

Volume 1 Issue 8

August 2025

The RECap

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



Summer is still going strong, but fall is just around the corner and our pumpkins, pictured above, are getting ready for our annual U-pick event on October 11!

Featuring:

- Research Spotlight
 - Event Recap
 - Pro Tips
 - Upcoming Events
-

With many schools starting up in the last few weeks, things are really picking back up at South Coast REC. Our programs are wrapping up summer activities and getting ready for the fall, with more field trips than ever before scheduled to come to the REC. We are proud to feature updates from a couple of programs as well as a TON of event announcements, including a controlled environment agriculture workshop, a coffee workshop, and our annual Open House event. Make sure to check them out below!

Sincerely,
Lindsey Pedroncelli, Ph.D., Interim Director of South Coast REC
and
Rita Clemons, Director of UCCE Orange County

P.S. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future, please unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Research Spotlight



Results from a study conducted at South Coast REC from 2018 to 2021 were recently [published in the journal Plant Disease](#). This study evaluated the role of soil moisture in disease development and management of *Macrophomina* charcoal rot on strawberries, a soilborne fungal disease that is causing major problems for strawberry growers throughout California and other growing regions. This work was conducted by South Coast REC Director, Dr. Lindsey Pedroncelli, who was a graduate student at the time, as well as Dr. Alexander Putman, Assistant Cooperative Extension Specialist and Plant Pathologist at UC Riverside, and Andre Biscaro, Irrigation and Water Resources Advisor with UCCE Ventura County. The researchers found that disease severity and mortality caused by *Macrophomina* Charcoal Rot was significantly higher among plants subjected to low soil moisture, indicating that strawberry growers should be very careful with keeping the soil moisture at an optimal level when this pathogen is present in their fields.

For more information about the study and results, contact Dr. Pedroncelli at Lrpedroncelli@ucanr.edu



The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, along with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, the California Agricultural Experiment Station, the Organic Seed Alliance, the University of Guelph, and Washington State University recently released a few new carrot varieties that were developed through studies conducted at several research centers including UC ANR's South Coast REC, Desert REC, and Kearney REC. These varieties have resistance to Root Knot Nematode *Meloidogyne incognita* and cavity spot caused by *Pythium* species.

This is an exciting development for carrot growers, who will now have a new tool to use in the fight against these diseases.

More information about some of the UC ANR carrot trials can be found in [this presentation](#), and information about the new releases should be available on the [USDA website](#) soon. If you have any questions, reach out to Lindsey Pedroncelli at Lrpedroncelli@ucanr.edu

Event Recap

4-H Youth Development Program

The Orange County 4-H Youth Development Program had an amazing Open House event

last weekend. Over 200 visitors, including many new families, which we hope will become 4-H members this Fall, spent time at South Coast REC. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about what 4-H has to offer and enjoyed tram tours guided by UC Master Gardener volunteers Mark LaMorte & Laura Holly – another great collaboration between programs!

This week they kicked off the new year for the Home School Project, too! "We are so grateful to have the spaces at SCREC to host events like this," says Program Coordinator, Rita Jakel.

Check out the photos below to see more of what Orange County 4-H was up to this past summer:



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS OC 4-H THIS SUMMER?



Master Gardeners & 4-H host youth from
Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove



A VISIT TO SCREC & THE YOUTH GARDEN



Enrollment is open!

2025-2026 OC 4-H enrollment is open! All adults and youth are welcome to

join! Use this link to access enrollment instructions:

[Find enrollment instructions here](#)

[Join the Book Drive!](#)



Join OC 4-H in our Fall Community Service Project: 1000 New Books Drive for CHOC Hospital Little Library, which provides books to patients and their families during their hospital stay. Until November 16, drop off **NEW BOOKS ONLY** in the box in Building 103 at South Coast REC. Thanks for your support of these families in need!

Pro Tips

Tips, tricks, and advice from our program experts

Urban Watershed Resilience: Permeable Pavements



❑ Permeable Pavements:

❑ Pavimentos Permeables:

Smarter Stormwater Solutions

Daniel Gonzalez, Dr. Esther Lofton &
Dr. Erik Porse

Traditional pavements like concrete and asphalt have been essential in building Southern California—supporting transportation, housing, and economic growth. Yet, these same surfaces also contribute to flooding, pollution, and heat.

Permeable pavements—such as porous asphalt, pavers, and turf blocks—offer the same durability and functionality while letting rain soak into the ground. The result: less runoff, cleaner water, recharged groundwater, cooler neighborhoods, and safer communities.

From the Riverside County Flood Control District's campus installations to Los Angeles' Elmer Avenue Retrofit and UC Irvine's green infrastructure projects, case studies across the region prove that permeable pavements work—delivering measurable benefits for water security, community safety, and climate resilience.

- They're proven.
- They work.
- They make cities safer and more resilient.
- As we continue to build and grow, let's make our driveways, streets, and parking lots part of the solution.
- [Read more in our blog](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [X](#) to join the conversation on building water-smart, resilient cities.

Soluciones Inteligentes para el Manejo de Aguas Pluviales

Daniel González II, Dra. Esther Lofton
y Dr. Erik Porse

El concreto y el asfalto han sido clave para el crecimiento del Sur de California, pero también aumentan las inundaciones, la contaminación y el calor.

Los pavimentos permeables—como asfalto poroso, adoquines y bloques con pasto—ofrecen la misma resistencia, pero dejan que el agua de lluvia se filtre al suelo. El resultado: menos escurrimiento, agua más limpia, barrios más frescos y comunidades más seguras.

Desde el Distrito de Control de Inundaciones de Riverside, hasta Elmer Avenue en Los Ángeles y proyectos en UC Irvine, los ejemplos locales muestran que funcionan.

- Probados.
- Efectivos.
- Resilientes.
- Llamado a la Acción:

Al seguir construyendo nuestras ciudades, hagamos que entradas, calles y estacionamientos sean parte de la solución.

- [Lee más en nuestro blog](#) y síguenos en [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), y [X](#) para unirte a la conversación sobre cómo construir ciudades inteligentes con el agua y resilientes.



Upcoming Events

October 11, 2025 is our annual Urban Ag & Gardening Expo with our Pumpkin U-pick!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH 9-2PM
SOUTH COAST RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER'S
URBAN AG/GARDENING EXPO
& PUMPKIN U-PICK!

- Produce Tastings
- Tool Sharpening Service
- Workshops/Lectures
- Tractor Tours
- Demonstrations
- Bring Your Garden Questions
- Opportunity Drawings
- Cut Pumpkins off the vine!
- Vendor/Partner Booths
- Giveaways!



Watch the recap of last year's open house below.



Activities include:

- A tractor tour of the research center
- A pumpkin u-pick (pending harvest availability)
- Presentations from our expert researchers
- Hands-on demonstrations from our program leaders
- Prizes and giveaways

[**RSVP Here**](#)

Interested in becoming a UC Master Gardener?

Orange County will be conducting its next volunteer training program beginning in late 2025 and continuing through mid-May 2026. Master Gardeners are volunteers who extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California.

On September 4, 2025, join us either [in person at 10:00am](#) or [on Zoom at 6:00pm](#) for an information session!

[Learn more about becoming a UC Master Gardener](#)

[**Register for Zoom Here**](#)

UC Master Gardeners of Orange County 2026 Volunteer Training Information Day

September 4, 2025 - 10:00 am In-person
September 4, 2025 - 6:00 pm Zoom

Would you like to become a UC Master Gardener Volunteer?

University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners are volunteers who extend horticulture education to communities in Orange County. Using a variety of activities such as workshops, lectures, a gardening hotline, and information booths at local events, we educate Orange County residents about home horticulture, sustainable landscaping, and integrated pest management using research-based information. Master Gardeners help increase gardening and science literacy to support healthy plants, healthy environments, and healthy communities. This is a volunteer program. It is not a class to teach gardening solely for your personal gain.

What is required?

- Basic knowledge and interest in landscape and food gardening
- Interest in increasing your horticulture skills as you volunteer
- Commitment to volunteer
- Basic computer skills
- Reside in Orange County

Master Gardener volunteer training classes cover a broad range of horticultural topics. The 2026 class will be conducted in-person at the UC South Coast Research and Extension Center in Irvine with a limited option to attend via Zoom. There will be a required class Orientation on November 20, 2025. Weekly classes will start January 15, 2026 and run until mid-May. All sessions will be on Thursday mornings and early afternoons. If you have other commitments that require more than one absence, we ask that you wait to apply in the future. Master Gardeners are required to complete minimum volunteer and continuing education hours each year.

To receive an application to be considered for the 2026 Master Gardeners Training program, potential applicants are required to attend **ONE** of the Information Day sessions on September 4, 2025:

In-person on September 4:

10:00 – 11:00 am
UC South Coast Research & Extension Center
7601 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, 92618

On Zoom on September 4:

6:00 – 7:00 pm
Register with this link:
<https://ucanr.zoom.us/join/7iQSLqdd122FZCVrg>
(cut and paste if link doesn't open)



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
Orange County

mgorange.ucanr.edu

https://mgorange.ucanr.edu/Be_A_Master_Gardener/

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>). Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343.

Orange County Farm Bureau and Ag in the Classroom Presents



Orange County
FARM BUREAU



Growing Connections: *Agriculture Literacy
in Math & Science*

FREE One-Day Seminar for High School Teachers

PRESENTED BY CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE
CLASSROOM & ORANGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Saturday, September 5th, 2025

9:00am-3:30pm

Location:

Who Should Attend: High school math
and science teachers in orange county
interested in career pathways, STEM,
and real-world agriculture
connections.

- *Connect with fellow educators & ag leaders*
- *Integrate AG into math/science*
- *Tour UC ANR South Coast REC*
- *Access free CFAITC resources*
- *Earn a certificate of participation*



SCAN TO REGISTER

Questions?

Contact: alyssa@learnaboutag.org

info@learnaboutag.org

916-561-5640

Register Here

Controlled Environment Agriculture Workshop



JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON

CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE:

WATER, NUTRIENTS, AND FOOD SAFETY

Topics will include:

- Hydroponic nutrient management
- Substrate selection
- Water treatment and disinfection
- Starting your own hydroponic "Kratky" system
- Risk mitigation for microbial contamination

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
AT SOUTH COAST REC

REGISTER TODAY

https://bit.ly/UCANR_CEA

PRESENTATIONS

- Water Treatment Technologies for Greenhouse & Indoor Systems
- Substrates and Delivery: Optimizing Water and Nutrient Uptake
- Precision Environmental Monitoring & Control in CEA
- Researcher's Perspective to the Industry: CDFA WETA program and Survey
- Kratky Hydroponics: A Low-Cost, Passive System for Efficient Urban Crop Production
- Grower Roundtable: Practical Challenges and Innovations
- Growing Safely: Ensuring Food Safety in CEA Systems

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Ahmed El-Moghazy

Assistant Professor and CE Specialist of Food Safety, UC Riverside

Grant Johnson, M.S.

Urban Agriculture & AgTech Advisor, Orange County and LA Counties

Amrita Mukherjee, M.S.

UCANR Urban Agriculture and Small Farms Advisor, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties

Dr. Ken Omwange

Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Controlled Environment Engineering Lab, UC Davis

Dr. Gerry Spinelli

Production Horticulture Advisor, UCANR, San Diego County

Dr. Amrit Kumar Thakur

Assistant Project Scientist, UC Davis

Register Here

California Nursery Conference



California Nursery Conference

September 10-11, 2025

Museum of Ventura County Agriculture Museum

Santa Paula, CA

Agenda

9/10: Seminars & demonstrations from horticultural scientists & experts

9/11: Tour of local nurseries, greenhouses, & landscapes

[Click here to view the full agenda](#)

Discounted Pricing through 8/31

\$355 for Both Days (Seminars + Tour)

Register [here](#) with coupon code **EOME0EHKRW**

\$185 for Day 1 Only (Seminars Only)

Register [here](#) with coupon code **PBJMHVEDCQ**

\$195 for Day 2 Only (Tour Only)

Register [here](#) with coupon code **JYJGXBOAHW**

If you're a student, please email gspinelli@ucdavis.edu for student coupon codes.

View the
[View the
Agenda](#)

**Register for
both days** with
code
EOME0EHKRW

**Register for Day
1 seminars only**
with code
PBJMHVEDCQ

**Register for
Day 2 tours
only** with code
JYJGXBOAHW

If you're a student,
please email
gspinelli@ucdavis.edu
for student coupon
codes.

Coffee Workshop

Join us for a

COFFEE WORKSHOP

September 15, 2025 9:00am-12:00pm
South Coast Research and Extension Center
7601 Irvine Blvd Irvine, CA 92618

Learn from Ramiro Lobo, San Diego County Small Farms Advisor, about:

- Overview, history, and varieties of coffee
- Coffee production, processing, and roasting
- History and research behind California grown coffee

Learn from Darlene Ruiz, San Diego Small Farms Research Associate, about:

- UC Small Farms Network
- Educational and support programs for growers



Taste coffee
made from
different
varieties and
techniques



Walk through
coffee cupping
and extraction
processes



Learn how to
plant and
maintain your
own coffee
seedling

\$20 per person. Includes a 1-gallon coffee plant and seedlings!

Questions? Email us at southcoastrec@ucanr.edu

Reserve your spot here: <https://bit.ly/2025CoffeeWorkshop>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Register Here

California Master Beekeeper Program Events



Interested in learning about



Have you ever toured an apiary? Sign

beekeeping? Sign up for a CAMBP
OC Workshop for Beekeepers!

up for a California Master Beekeeper
Apiary Tour!

Workshop topics include:

- Checking overwinter colonies
- Managing for honey production
- Swarming & robbing prevention
- Checking for diseases & queen health
- Preparing a split to requeen
- Feeding techniques
- Completing a hive inspection
- Strategies to requeen
- Mite test load & control
- Honey extraction technique

Last tour of the year! Saturday,
September 6th from 10am-12pm.

[Register Here](#)



Upcoming workshops are on:

- October 18, 2025

[Register Here](#)

H2O for HOAs: Free Education and Networking Event

REGISTER TODAY!



**H₂O
for
HOAs**

THURSDAY

OCT 23

8AM - 12NOON

Norman P. Murray Community & Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo

bit.ly/H2OforHOAs2025

[Register Here](#)

How did you like this email?



Fill out [this survey](#) to let us know what kind of content you want to see in future newsletters: bit.ly/TheRECapNewsletterContent



UC ANR South Coast REC | 7601 Irvine Blvd | Irvine, CA 92618 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!