



THE YOLO GARDENER

Summer 2015

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE UCCE. MASTER GARDENERS OF YOLO COUNTY

IPM Identifies Mystery Caterpillar

Linda Parsons, Yolo County UCCE Master Gardener

We have enjoyed the fruits of our English Walnut tree (*Juglans regia*) for more than three decades. More recently, our neighborhood squirrels have been the beneficiaries of this bountiful nut tree! Beginning in the late spring, we see our brick patio littered with green bits of walnut husk. Our squirrels prefer the immature walnuts, and devour all but a few walnuts by the end of each June.

Most afternoons, I sweep the walnut litter from our brick patio. Yesterday was no exception. As I was sweeping, I noticed several very bare and tattered branches. I tried to imagine why the squirrels would do this. Had they inadvertently come too close to the ends of these branches and perhaps grabbed them for support and thus torn them? Was this the work of immature squirrels testing the leaves as a dietary source? I really couldn't imagine that this was squirrel damage.

I wasn't able to see the leaves well enough, so I cut off the offending end branches. They dropped onto the brick patio. As I peered over the branches, I noticed that most of them were completely skeletonized, and only the leaf ribs or veins remained intact. Just as soon as it popped into my head that this must be a chewing insect, I was astounded to see dozens of black caterpillars with yellow stripes and red heads crawling about on our patio. I also noticed that some of the leaves were covered with large quantities of black frass.



Walnut Tree Damage

So who are these voracious little guys?

I enjoy a challenge and "surfing the web" allows me to meander about on various websites that provide me with knowledge I didn't know I lacked or was interested in. Thus my search began. I typed into the search field: "black, yellow striped, red headed caterpillar." I found some very good matches, but they were a bit off. The most promising "hit" was



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the Azalea Caterpillar (*Datana major*). I might have decided that this was the correct answer, but on further reading I was confounded to learn that the distribution was wrong. You will only find the Azalea caterpillar in the southern United States and more predominantly in Northern Africa. Oops! This is a bit of a journey—if not a ridiculous stretch—for this moth to take up residence in our garden.

Now it was time to put on my Master Gardener “hat” and get the correct answer.

Who knows, this caterpillar may be busy defoliating leaves all over Yolo County!

Swiftly my fingers took me to the UC Integrated Pest Management website: <http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/> I selected “Pests in gardens and landscapes” and then navigated to “fruit trees, nuts, berries and grapevines.” A quick click took me to a list that includes walnuts. I quickly scrolled through the list of “invertebrates,” looking for a likely culprit. There were only two caterpillars: the redhumped caterpillar (*Schizura concinna*) and the Tent caterpillar (*Malcosoma*). It was an easy choice to select the redhumped caterpillar. A perfect photo of our visitors appeared along with an example of the damage they inflict on their host plant.



Redhumped Caterpillar

Interesting facts I learned were that they also attack liquidambar, plum, almond, apple, apricot, pear, cherry, redbud, willow, and other trees. They often have four to five generations per year and are more abundant after a warm winter. As with many moths, this one is an unremarkable brownish moth that reaches a bit over an inch in wingspan.

They have many natural enemies, including parasitic wasps, spiders, lacewings, and damsel bugs. If an insecticide is needed to control a severe infestation, BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) or Spinosad is recommended.

As our “infestation” seems minor, I am taking the wait-and-see method. I am rarely let down by Mother Nature. She usually seems to get it right and does most of the pest management for me. If not, I know I can find the most effective and timely advice on the UC Integrated Pest Management website. If you are wondering what pest is in your garden, I am sure you can find it at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu. Good sleuthing!



Loving the Blues

Willa Bowman Pettygrove, Yolo County UCCE Master Gardener

Gardeners are just passionate about plants. They have a childlike curiosity that pushes them beyond how many squash they can produce, or how perfect a rose bush they can grow. Over the years, my plant addictions have been offset by a broader view of nature (or what we now like to call ecology). Yes, I love certain plants and have my flavor of the month (currently, cactus and succulents). True, beneficial insects help the gardener take down the bad guys. But beyond this good bug-bad bug point of view is a growing understanding of a garden as a space to promote beauty by working with nature. We need to know more about natural processes and the wonders revealed by them.

The process that drives much of the evolution of flowers is attraction of pollinators, including bees and butterflies. Conversely, pollinators that seek pollen and nectar as food have to find the right flowers, and not get eaten by predators.

As I was working in my garden I started to think about the color blue. One can't miss blue in my garden, because I love it. After green, blue is the background color for other accent colors, provided mostly by roses. Why are so many flowers blue?

I Googled “color perception in butterflies” and then “color perception in bees,” and quickly had some answers. You can do this too. Start with the following, which might amaze you: <http://photographyoftheinvisibleworld.blogspot.com/2009/08/rudbeckia-meadow-human-butterfly-bee.html>.

Many butterflies can see color, beyond what humans see, into the ultraviolet end of the spectrum. This makes it easier for them to find flowers on the blue-violet end of the spectrum. I can only imagine how the blue of a penstemon would look with ultraviolet; it might shimmer!

The Pipevine Swallowtail, toxic to would-be predators, is frequently imitated by other butterflies for protective coloration. Its patterns and coloration fool predators, but not other Pipevine Swallowtails, who can quickly recognize an imposter in the crowd. This helps them find mates, of course.

Like many insects, butterflies also have compound eyes. In addition to seeing light versus dark, they have three types of color receptors (humans only have two, in most cases): ultraviolet, blue-violet, and yellow. They don't see red as a color, but as black or grey. Their compound eyes are dome shaped, so they can see many angles at once (one reason why you have to be pretty good to net them), but their eyes don't focus as the human eye does.

Bees have a similar shift toward the ultraviolet end of the spectrum and don't really see red. However, bumble bees have the ability to rapidly track what they are seeing, five times faster than humans. This makes it possible for them to fly rapidly through plant material and avoid that fence post.

As a mere human, I'm happy to be able to see blue, even without the ultraviolet. I gave up long ago on Delphiniums, Lobelias, and Felicias, blue flowers my grandmothers loved. Instead, I've found beautiful examples that don't require too much water, and can be adapted to sunny and shady gardens. Try some of these:

Dianella, or snake lily, is a relatively new import from New Zealand. A true lily, it produces clouds of tiny blue flowers, and, in ideal conditions, impressive blue fruit. There are variegated cultivars and different shades of blossom color.

Penstemon heterophyllus ‘Margarita BOP’ is a low-growing, blue-flowered variety that needs well drained soil.

Plumbagos form shrubs of various sizes, with different shades of blue blossoms. They also produce fall color in their foliage. If you want a very short “plumbago” with the bluest flowers, look for *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*. This mouthful is the dwarf form of plumbago that tolerates shade and low water, ideal for a rock garden or foundation plant. It spreads slowly.

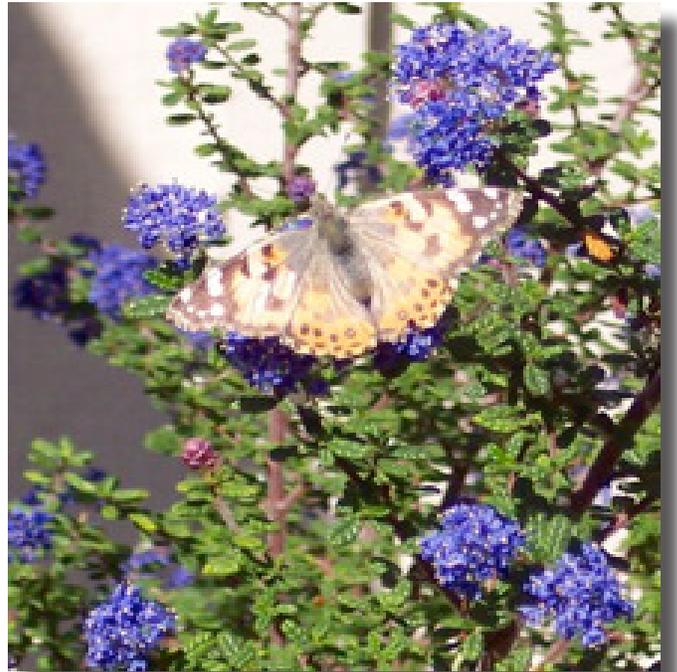


Scabiosa come in colors from pink to violet to maroon. Bees and butterflies love them because, like sunflowers, they offer a convenient landing pad. They will self-seed so you can share them with friends next year. *Penstemon Margarita*

Blue Brodiaea is the name I learned in high school for what is now commonly called *Tritalea laxa*, “Ithuriel’s Spear.” This reliable bulb, a California native, produces brilliant blue-violet flowers with very little water.

*Tritalea laxa*

And, of course, there are Ceanothus, Asters, Lupines, and other blue beauties that will delight the pollinators as much as they do you. As you visit our Yolo County Gardens, look to see what is attracting the bees and butterflies in each. 🍅

*Ceanothus*

Tree Squirrels

Laura Cameron, Yolo County UCCE Master Gardener

Ah, how cute those squirrels are! Such adorable tails, and they look so darling hanging upside down by one toe, stretched to the limit eating that last overripe persimmon. Not so adorable when chewing holes in pomegranates. They like to bite and move on, and subsequently will take a chunk out of every single pomegranate. This is in marked contrast to most birds, which will pick a fruit and then return to it until it is mostly devoured.

Some people catch and release squirrels, whether legal or not, while others put food out for them. Squirrels have two litters a year and quickly multiply. They tend to be territorial and short-lived.

Every living thing has to eat, and our yards provide a plethora of food for squirrels. Squirrels are mainly arboreal, and while sometimes seen on the ground, vertically they can easily jump four to ten feet, and are quite comfortable high in the tree or running along the fence line. They may even take up residence in your attic if an easy entry exists. Try to limit what attracts squirrels. Keep the yard clean, and rake up fallen berries, bird seed, nuts, and fruits. Don't leave human or pet food out. Use a squirrel-proof bird feeder. Limiting access can be of

minimal help, because fence highways make this difficult. Removing tree limbs ten feet from the fence line may not always be an option. Find out what your current resident squirrel likes to do and implement at least one control option to reduce the harmful impact.

Squirrels are smart and will learn the effectiveness of some fake threats. But you can try some of these deterrents:

Short term, squirrels will get used to:

- Plastic or inflatable predatory birds.
- Hanging bits of shiny things in the trees: They are time-consuming and need to be changed out for other items every few days.
- Dogs: They can't climb into the tree, and older dogs tend to just watch the squirrels.
- Cats: Cats will go up in the tree, but the squirrel can go higher.

Longer term, nothing is perfect:

- Peppermint: Plant it at the corners of the garden; the smell is not pleasant to squirrels. Unless you want an invasion of mint, it's best to plant it in pots.
- Although some chemical repellents are registered for use to keep tree squirrels out of an area, their effectiveness is questionable. There are also repellents that are added to birdseed that are supposed to prevent squirrels from feeding on the seeds, however, these, too, have shown little promise. Make sure to wash off before human use.
- Place an owl or raptor box on your property: If you attract a raptor or an owl, or if you adopt a cat or dog that squirrel may want to relocate.
- Squirrel Feeder: In order to keep the squirrel away from special areas of the garden, provide food elsewhere; because squirrels are fiercely territorial, the resident will chase visitors away. Try unshelled nuts and sunflower seeds as well as corn or other squirrel delights. Squirrels hoard food, so experiment with putting out a few days' worth of food at one time. The squirrel will bury the food, and the next day when no food is at the feeder it may go to the buried food spot. Experiment with how many days apart you need to put food out to keep them away from the prized part of the yard.
- Water bath: Provide a clean source of water for our feathered and furred friends. Will this keep them from the State Fair Award-winning tomato? Maybe not, but it can't hurt to try.
- Tree: Wrap a two-foot-tall piece of sheet metal six feet up around the tree trunk. Remove once the fruit is harvested so the tree is not strangled. Repeat next year. If, however, squirrels arrive by fence and leap from tree to tree, this method is not effective.
- Plant extra: Over plant your garden, providing enough to share. Alternatively, plant a separate squirrel garden.
- Potted plants: Mulch with small stones; stick skewers in so a little bit sticks out.
- Place soft or elasticized netting around fruit or planted area.
- Take the frame of an old tent and cover with chicken wire. Place over area to be protected.



Eastern Fox Squirrel

- Squirrels will eat bulbs. When planting, remove all debris from planting package, including plant material, from the area. Cover with sharp mulch.
- Squirrels often prefer the following bulbs: Tulips, Crocuses, Gladiolus, and Colchicum.
- There are certain types of bulbs squirrels do not like to eat: Narcissus, Alliums, Fritillaria, Amaryllis, Chionodoxa, Scilla, Galanthus, Daffodil, Muscari, Hyacinth, and Spanish Bluebells (Hyacinthoides)

This is not an inclusive list of all that can be done to reduce the squirrel population in your yard. Squirrels are seen as very damaging creatures to some, but to others, they are simply another living creature doing what it needs to survive. Don't limit yourself to using just one deterrent at a time.

For additional information on life cycles, legal status, and management methods, including habitat modification and trapping please see: <http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74122.html>. 

Silly for Sages

Beautiful Additions to Your Drought Tolerant Garden

Michelle Haunold, Yolo County UCCE Master Gardener

I love lots of color in my garden; the more flowers, the better! However, in this time of severe drought, planting a traditional English flower garden is out, simply because most of those plants need a lot of water.

But have no fear! You can get a beautiful, lush, colorful garden simply by planting various Salvias! Also known as sages, they bloom abundantly, often attract wildlife such as hummingbirds, beneficial insects, and pollinators (including bees and butterflies), and best of all, many are very drought tolerant.

The genus *Salvia* is in the mint family, Lamiaceae, and boasts nearly one thousand different species, including shrubs, perennials, and annuals. Almost all colors of the rainbow are present in this genus as well, making it truly a gardeners treasure box when planning a colorful garden.

Typically, the foliage is quite fragrant (think culinary sage, used in Thanksgiving stuffing) and the flowers are just a bonus. Salvias do great in our zone 9 climate, and many are hearty enough to withstand the occasional hard freeze that sometimes hits in the winter.

The genus is so huge that you could plant your entire garden with sages and not begin to scratch the surface, so in this article let's just focus on three of my favorite sages.

First up is the vibrant shrub *Salvia microphylla* "Hot Lips." This evergreen shrub is a magnet for hummingbirds, native bees, and butterflies, and its signature blooms of white and cherry-red look like little lips all puckered up! The foliage is fragrant, with a heady, spicy scent. This plant prefers full sun; it can tolerate part shade, but it will lean towards the sun. Try to plant it somewhere that it can get at least seven hours of full sunshine. While it doesn't seem to be picky about the



Salvia "Hot Lips"

type of soil it's planted in, make sure it drains well. **Once this plant is established, do not overwater**, or you will constantly be cutting it back. I water mine once every two weeks or so. I even had to take it off the regular drip line because the extra water was causing it to grow exuberantly! When you are stingy with the water, the plant behaves very well, measuring between three and four feet across and about three feet high, blooming profusely from February through December. You can cut it back pretty hard to shape as needed, and the plant will always send out new growth and lots more "hot lips"-shaped flowers!



Salvia clevelandii

My all-time favorite sage is *Salvia clevelandii* "Whirly Blue" or Whirly Blue Sage. Native to southern California's chaparral country, I've seen this plant covering the hills above Los Angeles blooming profusely with no additional water for months on end. You can usually smell this plant before you see it. The leaves give off an intoxicating spicy-woody scent that is terrific. It boasts large spikes of purple-blue flowers, "whirled" along the stems high above smoky-gray-green flat leaves. The plant grows about four feet high and about three feet wide. Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies love this plant, and all humans I've introduced it to can't get enough of its heavenly scent. Extremely hardy and drought tolerant once established, I have mine planted in a part of the garden with very hard clay with no steady water source, so I have to remember to hand water

it, usually every two to three weeks; I've let it go as long as a month with no additional water and it still looked great. It generally blooms from March through November in my yard, so the year-round color is a true bonus. The flowers are fabulous for cutting for both fresh and dried arrangements, and the scent lasts for months. Again, give it full sun for best growth.

The last sage we'll look at is not in the *Salvia* genus. *Artemisia* is another huge group of plants also known as sages belonging to the daisy family Asteraceae. *Artemisia absinthium*, or Wormwood as it is commonly known, is the key ingredient in making Absinthe, an old world liquor known for its potent intoxicating effects. The plant itself is a fabulous landscape shrub boasting pale blue-green flat linear leaves and wide twisting branches. Native to Europe but naturalized here in North America, this sage holds its own in a drought tolerant landscape. While the flowers are insignificant, it's the color of the foliage that makes this another one of my favorite garden sages. It is evergreen, and once established, can go up to a month between waterings. Again a word of warning: **do not over water this plant** or it will grow into a monster, stretching six feet wide and just as high! You will find yourself cutting it back repeatedly to keep it in bounds. This plant is a fabulous landscape addition, providing year-round color with its beautiful foliage and interest with its twisted growth pattern.

This is just a fraction of the magnificent variety of sages from the genus *Salvia* and *Artemisia* that one can add to a drought tolerant landscape bringing color, scent, and texture. The additional benefits of attracting hummingbirds and butterflies will have you feeling like you're in an English cottage garden every time you visit your garden. 🍅

Watering Options

Laura Cameron, Yolo County UCCE Master Gardener

Water is life, and the current drought is increasing awareness of how we utilize water within our lives and our landscapes. A fear of watering our plant material is prevalent during this time of drought, yet the need to keep our landscapes alive is also important. Many yards are being landscaped to a drought tolerant or xeriscape look. Lawns are either disappearing or turning to a different color each day. While new landscapes will use less water and care than a traditional lawn, they will need more watering this season than they will next year.

While many homes have existing sprinkler systems, not all are being renovated to work with the new design during the remodel. There are ways to modify the existing system with different sprinkler heads and drip irrigation lines.

Hand watering, sprinklers, and drip irrigation are three methods for applying water. Each has advantages and disadvantages. All three can be appropriate in one landscape. If your system is automated, efficiency is determined by the watering schedule used. Even drip systems can waste water and damage plants.

- Tip number one is to group plants with similar watering needs in the same area or watering zone.
- Tip number two is to mulch heavily (two to four inches), leaving space around trunks to breathe.

HAND WATERING

Hand watering is effective with small yards, beds, hanging plants, and out-of-the-way plants. Using a nozzle that can be turned off, water can be directly applied to the plant and is therefore not wasted on unplanted mulched areas. With an adjustable nozzle, focused drip irrigation can also be done. Turn the nozzle to barely a drip and set for a low soak where needed. If you don't have a drip irrigation setup, this is a great way to water your new city tree.

Garden hose nozzles come in a wide variety of sizes and styles, from wand to pistol grip to fan spray, with or without adjustable flow control. Always choose a nozzle that can be turned off and has adjustable flow control. Choose one that is comfortable to use and provides the controls you need for your landscape.

Wands have an extended arm for hard-to-reach plants and hanging baskets, allowing for precision watering. Ensure that they are adjustable and can be turned off at the handle. When hand-watering new plants, a wand is handy for applying water gently.

Rainwater barrels or cisterns save rain runoff for use later in the year. Keep a fine mesh over the entry to ensure mosquitos cannot breed in the stagnant water; also, algae may grow in the water over the course of weeks or months, so a watering can with large holes is the best delivery system. Water barrels can also be outfitted with drip irrigation lines. Many plants struggle with the salt and mineral content of well water, but rainwater, being naturally soft, is ideal—especially for young plants.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Many yards are set up with a sprinkler system for lawns and borders. As yards are remodeled, the expense of updating the sprinkler system may not be in the budget. Changing sprinkler heads is a less expensive alternative that still allows for water savings.

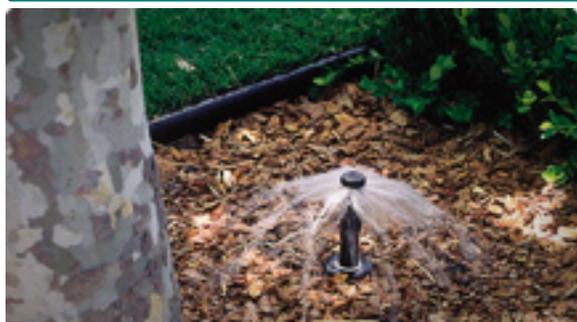
Tree, and shrub bubblers are sprinkler heads that bubble over in

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Bubbler

watering small lawn areas, ground cover, and shrub areas

place. Bubblers are perfect for watering small areas of flowers, shrubs, ground cover, and trees. For example, the miniature peach is near an old sprinkler head. Replace with a bubbler for a more efficient and focused delivery of water. Place within the root zone of trees and shrubs to soak the ground around them. Tree and shrub bubblers emit water at a slower speed than sprinkler nozzles do and can be left to run longer. Sprinkler bubblers create a slow pooling of water that percolates deep into the soil.

Newly designed pop-up sprinkler heads are good for

Spray heads spray water in specific circular patterns and can be changed based on their location. Pop-ups range from two inches to twenty inches dependent upon your need. Spray heads provide a continuous stream of water and are fitted with a nozzle. Nozzles come in full, half, or quarter circle. There are brands that can be more finely tuned.



Rotating head sprinkler

Rotor head sprinklers disperse water in circular patterns. They are best used to cover larger areas of open space. They operate by rotating a stream of water over the landscape instead of the mist produced by spray head sprinklers. Rotors cover a larger span so can be placed farther apart.

LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION

drip line to the stake and push the stake into the ground. Reposition to the canopy or drip line as the plant grows. This system delivers water deep underground to the roots. Some stakes will work with a garden hose as well as an automatic drip irrigation system.

Deep drip tree watering stakes water your trees and plants at the roots as well as aerating the soil with oxygen. Attach the

Place large heavy-duty bags filled with water and small puncture holes next to new or young trees for a slow release of water. This allows for deep saturation, no runoff, and no evaporation. This system guarantees and controls how much water you are providing your new tree. Refill every five to seven days or as needed.

Drip irrigation uses a network of pipes to carry a low flow of water under low pressure to plants. Current sprinkler heads can be changed out to drip irrigation lines, allowing precise delivery of water. Because hard water and fine clay particles can cause some drip systems to become clogged or plugged, flushing and even occasional orifice cleaning may be necessary.

With minor modifications and attention we can conserve water and still maintain a living landscape. For more water-saving tips, please see the UCCE Yolo County Master Gardener website <http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/> and click on “Gardening with Limited Water” in the banner.



Deep drip watering stakes



Summer Gardening Tips

Mary Yaussy, Yolo County UCCE Master Gardener

The Yolo County Master Gardeners' theme this year at the Yolo County Fair will be Re-duce, Re-Use, and Re-Cycle: "Creating a Sustainable Landscape." Personally, I am reducing my front lawn by recycling the grass using the sheet mulching method to create a rich composted soil. I am reusing drought tolerant plants that need to be divided or moved from other parts of my garden. The sheet mulching will take place over the summer, then the replanting in the fall. I have promised my husband the process will be budget-friendly and will look great. Besides, the lawn mower needs to be replaced, so it's a good time for the change.

This was not a quick decision. But after researching garden books, attending a local-water wise workshop, and observing other lawn conversions, goodbye front lawn.

"Grass is the cheapest plant to install and the most expensive to maintain."

—Quote by Pat Howell

GARDENING REMINDERS

- **Water**

Become familiar with your city water restrictions and do your part to save water. Many gardeners are including more drought tolerant plants in their gardens. Remember to place plants with similar water requirements together in your garden to maximize water efficiency.

Additional ways to conserve water and keep your plants happy are to keep the weeds to a minimum and to add mulch to your garden. Four inches of mulch will inhibit weeds, conserve water, and keep your plants' roots cooler. Also, if you are not using drip irrigation, consider this for some areas of your garden. Consult these tips for gardening with limited water: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/184804.pdf>.

- **Pests and Diseases**

Prevention is the easiest way to minimize plant damage. Stroll through your garden several times a week to scout out potential problems. Regularly check the leaves and flowers for evidence of pests and diseases. Typically, the hot summer heat increases pest activity.

Whitefly, spider mites, and stink bugs enjoy feasting on many kinds of plants. Thrips and horntail wasps disfigure roses, while leafminers, hornworms, and stink bugs attack tomatoes. Blasts of water and handpicking (stink bugs and hornworms) early in the morning will deter most infestations.

If the cooler spring weather caused an increase in powdery mildew and rust fungus on susceptible plants, it is usually not necessary to treat the problem with fungicides. The warmer temperatures will help reduce this problem.

To help identify the pest or disease your plant may have, consult www.ipm.ucdavis.edu for an extensive list of articles and photos for the correct treatment. Also, you can email a photo or bring in a sample to the Master Gardener office. <http://www.ucanr.edu/yolomg>.



Whitefly

- **Weeds**

“Where there is dirt, weeds will grow.” - Gail Jankowski. A few tips to reduce weeds are to use taller plants, lay newspaper down then mulch to smother new growth, and manually dig out roots when the soil is moist.

- **Lawns**

Grass can survive with less water than you think. Follow your city watering guidelines. Set the mower blade at the highest setting and recycle the clippings (pure nitrogen food as it decomposes). Considering removing the lawn? Check out this site for the technique that works best for you. www.ucanr.edu/scmg/Lawn_Replacement/Grass_Removal_Methods.

- **Fruit**

If you haven't thinned your fruit trees and vines, they can still benefit from it. Thin fruit trees (apple, peach, cherry, and apricot) and grapevines so that there are six inches between each fruit or cluster. This may seem drastic, but your fruit will be larger and more flavorful, and the thinning will greatly reduce the risk of broken limbs and branches. Mature fruit trees need a deep soaking during crop production when the soil is fairly dry. Grapes do best with deep water to a depth of eighteen inches; then allow them to dry to a depth of six inches between watering. Birds can be deterred by using netting and by placing shiny objects in the canopy.

The spotted wing drosophila, also known as the Cherry Maggot (*Drosophila suzukii*) has invaded home cherry crops for the past several summers. The maggots are not discovered until the cherries are ready to harvest. There are several methods of reducing or eliminating this pest. The most environmentally friendly method is to use Spinosad. For a complete discussion of this pest problem, visit www.ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/PEST/NOTES/pnsponsoredwingdrosophila.pdf.



Spotted Wing Drosophila

- **Vegetables and Herbs**

The most popular vegetable (technically a fruit) is the tomato. It usually grows effortlessly and is happiest when it is deep-watered (eight inches) twice a week. This helps reduce cracking, ridging, and blossom end rot.

To keep vegetable crops continually blooming, harvest regularly, and continue inspecting for pests. In August, pinch back the plants to help the existing fruit to ripen before the cooler weather arrives. For the most intense flavor, harvest herbs just as the flowers begin to form. If your harvest is bountiful, dry your herbs by hanging them upside down in bunches for future use.

Now is the time to begin thinking about your fall vegetable harvest. Fall vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, snap peas, beets, carrots, and winter squash, need to be seeded in July or transplanted in August for your fall vegetable garden.

- **Flowers**

Flowers need to be deadheaded to encourage repeat blooming. Consider reducing or eliminating fertilizer during drought. For a full October bloom, prune your roses back by one-third in August. If you prefer the beauty of rose hips, then refrain from pruning your roses in August.

Potted plants and hanging baskets need a weekly feeding of liquid fertilizer (15-30-15). They also require more frequent watering. Reduce water needs by shading pots from harsh sun and by planting annuals such as

portulaca that need less water.

Herbaceous plants such as cosmos, delphiniums, foxglove, and peonies need to be staked or supported. Continue to keep your garden free of weeds.

Prune spring-blooming shrubs after the blossoms drop. Spring-blooming vines, such as lavender trumpet vine and clematis, should be pruned after the blooms have faded. Fertilize after pruning to encourage bud set for next spring.

It is not too late to plant quick-blooming summer seeds, such as nasturtiums, sunflowers and cosmos. You can also plant summer-blooming bulbs, such as dahlias and cannas.

Continue to harvest your vegetable and herb crops regularly to promote and prolong summer's bounty.

Summer gardens bring enjoyable surprises and anticipation. Try planning some new flower, herb, and vegetable varieties. You may discover that you have a new favorite to add to your tried-and-true plantings.

Tend your summer garden like the good friend it is. It will provide a season of bountiful rewards and will be a welcoming summer retreat.

GARDEN BOOKS

Reimagining The California Lawn (Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Design), by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien.

The West without Water, by B. Lynn Ingram and Frances Malmud-Roam.

Water 4.0: The Past, Present, and Future of the World's Most Vital Resource, by David Sedlak.

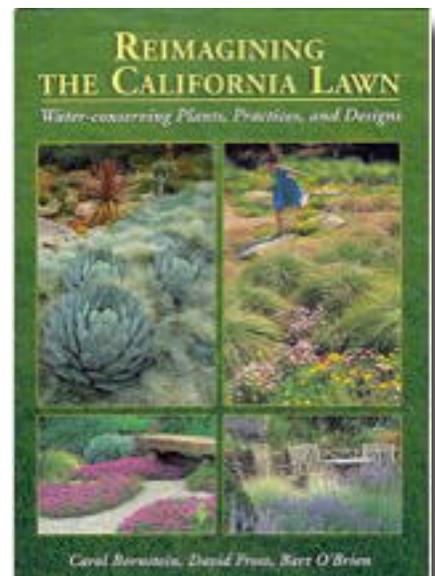
SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Ongoing Wednesday Water Workshops "Saving Water Together," sponsored by the city of Davis. www.water.cityofdavis.org/water-conservation.
- Visit Haagen-Dazs Bee Garden: <http://hhbhgarden.ucdavis.edu/welcome>.
- California State Fair, July 10-26: www.castatefair.org.
- Fair Oaks Horticultural Center Open Garden, September 19.
- Harvest Day August 1: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/sacmg>.
- 8th Annual Tomato Festival, August 8, Woodland, CA: www.woodlandtomatofestival.com.
- Yolo County Fair, August 19-23: www.yolocountyfair.net.
- UC Davis Arboretum: ongoing; check calendar: <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/calendar.aspx>.
- Faarmers; Markets

Davis Farmers Market, every Saturday.

West Sacramento Farmers Market, every Thursday until end of August.

Woodland Farmers Market, First and Third Saturday until end of August.



HOW TO CONTACT US:

Like us on Facebook: UCCE Yolo County Master Gardeners.

Check our website for upcoming workshops and FREE gardening publications: <http://ucanr.edu/yolomg>.

Email questions: mgyolo@ucdavis.edu .

Telephone: 530-666-8143.



*Questions about your garden?
We'd love to help!*

Master Gardener Hotline..... (530) 666-8737

Our message centers will take your questions and information. Please leave your name, address, phone number and a description of your problem. A Master Gardener will research your problem and return your call.

E-Mail..... mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Drop In..... Tuesday & Friday, 9-11 a.m.
70 Cottonwood St., Woodland

Web Site <http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/>

Facebook..... UCCE Yolo County Master Gardeners



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University of California
 Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension

The Yolo Gardener - Summer 2015

Send a Letter
to an Editor!

email: mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

or

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http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/Yolo_Gardener

Judy

Judy McClure, Master Gardener Coordinator