



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
UC Master Gardeners of Napa County

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Healthy Garden Tips

napamg.ucanr.edu
707-253-4221

SAFE PLANTS AND SEED PURCHASES

Protecting Napa County's Economy and Quality of Life

Napa County is dependent on agriculture for its economy and our healthy environment for our quality of life. Imported plants and plant materials can carry diseases or contain pests that can devastate our economy and quality of life. Please help protect our quality of life and economy by following the simple rules below.

BUY LOCAL. Whenever possible, buy from a local nursery or garden center, or from a certified seller at a farmers market. Plants and plant materials sold by these organizations have been inspected by the Agricultural Commissioner's office and are free of pests and diseases. They are also frequently of better quality than mail order plant materials.

BUY FROM A REPUTABLE SUPPLIER. If needed, purchase seeds and plant materials from a reputable supplier (major catalogs).

HAVE PLANTS INSPECTED. Have all plant materials purchased outside of Napa or Sonoma counties inspected by the Agricultural's Commissioner's office. You may bring your plant materials to the office, or make an appointment to have larger quantities inspected at your location. You can contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office at 707-253-4357, or agcommissioner@countyofnapa.org.

FIND OUT QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS. If you plan to import any plant materials from outside the County, contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office for information on quarantine requirements. (Note: you must also comply with quarantine requirements if you are planning on exporting plant materials from the County).

AVOID PRIVATE SELLERS. Avoid purchasing plant materials, including seeds, from Craig's List or E-Bay (these materials are usually sold by individuals) or directly from individuals; their materials usually have not been inspected nor undergone required quarantine. The seller may not even be aware that the plant materials or seeds are diseased.

AVOID PLANTS FROM FLORIDA. Avoid importing plant materials from Florida, due to the number of severe agricultural pests known to occur there.

DO NOT SMUGGLE PLANTS. Do not smuggle in prohibited plants or plant materials.

The following two items are almost never OK if purchased or obtained outside the State:

1. Soil, including soil clinging to plants
2. Citrus of any kind

In addition to pests and diseases, some plants can become invasive when introduced into new environments. Before you purchase a new or unusual plant, please consider whether the plant itself may become a pest. Some terms that may indicate that a plant has the potential to become invasive include:

- “Easy to grow”
- Spreads rapidly
- Self-seeds/self seeds readily
- Tolerant of dry climate
- Vigorous/vigorous grower

If you are concerned about whether the plant you are considering could become invasive, please consult the California Invasive Plant Council at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/> or contact the UC Master Gardeners of Napa County at 707-253-4221 or via the web at napamg.ucanr.edu

PLANTS USED BY COMMONLY SEEN BUTTERFLIES IN NAPA COUNTY

| Butterfly | Host Plant (for caterpillar) | Nectar Plant (for butterflies) |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Painted Lady | Cheeseweed, Lupine, Thistle, Fiddleneck | Thistle, Knapweed, Aster, Yarrow, Marigold, Zinnia |
| Fritillary | Violets | Thistle, Coneflowers, Bergamot, Milkweed, Ironweed |
| Common White | Mustard, Cabbage | Mustard, Sweet Anise |
| Monarch | Milkweed (Asclepius) | Milkweed, Goldenrod, Thistle, Liatris, Cosmos |
| West Coast Lady | Mallow, hollyhock, nettle | Milkweed, Goldenrod, Thistle, Liatris, Cosmos |
| Mourning Clock & Admirals | Willow, Elm, Poplar, Birch, Hackberry, Orchard Stone Fruits | Milkweed, rotting fruit, Sap, Shasta Daisy, Yarrow |
| Common Hairstreak | Hibiscus, Buckwheat, Senna, Hops | Aster, Thistle, Black-Eyed Susan, Yarrow |
| Red Admiral | Nettles | Rotting fruit, sap, Aster, Thistle, Dandelion, Clover |
| Painted Lady | Thistle, Nettle, Malva, Fiddleneck | Rotting fruit, sap, Aster, Thistle, Dandelion, Clover |
| Common Sulfur | Clover, Vetch, Alfalfa, Beans | Clover, Goldenrod, Aster, Milkweed, Phlox |
| Pievine Swallowtail | Dutchman’s pipevine | Sweet Anise, Asters, Butterfly bush, Ceanothus |
| Western Tiger Swallowtail | Alder, Birch, Cottonwood, Willow, California sycamore, Elms, Apple | Thistle, Milkweed, Phlox, Bee Balm, Clover, Sunflower |