids
  - Microbials such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) for caterpillars
  - Borate products in bait stations for ants
  - Dusts such as borate or silica in cracks or crevices for household pests

## 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.

For more information about managing pests, visit [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu) or your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Have a plant or gardening question?

We're here to help.

**FREE  
ASK US!  
ADVICE**



## PLANT CLINIC

**WEDNESDAYS**

**2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.**

The UC Glenn County Master Gardeners are volunteers, trained by the University of California, to provide research-based information on home gardening and pest control - all a FREE service by the UC Cooperative Extension!



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

*Bring your plant and pest specimen!*

***UC Cooperative Extension Office - 821 E. South St., Orland, CA.***

**OR CALL THE MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE AT 530.865.1107**