

University of California
Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener News

Amador County

AUGUST 2006



Your Co-Pres' Speak

Greetings to all the cool folks in Amador County. We have scheduled the August meeting to be off site at Penny Smith's ranch. And we have changed the date to Wednesday August 16th. Penny will do a farm tour of her animals and garden starting at 5:00. Penny's vineyard was the site of our grape grafting class earlier this year. This is a good opportunity to see how the grafts have taken. We will have a potluck starting around 6:00. Spouses and significant others are invited. Encourage your partners to come-this will be a good chance to socialize and for them to get to know the Master Gardener group. We are looking forward to having a large turnout for this meeting. Please bring chairs!!



The month of July was once again very busy. We need to thank all the Master Gardeners who manned the phone clinic and a nursery clinic at Ridge Nursery. We also had a booth at the Amador Farmers' Market in Sutter Creek. Special thanks go to all the people who were involved in the Amador County Fair. It takes a lot of effort on many people's parts to make it a success. A special thanks to Bernice Honeychurch for all the time she put in to coordinate all the needed activities, planning and planting the garden, watering, and staffing the booth, etc.

Another fun event is coming up the last Saturday in August, 8/26/06. That is the annual tomato tasting at the Sutter Creek Farmers Market. Janice Johnson coordinates this event, which is greatly anticipated by the

tomato growers in the county. It will be a fun time for everyone, so sign up at our next meeting for this event.

Once again Jackie Tarchala did a great job with the guest speaker at the well-attended July meeting. The speaker was Alane O'Rielly Weber on "Soil Food Web". She is a very knowledgeable person and an excellent presenter. She could have gone on for quite a bit longer and it still would not have been long enough. We learned about components of healthy soil as well as good management practices and some common not-so-good practices. Guests from the Amador County Waste Management Department also attended. They were interested in composting on a county level, which would include waste reduction.

Alane had three DVDs available as well as a book, which the Master Gardener's purchased for our library. These are available for your use in the office. If you take materials out of the office leave a note as to what was taken, by whom and when it will be returned.

See you at Penny's on the 16th.
Marie & Jerry

AUGUST CALENDAR

8/16 – **Wed.** – **MG Monthly Meeting – 5:00 PM** at Penny Smith's home. Map inside.

8/26 – **Sat.** – **"Fall & Winter Vegetable Gardening"**, 10 AM-noon at the Ag office.

Secretary's Notes

JULY 18, 2006

The July meeting began at approximately 1:05 PM. Jackie Tarchala opened the meeting by introducing Alane O'Rielly Weber who drove all the way from San Mateo to give her presentation on the Soil Foodweb. Alane has been a Master Gardener and Master Composter for many years. She is a certified Soil Foodweb Advisor, works with San Mateo Co. Recycle Works. She does professional botanical illustration and floral design in addition to consulting and teaching about organic and sustainable garden systems, aerobic compost tea production and application, and composting and vermiculture systems.

Alane began her talk by saying that she is the granddaughter of a Washington state apple grower. She brings with her a lifetime of organic gardening experience and her focus now is on sustainable agriculture. As a child Alane called compost "old soil" and she believes that it does magical things. She has been part of the Master Composting program for the past ten years and has studied the work of Dr. Elaine Ingham of Soil Foodweb, Inc. (www.soilfoodweb.com). Alane wants to make sure that the proper credit is given to Dr. Ingham whose research has created a profound level of understanding and whose lectures have gotten the word out to the world about this fascinating subject.

I will begin this synopsis of Alane's lecture with a huge caveat - I am not a person with a science background. I took copious notes during Alane's talk and afterwards emailed her to ask for some written materials so that I could get the terminology correct in my writings. Even after reviewing all my notes and the lecture notes that Alane kindly sent to me, I do not feel confident that I can accurately outline the complex information that is the core of Alane's presentation. Scott Oneto kindly downloaded and made copies of the notes that Alane uses to teach the Soil Foodweb portion of the Master Composter training. These notes are available in the

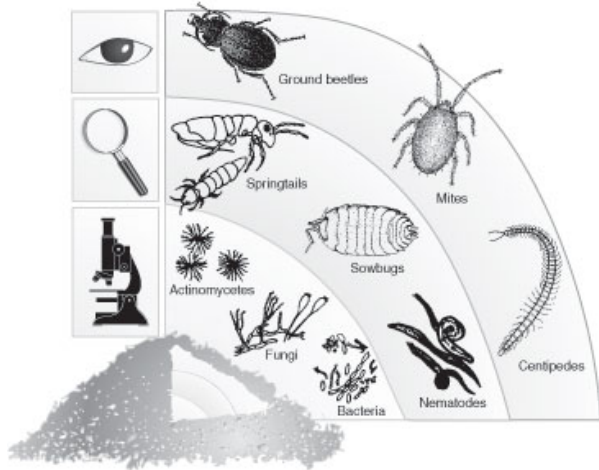
Master Gardener Office. Alane stated that the lecture notes are the joint property of San Mateo Co. RecycleWorks, a division of County Public Works, and herself. I will relay the basic information that I was able to garner from Alane's presentation and hope that those of you who want the specific details about this subject will do further research on your own. I do apologize, but Alane provided a plethora of information at a pretty rapid clip and I do not wish to misstate any of this important data. In an email sent to me in response to my request for further information, Alane said that she felt a level of "brain overload" when she first heard Dr. Ingham lecture. She went on to say, "The flow is simple, but to really understand our impact on the soil, one must know the characters...and that's where it gets complicated. It's like learning your whole family tree AND what each of your ancestors did for a living and how they related to each other".

Alane began her talk with a chart titled "It All Happens In The Dirt" and went on to say that at least it all starts there. Soil is not inert but is incredibly alive. The perfect model of a natural system is the forest floor where that should be alive with microbial activity.

Organic matter, bacteria, fungi, nematodes (most are beneficial), arthropods, animals, saprophytic fungi (they break down dead organic matter) all play a role in the decomposition of organic matter. Bacteria and fungi eat the decomposed matter by putting the matter into their bodies.

The beneficial bacteria and fungi aid in nutrient retention build soil structure, help to suppress disease and decompose toxins. These organisms cannot be seen on the surface or roots of plants. They provide plants with "foods" in the amounts and in the form that the plants can utilize. Predatory fungi can even be used to control pathogenic fungi and the "bad" nematodes that are plant eaters. Mycorrhizal fungi can extend the ability of plants to utilize water and food.

Fungal feeding mites and protozoa are nutrient liberators that help to build soil structure and make plant nutrients available and indicate a lack of oxygen and compaction in the soil. Protozoan such as flagellates, amoebae and ciliates (soil salmon) also live in this environment. Beneficial nematodes, micro arthropods such as mites, symphilin, and springtail all play their part in the movement of biology between the soil horizons (she likened them to taxicabs).



The healthy food web retains nutrients, fosters plant available nutrient cycling, builds soil structure, suppresses disease, enhances plant health and decomposes toxic residues. Chemical fertilizers leach out of the soil but organic fertilizers stay in the soil.

The N cycle (nitrogen) consists of decomposers, predators, NH (poop) ammonium, mineralization, nitrification, and nitrifying bacteria. Thus begins Alane's "Poop Loop" where the sun, living plants, dead organic matter, decomposers, microscopic soil predators, protozoa, amoebae, flagellates, and ciliates all play their part in the healthy food web. It is essentially a system of nutrient cycling.

A healthy food web builds soil structure, reduces compaction and increases the water holding capacity of the soil. Healthy soil essentially maintains itself. Bacterial glues are what hold the soil together. Rototilling should be done only once as it breaks up the fungal threading that helps to maintain soil

structure. There can be 210 miles of fungal threading in a mere teaspoon of soil. These micro aggregates while moving through the soil create tunnels for water and nutrients to travel through the soil (air spaces). Plants grown in this type of soil will have deeper and more efficient roots. The soil in a healthy food web will mitigate certain erosion issues and act as a prophylactic to suppress disease and enhance the health of plants through beneficial microbes.

Alane concluded her presentation by stating that you can create a healthy soil by adding the right biology back to the soil. Maintaining a healthy food web makes it possible to reduce soil compaction, maintain plant root depth, minimize water use, and keep diseases and nutrient losses at bay while also reducing costs.

After refreshment break Jerry Trotter began the business meeting at 2:40 PM.

Nursery Clinic on the first Saturday in August is fully staffed, as is the County Fair booth.

Bernice Honeychurch displayed a "frolicking pig" that Jackie Tarchala and Robin Ivanoff fabricated to adorn the MG garden at the County Fair.

Janice Johnson will be holding the annual Tomato Tasting at the Sutter Creek Farmer's Market on August 26th. If you have any novel ideas about how to tally the public voting for the event, Janice would like to hear from you.

The August MG meeting will be held at Penny and Phil Smith's home in Plymouth. It will be a potluck event and will be held on **Wednesday, August 16th at 5:00 PM.** Spouses are welcome to come and enjoy the tour of Penny and Phil's beautiful alpacas, llamas, chickens, gardens and home vineyard.

The MG presence at the Farmer's Market was very successful. Many people stopped to chat about gardening and also asked questions about tree pruning and grafting.

Jackie Tarchala, Jakki Schatz and Valerie Bonkowski had a wonderful turnout for their "Cooking With Herbs and Flowers" class.

The Food Bank Garden is thriving and the watering system is working well. John Otto reminded everybody that any excess produce, eggs, etc. is always welcome.

The Fall and Winter Vegetable class will be held on August 26th and the Fall Expo will be on September 23rd. Power Point for Beginners is scheduled on September 19th.

The State Master Gardener Conference will be held in San Jose on October 5 & 6. The Board voted to subsidize the 10 Amador County attendees for one third of their enrollment fees, which amounts to \$120 each. The enrollments were due to be submitted by August 1.

Jackie Tarchala needs somebody to "baby sit" houseplants for the Fall Expo. She also needs 5" to 6" pots for her plants for the sale.

Scott Oneto announced that a statewide Master Gardener coordinator, Pam Giesel of Davis, has been appointed. Pam will be charged with ensuring that all the Master Gardener Programs will be on the same page regarding important issues.

Scott also stated that the MG Conference would have a store. Each MG group can sell items to raise funds. The Amador group will be selling our calendars. People who will be attending the conference are encouraged to help staff the store. Contact Scott if you are available.

Scott also passed around some new publications. There is the Retail Garden Center Manual by UC, Get Ready, Get Set, Grow about children's gardens, some new Pest Notes, and a book on Native Plants.

Jerry Trottier adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Donna England

JERRY TROTTIER'S BLONDIES

1 cup (4oz) pecans or walnuts. I used pecans
1 ½ cups (7 ½ oz) unbleached all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking power
½ teaspoon salt
12 tablespoons (1 ½ stick) unsalted butter melted and cooled
1 ½ cups (10 ½ oz) packed light brown sugar
2 Large eggs lightly beaten
4 teaspoons vanilla extract
6 ounces good quality white chocolate chips (1 cup) or chopped bar or 3oz each white chocolate and semisweet chocolate chips.
I used the 2 chocolates

1. Adjust oven rack to middle position; heat oven to 350 degrees. Spread nuts on large rimmed baking sheet and bake until deep golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes. Transfer nuts to cutting board to cool; chop coarsely and set aside.
2. While nuts are toasting, cut 18-inch lengths of foil and fold lengthwise to 8" wide. Fit foil into length of 13 by 9 inch baking pan, pushing it into corners and up sides of pan, allow excess to overhang pan edges. Cut 14 inch lengths foil and fit into width of baking pan in same manner perpendicular to first sheet. Spray foil-lined pan with nonstick cooking spray.
3. Whisk flour, baking power, and salt together in medium bowl; set aside
4. Whisk melted butter and brown sugar together in medium bowl until combined. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Using rubber spatula, fold dry ingredients into egg mixture, until just combined, do not over mix. Fold in chocolate and nuts and turn batter into prepared pan, smoothing top with rubber spatula.
5. Bake until top is shiny, cracked and light brown, 22 to 25 minutes, do not over bake. Cool on wire rack to room temperature. Remove bars from pan by lifting foil overhang and transfer to cutting board. Cut into 2 inch squares and serve. Makes 36.

Be very careful not to over bake, they turn hard. Start checking the oven a couple of minutes before they will be done.

Announcements

GET READY NOW! FALL AND WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING

The Amador County Master Gardeners will be offering a free class on fall and winter vegetable gardening on Saturday, August 26 from 10 AM to 12 noon at the Ag Office, 12200B Airport Road in Martell.

Yes, it is time to start planning your cool weather vegetable garden. Varieties need to be selected, seeds need to be started, the soil must be enriched and the plan must be drawn. Please join us for a presentation and lots of time to ask questions of experienced vegetable gardeners.

Also, be sure to mark your calendar now so you don't miss the Master Gardener's Fall Expo, which will be held on Saturday, September 23 from 8:30 AM to noon. This is a very popular annual event and this year's main theme is Basic Landscaping Skills and Techniques. In addition to the plant sale, classes will address creating year round color in your landscape as well as landscape design.

For further information about this class, the Fall Expo or any gardening topic, please call the Master Gardener office at 223-6838, Tuesday through Friday, 10 Am to 12 noon, or email the office at mgamador@ucdavis.edu.

Patti Stalder

HARVEST DAY 2006

Sacramento Master Gardeners present how-to sessions, educational booths, demonstrations, garden tours and tree fruit, grape and veggie tasting on Saturday August 5, 8AM to 2PM. It takes place in Fair Oaks Park and is free (donations accepted). For more information call 916-875-6913.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CORNER

July 2006 By: Lucy Martin

Peggy Sullivan for working the booth at the June Farmer's Market

Jackie Tarchala and Robin Ivanoff for teaching a public class on "Cooking with Flowers and Herbs"

Dave Hennings, Mary Jane LaBerge, Jerry Trottier and John Otto for working the booth at the July Farmer's Market

Rita Martin, Jim Switzer, Chris Taylor, Valerie Bonkowski, Jackie Tarchala, Mary Jane LaBerge, Janice Johnson, Jill North, Jack Lyall, Lucy Martin, Hack Severson, Leen Breesch, Steve Collins, Don Rosson, Crystal Rosson, Joe Matthews, Marilyn Brown, Robin Ivan off, Jakki Schatz, Bernice Honeychurch, Penny Smith, Lou Ohls (two shifts), Scott Oneto, Cheryl Oneto and Emily Beals – for working the booth at the Amador County Fair

I apologize if I omitted mentioning anyone who contributed extra time. ***If you make an extra contribution of your time and knowledge to or in behalf of Master Gardeners please let me know so that it can be acknowledged. This article appears monthly.

THANK YOU!

Thanks in advance to:

Patti Stalder who will do the Contact Sheets during August and September.

Jackie Tarchala who will do the Volunteer Recognition during August and September

Judie Marks who will oversee the Food Bank Garden during August and September

Lucy Martin

ARE PRESSURE-TREATED WOODS SAFE IN GARDEN BEDS?

Author: Phil Wood who writes about garden design for The Seattle Times

*This article is from the September 2006 issue of "fine Gardening"; I found it most interesting for personal information and hope that you will also. Lucy Martin

Gardeners have used pressure treated wood for decades in raised beds and as posts, but on December 31, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the sale of lumber treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) for residential use. Concerns have focused on the leaching of arsenic from pressure-treated wood into the soil, contaminating plants and people. Two compounds, quite similar to each other but sold by different suppliers, have now replaced CCA wood in the residential market. Are these new products safe to use in our home gardens? The answer, unfortunately, is not simple.

The compounds currently being used are alkaline copper quat (ACQ) and copper azole (CA-B). Both contain copper and a fungicide but no arsenic. The copper keeps insects at bay, and the fungicide prevents soil fungus from attacking the wood. In ACQ, the fungicide is quat, which is also used in swimming-pool chemicals and as a disinfectant. One of the brand names using ACQ is Preserve. The other compound, CA-B uses copper and tebuconazole, a fungicide used on food crops. Brand names of this new pressure-treated wood include NatureWood, Wolmanized Outdoor, and Natural Select.

According to Miles McEvoy, who works in organic certification with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, no pressure-treated wood is allowed in soils used to grow organic food. If you want to meet this high standard, choose a different material. Studies have shown that arsenic from wood treated with CCA leaches into the soil and the copper, although much less toxic, leaches from ACQ and copper boron azole (CBA, a variant of CA-B).

Sally Brown, a research assistant professor of soils at the University of Washington, knows her way around both food and metals. Starting out as a chef and then a food broker between farmers and restaurants, she became fascinated with soils and went on to earn a PhD in agronomy. Brown's current research includes identifying the mechanisms by which organic residuals reduce the availability of soil metals to plants. She has some hard-earned opinions.

Brown says that if you already have the older, arsenic-treated wood in your garden, don't panic. Plants will not take up arsenic unless the soils are deficient in phosphorus. That is not a problem for gardeners who use compost generously.

As for the new copper-based wood treatments, Brown believes the actual risk is minimal. First of all, if plants take up too much copper, they will die before a gardener can eat them. In addition, if homegrown vegetables make up a small percentage of the diet, exposure to any metal taken up is insignificant. Do not use copper near ponds and streams because it is toxic to aquatic life.

The perceived risk is another story. Gardening can be just as much an act of faith as it is science, and the opinions of all the scientists in the world may not convince you to let pressure-treated wood contact your soil. You can isolate pressure treated wood by lining the inside of a bed with heavy plastic to prevent leaching of chemicals from the wood into the soil. Top your bed with boards of untreated lumber to make a flat top to sit on and to avoid contact with the wood, particularly if you have CCA-treated wood in your garden. Even though the new pressure-treated woods are considered safe, Wolmanized Outdoor, according to its Web site, does not recommend using pressure-treated wood where the preservatives may become a component of food. Its recommendation is to use an impervious liner between the wood and the soil.

Consider using alternatives, such as decay-resistant wood like redwood or red cedar. Discuss with your lumber dealer whether its

wood is heartwood, which lasts longer than sapwood from the same tree. If you are concerned about sustainable harvesting of wood, contact Forest Stewardship Council (www.fsc.org). You may also want to consider another point: Pressure-treated wood does, in fact, last longer than untreated wood, so using it might mean fewer trees would be cut.

ALTERNATIVES TO WOOD: Raised Beds – One choice is to create raised beds by mounding the soil and sloping the sides avoiding the entire issue of what material to use to contain them. Make them the same size as you would standard raised beds, with pathways in between. Also consider building raised beds with natural stone, brick, or concrete block. Recycled Plastic Lumber – A second choice is recycled plastic lumber, made out of consumer waste that would otherwise end up in landfills. Raised-bed kits are available from many suppliers, or you can build your own. Trex (www.trex.com) is just one of the plastic lumber brand names to consider.

YELLOWJACKET TIP

Recently a phone clinic client told me her sister-in-law repels yellowjackets by tucking a scented fabric softener sheet in her pocket while working in the garden. This month's issue of Fine Gardening magazine suggests putting a fabric softener sheet in a glass on the table for more enjoyable outdoor dining during yellowjacket season. It's certainly worth a try!

Bernice Honeychurch

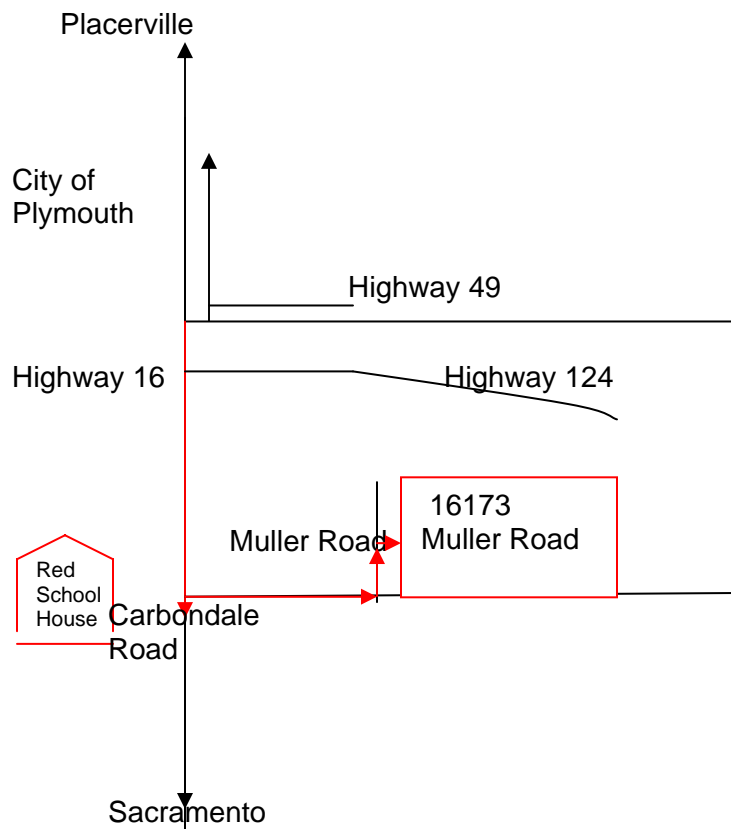
GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something they have never done before". Vita Sackville-west

AUGUST MG MONTHLY MEETING

Please note the special day and time for our August monthly meeting. It will be **Wednesday, August 16th at 5:00 pm**. This will be a potluck and spouses are invited.

Map to Phil & Penny Smith's Home
16173 Muller Road, Plymouth
(209) 245-3989



CONTACT SHEETS – PROBLEMS AND RESOLUTIONS

By: Lucy Martin

June 21, 2006 – July 18, 2006

Problem: Lots of problems: rose, nectarine, Eastern Red Bud.

Resolution: For rose problem – it appears to be spider mites. See P.122 of “UC Healthy Rose. Nectarines: Peach leaf curl.

Problem: Planted green beans in May – 3 beans only! Plants dropping blossoms –

Resolution: MG Handbook, Pg. 354. Could be weather – can’t control. Try light application of balanced fertilizer. Monitor moisture and adjust watering as temperatures fluctuate.

Problem: Need to know if Eucalyptus trees (“Flores” variety) will damage concrete pool deck. Her trees are ornamental type about 10 ft from spa, kept pruned to limit size. Has noticed cement being lifted in one area. Going to dig under and see if caused by a root.

Resolution: Eucalyptus has shallow roots that can be invasive. Would caution about planting near pool or spa. Resource: “Landscape Trees of the Sacramento area (handout from file cabinet).

Problem: Brought sample from Eastern Red Bud. Looks like eaten by some type of caterpillar. Cocoon cases left on underside of eaten leaves – also webbing. Hasn’t seen anything.

Resolution: Tussock Moth may already have done damage and be gone. Check underside of other leaves for cocoons. Can spray with insecticidal soap or BT.

Problem: In spring when new rose shoots emerge a small wasp comes in and stings shoots. Shoots shrivel and die. What kind of wasp control is needed?

Resolution: Raspberry Horntail (Pg 296 – Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs). In spring cut out below infected area. No insecticide recommended unless insect continues to be a problem. Only then – use

registered insecticide immediately after bloom – Pg. 435 – California MG Handbook.

Problem: Bees have taken up residence in owl box all in past week or so. Can’t find anyone in telephone book or elsewhere to remove nest. Any suggestions? Tomato blossom end rot – raised beds.

Resolution: Bees – Refer to Carolyn. She has a list of beekeepers in the area. ... Tomatoes: Advised to add some calcium to soil and or calcium spray (used in hot-houses). Don’t let plants dry out too much ... or too much water.

Problem: Want to get rid of manzanita and other bush type plants on property but purpose not to use herbicide. Would like suggestions on what to plant in its place.

Resolution: Advised them management for fire suggestion. Have already used brush tractor to clean out but seedlings appear. Advised to use herbicide directly on plant, (Round Up) and to do so in fall when plant begins to pull back nutrients to the roots.

Problem: Are black seed sunflower volunteers worth caring for? .

Resolution: “Planting Black Oil Sunflower Seeds” - Fact: Attracts more birds (seed eaters) – more varieties of birds: Black Oil Sunflower Seed. Fact: Black stripped sunflower not as effective.

Problem: Mulberry and flowering plum trees are very messy – want to know what to use to spray to make them sterile.

Resolution: “Called back – not in”. *This file was in the closed file even though the resolution does not indicate that a message was left regarding a solution for the client.

Problem: Wants to have a soil sample done. Where can he go?

Resolution: 1. We can’t give recommendations unless we give them the name of all labs in the area. 2. He can call local nursery that might be able to provide a referral. 3. Can certainly call us back with any general questions he might have re soil sampling.

Problem: Two mature trees – a crape myrtle and flowering plum in garden location – is not happy with – is thinking of removing and replacing.

Resolution: Suggest she do some research and thinking re her potential choices. Mailed list/handouts, #6 Drought Tolerant Trees and #62 Planting Landscape Trees. Also includes 2 of the card stock hand outs re trees.

Problem: Can you tell me if I use fungicide or insect spray to get rid of brown spots on my pear tree (sample attached)? She used dormant spray this winter/spring before leafing.

Resolution: Pear leaf blister mite. Suggest to spray with oil ... printed out UC Pest Management Guideline and mailed.

Problem: How to deal with consperse (stink bug) affecting tomato plants. Affecting mature fruit.

Resolution: Located IPM on “tomato stink bugs” printed and gave copy to client who would prefer insecticidal soap. IPM Pub #3470.

Problem: Trees in hard soil. How to kill suckers at base of ash and crepe myrtle trees.

Resolution: Gave her my experience with fruit trees in hard soil. Cut off suckers at the main root area. If persistent, apply Round Up on sucker leaves only and it does not affect the main tree roots. *If any MGs have better advise please share with Ms. Magoffin @ 223-1026 and John Otto.

Problem: Does UC perform soil sample testing and analysis for the public? Wants to know how to prepare Sutter Creek soil to receive sod.

Resolution: ...UC does not provide soil sample analysis to public. Offered to give several phone numbers (**note: list on wall bulletin/per John Otto-Thanks, John!**) – but client declined. Advised him to check with nursery or Sunset or online for soil prep under sod. Gave my prep experience of 4” – 6” import tilled into Sutter Creek soil plus rock removal info. Note: the UC IPM website has a site dedicated to lawns and has a whole

section on preparing the site.

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/TURF>

Problem: Need source for lemon grass for dogs. Does not have or want any lawn.

Resolution: Advised to call nurseries.

Problem: ...cut plum tree back to reduce height. (using ammonia sulfate --- she thinks). Wrinkled/crinkled leaves appeared in spring as tree putting out new leaves. After a month or so tree has put out nice good leaves on top (sample)

Resolution: Suggested she discontinue and use a balanced fertilizer in future. Also suggest she summer prune long shoots to lower canopy. The crinkled leaves are caused by leaf curl. Sent pest note on leaf curl.

Problem: Grasshoppers and what to do? They appeared after Sutter Creek fire – they cover the lawn feasting on it and have left brown spots.

Resolution: They are temporary. No immediate fix for home lawn. Wait it out as they will be gone soon. Keep lawn as healthy as possible so that it will recover from damage done. Because grasshoppers are so mobile sprays are not effective and may cause damage to “good” bugs.

Problem: Sample – would like to know what kind of wasp this is. Wasps were taking grasshoppers into their hole in the ground.

Resolution: This is a digger wasp or Sphecid wasp. It is a solitary wasp that lives in burrows and feeds on grasshoppers. It stings the grasshopper to paralyze it then carries it to its burrow. Since it is solitary it is not a problem.

Problem: Bloodgood Sycamore – last year many leaves had a white “mold”. This year there is no “mold” but leaves have holes. Otherwise, tree appears healthy.

Resolution: Fuzzy mold on leaves not holes! Holes throughout leaves and powdery mildew not a real problem. Tree green – leaf damage; spider mites. ...hose off area in morning to lessen problem.

August Gardening Calendar

PLANT SEED:

Below 2500 feet:

Winter vegetables and root vegetables: beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, lettuce (loose leaf is best here), mustard, radish, spinach, turnips, winter greens.

Fall & winter-blooming annuals: calendula, candytuft, fairy primrose, pansies, snapdragons, stock and viola.

Below 2000 feet:

Sow perennials in flats or pots for transplanting later: columbine, coreopsis, coneflowers, dianthus, gaillardia, geum, heuchera, Iceland poppies as well as other spring/summer/fall bloomers.

Sow early flowering sweet peas.

SET OUT PLANTS:

Use row covers to protect seedlings from the hot afternoon sun and deter bugs.

Above 1000 feet: cool-weather annuals, later in month you can plant the winter vegetables listed above.

Below 1000 feet: Marigolds, petunias, green beans, green onions.

Buy crape myrtles while they are in bloom.

FERTILIZE:

CAUTION: Never fertilize when it is hot or when plants need water.

Flowers, shrubs and long blooming plants.

Begonias, fuchsias, summer annuals and container plants, roses for fall bloom, final feeding for azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons. Chrysanthemums need 3 feedings between Aug and Mid-Sept.

Strawberries.

Mature fruit trees (after picking fruit) need the other half of their annual dose of nitrogen. Mix N into the soil and water thoroughly and deep.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL:

Keeping plants healthy prevents stress and reduces chances of disease & pests.

Walnuts for husk fly.

Pick off tomato hornworms.

Tie up heavy-laden branches of fruit trees and vegetables.

Deep-water trees and shrubs.

Give houseplants a bath and move outside in the shade for a day of fresh air.

Stake chrysanthemums.

Cut back hydrangea stalks to 12" to encourage a second bloom.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

Clean up around fruit trees.

Summer prune fruit trees.

Place old shingles or boards under melons & pumpkins.

Pinch back mums to encourage bigger blooms later.

Cut off faded roses and dead head perennials.

Cut back perennials: coreopsis, delphiniums, Shasta daisies and yarrow.

Pick-pick-pick to keep those summer veggies coming. Harvest your fruit/veggies in the morning.

Look over catalogs for fall bulbs.

Divide iris.



Master Gardener Volunteers
Events Calendar
 August 2006

[next month](#)
[home](#)
[previous month](#)

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

		1 -Phone Clinic J Trottier	2 -Phone Clinic L Breesch	3 -Phone Clinic	4 -Phone Clinic	5
6	7	8 -Phone Clinic B Honeychurch P A Smith	9 -Phone Clinic M La Berge	10 -Phone Clinic S Collins	11 -Phone Clinic L Smith	12
13	14	15 -Phone Clinic J Lyall	16 -Master Gardener Monthly Meeting -Phone Clinic C Taylor	17 -Phone Clinic P Stalder	18 -Phone Clinic J Marks	19
20	21	22 -Phone Clinic M Loretta	23 -Phone Clinic R Martin	24 -Phone Clinic J Ferrell D Ferrell	25 -Phone Clinic E Felberg	26 -Get Ready Now! Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening
27	28	29 -Phone Clinic J Harrington S Harrington	30 -Phone Clinic V Bonkowski	31 -Phone Clinic M La Berge		