



UC Master Gardener Program of Santa Barbara County's quarterly newsletter

The Santa Barbara County Bounty

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1:

FREE Virtual 2020 UC Master Gardener Mini Conference!

Live streamed to [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)--No need to register, just pick and choose which sessions to attend.

If you can't make it LIVE all sessions will be recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook.

https://ucanr.edu/sites/2020MGCconference/2020_Virtual_Mini_Conference/

Garden Wisdom Wednesdays

When: Weekly, 5:30PM-6:30PM.

Partner: The SB Bucket Brigade,

What: Weekly online talks, Q&A

Website: <https://growing-community.sbbucketbrigade.org/grow-with-us/garden-wisdom-wednesdays/>

About UC Master Gardeners

We're highly trained volunteers, sponsored by the University of California Cooperative Extension, and we provide research-based information for home gardeners.

http://cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardener/

Facebook:

<facebook.com/sbmastergardeners>

Instagram: [@sbmastergardeners](#)

Join the Growing Community!

Since the pandemic started, the **Foodbank of Santa Barbara County** delivers groceries to 3x more households. Food security is a community problem and Abe Powell knows it. Abe co-founded the **Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade**, a local non-profit that supports community resilience. With the **Growing Community**, Abe wants home gardeners to help feed our neighbors in need.

The idea is simple: 1) Grow veggies from their Fall List. 2) Get an empty produce box delivered to your door. 3) Harvest your produce for pickup by the Growing Community. 4) The Foodbank gets your backyard bounty!



UC Master Gardeners support this community effort with FREE weekly help sessions. Called "**Garden Wisdom Wednesdays**", these virtual talks let us share "Advice to Grow By" to help your garden thrive. Whether it's in a community plot, a backyard bed, a garden box that the Growing Community provides, or a patio container, we can all help the Foodbank get fresh food to neighbors who need it! <https://growing-community.sbbucketbrigade.org/>

Meet a Master Gardener: Sheryl Reimers is a 2018 Master Gardener graduate and is President of the volunteer Advisory Board.

What do you enjoy about being a UC Master Gardener volunteer?

My favorite thing is the continued learning. Answering questions on our Helpline has led me to research horticultural topics that I might not have ever thought about! My continued learning enhances my ability to share accurate, science-based information.



Sheryl Reimers

What tip would you give to beginner gardeners?

Remember that **you learn best from mistakes and failures**. Start small and let your garden expand along with your learning.

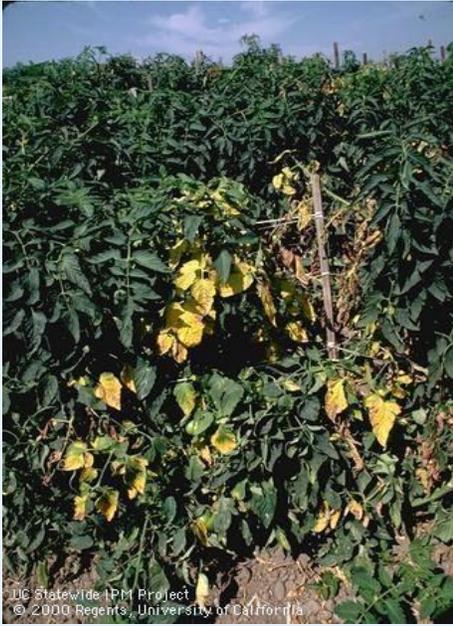
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Ask a Master Gardener

Email: anrsbmg@ucanr.edu

Online: ucanr.edu/sbmg-help

“Advice to Grow By”



*Q: My tomatoes were doing so well, but **in the span of a week** their leaves went from green to yellow to brown, particularly on the lower limbs. What can cause a tomato plant to go from thriving to dying so quickly?*

A: Two common vascular diseases plague tomatoes in California home gardens: **Verticillium wilt** and **Fusarium wilt**. They come from soil fungi that get into the plant's tissue. Either fungus can cause your otherwise healthy plant to quickly die! **Infected plants can't be saved**, so it's best to harvest the fruit (make a green tomato chutney) and dispose of the infected plant in the garbage.

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Fall Garden Checklists

Fall is here! First day of Fall was Tuesday, Sept. 22.

We're providing these checklists to **inspire you** and help you plan your garden tasks.



*Santa Barbara County contains **microclimates** that can influence the optimal timing for these recommendations.*

Have fun, and check out the **entire year** of UCANR-vetted checklists here:

http://cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardener/Master_Your_Garden_Month-By-Month/

SEPTEMBER Growing Guide

Plant vegetable seedlings of beets, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, green onions, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce & salad mixes, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, sugar peas, turnips; **herb seedlings** of chives, cilantro, lavender, lemon grass, parsley, rosemary, winter savory, salad burnet. **Ornamentals** for this month include calendula, cornflower, forget-me-not, larkspur, sweet pea, violets, and seedlings of campanula, candytuft, catmint, coreopsis, delphinium, dianthus, penstemon, phlox, salvia, hollyhocks, and yarrow.

Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers on **orange & grapefruit trees**. The most critical irrigation period for **avocado trees** is from the current year's initial growth flush until young fruit reach at least one inch in diameter.

Look out for pests like **spider mites** and **whiteflies**, which can be particularly evident during these warm days & nights.

Spider mites: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/QT/spidermitescard.html>

Whiteflies: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/QT/whitefliescard.html>

Fall Garden Cleanup

- Gather fallen leaves for compost.
- Turn soil** to expose soil pathogens like Verticillium & Fusarium wilt fungi (which kill tomato plants).
- Stop fertilizing** roses to promote dormancy in preparation of pruning in the next few months.
- Divide clumping plants** like day lilies, perennial grasses, iris, agapanthus, & native penstemon.
- Mulch to control soil runoff** during winter rains.



Ask a Master Gardener

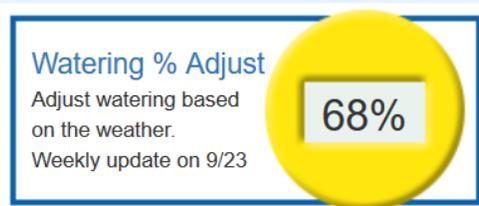
(Continued) If you're container gardening, [replace or solarize the used soil](#). Otherwise, avoid planting tomatoes in that space for a few years to "starve" the soil fungus. (It's a good idea to [rotate vulnerable crops](#) like tomatoes annually.) Check your local nursery for tomato seeds and seedlings of [resistant varieties](#), which will be labeled with a **V** (Verticillium) or **F** (Fusarium).

Learn more about growing tomatoes: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/VEGES/tomato.html>

Irrigation Tip:

Get weekly recommendations based on local weather!

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



Suspicious Seed Alert!

Surprise seed packets from China started appearing in mailboxes around the country in July. **If you received seeds by mail that you didn't ask for, think twice about planting them!** Economically and environmentally harmful plants, diseases, and pests can be spread by seeds.

Instead, report them to the **County Agriculture Commissioner**.

Find your local CAC office here:

countyofsb.org/agcomm/locations.sbc

RESEARCH NEWS: [Effective Treatment for Citrus Greening Disease Discovered at UCR](#)

Scientists at **UC Riverside** found the first treatment against [citrus greening disease](#), which has threatened the California citrus industry since it was identified in a resident's backyard. The treatment is "found in the fruit of greening-tolerant **Australian finger limes**," said UCR geneticist Hailing Jin, who discovered it after a five-year search.

Learn more about this promising discovery here: <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=42985>

Meet a Master Gardener (continued from pg. 1)

Sheryl says... Have confidence in what you learn along the way and let that lead you to the next experiment. Practice patience, follow your curiosity, and most of all, pay attention to what the plants can teach you!

What is your gardening passion?

Since moving to a rural area in north county a dozen years ago, I started learning about [native plants](#). Drought was the main driver. I started with a few plants recommended by a native nursery, and most of them died! But, a few survived, and [my success rate has continued to go up](#). I've learned about soil health, propagation, microclimates, native pollinators, and the importance of plants that are native to this specific area. [The right plant in the right place](#) is a key concept! I learned to stop watering mature plants and accept dormancy as an important part of some native plant's lives.



Sheryl's native garden, several years old.