

**University of California**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

*Making a Difference for California*

**U.C. COOPERATIVE  
 EXTENSION/  
 COUNTY OF  
 VENTURA FARM  
 ADVISOR  
 669 COUNTY  
 SQUARE DR., #100  
 VENTURA, CA 93003**

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**Invasive Pest Update—ACP**

The Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), a destructive insect that carries the deadly plant disease, Huanglongbing, has last been reported in Van Nuys. Although no new sightings closer to Ventura County have been reported, agricultural experts believe the disease-carrying pest will make its way to our county.

The UCCE office, County of Ventura Agriculture Commissioner’s office, Farm Bureau, and the UC Hansen Trust have all contributed considerable efforts to increasing awareness of this serious threat to citrus trees.

This disease has caused the destruction or abandonment of about 200,000 acres of citrus trees in Florida. It is estimated that ACP could cost the California citrus industry \$224 million annually if the disease establishes itself in the state.

Early detection can be crucial in curtailing infestation. The insect looks like a

grain of brown rice, creates a waxy residue and is shaped similarly to elbow macaroni.

To learn more about ACP and how to recognize the pest:

[http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Asian\\_Citrus\\_Psyllid/](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Asian_Citrus_Psyllid/)

If you suspect your tree has the psyllid or disease, immediately call the County Agricultural Commissioner or CDFA hotline at 800-491-1899.



**Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)**

**We’re the University of California Cooperative Extension/Farm Advisor...**

The Cooperative Extension system represents a national, publicly funded, nonformal educational system that links educational and research activities and resources of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), land grant universities, and county administrative units.

This system includes professionals in each of America’s original land-grant universities created in 1862, the land-grant universities added in 1890, and land-grant colleges added in 1994. In California, the land-grant institution is the University of California.

CE specialists are integrated into academic departments at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Riverside, where they conduct research and develop new technologies. CE specialists work to

connect local CE advisors to the campus-based Agriculture Experiment Stations and other resources that may provide appropriate research and new technologies to address myriad issues and needs throughout California.

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), known in the county as the Farm Advisor, takes information developed on its campuses and research centers, and makes it available to local communities. In addition, CE experts conduct applied research of their own to address local county problems in the areas of sustainable agriculture and natural resources, water quality, exotic and invasive pests gardening, nutrition, youth development, and family and community development.

**UC COOPERATIVE  
 EXTENSION REPORT**

Spring 2010

## National Gardening Initiative Grows

County Director Dr. Rose Hayden-Smith has been serving on a committee to promote a national gardening initiative. As of April more than 300 gardens have been designated as "The People's Garden" throughout the nation.

"The People's Garden" initiative was launched in February 2009 by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to promote awareness of local food production and healthier consumption. To qualify as a "People's Garden" three criteria must be met: (1) it benefits your community; (2) it's a collaborative effort; and (3) incorporates sustainable practices.

Garden projects can include children's gardens, bioswales, rain

or roof gardens, organic gardens, native gardens, traditional gardens and others.

The program is part of the first ever USDA Department-wide volunteer program for 'The People's Garden initiative. The initiative challenges USDA's employees to plant and maintain gardens at USDA facilities worldwide or help communities create gardens

Some of the inspiration goes back to the victory gardens of World Wars I and II. These gardens brought communities together with a sense of purpose in helping the war effort by saving important fuel resources. Today growing locally has "green" benefits and promotes



**County Director Dr. Rose Hayden-Smith**

healthier lifestyles through the consumption of tastier, more nutritious food.

## Alternative Fumigants and Fumigant Alternatives Meeting



**Dr. Oleg Daugovish, UCCE Strawberry and Vegetable Crop Advisor**

UCCE Strawberry and Vegetable Advisor Dr. Oleg Daugovish organized an open meeting on May 7 for those interested in learning about "Alternative Fumigants and Fumigant Alternatives: Research Updates." The informational seminar was held in our large conference room and was attended by eighty two members of the public.

The four-hour event featured speakers from UC Davis, the Agriculture Commissioner's office, UC Santa Cruz, the California Strawberry Commission

and Dr. Daugovish. Topics included the latest regulations for fumigant use, alternative fumigants and emission reduction technologies: soil disinfestation methods, raised bed trough substrate systems and biofumigational potential of mustards.

The meeting was filmed, recorded and converted to streaming video for internet viewing. You can access the presentations at:

[http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Vegetable\\_Crops/5-7-10.htm](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Vegetable_Crops/5-7-10.htm)

## RESTOR Kids Win

The ongoing RESTOR (Research for Students and Teachers about the Ormond Beach Wetland Restoration) project has been providing field trips and classroom instruction to county educators and students during the year.

UCCE Coastal Community Advisor Monique Myers and program representative Valerie Borel work with science teachers and middle-school students to teach them about wetland restoration, watersheds and water quality.

The program adheres to standards-based curricula from the California Coastal Commission and National Marine Sanctuary.

Following instruction students submitted essays on watersheds to compete for a best essay prize field trip to Santa Cruz Island in June. Fifty students will be selected for the day long trip where they will measure water quality, visit the interpretive center and learn about the island.



**Middle-School Students Learn about Ormond Beach Wetlands**

For more information on the RESTOR program visit this website:

[http://groups.ucanr.org/RESTOR\\_Project/index.cfm](http://groups.ucanr.org/RESTOR_Project/index.cfm)

## Watershed U

Sabrina Drill, our natural resources advisor, has organized Watershed U, a program designed to train people from local government, non-profits, citizen groups and business about local watersheds.

Thursdays, from April through May, this class series taught members of the community how to be stewards of their streams.

Watershed U provides a training program that is tailored for individual watersheds by focusing on the most important issues of that watershed: increasing understanding and awareness, improving communication among stakeholders and acting as a springboard for stakeholder driven management.

To learn more about Watershed U, please contact Sabrina Drill at [sldrill@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sldrill@ucdavis.edu) or link to:

[http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Watershed\\_U/](http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/Watershed_U/)

## Drought Tolerant Plants

Summer is almost upon us, bringing the warm, beautiful weather that gives Ventura County one of the best climate in the world. But it has a downside: like much of Southern California, it's also subject to water shortages.

Dr. Monique Myers, our coastal community advisor, has put together an informative green sheet on drought tolerant plants for the Southern Californian landscape.

The benefits of using these plants are considerable. They lower water bills, reduce water use, require less maintenance, are more pest resistant less susceptible to disease, stabilize slopes, recharge groundwater, and decrease polluted runoff to the ocean.

Dr. Myer's green sheet includes a list of ground covers, vines, shrubs, perennials and trees that are coded according to their green attributes and are suitable for our climate.

For this sheet and a list of others that cover economical and environmental practices for homeowners and builders, please visit this website:

<http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/BOOKSTORE/greensheets.html>



**Drought tolerant Bird of Paradise**

## ACP Task Force

Due to the destruction the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is capable of, an ACP Task Force has been formed in Ventura County.

The goal of the task force is to check the psyllid from infiltrating the county, which will in turn reduce the spread of the disease it carries.

You can help by:

- Not bringing citrus trees, other plants or fruit into our area from other counties, states, or countries.
- Examining your citrus trees regularly (at least monthly) for indicators of infestation.
- Encouraging your friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same.

Contact the CDFA hotline at 800-491-1899 if you suspect an infestation (see page one).

## Free Water Quality Management Services

Growers in Ventura County can take advantage of funds for services to improve water quality management. These services are available at no cost:

- Irrigation efficiency evaluations and improvement recommendations.
- Conservation planning.
- Best management practice review, recommendation and implementation assistance.

This is all a part of UCCE Ventura's water quality education program that works in partnership with UC Riverside, Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Ventura County Farm Bureau.

The objective of the program is to improve water quality. This is done in part by evaluation recommendations, conducting seminars and field tours, creating educational materials and conducting research.

To get additional information or schedule an on-site visit, contact:

Resource Conservation District  
Vic: 805-216-3641, or  
Katrina: 805-386-4489, ext. 100

Or visit their website:

<http://www.conserveventura.org/>



## 4-H Honoree

Kimberly Coverly, a member of the Loma Vista 4-H Chapter in Ventura, was honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award recognizes Americans of all ages who volunteer significant amounts of time to serve their communities and country. It is presented by The Prudential 'Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Obama.

The fifteen year old earned the honor for the work she has contributed to the "Trick Or Treat So Others Can Eat" (TOTSOC) program. Kimberly began participating in the TOTSOC program as early as two years old.

The TOTSOC program collects food rather than candy at Halloween. The food is then donated to Food Share of Ventura County which serves 38,000 clients per month.

Susan Gloeckler, our 4-H program supervisor, remarked, "Kimberly's President's Volunteer Service Award is well deserved! Her work on 'Trick Or Treat So Others Can Eat,' as well as on other leadership and community service activities within her 4-H club and the community help so many. We are truly proud of her!"

## Living with Wildfire

Every year Californians fire professionals brace themselves for the fire season. On June 2 many attended "Living with Wildfire: Planning for the Future," the focus topic of the 2010 day long Fire Summit. The summit seeks to explore creative ways to reconcile the relationship between land use, resources and fire planning.

The annual conference is brought by the Southern California's Regional Area Safety Taskforce (RAST), a partnership of local, state and federal groups. Their purpose is to facilitate collaborative fire management planning and local implementation for safe, sustainable communities.

By bringing together representatives such as land use/urban planners and commissioners, elected officials, landscape architects, fire and resource professionals, fire safe councils, and other interested parties viable procedures to address future fires can be realized.

More information about this annual event can be found at:

<http://firesummit.info/>

Also, check out our fire information at:

[http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Fire\\_Information/](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/Fire_Information/)



**Barn at the Hansen Agricultural Center in Santa Paula**

## 4-H Enrollment

The 4-H program is designed to provide knowledge, expertise and skills that help youth develop into responsible, self-directed and productive people. The program year runs from July 1st to June 30th. County 4-H chapters begin accepting enrollment applications for youth after July 1.

To enter animals in the Ventura County Fair you need to be enrolled by November 1.

Those interested in applying for this program please see your local chapter for details. A list of Ventura County chapters can be found at:

[http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/4-H\\_Youth\\_Development/County\\_4-H\\_Clubs.htm](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/4-H_Youth_Development/County_4-H_Clubs.htm)

## Saturday at the Farm

The Hansen Agricultural Center hosts an educational series, "Saturday at the Farm," once a month on, you guessed it, Saturdays.

Upcoming events are:

**June 26**—*Low Water Landscape Design, Focus on Plant Selection*  
10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. (free)

**August 14**—*Fall in the Garden, Master Gardener Workshop*  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (\$50)

**September 25**—*Low Water Landscape Design, Focus on Hardscape*  
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., (free)

**October**—*Pumpkin Patch, hosted by Santa Paula Rotary Club*  
Saturdays and Sundays only (free admission)

**November 6**—*Winter in the Garden, Master Gardener Workshop*  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., (\$50)

Registration is required except for Pumpkin Patch.

Contact: 805-525-9293 X214 or sbmiller@ucdavis.edu.

UC Hansen Agricultural Center  
14292 W. Telegraph Rd.  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

## UCCE Conducts County Wellness Class

In April the Master Gardeners conducted "Gardening 101" as part of the County of Ventura's Wellness program curriculum.

The class consisted of two one-hour sessions on gardening basics that included selecting the best container or area for your garden, tool selection, soil preparation and composting.

Seventy-seven attended the class which was so well received that the

Master Gardeners plan to schedule another one in the fall.

A survey about the class was taken by participants who gave it high marks for materials and presentation. Over 75% of the responders said they would take action based on this experience.

Leah Haynes, the Master Gardener coordinator, said participants were impressed with the extent of the Master Gardener's activities and knowledge.



## Master Gardeners Expand Help-Line Tracking

The Master Gardeners have developed a comprehensive Access database to facilitate tracking Help-Line calls. Certified Master Gardeners answer phone and email questions and assist home gardeners with variety of gardening issues.

The new database will allow the Master Gardeners to isolate data on the location of the call, plant or pest specifics and response. All of this will enhance the Master Gardeners efforts in collecting and improving the flow of information to the gardening community.

The gardeners volunteer their time at the Help-Line. Every year Ventura County Master Gardeners contribute over 12,000 volunteer hours to the community.

The Help-Line is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursday.

If you have a question for our Master Gardeners please call 805-645-1455 or email them a [mgventura@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgventura@ucdavis.edu). Visit their website at:

<http://groups.ucanr.org/vcmg/>

## UCCE/Farm Advisor Display Success

In February the UCCE Farm Advisor maintained a garden display in the county Hall of Administration lobby. The display included a visitor survey, brochures, graphics and information on home gardening from UC ANR and local resources.

Of those completing the survey the top reasons for growing food were taste and healthier produce. The top challenges were pests such as gophers and aphids.

Approximately 9,000 pieces of information were picked up by the public. The event was so successful that we plan additional displays on invasive species, fire-safe properties and ornamentals for the coming year. Home gardening information is available on our website at:

[http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/mg\\_menu/](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/mg_menu/)

## Master Gardener Seasonal Workshops

The Ventura County Master Gardeners presented a workshop "Summer in the Garden" on Saturday, May 22 at the UC Hansen Agricultural Center in Santa Paula. These workshops are conducted quarterly and provide a full day gardening education, presentations by UC advisors and horticulture experts, docent-guided tours of the gardens and the Victorian Faulkner Farm house, and access to the Master Gardener plant sale.

The cost is \$50 and also includes two morning and two afternoon presentations, a continental breakfast, snacks and lunch.

The May workshop included talks on victory/community gardens, rose care, composting and summer tasks for the home gardener.

The next workshop "Autumn in the Garden" is scheduled for August 10, 2010 at the Hansen Center from 8:15—4:00. The topics will include garden basics, beauty of bulbs, California native plants, and autumn tasks for the home gardener. Check out more information on the Ventura County Master Gardeners at:

<http://groups.ucanr.org/vcmg/>



# WEB SURFING

Take a cruise on the information highway...

## New Streaming Videos

### Meetings and Presentations Online

UCCE is further fulfilling its mission to expand its educational outreach by filming, recording and converting meeting presentations for the internet. Most of the presentations are divided by topic so the viewer can cherry-pick those areas that are of interest.

Viewers can see each presentation slide and listen to the corresponding talk on the subject allowing the user to hear it as it was presented and revisit those areas they might have missed.

According to Steve Griffin, UCCE's office systems coordinator, "This is just the beginning. I'm hoping to get as many of our presentations as possible available for everyone to view on our website."

We look forward to having a comprehensive streaming video library that grows with our research and outreach in the coming years. The presentations can be found under the program area at:

<http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/programs.htm>

## Conserving Water in the Home Garden

### Tips for Watering

With summer upon us water conservation comes to the forefront in drought prone Southern California. At UCCE water conservation research is one of the key areas we serve the public and agricultural community in Ventura County.

UCCE advisor Dr. Ben Faber has written some useful guidelines and suggestions to help home gardeners produce healthy gardens and trees while saving this dwindling resource.

Check out Ben's advice at:

[http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/mg\\_menu/Conserving\\_Water\\_in\\_the\\_Home\\_Garden.htm](http://ceventura.ucdavis.edu/mg_menu/Conserving_Water_in_the_Home_Garden.htm)

## Transporting Pesticides

### ANR Guidelines for Pesticide Safety

Moving pesticides safely and lawfully can be a matter of concern for local growers and landscape professionals.

Keep these suggestions in mind when transporting pesticides:

- Keep a copy of the label or MSDS for the pesticides to be moved.
- Keep pesticides locked away and upright during transportation, even if you are away from the vehicle.
- Do not store pesticides in the car or truck cab with people, they must be in a separated area like a truck bed.

UC Agriculture and Natural Resource's (ANR) Environmental Health and Safety publication "Storing, Moving and Disposing of Pesticides on Farms" has some guidelines:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/pdf/hs711.pdf>

## It's Cool to Go to the Source

### USDA Food Source Program

The USDA has developed the Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) program to assist the public in understanding required source labeling of food products.

COOL requires supermarkets and grocery stores to provide origin of food information to consumers on specific food items at point of purchase. Items include ground and muscle cuts of beef, lamb, pork chicken and goat, fish and shellfish, perishable agricultural commodities, peanuts, pecans, macadamia nuts and ginseng. The regulations do not cover fish markets and butcher shops.

Find out more about the COOL program at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/Cool>

## Published Research

UCCE Ventura County academic, research and program staff publishes the results of the wide-range of research that UCCE conducts, so that it may benefit others and increase the body of knowledge available on topics vital to the sustainability of agriculture. This is an area in which Ventura County staff excels. Below are some recent publications produced by members of our staff.

Mochizuki, M., Daugovish, O., Ahumada, M., Ashkan S., Lovatt, C. 2010. Carbon Dioxide Enrichment May Increase Yield of Field-Grown Red Raspberry under High Tunnels. *HortTechnology* 20: 213-219.

Mangiafico, S., Newman, J., Mochizuki, M., Zurawski, D., Merhaut D., Faber, B. 2010. Nurseries Surveyed in Southern California Adopt Best Practices for Water Quality. *California Agriculture*. 64(1):26-30, January-March 2010.

Mangiafico, S., J. Newman, D. Merhaut and B. Faber. 2010. University of California program to Evaluate Water Quality Management Practices at Cooperating Agricultural Sites. *Journal of Extension* 48(2): iw3.php.

Lindgren, L and Faber, B. 2010. Topworking or Replanting, a Grower's Perspective. *Citrograph* 1(1): 20-21.

Faber, B. 2010. Laurel Wilt Update. *Western Farm Press*. 4/1.

Faber, B. 2010. Pest Reduction in Citrus, Avocado. *Western Farm Press*. 4/1.

Faber, B. 2010. Microirrigation, Fertilizers and Clogging. 8(1): 2.



Faber, B. 2010. Cultural Practices to Reduce Pest and Disease in Avocado and Citrus. 8(1): 4-5.

Faber, B. 2010. Laurel Wilt Update. 8(1): 5.

Culver, C., Schroeter S., Page, M. and Dugan, D. 2010. Essential Fishery Information for Trap-Based Fisheries: Development of a Framework for Collaborative Data Collection. *Marine and Coastal Fisheries. Dynamics, Management and Ecosystem Science*. 2: 98-114.

Richards, J.B., Culver, C., Fusaro, C. 2009. Shellfish Harvesting as a Biofouling Control Strategy on Oil and Gas Platforms: Development of a Profitable, Symbiotic Marine Business in Southern California.

Schroeter, S., Page H., Dugan, J., Culver, C., Steele, B., Gutierrez, R., Richards, J. and Kushner, D.. 2009. Scales of Variability in Larval Settlement within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and along the Mainland Coast. *Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> California Islands Symposium*. February 5-7, Oxnard, CA. pp. 151-160.

**"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."  
Malcolm Forbes**



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**U.C. COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION/  
COUNTY OF VENTURA  
FARM ADVISOR  
669 COUNTY  
SQUARE DR., #100  
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**Our mission is to serve the people of California through the creation, development and application of knowledge in agricultural, natural and human resources.**



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