

Meetings and Announcements

In this second Green Scene of December, I mention an additional announcement. These are given in chronological order.

Annual Pruning Demonstrations

We plan to offer our annual pruning demonstration for deciduous fruit trees January 11, Wednesday, and January 12, Thursday. Location is at our demonstration orchard adjacent to the UC Cooperative Extension building, 1031 S. Mt. Vernon Ave. For both days, the start time will be 12 noon. Trees will include peaches, apricot and cherry, and also grapevines. We plan to have on-hand for sale our publication *Pruning Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees*, the best on this subject I have found. If you want to learn about fruit trees, please feel welcome to attend. There is no charge nor is pre-registration required. Mohammad Yaghmour, our Advisor for commercial orchards, will lead the demonstration.

Return to Chiang Mai, Thailand—Late January to early February 2023

Several of us had the opportunity to visit Chiang Mai, Thailand, during our 2019 Horticulture Study Tour. I plan to make a return visit and invite you to join me. I am planning to fly out January 28, Saturday night (late flight out of the Bradley Terminal), arriving Tuesday, January 30 (lose a day across the International Date Line). We would all stay at the Empress Hotel, where we stayed before, with return to the U.S. Tuesday, February 7.

I plan to visit several horticultural areas, which will be arranged when in Chiang Mai. These include the Mae Rim Demonstration Farm (the best definition of sustainability I have found anywhere), the Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden, Doi Suthep and Bhubing Palace, and likely others. Such a visit also affords opportunity to see handicrafts, including gems. The date frame includes the annual Chiang Mai International Flower Festival, held the first weekend of February, a gala event.

Travel Gallery of Pasadena, which has handled the business arrangements for our horticultural tours, is handling reservations for the Empress and transfers to and from the airport in Chiang Mai for our group. They will also handle air if you wish. If you want to join me, please contact Travel Gallery for additional details, 1-800-858-6999. Details are also available on line — <https://travelgallery.grcoll.co/go/hortthailand>. In light of the Flower Festival, hotel reservations may fill quickly.

I know this is short notice, but I do want to offer this opportunity to you to visit Thailand and its lovely horticulture. I think this late January-February time frame is the best time to visit northern Thailand, the dry season, and ahead of Songkran, and the Flower Festival is fun and interesting. You may send me an email me if questions, jfkarlik@ucanr.edu

*** New* Horticulture Classes for Landscapes and Gardens, Spring 2023**

We expect to begin a series of horticulture classes in February, 2023. The topics will be similar to those offered in past years, such as soil science, plant science, selection and care of fruit trees, vegetable gardens, landscape maintenance, and so forth. More details in the January Green Scene.

40th Annual Landscape Management Seminar

The 40th Annual Landscape Management Seminar is planned for Thursday, February 16, 2023, at Hodels in Bakersfield. We will apply for eight hours of PCA credit including two hours of laws. The program is being developed, and we especially welcome back Dr. Jim Downer from UCCE to speak about pruning and tree diseases.

Spring 2023 Horticultural Tour

Our offering of horticultural tours of gardens and landscapes was interrupted by Covid. Indeed, plans are underway for our horticultural tour to England, Scotland and Wales, in spring, 2023. The dates are May 12 departure and May 27 return. There will be more information available from me via the Greenscene and at the Travel Gallery website at <https://www.travelgallery.com/> as available.

Winter Pruning of Outdoor Roses

In December to early January on the valley floor of Kern County, annual winter pruning will be needed for hybrid teas and grandifloras. The time of pruning can be delayed in mountain areas until the coldest weather has passed, but before bud swell occurs.

Rose pruning in home gardens and landscapes can be a simple matter requiring little time. As for other woody plants, pruning is used for roses to invigorate the plant and direct its growth, but the amount of pruning depends on rose type and purpose in the landscape.

Broadly speaking, most roses grown outdoors can be divided into two groups. Roses grown for cut flowers include hybrid teas and grandifloras, for example, the classic varieties 'Peace,' 'Oklahoma,' 'Mister Lincoln,' and 'Chrysler Imperial.' The shrub- or landscape-type roses are grown as floriferous shrubs, for example, the varieties 'Pink Simplicity,' 'Knock Out,' and 'Flutterbye.'

For hybrid tea and similar roses, we remove dead, diseased and damaged wood as well as older canes showing poor vigor. Canes severely affected by scale insects can also be removed. The rose plant can be thinned, removing central canes to favor 3-5 canes growing toward the outside. Although a standard recommendation is to make cuts at a 45°

angle just above an outward-facing bud, it is not necessary for plant health to be so precise, since roses have many dormant buds and can form new buds readily. For hybrid teas and grandifloras, about 10-15 minutes per plant should be enough time for pruning. In other words, don't worry too much about exactly how and where cuts are made. An exception to that statement would be pruning for show roses and, of course, we are not talking about greenhouse flower production where pruning is specific per variety.

The function of the rose plant in the landscape should influence the amount of pruning. Roses used for screens or accent plantings can be lightly pruned so as to retain their size, removing perhaps 1/3 of the height. Pruning a rose to shorter canes does result in longer flower stems, if that is important to you.

Shrub- or landscape-type roses should be treated as floriferous shrubs, and should not be pruned back to a few short canes as hybrid teas can be. Dead wood should be removed. Older canes can be removed, and (gasp) a hedge trimmer can be used for speed to shorten long canes and make the plant a bit smaller in size. Use of a hedge trimmer, however, does not imply that plants should be formed into little globes or boxes, diminishing their aesthetic value and defeating their purpose in the landscape. Shrub/landscape roses are typically (and should be) only lightly pruned, since they function as colorful shrubs, so upright varieties can be left to 5-8 feet.

A recent peer-reviewed study conducted by Dr. Jim Downer of the University of California Cooperative Extension showed that it is variety rather than pruning that has the most influence on flower number and growth of landscape-type outdoor roses (Downer et al., 2015, *Acta Horticulturae* 1064: 253-258). There were few differences in plant quality between intermediate pruning treatments (36 or 18 inches height). Severe pruning (6 inches) resulted in significantly fewer flowers in most varieties during the four-year study period. Plants pruned lightly had the greatest number of flowers. Variety selection had the most influence on plant characteristics over four years.

The University of California has three free publications, recently revised and updated, that describe the care of outdoor roses including insect and disease management. These can be read and downloaded from the UCIPM website, <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

John Karlik Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science

Disclaimer: Discussion of research findings necessitates using trade names. This does not constitute product endorsement, nor does it suggest products not listed would not be suitable for use. Some research results included involve use of chemicals which are currently registered for use, or may involve use which would be considered out of label. These results are reported but are not a recommendation from the University of California for use. Consult the label and use it as the basis of all recommendations.

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service. UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities. UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to: John I. Sims, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer and Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. Email: jsims@ucanr.edu. Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.
