

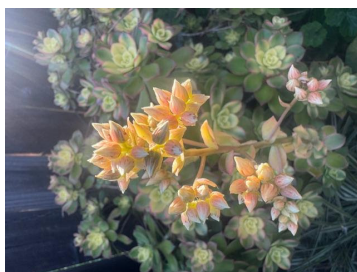


UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

COUNTY BOUNTY

UC Master Gardeners of
Santa Barbara County

July 2026



*Roots in Quiet Soil
Morning dew clings soft,
hands press seeds into warm earth—
sun hums them awake.*
anonymous

We wish you happiness in your July garden and hope this month's County Bounty helps make it even better. Our focus is on maintenance and pest problems/solutions. Enjoy...

FYI: For those of us who love cacti and succulants, June 27th is the annual **Succulants Show** at the SB Women's Club.

Upcoming Summer Classes

Garden Talk



Supporting Pollinators

It takes more than planting a Milkweed to keep our pollinators healthy. Join veteran Master Gardeners Trudy Adair-Verbais and Janet Rogers as they take a deep dive into this vital subject.

Date: Monday, July 6th

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Registration Required

[Register Here](#)



Summer Pruning of Fruit Trees

This is such a fun class as master gardeners teach the principles of summer pruning fruit trees. It's so empowering to learn this skill.

Date: Saturday, Aug 1st

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Location: Mesa Harmony Garden

Registration Required

[Register Here](#)



North County Classes

Children's Gardening - Ready, Set, Grow

This is part two of our kids gardening series. It is beyond fun to see the excitement children feel when learning to garden. It is quite special!

When: July 10, 2026 - 2:00 - 3:30

Where: Lompoc Public Library

[Register Here](#)



photos courtesy of Lisa Jones/Gene Urban

Information and Help Tables

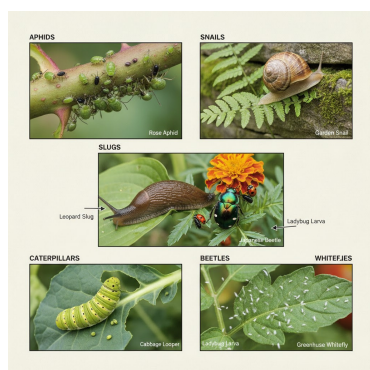
Gardening can be complicated; So many variables and questions. That's why we have help tables and a help line. Please let us help find the answers you need.

- DT Farmers Market 7/11 - 9 am- 2 pm
- Alice Keck Park Butterfly Garden - 7/8, 7/22 - 9-11
- SB Botanic Gardens - 7/11 - 1- 3 pm
- Mesa Harmony Gardens - none in July
- Goleta Farmers Market - 7/12 - 10-2 pm

We will have a help table at the City's Pollinator-Palooza on June 28th. For more info [click here](#).

Plus... our helpline volunteers love answering questions. Drop them an email at anrmgsb@ucanr.edu or call them at our **new helpline number**, 805-803-1802.

For more info about this program.. [Click Here](#)



Are Bugs Bugging You? Are Your Plants Hungry? We Have Ideas.

- **Aphids** - On small plants, spray a strong stream of water or apply insecticidal oils and soaps. Look for and conserve **natural enemies** such as predaceous bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, and syrphids. They are your allies.
- **Asian citrus psyllid** - If you have citrus, it's important to keep an eye out for these invasive pests.
- Camellia, citrus, gardenia, grape, and other plants adapted to acidic soil - If leaves are yellowing between green veins (chlorotic), plants may benefit from foliar or soil **application of iron and zinc** chelate and mulching.
- **Clean up** mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- Cover fruit trees with netting to **exclude birds** and other **vertebrate pests**.
- **Fertilize** cane berries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily flowering shrubs with a slow-release product.
- Add mulch as needed. Moist is good. Remember, mulch is home to many beneficial critters and critical to building healthy soils.

The **UC IPM website** is a great resource for diagnosing and treating a wide range of pest problems.

Information Courtesy of UCANR
Picture Courtesy of Deposit Photos



Drip System Maintenance

July is a great time to do a deep inspection of your irrigation system. We are in peak water use season, and with demand comes a guy named Murphy.

1. **Adjust the irrigation timer/controller** to reflect changes in the weather. Temperature changes, rain, and excessive wind all affect water needs.
2. If your controller has a **backup battery**, it should be replaced annually. Replace the controller's battery once a year.
3. **Inspect irrigation** for leaks, clogs, and breaks of the main components. Check the pressure regulator, filters, valves, and backflow preventers. Clean them and spray them out with water.
4. **Flush out the drip system**. At the end of each drip irrigation run, open them up one at a time. Run each zone individually for a minute or two. Then turn off the zone. Close the ends.
5. Check the drip tubing for **breaks and leaks**. Slowly walk the whole property, listen, and look for leaks. Leaks can happen from shovels, animals, freezing, pruners, sun damage, and foot traffic.
6. **Examine emitters**, micro-sprayers and bubblers. Clean out the flag emitters, replace emitters and sprayers that don't work. Move the emitters away from the crown of the plants and trees. Extend drip lines to match expanded tree drip lines.

Courtesy of Master Gardeners of Solano & Yolo Counties

A special shout-out for the fantastic turnout at our May irrigation classes. We so enjoyed sharing info and ideas with you.



Have You Thought or Dreamed About Becoming A Master Gardener? We are accepting applications for our next class.

[Sign Up for Class Info Here](#)



Summer Homework

Sometimes one has time to explore, and every once in a while, wonderful things appear. That happened to me while manning the Alice Ketch Park info table. A brochure about the county's Water Wise Program was staring at me and I had the time to explore; Oh my!

If you have not had the time to tour this *"much more than water"* garden tool, that's your Summer homework. [The Water Wise Website](#)

