

Volume 1 Issue 1

January 2025

# The RECap

*A newsletter from South Coast Research and Extension Center  
and UC Cooperative Extension Orange County*



## **This is our first newsletter!**

You have been added to the list to receive this newsletter based on previous interactions with South Coast REC and UC Cooperative Extension Orange County. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters, please click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

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### **Featuring:**

- SCREC Updates
  - UCCE OC Updates
  - In The Media
  - Seasonal Produce
  - Pro Tips
  - SCRECipes
  - Upcoming Events
- 

### **Hello from Irvine!**

Thank you for taking the time to read our very first newsletter. As a research and extension center (REC) and home of UC Cooperative Extension Orange County, we are excited to share updates on the innovative research projects and impactful outreach and education programs that are housed at South Coast REC.

This inaugural newsletter features some general information about the research center and cooperative extension as well as spotlights on some of the seasonal produce we are harvesting, tips from our experts, delicious recipes made from SCREC-grown produce, and upcoming events.

**South Coast REC**



**UCCE Orange County**



UC South Coast Research and Extension Center (REC) sits on nearly 200 acres of land in Irvine, California. Since 1956, South Coast REC has served as a research station for projects relating to agriculture and natural resources. There is a rich history of research on water resources, ornamental and landscape plants, plant breeding, and variety trials for crops like strawberries, pitahaya, and avocados. We still grow some of these varieties today including 65 varieties of persimmons, 38 varieties of cherimoyas, and 147 varieties of citrus.

Aside from research, we also serve as a hub for agriculture education and outreach for the local community. We have a strong partnership with the Orange County Farm Bureau and for several decades have provided hands-on agriculture education to the youth of Orange County through the GROW Program.

For more information about South Coast REC please visit our website: [screc.ucanr.edu](http://screc.ucanr.edu) or reach out to us at [southcoastrec@ucanr.edu](mailto:southcoastrec@ucanr.edu).

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## Orange County Farm Bureau



We have a long-standing partnership with the Orange County Farm Bureau (OCFB), whose office is also headquartered at South Coast REC.

For several decades the Orange County Farm Bureau has collaborated with our community education specialists to deliver hands-on agriculture education experiences to the youth of Orange County through the GROW Program. OCFB has also generously supported our local 4-H Youth Development Program.

OCFB continues to champion our

University of California Cooperative Extension Orange County (UCCE OC) is based at South Coast REC and is comprised of several research programs led by cooperative extension (CE) advisors and statewide programs led by community education specialists and staff directors. In each issue of our newsletter we aim to feature updates from these programs, but first let's get to know who we have here in Orange County!

UCCE OC has 3 main research programs:

- Human-Wildlife Interactions
- Urban Forestry
- Water Resources

Several statewide programs are also represented in Orange County:

### 4H Youth Development

Contact: [oc4h@ucanr.edu](mailto:oc4h@ucanr.edu)



### UC Master Food Preservers

[Click here to contact](#)



### UC Master Gardeners

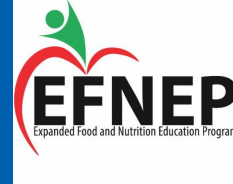
Contact the hotline  
[ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu](mailto:ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu)



### Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Contact: Natalie Price  
[nmprice@ucanr.edu](mailto:nmprice@ucanr.edu) or  
Javier Miramontes  
[jfmiramontes@ucanr.edu](mailto:jfmiramontes@ucanr.edu)

research and agriculture education efforts and for that we are so grateful! To learn more about OCFB please visit their website: [ocfarmbureau.org](http://ocfarmbureau.org)



For more information about UCCE Orange County please visit our website: [ceorange.ucanr.edu](http://ceorange.ucanr.edu)

## In the Media

Click the titles below to view recent articles and media about programs and projects at South Coast REC and UCCE OC.



### **UCCE Orange County Partners with Local Pest Management Services and Industry to Resolve Mouse Infestation and Highlight Community Impact**

*by Saoimanu Sope*



### **West Coast Rodent Academy Empowers Pest Control Professionals with Cutting-Edge Knowledge on Urban Rodent Management**

*By Saoimanu Sope*



### **South Coast REC studies pesto profitability for small-scale basil growers**

*by Saoimanu Sope*



### **South Coast REC program educates, trains future ag workforce**

*By Saoimanu Sope*





### **Trees vs. Invasive Shot Hole Borers**

*Podcast with Fred Hoffman and CE Advisor  
Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann*



### **Retractable solar panels shade crops and create energy**

*by Vicky Boyd  
(Reprinted with permission from Ag  
Alert/California Farm Bureau)*

## **Seasonal Produce**

At South Coast REC we grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. We often host u-pick events, produce pop-up sales, and even giveaways! Over the last few months, we have harvested persimmons, cherimoyas, guavas, and sweet potatoes.



**Persimmons**



**Cherimoyas**



**Guavas**



**Sweet Potatoes**

*Follow us on Instagram @UCSouthCoast and join our email list to receive notifications specifically about u-picks, produce pop-ups, and giveaways! Email Tammy at [tjmajcherek@ucanr.edu](mailto:tjmajcherek@ucanr.edu)*

## Pro Tips

*Tips, tricks, and advice from our program experts*

### Gardening Tips from our UC Master Gardeners

#### Rose Tree Pruning



January is the perfect month for **rose pruning** in California, as the plants enter their dormant phase, allowing gardeners to prepare them for a spectacular spring bloom. This essential gardening task not only shapes the plants but also removes any dead or diseased wood, ensuring healthy growth. By mastering the proper pruning

#### Fruit Tree Pruning



**Fruit tree pruning** is an essential horticultural practice that significantly impacts the health and productivity of fruit-bearing trees. Over the years, various techniques have been employed, but recent research has shed light on the most effective methods to enhance both growth and yield. Learn more about understanding the optimal timing for



techniques, rose lovers can cultivate vibrant and flourishing gardens filled with stunning flowers. Embrace this opportunity to enhance your outdoor space and enjoy the beauty of roses like never before! [Learn more here.](#)

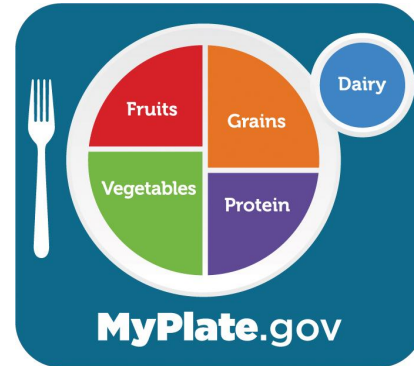
### Water Saving Tips from Esther Lofton, our Urban Watershed Resilience Advisor



**Tip #1. Smart Irrigation Systems**  
Install smart irrigation controllers that adjust watering schedules based on weather conditions, soil moisture, and plant needs. This technology ensures that water is only used when necessary. Check out this [blog post](#) to learn more. You can also visit the [SoCal Water Resources webpage](#) for more information and to get involved.

pruning, the appropriate tools to use, and the specific techniques that can be applied to different species of fruit trees by [clicking here.](#)

### Nutrition Tips from EFNEP



Eating a variety of fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains, and dairy or fortified alternatives is important at any age. Choose foods that are lower in added sugar, saturated fats, and sodium. Visit the [EFNEP website](#) for more healthy eating tips, recipes, and local resources or the [MyPlate website](#) for national resources.

## SCRECipes

*South Coast REC-ipes: delicious dishes made with SCREC-grown produce*

### Roasted Sweet Potatoes and Cauliflower

#### Ingredients:

- Cauliflower
- Sweet Potatoes
- Olive Oil
- Salt
- Pepper
- Garlic Powder
- Dried chopped basil
- Dried chopped oregano

#### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 450F.
- Wash and peel the sweet potatoes, then slice long ways into French fry size pieces. Wash and cut the cauliflower into desired size.
- Toss the cut veggies in olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, basil, and oregano.
- Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until desired texture. Enjoy!



*Did you make something with produce grown at SCREC? Post it on Instagram and tag us! [@UCSouthCoast](#) [#SCRECipe](#)*

## Upcoming Events

### 4-H Youth Development Events



#### Teen Meet-Up Bonfire

February 16, 2025

Bolsa Chica State Beach

Join us for Volleyball & Sand Castle  
Tournaments with Bonfire & S'mores

RSVP to get event details.

[RSVP here](#)

### Vertebrate Pest Control Events

**VPC SEMINAR SERIES**

*Agenda*

**FEBRUARY 20TH**  
**CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
**340 N. ESCONDIDO BLVD, ESCONDIDO, CA 92025**

TIME	TOPIC
8:00	REGISTRATION
8:30	THE GREAT RODENTICIDE DEBATE: NAVIGATING THE REGULATORY MAZE ROGER BALDWIN-UC DAVIS
9:15 10:00 BREAK	BIRD MANAGEMENT IN STRUCTURAL ENVIRONMENTS NICKI FREY-UTAH STATE
10:15	VECTOR BORNE DISEASE UPDATE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
11:00 11:45 LUNCH	RODENTICIDE ROULETTE: WILDLIFE EXPOSURE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS NIAMH QUINN-UCANR
12:45	MANAGING GROUND BURROWING RODENTS ROGER BALDWIN-UC DAVIS
1:30	"HEALTH CHECK: HOW PEST MANAGEMENT IMPACTS APPLICATORS" LAURA KRUEGER-ORANGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
2:15	GROUND SQUIRRELS IN URBAN SPACES: NAVIGATING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT UNDER NEW REGULATIONS NIAMH QUINN-UCANR

Click image to enlarge

## 2025 Vertebrate Pest Council Off-Cycle Seminars

February 20, 2025  
8am-3pm

340 North Escondido Boulevard  
Escondido, CA 92025

[Click Here For Tickets](#)

Also in Walnut Creek February 25 and Tulare February 27.

**2025**  
**VERTEBRATE PEST COUNCIL OFF-CYCLE SEMINARS**

**VPC**

**THREE DATES & LOCATIONS!**  
**8:00AM - 3:00 PM PST**

**ESCONDIDO - FEBRUARY 20, 2025**  
 California Center for the Arts  
 340 N. Escondido Blvd  
 Escondido, CA 92025

**WALNUT CREEK - FEBRUARY 25, 2025**  
 Walnut Creek Arts & History Center  
 600 North Linden St  
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**TULARE - FEBRUARY 27, 2025**  
 International Agri-Center  
 4500 South Lincoln St  
 Tulare, CA 93274

**Topics and CEUs:**

- Rodent Management
- Trapping Laws
- Laws & Regs Update

**REGISTRATION & QUESTIONS**  
 Register Online Here  
[trainingsupport@target-specialty.com](mailto:trainingsupport@target-specialty.com)

**COST:**  
**\$99 per person**

Co-Hosted by **TARGET** Specialty Products

Click image to enlarge

**IRVINE, CA**

# West Coast Rodent Academy

Register Now!  
CAPMA early bird deal \$299

Join Us  
**MARCH 12-14**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

- Places are limited so register early
- Hands-on and classroom learning
- Learn all about rodent management
  - exclusion
  - trapping
  - rodenticides
  - new laws and regs

DPR AND SPCB CEUS APPROVED  
OTHER STATES BY REQUEST

To register, and for more information, please visit:  
[www.ucanr.edu/sites/WCRA](http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/WCRA)

Click image to enlarge

## West Coast Rodent Academy

March 12-14, 2025

7601 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, CA  
92618

Register early to join us for this unique urban rodent management workshop which includes lectures to help you better understand rodent ecology and integrated pest management (IPM). Learn about rodent disease, monitoring, trapping, urban rodent surveys and much more.

**More information here:**  
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/wcra/>

[Register Here](#)

## Forestry Events





# LOG IN TODAY FOR CA TREE SCHOOL!

Grow your forest stewardship skills with a day of learning led by forestry and fire experts from UC ANR and across California.

## EXPLORE FOUNDATIONAL FORESTRY CONCEPTS

California Tree School is a one-day, mini-college experience. Register for the session closest to you!

**TAKE 4 CLASSES OF YOUR CHOICE** on tree ID, prescribed fire, reforestation, local fungi, and more.

**CONNECT WITH UC ANR ADVISORS** and natural resource organizations.



## SANTA CRUZ SESSION

**WHEN:** Saturday April 5, 2025  
**WHERE:** San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton CA



## OAKHURST SESSION

**WHEN:** Saturday April 12, 2025  
**WHERE:** Yosemite Adult School, Oakhurst CA

## FOR LANDOWNERS, STUDENTS, AND THE COMMUNITY!

CA Tree School has classes for all forest enthusiasts! CA Tree School is for ages 15+.

CA Tree School 2025 is presented by:

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Forest Stewardship

Fire Network

Free Science

UC ANR

## REGISTER USING THE QR CODE TODAY!

Visit [ucanr.edu/CATreeSchool](https://ucanr.edu/CATreeSchool) for more information.

Registration fee: \$70 per session.  
Please contact [kcingram@ucanr.edu](mailto:kcingram@ucanr.edu) to request a scholarship.



Click image to enlarge

Register today for **California Tree School 2025**! Travel to Santa Cruz or Oakhurst and explore foundational forestry concepts with UC ANR. This one-day, mini college experience is for forest landowners, natural resource organization employees, and all forest enthusiasts! Take four classes of your choice on tree identification, prescribed fire, fire history, and more. Register for the Santa Cruz or Oakhurst session on our website: <https://ucanr.edu/CATreeSchool>

[Register Here](#)



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# Forestry Institute for Teachers Summer 2025 Sessions



## Enhancing Educator Environmental Literacy for Over 30 Years

Join fellow educators and natural resource professionals at one of FIT's immersive, week-long professional learning sessions.

FIT's team of credentialed instructors and local experts weave environmental education curricula with unique forestry field experiences to help you explore forest stewardship for current and future generations. Expect an enriching week of outdoor learning that will expand both your perspectives and teaching practice!

Learn more at [forestryinstitute.org](https://forestryinstitute.org)



## 2025 Session Dates

Session	Location	Date
El Dorado	Georgetown	June 15 - 21
Tuolumne	Sonoma	June 22 - 28
Shasta	Shingletown	June 29 - July 5
Humboldt	Arcata	July 13 - 19

Registration covers room, board and materials  
\$80 early bird Nov. 8 - Dec. 31 / \$125 Jan. 1 onward

## Who Can Attend?

FIT welcomes all California educators; TK-12+, any subject matter, formal and nonformal educators, administrators, and program leads. Whether attending solo, or as a team, you'll have time to collaborate and plan with your session's cohort and in grade-band breakouts. If planning to return as a FIT Graduate, please read website FAQs.

"I'm excited to engage students in meaningful forest discussions and open young minds to alternative points of view." ~ 2023 El Dorado Participant

brought to you in part by



## Participants Receive

- Certifications in [Project Learning Tree \(PLT\)](#) & [Project Water Education Today \(WET\)](#)
- Standards-aligned pedagogical support, curricula, and teaching resources
- Networking with peers and professionals
- Eligibility for 3 CEUs upon program completion
- Eligibility for \$300 stipend upon implementation of a curriculum project during the school year

The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) is an equal opportunity provider. Complaints regarding UC ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UC ANR, Affirmative Action Compliance Office, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2001 second street, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 750-1343

Click image to enlarge

Registration is now open for the **Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) 2025 summer program**! Join fellow educators and natural resource professionals at one of FIT's immersive, week-long professional learning sessions. FIT's teams of credentialed instructors and local experts weave environmental education curricula with unique forestry field experiences to help you explore forest stewardship for current and future generations. Expect an enriching week of outdoor learning that will expand your perspectives and teaching practice!

[Register Here](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



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