



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

The Santa Barbara County Bounty

Happy Spring!

Spring arrives with the Spring Equinox on Saturday, March 20. Enjoy an extra hour in your garden this week thanks to Daylight Savings Time!

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Victory Vegetable Gardening for True Beginners

When: Every Monday night in April from 7PM-9PM, online.

Who: Up to 30 new-to-gardening veggie growers in S.B. County.

How: Register for the 4-part series at <http://ucanr.edu/vvg-april>

What they're saying:

- "Interesting & informative!"
- "I really appreciate being able to access the many years of collective knowledge of the UC Master Gardeners."
- "I hope you all will consider doing more classes like this! They are really filling a need!"

Have home gardening questions?

Ask a UC Master Gardener!

Email: anrsbmg@ucanr.edu

Online: ucanr.edu/sbmg-help

Spring Garden Calendar

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

Ornamentals to plant in March:

Succulents are easy to propagate plants that generally require little water and excellent drainage.

Summer-blooming bulbs, corms, and tubers: Agapanthus, tuberous Begonias, Calla lily, Caladium, Canna lily, Dahlia, gladiola, tuberose, & Watsonia.

In the last seven days, areas of Santa Barbara County received **0.5" to 2.4" of rainfall** (even snow & hail!)

<https://rain.cosbpw.net/>

Home gardening recommendations:

- If your soil "squishes" when you walk on it, don't!
- The "squish" is the compaction of little air pockets that give your soil its beautiful structure.
- Without that soil structure, roots get compacted and plants suffer. Let your soil dry out for a day (or two, or three) before going after the weeds that are starting to sprout.

What to plant in your food garden in March:

- **Sow seeds** for lettuce, peas, radish and spinach.
- **Transplant** artichokes, asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, and rhubarb. Wait until the warmer days of late March to transplant early-variety tomatoes.
- **Plant starts** for chives, parsley, rosemary, sage, savory, tarragon and thyme.
- **Select** and plant citrus and bare-root stone fruit such as cherry, apricot and peach. See "Planting Bare-Root Trees" in the [California Master Gardener Handbook](#).

Use discount code **PRBAR42** to **save 10%** on UCANR publications and support our local programs in Santa Barbara County! **UC Master Gardeners recommend:**

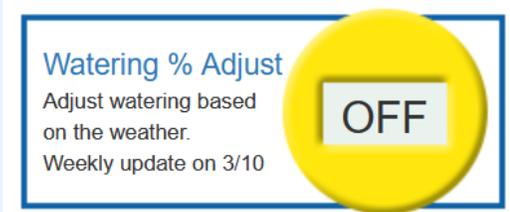
- [California Master Gardener Handbook, 2nd Edition](#)
- [The Home Orchard: Growing Your Own Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees](#)

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/>



NEW! Get the Watering % Adjust texted to your cellphone each week: sign up by texting WATERWISE to (855) 510-0241.

The PlantRight Spring Nursery Survey is here!

<https://plantright.org/survey/>

- The Spring Nursery Survey is conducted in collaboration with the [UC Master Gardener Program](#) and other groups to gather information about the retail market for invasive plants in California.
- Participation is easy, educational, and fun.
- Data can be submitted until June 30th.
- PlantRight works in partnership with the nursery industry and only releases aggregated data that protects the identity of, and data from, the stores that are surveyed.

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/

Facebook:

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

Invasive Mosquito Alert

Last fall, the invasive yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and an invasive species carrying West Nile Virus (*Culex quinquefasciatus*) were found in Santa Barbara County. Recent rainfall will kick off their breeding season.

“An interesting aspect of mosquito biology is that many species can develop in water trapped in plants. Places in plants where they develop are called “phytotelmata”. **Bromeliads and tree holes are good examples.**”

—Dr. Brian Cabrera, [Mosquito & Vector Management District of S.B. County](#)

ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES AROUND YOUR HOME!

- ◆ Discarded cans/bottles
- ◆ Garden tools
- ◆ Tree holes
- ◆ Flower pots
- ◆ Old tires
- ◆ Toys
- ◆ Buckets
- ◆ Rain drums/barrels
- ◆ Pet dishes

Anything that holds water!



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

Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide

"The free 20-page publication, [How to Harden Homes against Wildfire](#) (<http://ucanr.edu/HomeRetrofitGuide>) is now available online. It includes recommendations for 12 vulnerable components of homes in wildfire-prone areas, including roofs, gutters, vents, siding, windows, decks and fences."--Jeannette E. Warnert