

**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
*Making a Difference for California*



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*Whether it's a vegetable garden, house plants or a landscape...*

# A Garden Runs Through It

This newsletter is  
produced by:

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## This month's links:

October 2011

- [Winter Pest Management in Backyard Deciduous Fruit Trees](#)
- [Bordeaux mixture](#)
- [Peaches and Nectarines](#)

## OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,  
9am—12pm  
1pm—4pm  
UCCE office,  
100 Sunrise Blvd,  
Colusa  
458-0570

## Information Booth Locations:

Arbuckle Pumpkin Festival  
October 1, 10am-4pm

Have a question? Email us at [mgcolusa@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgcolusa@ucdavis.edu)



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### I had Peach Leaf Curl last year. What can I do this year to prevent it?

Peach leaf curl first appears in spring as reddish areas on developing leaves. These areas become thickened and puckered, causing leaves to curl and severely distort. They are replaced by a second set of leaves that develop more normally unless wet weather continues. Leaf symptoms appear about 2 weeks after leaves emerge from buds.

#### MANAGEMENT

To prevent peach leaf curl, use resistant peach and nectarine varieties where possible. Generally a single early treatment when the tree is dormant is effective, although in areas of high rainfall or during a particularly wet winter, it might be advisable to apply a second spray late in the dormant season, preferably as flower buds begin to swell but before green leaf tips are first visible. In our area twice a year is recommended. If it's a very wet year a third time is needed. As a rule of thumb, spray at Thanksgiving and then again at Valentines. Some people also recommend spraying at Christmas.

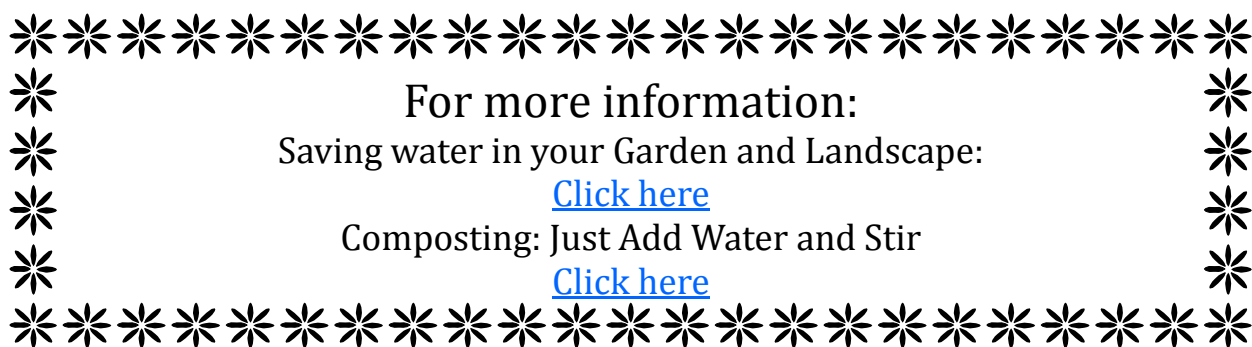
#### Fungicides

**Copper.** Historically, the most commonly used fungicides available to home gardeners have been the fixed copper products. For all copper-containing products, the active ingredient, copper, is listed as "metallic copper equivalent," or MCE, on the label. Various product formulations differ widely in their metallic copper content. The higher the MCE, the greater the amount of copper and the more effective the product will be. However, other factors such as coverage, use of additives such stickers and spreaders, and frequency and duration of rain, which can wash off the copper, also will impact product effectiveness. In all cases, the copper is active only when it is wet, when the copper ions are in solution.

**Bordeaux Mixture.** Copper sulfate is not a fixed copper and, when used alone, is less effective than tribasic copper sulfate or other fixed copper products. However, if copper sulfate is mixed with hydrated lime to make a Bordeaux mixture, the copper sulfate and calcium in the lime react together to form a fixed copper product that is effective against peach leaf curl. Bordeaux mixture is not available for sale; it must be mixed up just before application, and the ingredients can be very difficult to find.

**Application.** Thorough coverage with any fungicide is essential to obtain adequate disease control. Trees should be sprayed to the point of runoff or until they are dripping. When using pesticides, always read and follow the label for usage, rates, toxicity, and proper disposal. Proper protective clothing and gear including goggles should be used when handling any pesticides.

For more complete information [click here](#).



## Be a Composter

Try these composting tips:

- Add water to speed up composting
- Add shredded paper



**Composting**  
**Just add water and stir!**  
**No fancy contraptions needed**

- Compost happens, but the time varies with your level of labor
- Backyard composting allows you to recycle your yard clippings and kitchen scraps into valuable soil amendment.

For upcoming events and classes:

[Statewide Gardening Classes](#)

For more information about gardening in California:

[California Gardening](#)

For more information about water wise plants:

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

For water saving tips:

[Save Our Water](#)

The Colusa County Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a partnership among the University of California, USDA, Colusa County and the Colusa County Farm Bureau. Master Gardener volunteers extend horticultural information and offer educational programs and garden-related demonstrations in Colusa County.

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*To simply information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.*

University of California, United States Department of Agriculture, Colusa County Cooperating.  
For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

