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UC Master Gardener Program
UC CE

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In This Issue

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Dormant Season and Fruit Tree Pests

By Kathleen Wiersch, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Many gardeners are concerned with damage that pests do to fruit trees and of course to the fruit itself. And many have heard that winter is the "best" time to deal with these pests for deciduous fruit trees like apples, peaches, plums, etc. This is in most cases true, but first of all consider the following:

1. Is the "damage" to the tree something that happens every year and you still get fruit?
2. Do you still get edible fruit?

Adult San Jose scale. Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.

If the answer to either of these questions is yes or maybe, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach asks us to take the time (which may be multiple seasons) to identify the pest, assess the damage and choose a solution. While there are some insect pests that are generalists across many fruit trees, each type of fruit tree has some "usual suspects" that can shorten the list.

Most insect and mite pests of fruit trees are controlled by many beneficial species of insects. Planting cover crops and other plants specifically for the beneficials nearby will help attract them to your orchard. Do not spray for pests unless you are certain they are present in damaging numbers. Unnecessary sprays reduce control provided by beneficial species and may result in added damage from pests freed from their natural controls.

Ok, so you have identified a specific pest, let's say you have scale insects on a plum. Yes, you were right about dormant season being the best time to treat with sprays. Why? Because the beneficial insects, both pollinators and predatory insects, are less likely to be on your trees.

If you are confident in your pest identification, you can go to the UC IPM page for fruit trees and select the right tree, such as "Plums and Prunes." If you aren't confident, you can try the Plant Problem Diagnostic Tool. The page on scales gives you photos to help identify the specific type of scale and also talks about management options. In this case, many species are usually well controlled by beneficial predators and parasites (natural enemies). However, sometimes natural enemies are disrupted by ants, dust, or the application of persistent broad-spectrum insecticides. UC IPM suggests that preserving parasites and predators (such as by con-

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trolling pest-tending ants) may be enough to bring about gradual control of certain scales as natural enemies become more abundant. A well-timed and thorough spray of horticultural (narrow-range) oil during the dormant season, or soon after scale crawlers are active in late winter to early summer, can provide good control of most species of scale.

What is horticultural oil? Horticultural oils are highly refined petroleum/paraffin products that are made specifically for controlling plant pests. If applied at the right time and in the right way (always read the label), horticultural oils can be one important tool in controlling many common soft-bodied garden pests such as mites, aphids, white flies and mealybugs. Here's a great master gardener article that goes into depth on what these oils can accomplish. Even when fruit trees are not in bloom, orchard floor plants may be, so even in "dormant" season it is recommended to spray these oils in the late evening, night, or early morning while bees are not actively foraging.

Neem oil has become very popular in recent years because it is organic. Like horticultural oil, it can help control soft-bodied fruit tree pests with little risk to beneficials when sprayed in the dormant season. One lesser known corner of the UC IPM website details the ingredients and the relative hazard rating for pesticides. Neem oil is considered a "low" hazard overall but the website still cautions against using it when bees are active or when overspray to surrounding plants is likely. Neem oil also acts as a fungicide which can be beneficial.

UC ANR publishes a helpful Calendar of Backyard Orchard Operations. Caution—just because you have an XYZ fruit tree, doesn't mean you need to apply listed sprays. If your pear tree doesn't have a worrisome amount of scale, mites, aphids or pear psylla, you don't need to spray. It is a core concept of IPM that careful observation should take place before applying any pesticides even those like horticultural oil and neem oil that cause relatively less collateral damage.

One final note: If your trees have been maintained using a great deal of pesticides throughout the year, it may take some time to get back into a more balanced approach with natural predators doing the bulk of the work. Be patient and enjoy your newly improved ecosystem!

References:

- *Pests & Diseases*. University of California, The California Backyard Orchard. n.d. https://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pests_&_Diseases/
- *Fruit trees, nuts, berries, & grapevines*. UC IPM. n.d. https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/fruit.html
- Vossen, Paul and Deborah Silver, Sonoma and Marin Co. UCCE. *Calendar of Backyard Gardening Operations for Selected Temperate Fruit and Nut Trees*. https://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/calendar.pdf

Winter bloomer Snowy River wattle, Acacia boormanii. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Arboretum.

Designing for Winter Interest

By Jan Birdsall, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

When we are designing for spring or summer blooming gardens, or even fall, it is easy to think of numerous plants you would like to put in your garden. However, when thinking of winter color interest for your garden, a lot of gardeners are hard pressed to name even a few. Those that we do remember include mostly annuals that step up to fill the gap. They can be found in plant stores during the fall and winter, including calendula, Iceland poppy, pansy, primrose and snapdragons, or even fava beans.

Not as well-known are the wide variety of perennial plants. These plants display colorful branches, foliage, berries, or flowers in the winter. They can also meet your native plant concerns, water efficient needs or even bee loving requirements. Twenty-four plants come up when searching "winter" in the blooming seasons box of the UC Davis Arboretum All-Star Plant Database website. Included are bright yellow and aromatic flowers of the Snowy River wattle (*Acacia boormanii*), or the shiny multi-colored leaves and powerful fragrant flowers of winter daphne (*Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata'), or the rose-like Lenten rose (*Helleborus* x *hybridus*). These are just a few of those listed that will enhance our winter gardens. Other winter blooming plants in our area are also a variety of manzanita and cyclamen. Water wise plants with winter interest are also listed here.

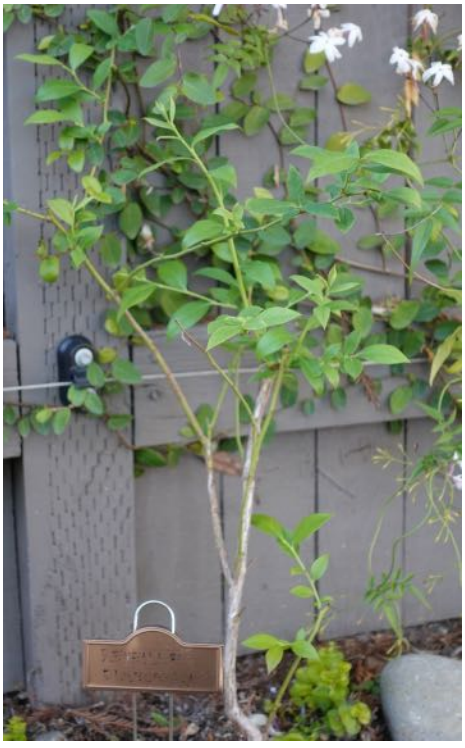
Spring is the perfect time to plant these winter eye catchers for a year around garden. Winter is the time to discover the right plants for your situation.

All Things Blueberries

By Michelle Marquard-Lakhani, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

As we fall headfirst toward winter you are likely preparing your garden for the season ahead. A part of this preparation may include caring for your blueberry bushes; mine certainly does. Blueberries are hardy bushes, but you will want to protect them against frostbite if there is a risk of a hard freeze in your area, especially young bushes. This time of year is also a good time to make sure your soil acidity level is in the desired range for spring bud development. The ideal acidity range (pH level) for blueberries is between 4.0 and 5.2. If you need to acidify your blueberries you can do so using sulfur. You'll want to continue to monitor during our wet season to help maintain acid soil conditions. If you fertilize your blueberries, do so with care as fertilizer can have a neutralizing effect on the soil acidity level. Finally, mulch in early fall weather so roots remain cool and moist.

Pruning: As fall gives way to winter your blueberry bush will go dormant. Late December/early January is a good time to prune your blueberry bushes.



Reveille blueberry bush (year one). Photo by Michelle Marquard-Lakhani.

Blueberries on the bush. Photo by Brenda Dawson.

Blueberries need a good annual pruning; the extent of pruning depends on the age of your blueberry bush.

In the first two years it is recommended you remove all blossoms to allow the plant to concentrate its energy on developing the root system. Additionally, remove diseased and damaged branches, including any branches that show signs of frostbite. After the second year, prune out all but six to eight branches, suckers, and weak wood in December or early January. In more mature bushes you'll want to prune back new canes just below the canopy, thin slightly to allow light to penetrate through the bush, remove weak shoots at the crown, remove canes that cross one another, and finally remove older canes to promote new fruiting wood.

Planting: If you're planting blueberries for the first time, or adding another blueberry bush to your garden, you'll want to consider doing this in the late winter or early spring. Remember, when you're planting or caring for blueberry bushes, they like soil conditions that are highly acidic (pH level between 4.0-5.2), well-draining and high in organic matter. Also, plan your location ahead of time. Blueberries enjoy full morning sun but dappled sun or shade in the afternoon; full sun in the afternoon can stress the plant and impact blueberry production.

Selecting: There are many varietals well suited to our local climate; look for southern highbush cultivars. These cultivars come in a range of statures (erect or spreading), harvest periods (early, mid-season, and late), and most are highly productive with nice fruit size. Finally, another thing to consider: while blueberries are self-pollinating, they are better producers when more than one variety is present for cross-pollination.

Blueberry in bloom. © 2005 Regents of the University of California.

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There's Fungus Among Us

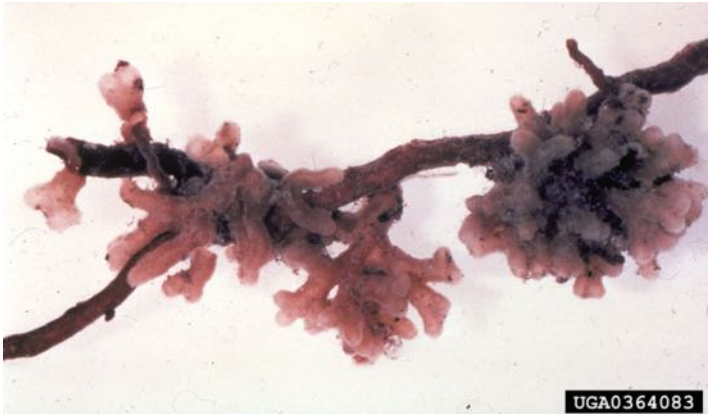
by Linda Wold , UC Master Gardener of Placer County

While tending your garden, have you ever wondered what's taking place below the soil to produce such wonderful vegetables or beautiful flowers? Would it surprise you to know that there are partnerships between the roots of some of your plants and fungi? These partnerships are known as mycorrhizae. It is a symbiotic association where the two sides support each other and have a personal interest in maintaining their counterpart's well-being for survival.

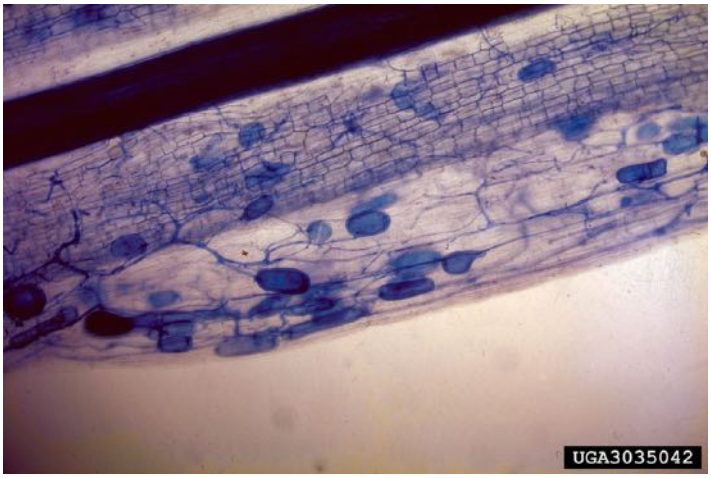
So, how does this symbiotic association work? Plants can only absorb nutrients that are next to the roots, while the mycorrhizal fungus needs roots to survive. Plants produce carbohydrates that in turn create sugars, which are the main food source for the fungus. The fungus eats the carbohydrates and continues to grow. In return, the fungus creates a network of underground "feeders" that work as extensions of the plant's roots. These extensions, known as hyphae, become like a second root system for the plant. Once a mycorrhizal fungus colonizes the host plant, its mycelia (root-like structures of a fungus) can grow over large distances to neighboring plants, connecting them together by a common network. This extension of the root network allows plants to acquire water and nutrients (especially nitrogen and phosphorus) far beyond its root zone, rendering plants more resilient to drought and nutrient deficiency. The ability of mycorrhizae to form this underground web also enables the connected plants to communicate with each other through chemical signals and exchange of water and nutrients. There is also the benefit of soil structure improvement by the formation of stable soil aggregates, which in turn limits erosion and leaching of nutrients.

There are two types of mycorrhizae:

- **Ecto**mycorrhizae **form an extensive dense sheath around the roots**, called a mantle. Hyphae from the fungi extend from the mantle into the soil, which increases the surface area for water and mineral absorption. This type of mycorrhizae is found in forest trees, especially conifers, birches, and oaks.



Ectomycorrhiza on conifer root tips. Photo by Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org. CC BY 3.0 US.



Endomycorrhiza inside the root of black walnut. Photo by Robert L. Anderson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org. CC BY 3.0 US.

- **Endo**mycorrhizae, also called arbuscular mycorrhizae, do not form a dense sheath over the root. Instead, **the fungal mycelium is embedded within the root tissue**. This type of mycorrhizae is found with the majority of our garden plants.

While there are mycorrhizal fungi inoculants on the market, there is not enough supporting scientific data to conclusively prove the efficacy of them in all cases. Caution should be exercised to purchase an inoculum from a reputable source and do your homework first. Scientific analysis has shown that many of the 'over the counter' products that claim to contain live mycelium, do not in fact live up to that promise. Instead of inoculants, some of your efforts to support the important symbiotic relationship with plant roots and mycorrhizal establishment can include eliminating the use of commercial fertilizers and using organic composting materials instead. A high input of inorganic nitrogen and phosphorous are detrimental to mycorrhizae, so use a low to moderate dose of N and P organic fertilizers. Plant cover crops and avoid disturbance of the soil via rototilling.

Take heart that some fungus among us is a good thing!

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Unusual Edible: Roselle

By Julie Lowrie, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Hibiscus sabdariffa, commonly called Roselle, is a highly edible plant in the *Malvaceae* family. Originating in West Africa, it has become common worldwide, including the United States, and is native to India and Malaysia. Its leaves are prepared as a spicy version of spinach in tropical and sub-tropical zones. It produces edible red calyxes (the outermost whorl of a flower), which have versatile uses such as in food preparation for wines, teas, jams, juices, jelly, and syrup; food and cosmetic pigments; and medicinal applications, besides manufacturing strong hemp twine, string, and cord from Roselle calyxes.

Red calyxes of Roselle flowers. Photo by Julie Lowrie.

Roselle has traditionally been recognized for its diverse pharmacological properties, including antihypertensive, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties. Studies using Roselle extracts have reported beneficial impacts on metabolic health, blood sugar, and lipid regulation. While considered a safe herbal supplement, additional research is warranted to determine potential interactions with other medicines, so check in with your medical provider before ingesting Roselle extracts.

The flowers are three to four inches in diameter with a dark red circle at the base of the petals. For Placer and Nevada Counties (USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 9a and 9b), Roselle performs perennially, blooming from mid to late October, while its fruits will mature in November and December. Roselle needs twelve or more hours of darkness to promote abundant flowering.

Hardenbergia
Hardenbergia violacea

By Donna Olson, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Some of my favorite flowers in the garden have been blue or purple, and hardenbergia (*Hardenbergia violacea*) was no exception. When we moved here several years ago from the Midwest, I had never heard of hardenbergia, but in late winter I was pleasantly surprised when the vines on my fence exploded into a symphony of small purple blossoms.

Hardenbergia (also known as lilac vine) is not a California native, but it is truly beautiful when in bloom. UC Davis Arboretum describes hardenbergia as a "vigorous evergreen vine [that] can be used to cover an arbor, pergola or wall; small, purple, pea-like flowers bloom in late winter to early spring; other cultivars have white or pink flowers." It can thrive in full sun to partial shade, and its water needs are listed as very low to low. If you grow it on a fence it would be best to use some sort of a trellis rather than letting it grow directly on the fence. We discovered that the tendrils grew through the pieces of wood on the fence and after a number of years they had grown thick enough to dislodge the top piece of the fence.

It requires a little pruning annually to control its size and it should be pruned after blooming to avoid tangling.

If you enjoy blue/purple flowers, hardenbergia maybe a welcome addition to your garden. If you visit the arboretum, you can see this vine in the Arboretum Terrace Garden or the Australian Collection.

Master Gardeners of Nevada County, Ann Wright and Tiffany Day picked up 90 plants awarded by the Xerces Society for a hedgerow area of the Demonstration Garden. Photo courtesy of MGNC.

Master Gardeners of Nevada County Demonstration Garden News

By Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Last February Master Gardeners in Nevada County applied for a "grant of plants" from the Xerces Society for the Oak Habitat area at the Demonstration Garden. The grant awarded later in the spring was the Sierra Foothill Hedgerow Kit. Planning and preparations for planting started soon thereafter and have picked up again this fall after a hot summer. The plants were picked up in late October, and Master Gardeners awaited significant rain to start the process of planting the plant awards. Over 90 native plants were awarded in the kit. There are 14 different varieties of plants including several species of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp*.) as well as species of milkweed and other pollinators. A list of plants in the kits and the process of applying for the grant are on the Xerces website.

The Master Gardeners are excited to add these plants to our native habitat, and work will continue as weather allows this winter. Other winter projects will include the long-awaited new fencing around the raised bed area. We are hopeful that installation will begin in January. In the meantime, the raised bed area was awash with color last fall, and we were so happy to have one of our Master Gardener training classes in the garden to enhance the content on growing fruit trees. We are excited to welcome new Master Gardeners to the Demonstration Garden!

News from the Placer County Demonstration Garden

By Karen Lopez, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

For the MGPC Demonstration Garden it has been an exciting several months of firsts! It's hard to believe that it's been less than nine months since our ribbon cutting in March. The town of Loomis and the entire Placer County community has been so supportive and we have enjoyed all the opportunities to interact with them!

We had our Fall Open House on October 5, which coincided with the Town of Loomis Fruit Shed Fest (previously the Eggplant Festival). We welcomed over 250 visitors into the garden on that day. Since fall is the perfect time to plant California natives, we decided to build the event around them. We had two workshops. One was a "how-to" on CA native container planting, led by Tece Markel, and the other was all about saving and sowing CA native seeds, led by Peggy Beltramo. Both were very popular and well attended! We also had two CA native plant vendors on site and our friends from the local Redbud chapter of California Native Plant Society (CNPS) had a table set up. It was a fun event and it highlighted to Placer County residents that California native plants have a place in every landscape.

We continue to have docent staffed open garden hours from 10:00 am to noon the second Saturday of every month to coincide with our speaker series at the Loomis Library. We are taking the month of December off, but we will be back in January with lots of interesting topics and events planned in 2025!

See you in the garden!

Visitors enjoying the garden on open garden day. Photo by Sandi Fitzpatrick.

Garden Q&As

Grasshopper nymph on rice.
Photo by Jack Kelly Clark

Have gardening questions?
Contact a Master Gardener!

Placer County
530-889-7388
or submit a question electronically

Nevada County
530.273.0919
or submit a question electronically

Why did we have increased grasshopper activity in 2024?

By Linda Wold and Lynn Merrick, UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

The grasshoppers that were found in areas of Placer County in the late spring of 2024 were identified as short-horned *Melanoplus spp.* grasshoppers. According to the Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District:

> *The young grasshoppers (called "nymphs") emerge from the soil in late spring, commonly in pastures or field environments. Melanoplus grasshoppers are general feeders and consume a wide variety of plants. They prefer young green plants and enjoy consuming lettuce, beans, corn, carrots, onions, and some annual flowers. They dislike tomatoes and squash, so your tomato plants are safe unless there are no other food options nearby. The nymphs molt (shed their skin) five times over about two months before developing into winged, flying adults.*

Grasshoppers are a sporadic garden pest. Some years you might only notice a few, and other years their populations can boom. Outbreaks usually occur every eight to ten years in California, sometimes lasting one to three years. When their source of wild food becomes harder to find, grasshoppers will migrate into nearby areas looking for more food, with landscaped areas being a targeted desirable food source. While damage to gardens is usually limited to a few weeks in summer, unfortunately there is no expected time frame as to how long the grasshopper infestation will last.

Once grasshoppers are present in landscaping in large numbers, control options are limited. Because insecticides are generally ineffective against grasshoppers due to low residual activity of only a few days, mitigation suggestions from the Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District include the following:

> *Individual plants may be protected by covering them with screens or cloth. However, grasshoppers will eat through cloth or plastic screen if hungry enough. Metal window screen is resistant to grasshopper mouthparts. A successful screening strategy could include screening your most desirable plants and leaving other plants available for grasshoppers to eat. Grasshopper populations may be reduced by manually removing insects through sweeping or raking and bagging for disposal. However, physical removal may not be effective for large grasshopper populations and will require ongoing removal to control.*

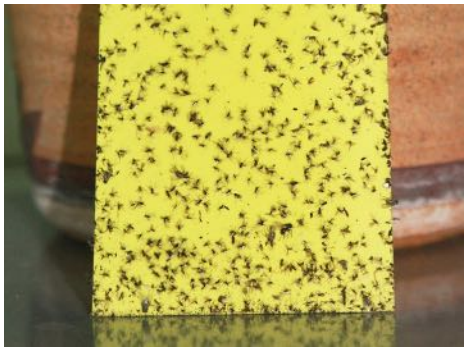
For more information, visit our UC ANR IP website: https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74103.html.

Insect Bytes: Fungus Gnats—Seriously annoying but not really dangerous

By Bonnie Bradt, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

What ARE those eensy little fly things all OVER my houseplants?

Fungus gnats are a teeny fly that are a major pain, primarily on indoor and greenhouse plants. Attracted to the moisture of potting soil, adult gnats lay their eggs (up to 200) on organic matter near the soil surface. After about three (count 'em THREE) days, the eggs hatch into microscopic sized larvae, which burrow to feed on the cool yummy soil material. Adult gnats emerge two weeks later to repeat the process. Adults live for about one week. And on and on…



Sticky trap catches many fungus gnats. Photo by Bonnie Bradt.

I don't think there's a greenhouse (or houseplant) grower that DOESN'T have fungus gnats cruising around. Even if your area is almost a closed system, they come in almost every bag of potting soil from every source. Don't blame the nursery or the manufacturer of your soil, the critters are just everywhere! Almost impossible to keep them out. They can, of course, move from one area to another, as they have wings. They are completely harmless to humans as they can't bite us nor can they spread human diseases. But if present in large numbers, they can feed on and damage tender plant rootlets and spread the fungus that is responsible for "damping off" in seedlings.

The good news is, they CAN be dealt with or at least minimized. The photo shows a yellow sticky trap that I placed in my greenhouse, near my flats of infested growing seedlings. Worked great! I kept yellow stickies in there all my indoor growing season. Of course you can also use these in the garden.

Fungus gnats are usually drawn to soils and potting media that have been over-irrigated. Letting the surface of the soil dry out between waterings will reduce the gnat problem.

They can also be controlled by watering with the following. Dissolve a mosquito "dunk" consisting of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis,* primarily sold as mosquito control for ponds (not the one for caterpillars), in 1 gallon of water. At least overnight. Remove the remaining parts of the dunk, and water your infested plants with this water for several weeks. These bacteria will infect and help control the gnat larvae as it helps control mosquito larvae. GOOD LUCK.

BotLat Corner

Host Plants

By Peggy Beltramo, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Above: Showy milkweed, photo by Peggy Beltramo. Below: False indigo, photo by John Rusk, CC BY 2.0.

In this issue of Curious Gardener, let's explore two "host" plants. These are plants that provide food for caterpillars. We will highlight milkweed, the host plant for the endangered monarch butterfly, and false indigo which feeds the caterpillars of the dogface butterfly, our state insect.

Asclepias is the botanical Latin genus name for milkweed. It honors the Greek god of medicine, Asklepios. For more information click here. There are a number of native milkweeds that support monarchs. *A. fascicularis* is narrowleaf milkweed. *Fascicularis* means "bundles", referring to the whorled leaves. *A. speciosa* is showy milkweed. *Speciosa* refers to the "showy" flowers of this milkweed.

Our second BotLat butterfly, is the California dogface butterfly, our state insect. Its host plant is false indigo, *Amorpha californica*. The genus, *amorpha*, means "without form," referring to its single petaled flower. The species meaning is an easy one, right? It denotes our state of California. I chose to mention this butterfly because it IS our state insect. Its common name, dogface butterfly refers to the "poodle head" design on the male's wings. Read more about our state butterfly, and see photos here.

UC Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties Workshop and Events Calendar

Always check our websites for the most up to date event information.

Nevada County: ncmg.ucanr.org Placer County: pcmg.ucanr.edu

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December

Happy Holidays!

We're taking a break
but you can watch recordings of
past workshops on our
YouTube Channels!

Master Gardeners of Nevada County here

Master Gardeners of Placer County here

January

January 11
10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Placer County Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

January 11
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Seed Saving Techniques
Loomis Library

January 18
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Roots, Fruits, and Flowers
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-registeration required. Click here.

January 25
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Seed Swap Day
Loomis Veterans Memorial Hall

Nevada County Events in Green boxes

Placer County Events in Yellow Boxes

February

February 1
10:00 am to noon
Gardening for Birds and Butterflies
Helling Library

February 8
10:00 am to noon
Designing & Planning Your Vegetable Garden
Helling Library

February 8
10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Placer County Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

February 8
10:00 am to 11:30 am
10 Tips for Fruit Tree Care
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-registration required. Click here.

February 8
10:30 am to 11:30 am
How to Select & Care for Fruit Trees
Loomis Library

February 15
10:00 am to noon
Hands on Fruit Tree Pruning
Nevada County Demonstration Garden

Read Past Issues of *The Curious Gardener*

Ten years of past issues can be accessed at http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Curious_Gardener_Newsletter/?newsList=3648

February 22
10:00 am to noon
50 Ways to Lose Your Lawn
Helling Library

March

March 1
10:00 am to noon
Totally Tomatoes
Helling Library

March 8
10:00 am to noon
Best Practices for Gardeners
Helling Library

March 8
10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Placer County Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

March 8
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Starting your Summer Vegetable Garden
Loomis Library

Workshop Locations

Madelyn Helling Library,
980 Helling Way, Nevada City

Nevada County Demonstration Garden on the NID Grounds,
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley.

Placer County Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library & Community Learning Center
6050 Library Drive, Loomis

Roseville Utility Exploration Center,
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

Loomis Veterans Memorial Hall
5945 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis

About UC Master Gardeners

Our mission as University of California Master Gardener volunteers is to extend research-based gardening and composting information to the public through various educational outreach methods. We strive to present accurate, impartial information to local gardeners so they have the knowledge to make informed gardening decisions in regard to plant choices, soil fertility, pest management, irrigation practices, and more.

The Master Gardener volunteer program was started in the early 1970s at Washington State University. Farm Advisors became overwhelmed by all the incoming calls from home gardeners and homesteaders so they trained volunteers to answer these questions and the "Master Gardener Program" was born. The first University of California Master Gardener programs began in 1980 in Sacramento and Riverside counties. The UC Master Gardener of Nevada and Placer Counties Programs began soon thereafter in 1983.

Serving Placer and Nevada Counties for Over 40 Years

Have a Gardening Question?

Contact Us!

Placer County Residents

530.889.7388

or contact us through our website or Facebook

Nevada County Residents

530-273-0919

or contact us through our website or Facebook

UC Cooperative Extension Placer County
11477 E Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
530.889.7385 office
530.889.7397 fax
email: ceplacer@ucdavis.edu

UC Cooperative Extension Nevada County
255 So. Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530.273.4563 office
530.273.4769 fax
email: cenevada@ucdavis.edu

Production Information

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Bruno Pitton, Editor
Environmental Horticulture Advisor,
Placer and Nevada Counties

Donna Olson, Content Coordination
UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Elaine Kelly Applebaum, Production
UC Master Gardener of Placer County

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