



# Glenn Gardeners Newsletter, Fall 2023

A Quarterly Newsletter from the UC Glenn County Master Gardeners

# Glenn Gardeners

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## INSERTS

UC IPM Pantry Pests Flyer  
Plant Clinic Flyer



### UC Master Gardener Volunteers

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## Ash Dieback

By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener



Picture 1 - Raywood ash trees showing symptoms severe decline growing in Sycamore Park, Willows, CA

Raywood ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood') is a widely planted tree in parks, along streets, in lawns, and as a shade tree in Glenn County. Raywood ash became a popular replacement tree as Modesto ash (*Fraxinus velutina*) trees infected with anthracnose and mistletoe were removed.

Branch dieback has been observed in Raywood ash, and it is widely distributed in Northern California. Dieback of multiple branches throughout the canopy is indicative of Raywood ash canker and decline. The branch dieback results in severe disfiguration that requires costly removal of dead branches or the entire tree.

Continued on next page....

## Ash Dieback....cont.

Raywood ash is not as drought tolerant as previously thought. These trees need occasional deep watering during the dry season. Drought stress allows the weakened trees to be infected by the pathogen *Botryosphaeria stevensii*, which kills infected limbs. This fungus is a weak pathogen that does not affect vigorous trees but becomes aggressive and pathogenic when trees are stressed, commonly from insufficient soil moisture.

To prevent against ash dieback, protect trees from injury to roots, crowns and trunk and provide adequate water. When a Raywood ash is removed consider planting a different tree species. Glenn County Master Gardeners can help you select trees that are appropriate for your landscape that are resistant to common diseases and insects.

When planting more than one tree in close proximity, it is a good practice to plant different tree species. This way a disease or insect problem in one tree won't spread to neighboring trees. As seen in picture 1, several Raywood ash trees were planted together. These trees are showing signs of severe decline and will probably have to be removed. The gap between the trees is where a diseased Raywood ash was recently removed leaving a large gap in shade and screening.



Picture 2 - Raywood ash tree showing light to moderate decline growing in Willows, CA.

## References

- Regents of the University of California. (2023) *Raywood Ash Canker and Decline*. UC IPM Website <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/DISEASES/ashdieback.html>
- UC Davis, *Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs: An Integrated Pest Management Guide*, University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM). UCANR Publication 3359

## 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.





## Xeriscaping

By Sheila Skemp-Irvin, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

Xeriscaping is a landscaping style that requires little to no irrigation. It is a great alternative to the traditional water guzzling lawns. According to the National Geographic, removing lawn and applying the xeriscaping style can reduce water use by 50 to 75 percent. So how do you do it? There are six aspects to address in the process: planning and design, soil improvements, efficient irrigation, plant zones, mulches, and maintenance (Denver Water).

- ⇒ **Planning and Design** Planning and design are crucial when creating our perfect landscape for the home or a commercial property. To begin, you should have a diagram of your current landscape including your current plants, irrigation, and hardscape. The plan will give you an idea of where the sunny and shaded areas of your yard are, which will help with plant selection. Make the diagram as detailed as possible. You will also need to determine what your plant and sunset climate zones are as this will help you in your selection of plants. Typically, the Glenn County area is in plant hardiness zone 9A (USDA) and sunset climate zone 9 (UC Davis). Be aware that across the county and often even within our own yards there are often microclimates created by variations in moisture, temperature, exposure, or elevation.
- ⇒ **Soil Improvements** What kind of soil do you have? This is a great place to start, especially if you plan to start from scratch. Native plants are going to be much more tolerant with your current soil conditions. Plants will benefit from an addition of organic material to the soil to provide nutrients and improve water retention.
- ⇒ **Efficient Irrigation** With any landscaping plan, efficient irrigation is of the utmost importance. Try to group plants with similar watering needs so that irrigation can be done in zones. Be sure to research watering techniques for the types of plants that you are going to include in your landscaping. Turf and grasses benefit from different types of sprinklers than shrubs and trees. Plan to water deeply and infrequently so that the plants develop deep roots. Watering in the early mornings and later evenings will further conserve water, as will changing your water program monthly to account for changing weather patterns.



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 Landscape Drip Irrigation. Photo by Jack Kelly Clark, UC ANR Publication 3359

## Xeriscaping.....cont.

- ⇒ **Plant Zones** From here you can proceed to create a planting plan. This will be a list of plants you want to purchase and where you plan to place them. When selecting plants, keep in mind sun and shade patterns in your yard and plant groupings. As with any landscaping plan, choose plants with different heights, colors, and textures.
- ⇒ **Mulches** Mulch is a critical and key part of any landscape. Mulch keeps plant roots cool, prevents soil from crushing, minimizes evaporation, and reduces weed growth. Apply organic mulch to a depth of at least 4 inches and inorganic mulch to a depth of 2 inches.
- ⇒ **Maintenance** When you initially plant your xeriscape garden, you will find that the maintenance is similar to any other type of landscape. However, as the garden matures, you will need to water less and often many of the other chores such as weeding will continue to decrease.



Wood chip mulch around bed of ceanothus and other shrubs. Photo by Jack Kelly Clark, UC IMP Project.

This is by no means an exhaustive explanation of how to xeriscape, but rather an introduction to get started. A wealth of information can be found in the links below.

## References

- National Geographic Society. *Xeriscaping*. National Geographic Education Website. <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/xeriscaping/>
- Denver Water. (2023) *Xeriscape Principles*. Denver Water Residential Conserve Website <https://www.denverwater.org/residential/rebates-and-conservation-tips/remodel-your-yard/xeriscape-plans/xeriscape-principles>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. (n.d.) *USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map*. USDA Agricultural Research Service Website <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>
- Regents of the University of California. (2018) *Landscape Design & Water Quality*. UC IPM Website <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/QT/landscapedesigncard.html>
- Regents of the University of California. (2023) *Water Conservation in the Home Landscape*. UCCE Master Gardeners of San Joaquin County Website [https://sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu/Water\\_Conservation\\_/Low\\_water\\_landscapes/](https://sjmastergardeners.ucanr.edu/Water_Conservation_/Low_water_landscapes/)
- Regents of the University of California. (2023) *Climate Zones*. UC Master Gardener Program Climate Zones Website <https://mq.ucanr.edu/Gardening/ClimateZones/>



## Spotlight Plant - Salvia

By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

*Salvia* is a large genus of plants in the mint family, commonly called sages. Salvias are a diverse group of plants. They can be deciduous or evergreen, perennial, biennials or annuals. They vary in height from groundcovers to tall shrubs. Flowers bloom in many colors including white, yellow, pink, red, lavender, blue, and purple. Salvias typically have square stems and whorls of flowers located on spikes. *Salvia*'s are great pollinator plants attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.



Picture 1 - Hot Lips Salvia, (*Salvia microphylla* "Hot Lips") growing in the Glenn County Master Gardener's demonstration garden.

If you are interested in planting *Salvia* visit your local nursery to see what is available or contact the Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners have resources available to help find Salvias to fit your landscape needs. The CA Native Plant Society's Calscape website has a data base of many native Salvias including pictures and growing conditions for the plant, visit: [https://calscape.org/loc-california/Salvia\(all\)/vw-list/np-0?](https://calscape.org/loc-california/Salvia(all)/vw-list/np-0?)

Once established, Salvias will need pruning every year or two to maintain the plant and prevent it from getting woody. Pruning should be done in winter or early spring. A hard pruning on older shrubs can be done every other year for long term health. A hard pruning would be where most of the woody stems are removed leaving some new growth at the base of the plant. Advice on pruning *Salvia* can be found on the UC Davis Arboretum website, at: <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/news/sage-advice>.



Picture 2 - Mexican Blue Sage (*Salvia chamaedryoides*), showing the two-lipped flowers located in whorls around square stems, distinguishing features of *Salvia* plants.

## References

- Brenzel ,K.N. (Ed). 2012 *Sunset Western Garden Book*. Time Home Entertainment Inc.

# Plant Clinic Questions

By Nancy Mulligan, Glenn County UC Master Gardener

## Got Bugs? Insect Problems

Master Gardeners get questions on a variety of topics at the weekly plant clinic. Recently Master Gardeners got a questions from someone who had bugs in their home pantry. A Master Gardener volunteer was able to provide the client a University of California, Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM) publication about pantry bugs.

There are several moths and beetles that can infest stored food products. Pantry pest infestations can be prevented by good sanitation and proper storage of food. Regularly clean shelves and bins where food particles accumulate. Store food in containers with tight fitting lids. Destroy any food product that has the slightest indication of infestation, remove the infested food from the home and clean the location where the product was stored. More information about pantry pests can be found on the UCIPM Quick Tip included in this newsletter and at the UCIPM website at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7452.html>.

Master Gardeners can provide homeowners with Integrated Pest Management information about many common household pests such as ants, mice, yellow jackets, spiders and mosquitos to name a few. Check out all the household pest information available on the UCIPM website at: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu.house.html>.



Adult Red Flour Beetle. Photo by Jack Kelly Clark, UC IPM Website.

## Plant Identification

Master Gardeners often get requests to identify a plant, either weeds, or desirable plants. If you have a plant you want to identify, send a picture by email or drop off a sample at the UCCE Office in Orland.

To get an accurate identification, include the leaves and stem showing how the leaves are attached to the stem. Include the flower, seed or cone if these parts are available on the plant. Include some information about the plant such as is it evergreen or deciduous, how big it is and is it a shrub, tree or herbaceous.



## 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.



## Tomatoes

Tomato questions came into the plant clinic this spring. Regularly received questions included why garden tomato plants are not producing this year. Due to the cooler and wetter than normal spring this year the tomatoes were slow to develop and ripen. Most tomato plants were yielding fruit by mid July when temperatures were warm.

Blossom end rot is another common topic of interest that the plant clinic addressed this year. Blossom end rot causes brown leathery spots on the bottom of tomatoes, peppers and squash. It is not a disease, it is caused by uneven soil moisture and a low level of calcium. Calcium is taken up into the plant through the roots, however it settles in one part of the plant. This means that the rot can occur even when there is an ample supply of calcium in the soil, stems or leaves. Blossom end rot can occur on the first tomatoes that form on the plant because the plant is rapidly growing and the plants may not be able to take up sufficient calcium quickly enough through the roots to supply both the needs of the plant and the developing tomatoes.

UC IPM recommends “to reduce rot, monitor soil moisture to make sure that the root zone neither dries out nor remains saturated. Follow recommended rates for fertilizers. Blossom end rot is not caused by a pathogen; there are no pesticide solutions.

The UC Master Gardeners Statewide blog recently posted an article about five common tomato problems and solutions. The blog can be found at: <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=57615>.



*Blossom end rot on an early season green tomato variety.*

## References

- Regents of the University of California. (2017, December 1) *Blossom End Rot*. UC IPM Website <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/VEGES/ENVIRON/blossomendrot.html>Reference

## 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 **anrmgglenn@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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# Pantry Pests

**Pantry pests are insects such as certain moths or beetles that can attack almost any kind of stored food, from spices to cereal to chocolate.**

Pantry pests usually enter your home in an infested package of food. You might not notice these small insects until you see moths flying around your kitchen or beetles crawling in your food. Get rid of these pests by removing infested food, tightly sealing stored dry food, and thoroughly cleaning the area.



Adult Indianmeal moth.

Jack Kelly, Clark, UCIPM

## Types of pantry pests and their damage.

- The Indianmeal moth is the most common moth found on food products in the home.
- Several species of beetles, including the warehouse beetle, the sawtoothed grain beetle, the red flour beetle, and the cigarette beetle, commonly attack a variety of foods.
- Infested food can be contaminated with insect hairs, droppings, webbing, and secretions.
- Food contaminated with warehouse beetle hairs can irritate your mouth, esophagus, and digestive tract.
- Pantry pests can introduce microbes that rot food, especially in warm, humid conditions.

## Detecting pantry pests.

- Adult moths or beetles are usually easier to spot than the larvae.
- Inspect all packages, especially those that have been opened.
- Webbing in tight places of a package or tiny holes in a food container are signs of a pantry pest infestation.
- Use a pheromone trap labeled for pantry pests to detect them.
- By the time you spot a pantry pest, it has usually spread to other food packages.

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

## Preventing a pantry pest infestation.

- Store food in containers with tight-fitting lids, not plastic bags.
- Store bulk goods like pet food in airtight containers.
- Keep certain infrequently used food like flours, spices, and grains in a freezer if possible.
- Wash old containers before filling them with new food.
- Don't mix old and new food together.
- Clean shelves, bins, and other food storage areas regularly.



Adult red flour beetle.

Jack Kelly, Clark, UCIPM

## Cleaning up a pantry pest infestation.

- Throw away any food that has even the slightest evidence of infestation.
- Vacuum corners and crevices of cupboards to get rid of eggs and pupae, and wash shelves with soap and water.
- Pantry pests are capable of living for many weeks without food; continue using pheromone traps to detect pests after the source of the infestation has been removed.

## What about pesticides?

- Insecticides are not recommended for controlling any pantry pests.
- Spraying pesticides on or near food may cause greater harm to you and your family than would pantry pests.
- Even if you have a large infestation of pantry pests, removing infested material and following the guidelines above will provide effective control.

## 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.