



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

# The Santa Barbara County Bounty

## ~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Garden Wisdom Wednesdays  
**5:30PM-6:30PM**

**Dec. 9** - Weeds & Diseases  
by UC MGs Ken & Linda

**Dec. 16** - Harvest & Storage  
by UC MGs Janet & Trudy

*Pre-Register:*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpaGHw\\_H40uYam2K4vGwb5vtGemBvYhr4wpfhx9I9bMH\\_0SQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpaGHw_H40uYam2K4vGwb5vtGemBvYhr4wpfhx9I9bMH_0SQ/viewform)

*Host & Moderator:*

Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade

*Have home gardening questions?*

***Ask a UC Master Gardener!***

Email: [anrsbmg@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrsbmg@ucanr.edu)

Online: [ucanr.edu/sbmg-help](http://ucanr.edu/sbmg-help)

## Winter Planting Calendar

**Ornamentals to plant this season:**

Indoors—Poinsettias, Christmas cacti, Cyclamen, Camellias, Azaleas

Outdoors—CA native flowers, bare-root roses, Penstemon, Agapanthus

### Outdoor food crops

Artichokes, Asparagus, Beets & Carrots, Brassicas or “cole crops” (turnips, broccoli, cabbage, radishes), Lettuce & Spinach, Onions, Parsnips, Potato, Horseradish, Rhubarb & Strawberries, Herbs (borage, chives, parsley, rosemary, French thyme). Whew!

More info is available [on our website](#)

## Happy Holidays from Our Garden to Yours!

*Thank you to our donors, who generously gave \$1,366 on Giving Tuesday to support our activities!*

If you're like us, you may have questions about growing holiday-season plants. We're pleased to share the following resources from UC ANR.

- *What's the deal with my “festive” cactus? Thanksgiving or Christmas cactus? Are they the same species?* By Janet Hartin, UC Cooperative Extension, San Bernardino County.  
<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/JanetHartinSustainableLandscapesWorkshopsBlog/?mobileview=normal>
- *How do I keep my pre-cut tree, poinsettias, & mums looking their best?*  
Caring for your holiday plants by Dohee Kim, UC Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County.  
<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=6330>
- *What's the difference in carbon footprint for real vs. fake Christmas trees?*  
'Real' Christmas trees support farmers and the environment by Jeannette Warnert, UC Kearney Research and Extension Center.  
<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=25792>
- *Can economically & ecologically harmful pests hitchhike on Christmas trees? Recycling Christmas trees helps curb the spread of pests* by Pamela Kan-Rice, UC ANR News & Information Outreach.  
<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=16275>

**FREE Christmas tree pickup & recycling for residents of Santa Barbara County!** Follow the link below for times, dates, locations, & requirements.

<http://lessismore.org/materials/77-christmas-tree-recycling/>

Did you get this from a friend? Sign up for our quarterly newsletter here: <http://ucanr.edu/sbmg-signup>

## Irrigation Tip:

Get weekly recommendations based on local weather!

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

### Watering % Adjust

Adjust watering based on the weather.  
Weekly update on 12/9

36%

## Are you praying for rain?

Bzzzt...**Invasive mosquitoes** that carry Yellow Fever and West Nile Virus will breed in standing water around your garden! To reduce their breeding habitat, make sure to **empty your plant saucers**, bromeliads, wheelbarrows, or fountainless bird baths regularly.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/InvasiveMosquitoesBrochure.pdf>



## About UC Master Gardeners

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

[http://cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu/Master\\_Gardener/](http://cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardener/)

[facebook.com/sbmastergardeners](https://www.facebook.com/sbmastergardeners)

Instagram: [@sbmastergardeners](https://www.instagram.com/sbmastergardeners)

## Know Your Average First Frost Date

It's good to know your "first frost date" if you want to garden in the winter, because planting early enough will help your garden survive the frost. While there's no *guaranteed* "first frost date", we can make an educated guess about when it will occur in our area by looking at historical data. The information linked to below is calculated using 1981-2010 Climate Normals from NOAA weather stations around the county.

- **Santa Maria:** <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates/Santa+Maria+Public+Ap%2C+CA/>
- **Lompoc:** <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates/Lompoc%2C+CA/>
- **Santa Barbara:** <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates/Santa+Barbara+Muni+Ap%2C+CA/>

### How do I read these charts?

The chart below, for Lompoc's first frost date, shows that there's a **50% chance** the first frost (temperature at or below **32 degrees F**) will happen *on or before* **December 14**. There is a 90% chance it will occur by January 16.

Frost Dates: First and last frost dates for Lompoc, CA

In the Fall									
Temperature	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
First 16°	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
First 20°	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
First 24°	Dec 25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
First 28°	Dec 2	Dec 22	Jan 8	Jan 28	--	--	--	--	--
First 32°	Nov 11	Nov 22	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 20	Dec 27	Jan 4	Jan 16
First 36°	Oct 28	Nov 4	Nov 9	Nov 13	Nov 17	Nov 21	Nov 25	Nov 30	Dec 6

Modified from <https://garden.org>

Thank you to our community partners in this year of change:

[City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation](#) · [Mesa Harmony Garden](#) · [Santa Barbara Botanic Garden](#) · [Santa Barbara Public Library](#) · [Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade](#) · [Santa Barbara County Agriculture Commissioner](#) · [Santa Barbara Independent](#) · [Santa Barbara Permaculture Network](#)

In 2021, look for us in Lompoc at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park!

[https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=598](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=598) and <https://www.lapurisimamission.org/>