

## Meetings and Announcements

### 40th Annual Landscape Management Seminar

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Landscape Management Seminar is planned for Thursday, February 16, 2023, at Hodels in Bakersfield. We have applied for eight hours of PCA credit including two hours of laws. We especially welcome back Dr. Jim Downer from UCCE to speak about pruning and tree diseases. Abate-a-Weed is handling registration.

### Horticulture Classes for Landscapes and Gardens

We plan to begin a series of horticulture classes on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023. The classes will meet Tuesdays, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm for 15 weeks. Topics will be similar to those of past classes; for example, climate, soils and water, irrigation design, landscape plant selection, tree and shrub pruning, fruit tree selection and care, vegetable growing, and managing vertebrate pests (e.g., roof rats and ground squirrels). If you are interested, please let us know at [jfkarlik@ucanr.edu](mailto:jfkarlik@ucanr.edu) or [bhmash@ucanr.edu](mailto:bhmash@ucanr.edu). I'll be assisting with this class.

### Spring 2023 Horticultural Tour

Our offering of horticultural tours of gardens and landscapes was interrupted by Covid. We plan to return to England, Scotland and Wales, in spring, 2023. The dates are May 12 departure and May 27 return. It is possible to participate in either the England and Wales part of the trip, or the Scotland trip, or both. Please see the Travel Gallery website for a flyer with trip details and cost, <https://www.travelgallery.com/hort-2023>. I hope you can join us. Our past tours have had the two ingredients I like so much—they've been interesting and fun.

### Shade Tree Pruning, A Cautionary Note

As reported in several news outlets, Florida congressman Greg Steube fell 25 ft from a ladder while pruning tree limbs on his Sarasota, FL, property on January 19. A report I read said he was knocked off the ladder, not surprising, since a cut limb can carry

considerable energy as it falls. At the time of this writing (Jan 23), he has been released from ICU but remains hospitalized.

At least he is still alive.

Perhaps you know of someone who has had a similar accident. As I've said in the *Green Scene*, if a tree is big enough to climb, it is big enough to tie into, which implies proper safety equipment if working above ground. Pruning from a ladder obviously carries its own risks. Instead, a pole saw can allow a person to cut limbs while standing on the ground. The pole saw I have, a really good one, has a reach of more than 20 ft. Of course, pole saws have limitations in length and the geometry of cuts they can make, so for some situations hiring a professional, who does have proper safety equipment, may be a better alternative.

## A Reminder: For Maintenance Gardeners and Those Who Employ Them

A reminder that maintenance gardeners who apply pesticides, which include herbicides (weed killers), insecticides, fungicides, etc., as a part of their business are required under Section 11704 of the California Food and Agricultural Code to have a Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License. Also, each person who works in a given county under this business license is required to register with the county Agricultural Commissioner before performing pest control work. Gardeners are also required to report monthly the pesticide products used. These laws and regulations are intended to protect workers, the environment, and all of us, requiring education before using pesticide products.

To acquire this business license, gardeners must first obtain a Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) (also known as a silver card). This certificate is issued by the State of California, Department of Pesticide Regulation, after the applicant passes a test covering laws, regulations and the landscape maintenance pest control category. A QAC requires continuing education units to be renewed on a two-year cycle. It is not necessary that each member of a crew applying a pesticide hold the QAC, but the supervisor must. We can ask to see the certificate if hiring a maintenance gardener.

The Commissioner's office has heard stories of gardeners asking the homeowner to purchase pesticides so a gardener can apply them, apparently in an attempt to fly under the radar. However, it is the application of pesticides that is the intent of the law, so no matter who purchases the materials, the gardener who applies pesticides still needs to have a QAC.

For further information in Kern County, one may contact the Commissioner's office at 1001 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93307-2851, 661-868-6300.

*John Karlik Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science*

**Disclaimer:** Discussion of research findings necessitates using trade names. This does not constitute product endorsement, nor does it suggest products not listed would not be suitable for use. Some research results included involve use of chemicals which are currently registered for use, or may involve use which would be considered out of label. These results are reported but are not a recommendation from the University of California for use. Consult the label and use it as the basis of all recommendations.

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