

July 2017

UC Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra News

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado & Tuolumne counties

## Your monthly news & event announcements

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### Hot Summer Greetings,

We hope you are staying cool during the heat waves we have been having. Our programs have been busy with "Tree Mortality: Train the Trainer" workshops for the Master Gardeners in the affected counties. This workshop was designed to give the Master Gardeners knowledge to help our communities by answering questions about replanting. And, we just co-hosted "The Angora Fire Ten Years Later... What have we learned?" symposium to increase the understanding about the research and management done there afterwards, and the lessons learned that are now currently being applied throughout the Sierras. We are quieting down for the summer months but we schedule numerous educational workshops throughout the year so be sure to check our monthly e-newsletter and follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information.

Visit our Website

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## Bee knowledgeable: Pollinator Week was June 19–25, 2017

Bees are the most important pollinators of California agriculture — helping farmers grow field crops, fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Honey bees receive most of the credit for crop pollination, but many other kinds of bees play an important role as well. There are 1600 species of bees in California! Learn about the different kinds of bees and what you can do to help them flourish.

### Why should I care about other kinds of bees?

Bees other than honey bees contribute significantly to crop pollination. For example, alfalfa pollination by alfalfa leafcutter bees is worth \$7 billion per year in the United States. Other bees can also boost the result of honey bee pollination — in almond orchards, honey bees are more effective when orchard mason bees are present. The more bee species, the merrier the harvest.

While growers often rent honey bee colonies to pollinate their crops, some wild bees pollinate certain crops even better than honey bees do. For instance, bumble bees are more effective pollinators of tomato because they do something honey bees do not: they shake pollen out of flowers with a technique known as buzz pollination.

Likewise, native [squash bees](#) are better pollinators of cucurbits — unlike honey bees, they start work earlier in the day, and males even sleep in flowers overnight. [Read more...](#)



## Powdery Mildew Prevalent on Foothill Oaks this Year

By Scott Oneto, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension

Many blue oak trees in California foothills might be more accurately described as “silver oaks” this year. From a distance, they shimmer with a silvery halo. On closer inspection the outermost leaves are coated with a white to gray powdery fuzz.

The cause is powdery mildew. Powdery mildew, a group of fungi that causes a white, flour-like growth on the surface of leaves, is common on roses, begonias, grapes and many other ornamental plants.

Powdery mildew rarely kills the majestic trees. Even small seedlings that have all of their leaves severely infected usually survive and recover.

Powdery mildew makes it more difficult for the affected leaves to photosynthesize and produce food, and if it's severe enough, it can also result in the leaves distorting, curling up, dying and falling to the ground. But most affected trees will simply grow a new crop of leaves later in the summer or the following spring. And if weather conditions return to a more normal pattern next year, with little or no rainfall after March, it is unlikely that powdery mildew would continue to be severe or widespread.”

Some people may be inclined to treat affected trees with fungicides. However, these treatments are most effective before the symptoms first appear, which occurred weeks or months ago. It is also generally not recommended to treat trees in wildland settings. There are too many trees to treat and the potential environmental risks of applying fungicides across a large landscape can outweigh the benefits. Above all, don't panic and cut down the trees, even if all their leaves fall off.



The trees are still very much alive, losing their foliage is just the oak's way of dealing with an unwanted pest. By this time next year they should again be leafed out without that silver covering currently observable.

**Photo:** Powdery mildew beginning to develop on a young black oak leaf. Note the white, powdery patch near the center of the photo. Copyright © 2011 The Regents of the University of California. All Rights Reserved.

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## Future Water Leaders Soak Up Irrigation Information

University of California students are taking a long journey through California to trace the state's complicated and critical water supply. The recent graduates and upper-division co-eds from UC Merced, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley and UC Davis are part of the [UC Water Academy](#), a course that combines online training with a two-week field trip for first-hand knowledge about California water.

The tour began June 18 at Lake Shasta, the state's largest reservoir, and followed the water's course to the Sacramento Valley, through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and south along the Delta-Mendota Canal. Since a key water destination is agriculture, the UC Water Academy toured the [UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension](#) June 23, where research is underway to determine how the state's water supply can be most efficiently transformed into a food supply for Americans. [Read more...](#)

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## Sherwood Demonstration Garden - Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

Lots of various activities have taken place in the garden since re-opening to the public on April 1. Our welcoming kiosk is almost completed after much hard work over the last several months to get it up and running. All 16 themed gardens will soon have their battery operated irrigation timers swapped out with electrically operated ones, controlled through cell phone WiFi capabilities.

Many formal garden tours have been done with various organizations, and positive comments about the garden are always heard. Lots of educational events have occurred: Several of our public education classes were held in the garden over the past months and attendees always enjoy the hands-on aspect of these. "Ag In The Classroom" workshops through one of our local elementary schools were conducted at the garden with high school helpers lending a hand. "Saturdays With Barry" in the Vegetable Garden (2nd Saturday of each month) are always a big hit and attendees come away with lots of good information about growing their own produce.

We welcome one and all to the garden – it is ever-changing. Our public hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays and Saturdays and our location is at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville adjacent to Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center (there is a \$2 parking fee in the college parking lot). See the [Sherwood Demonstration Garden webpage](#) for more information.

by Sue McDavid, UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

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## Pesticide Safety Training - Calaveras County

Date: **July 6th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

Location: **San Andreas Central Library**, 1299 Gold Hunter Road, San Andreas, Chesebrough Room

Registration Deadline: **June 30th**

**This Training is free and conducted in Spanish.**

To register call the Calaveras County Department of Agriculture: 209-754-6504 x3.

### UCCE 4-H Youth Development



**Enrollment begins for 2017-18**

7-1: [Join Now](#)

**Open to all Central Sierra 4-H**

7-25: [State 4-H Cooking Competition at the State Fair](#)

#### Amador

7-27 - 7-30: [Join Us at the Amador County Fair](#)

7-30: [Junior Livestock Auction at the County Fair](#)

#### Calaveras

[Check their events calendar for dates of interest.](#)

#### El Dorado

[Check their events calendar for dates of interest.](#)

#### Tuolumne

6-7 to 6-9: [Mother Lode Fair](#)

[Check their events calendar for dates of interest.](#)



University of California  
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**Master  
Food  
Preserver**

### Classes & Events Offered by UCCE Master Food Preservers

#### Amador/Calaveras

7-8: [Farm to Fork All Year Long](#) - Jackson

7-19: [Boiling Water & Steam Canning Basics](#)- San Andreas

7-27 - 7-30: [Visit Us at the Amador County Fair](#)

#### El Dorado

7-12: [All About Berries](#) - Master Food Preserver & Master Gardener  
Combo Class

7-15: [Snacks on the Go: Dehydrating](#)

### Classes & Workshops Offered by UCCE Master Gardeners



#### Monthly Gardening Tips

#### Amador

7-15: [Kids in the Garden](#)

7-27 - 7-30: [Visit Us at the Amador County Fair](#)

### [Calaveras](#)

7-13: [Visit Master Gardeners at the CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market](#)

7-22: [Open Garden Day: Options for Irrigation Systems](#)

### [El Dorado](#)

7-8: [Saturdays with Barry](#)

7-12: [All About Berries](#) - Master Food Preserver/Master Gardener Combo Class

### [Lake Tahoe](#)

**July Events:** Check on their [Classes Workshops & Events webpage](#).

### [Tuolumne](#)

7-8: [Fire Safe Landscaping, Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) and Introduction to Rock Gardening](#)

## UC IPM and more...



### **Importance of Mulch - video above**

Use mulch to maintain moisture in the soil to help your landscape plants through the summer heat.

Mulch also helps to keep the weeds at bay.

See the video above.

### **Invasive Plants**

Is your landscape being taken over by plants that popped up on their own or by planting species that may not be favorable to our area? See the Invasive Plants pest note below for a list of species that you should stay away from and information on what they are doing to the ecology of California and some management strategies.

[Invasive Plants](#) - UC IPM Website

[Seasonal IPM](#)

[Recent Updates at IPM](#)

[UCIPM Weather Models & Degree Days webpage](#)

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Thank you for your continued interest in the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra's news, workshops, and events.

Sincerely,

Scott Oneto  
University of California  
Cooperative Extension

Central Sierra

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