UCCE Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay

Ear to the Ground

Bimonthly Newsletter January/February 2016

Your Gardening Event Planner

The UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay website now has a spot to list gardening events in Santa Cruz and Monterey county. Help us keep it up-to-date by submitting information on events not included on the list. Spread the word!

mbmg.ucanr.edu.

Get the Information You Want

The UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay website is the first place to look when you have a question about events, training, gardening tips, are looking for resource publications, articles or the latest organization news. Check it out:

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

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.

Potential Impact of El Nino on Root and Crown Diseases

El Nino conditions in the Monterey Bay area this winter is predicted to bring above average rainfall, which can come in drenching rains that flood and waterlog soils for extended periods. At the same time, winter air temperatures are predicted to be warmer than normal and consequently s production and predispose plants to infection. Unfortunately, there is little that can be done once plants are infected but there are practices that can be done to prevent these diseases.

Figure 1 Flooded and water-logged soils promote Phytophthora root and crown diseases.

Phytophthora cause crown and root rot diseases of herbaceous and woody plants. Almost all fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs (including many California natives) can develop Phytophthora crown rot if soil around the base of the plant remains wet for prolonged periods or when planted too deeply (*Figures 1 and 2*). Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and other vegetable crops can also be affected by Phytophthora root rot (*Figure 3*). In trees and shrubs, the pathogen kills plants by growing from the roots up through the root crown and into the lower trunk, where it kills the inner bark and causes a browning of the outer layer of sapwood (Figure 4). In many of these crops, different species of Phytophthora can be involved.

or
email your questions to:
http://mbmg.ucanr.edu/Ask_A_Master_Gardener/

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.
To find out more go to:
mbmg.ucanr.edu

CONTRIBUTORS

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READ THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE at mbmg.ucanr.edu

Tool Care

This is a good time to clean, sharpen, and lightly oil your garden tools. A well maintained tool will make your gardening work easier. Your plants will be happier too. A sharp tool makes nice clean cuts that heal quickly and a clean tool is less likely to spread plant diseases. Watch thisWatch this tool care video(link is external) of our own Master Gardener tool sharpening expert.
READ MORE at:
https://mastergardeners.org/scc

Frost Protection for Citrus and Other Subtropicals

Pamela M. Geisel, University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Environmental Horticulture, Fresno County; Carolyn L. Unruh, staff writer, University of California Cooperative Extension Fresno County.

In many areas of California, winter temperatures can pose a threat to the fruit and foliage of citrus and other subtropical trees such as avocado (Persea americana), loquat (Eriobotrya japonica), guava (Psidium spp.), and macadamia (Macadamia spp.). Susceptibility to frost depends on the health and vigor of the plants, the characteris- tics of individual species or cultivars, the rootstock on which the individual trees are grown, and the intensity and duration of the cold.

READ MORE at:
http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu