

# Ear to the Ground

Bimonthly Newsletter of UCCE Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay

May/June 2015



## Who We Are

The University of California Master Gardener Program provides the public with UC research-based information about home horticulture, sustainable landscape and pest management practices. It is administered by local University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) county offices that are the principal outreach and public service arms of the University's division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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## The Plant Doctor

By Steve Tjosvold

Environmental Horticulture Farm Advisor

UC Cooperative Extension

*A column that describes and discusses the management of current plant diseases, pests and disorders found in Monterey Bay Area landscapes and gardens.*

### A Serious Threat for Citrus: Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing Disease

With the official finding of Asian citrus psyllid in Santa Clara County in February 2015 and in San Benito County (Hollister) on April 11, 2015, the insect that transmits the destructive pathogen that causes Huanglongbing disease (HLB) is now on the doorsteps of the Monterey Bay Area if not already here.



It is imperative that gardeners understand the seriousness of this pest and its associated disease. HLB is one of the most devastating diseases of citrus in the world. Diseased trees produce green, bitter, inedible, and misshapen fruit. Once a citrus tree is infected it will eventually die. All citrus in California -- the \$2 billion commercial citrus industry and the millions of citrus trees estimated to be in backyards and landscapes-- are all at risk. The progression of the problem around the

## The UC Master Gardener Training Program 2016

We are now accepting applications for the next UC Master Gardener training class starting in January 2016. For further information and to complete an application, visit our website at [mbmg.ucanr.edu](http://mbmg.ucanr.edu)

## UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay Events

**Firesafe Landscape and Perennial Vegetable Bed Class**

May 16, 10 am to Noon  
Demonstration Garden,  
1430 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville



### Boot Camp

June 6  
Cabrillo College Horticulture Facility

### Fall Fest and Plant Sale

October 17, 9 am to 4 pm  
1430 Freedom Blvd,  
Watsonville

For more information on these events, visit [mbmg.ucanr.edu](http://mbmg.ucanr.edu).

## UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay Hotline

Have a garden question, call or visit our Gardening Hotline 9 am to noon M-W-F at UCCE, 1430 Freedom Blvd., Suite E Watsonville 831-763-8007 or email your questions to: [Hotline@mbmgs.org](mailto:Hotline@mbmgs.org)

### Myth or Fact

*Whether you're growing plants from seed or growing them for the seeds, here are some things to remember.*

#### Seeds can be stored for years and still be viable.

*MYTH - Seeds will last at least a year with very little loss to the germination rates.*

#### Cross pollination and open pollination are different.

*FACT - Open pollination happens between two plants by wind, insects, or water or through self-pollination by male and female flower parts contained on the same plant. Hybrid seeds are a result of cross pollination between two*

world and in the United States (e.g. Florida and Texas) has been consistent. Once the psyllid has established itself in these areas, the bacterium that causes the disease has followed. That's why it is important now to be on the alert for the psyllid in our own backyards.

**[READ THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE at mbmg.ucanr.edu](http://mbmg.ucanr.edu)**

## User-friendly Weed Identification Tool

The UC IPM Web site contains many useful features to help identify pests and problems in the garden and home. One such feature is the Weed Gallery, (link to <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=16708>) which contains images and identification tips for more than 150 common weeds.

If you think you know the name of your weed, the gallery allows you to quickly access photos using common or scientific names to confirm identification. Just use the "List of All Weeds" link from the main weed gallery page.

If you don't know what the weed is, the [UC ANR Weed Photo Gallery](#) will help you identify the plant using visual characteristics. First, narrow your search by selecting the weed category-broadleaf, grass, sedge, or aquatic plant. You will then see a collection of photos in that category.

## Drought: Gardening Tips

Water dedicated to landscape can often be reduced by 20 to 40 percent because over irrigation is very common. Gradually reduce the amount of water applied over a few weeks - giving lawns, trees and plants time to adjust.

**READ MORE at:** [cagardenweb.ucanr.edu](http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu)

## Water-Saving Edible Garden Tips

Water restrictions and conservation should be taken into consideration when deciding on starting an edible home garden. If local water allocation allows for an edible garden, homeowners can grow fruits and vegetables in their backyard using water-wise practices.

**READ MORE at:** [cagardenweb.ucanr.edu](http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu)

*different varieties of the same plant.*

**Some seeds are easier to save than others.**

*FACT - Melons, pumpkin, tomato, beans, cucumber and peas are saver-friendly.*

**Seeds can be stored in the freezer.**

*MYTH - No, seeds should be stored in a cool, dark area at about 40 degrees because freezing can damage them.*

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