

SOIL TESTING

You can purchase a soil test kit at many retail garden centers and do the testing yourself or send a soil sample to a testing laboratory.

Soil test kits range from \$10 to \$50 for multiple tests. Visit our website at www.uccemg.com to read about soil test kits and their ratings by University of California specialists.

Testing laboratories charge for soil analysis. Soil testing laboratories for Southern California home gardeners are listed on our website.

LOCATE AN ARBORIST

A tree is a valuable part of the landscape and deserves proper care and pruning. To find a certified arborist, visit the following website:

<http://www.treesaregood.com/findtreeservices/FindTreeCareService.aspx>

Most established tree service companies have arborists on their staff. Some of the larger nurseries in the area have one or more certified arborists on their staff. You can verify that an arborist is certified by visiting the above sites.

ANT CONTROL

Early season baiting for ants is effective to keep ant populations from getting out of hand. Use baits, not perimeter sprays. For outside control, locate nests and apply baits. Baiting outside keeps ants outside; if it is necessary to bait inside, place bait inside only where ants are entering the room. Trim trees and caulk cracks to eliminate access to buildings.

	UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
	OFFICE
	1045 ARLINGTON DRIVE
	COSTA MESA, CA 92626
	HTTP://CEORANGE.UCDAVIS.EDU
	(714) 708-1606

RESOURCES FOR GARDENERS

Our newly redone website at www.uccemg.com is rapidly becoming a premier place to learn about gardening, whether you are a gardening novice or very experienced.

Much of our website content has come from answers provided to our Orange County hotline clients, and hotline answers will continue to make their way onto our website. If our website doesn't answer your questions, please contact our hotline at hotline@uccemg.com

Seminars & Workshops

Master Gardener workshops on spring/summer vegetable planting, edibles in containers, herbs, lawns and lawn alternatives are held this spring at the Great Park. Visit our website at www.uccemg.com for further details, dates, and times.

The Master Gardeners also offer an annual Garden Seminar in the autumn; contact our hotline at hotline@uccemg.com for information.

Websites & Books:



The Agricultural & Natural Resources (ANR) website offers gardening publications, many of which can be downloaded for free; the others can be ordered through the website at:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

Categories of documents at the above website include Gardening Pests, Growing Vegetables/Fruits/Nuts, and Plant Diseases. Within these categories are many publications, ranging from basic to advanced. There are also categories devoted to home orchards, lawns, weeds, drip irrigation, and insects among other things.

Particularly recommended are the *California Master Gardener Handbook*, the *Home Orchard*, and *Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs*.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENERS
OF ORANGE COUNTY



Master Gardener Spring Brochure 2011

Information for Home Gardeners
from our Garden Hotline



Contact us at the Master Gardener Hotline
for free help with gardening questions:

(714) 708-1646 or
hotline@uccemg.com

Master Gardener Website
www.uccemg.com

CITRUS PROBLEMS

Hotline calls/emails continue to come from people who fear an infestation of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) which has caused Orange County citrus to be quarantined.

If citrus leaves are twisted, crumpled, and deformed as in this picture, the most likely cause is **Citrus Leafminer**.



Check leaves to see if there are tunnels left by Citrus Leafminer larvae. Larvae attack new growth during spring and fall citrus growth spurts. Citrus Leafminers do not pose a threat

to any but the very youngest citrus trees. Learn more about the Citrus Leafminer at:

www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74137.html

Twisted leaves can also, however, be a sign that the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) has been there, as in the picture at the right. To view more ACP pictures and learn about the pest, visit:



<http://www.anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8205.pdf>

If you conclude that you do have ACP on your citrus, you can visit the following website to report your findings and receive further instruction.

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phps/acp/>

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VEGETABLES

If you're new to vegetable gardening or need some refresher information, you can get a free download of the seven-page booklet *Vegetable Garden Basics* at:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/InOrder/Shop/ItemDetails.asp?ItemNo=8059>

April is a good time to begin planting your warm season vegetable garden, including beans, corn, squashes, cucumbers, peppers, and especially tomatoes. Tomato plants of all varieties are readily available at local nurseries.

Check this website for information on many aspects of vegetable gardening:

www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/veggies.html

FRUIT TREES

Basic information about growing a variety of backyard fruits, and identifying/managing common problems of fruit trees can be found at:

<http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu>

<http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/fruit.html>

Interested in knowing about more unusual fruits? Take a look at the California Rare Fruit Growers website at:

<http://crfg.org/>

<http://crfg.org/pubs/frtfacts.html>

FRUIT THINNING

When fruit has set on your stone fruit, apples, and pears, thin the small fruits to no more than one fruit every 4"-6" on each branch. The trees will be healthier and the crop will be better.

INSECT PESTS

A new exotic pest appears in California every 60 days. Such a species may not be a problem in its native habitat because other organisms have evolved to feed on them, keeping their populations under natural control. These pests usually arrive without their natural enemies. Without natural enemies to feed on them and keep them under control, they can rapidly become a problem, until researchers and regulatory agencies learn how to control them.

The Asian Citrus Psyllid, described at the left of this page, is one such species. Other exotic pests newly arrived in Orange County are the Bagrada Bug and the Red Palm Weevil.



Bagrada Bug



Red Palm Weevil

If you find an unusual pest in your garden, you can contact the Master Gardener hotline for information on how to identify it and what controls may exist.

WEEDS

Because of all the wonderful rain we've had this winter, weeds are proliferating. Be sure to pull or hoe them out while they're still small to prevent them going to seed. You'll be happy you did when your summer garden remains (relatively) weed-free!