

UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

FROM THE FIELD:

From UC CalFresh Healthy Living Program's Family Cook Nights hosted virtually at 2 elementary schools in Santa Maria:

"Gracias a ustedes por la información que dan a la comunidad para estar más saludables."

"Thank you all for the information that you are giving to the community so that we can be healthier."

~ Participating Parent



Family Cook Nights



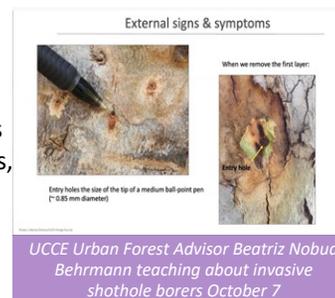
UC Master Gardeners discussed water-wise gardening with Donna Grubisic, the 2021 Countywide Winner of the WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest

UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

After attending a monthly public Garden Talk online, participants reported a mean increase in knowledge of 3.9 points (self-rating scale of 1-10) on topics like building healthy soil and best practices for harvesting vegetables. In December, [UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County](#) renewed a community education partnership with the [Santa Barbara Botanic Garden](#) to promote public knowledge and action on the benefits of water-wise gardening, the value of native plants, and management of Invasive Shot Hole Borers (ISHB). The ISHB community outreach builds on mutual priorities with the [Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner](#).

INVASIVE SHOTHOLE BORERS

In conjunction with the County of Santa Barbara's Agricultural Commission, the program hosted a virtual Invasive Shothole Borers (ISHB) meeting for Central Coast municipalities and agencies on October 7. More than 40 participants representing 17 agencies, jurisdictions, and county departments attended. Presenters included Dr. Beatriz Nobua Behrmann, UCCE Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor; Hannah Vasilis, UC Integrated Pest Management ISHB Survey and Trapping Coordinator; and Stephanie Stark, Santa Barbara County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner. Topics included how to identify ISHB, current locations of ISHB in the county, how to slow the spread, and efforts to remove severely infested trees. A recorded version of the meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/1mCpZKEiEWc>.



SUBTROPICAL CROPS

This is the lemon rootstock trial that was planted in 2014 and is starting to bear fruit. This trial is part of a series that have gone on for more than 50 years. As new rootstocks and scions become available, they are incorporated into these ongoing studies. The program finished the third harvest of the year of this trial recently, with five people from UC Riverside and eight pickers provided by the grower. Fruit was weighed and sent to the packinghouse to be sized and graded. These trials are expensive and labor intensive and are only possible with the collaboration of local growers. In the end, the results identify selections that are not only more productive, but also more disease and pest resistant.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources