

September 2020



UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties.

Your monthly news & event announcements

As the State of California remains in the shelter-in-place order to slow the spread of COVID-19, UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra is still working remotely. We are here to answer your questions and address needs during this unprecedented situation.

Join our mailing list.

Greetings,

Well, we are into the next school year. Can you believe it? September finds us working on virtual 4-H projects as we begin the enrollment process and more online classes with the master gardeners and master food preservers. While we keep working on different ways to reach our communities, our commitment to our clientele remains stronger than ever as we continue to find ways to address your needs. And, while we continue most of our outreach in a virtual format, we continue to conduct research that benefits our community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team should you have questions.

Please take care and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller
Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

Visit our Website



UCANR - Coronavirus and COVID-19

In cooperation with COVID-19 precautions from the State of California, our UCCE offices will be closed to the public until further notice. While we regret the inconvenience, our in-person events will be limited for the near future. Please see our [calendar](#) or call us to learn more about virtual and in-person opportunities to connect with us.

You can contact us by our main phone number at (530) 621-5502, or by email at cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu.

UC ANR Things of Interest

The Heartbreaking Story of a Bee Scientist Who Lost Everything

Author: Kathy Keatley Garvey

It's heartbreaking. Beyond heartbreaking.

Caroline Yelle, 28, owner of [Pope Canyon Queens](#) (PCQ) at 8307 Quail Canyon Road Quail Canyon Road, Vacaville, lost her business when the lightning-sparked Hennessey Fire, part of the [LNU Lightning Complex Fire](#), swept through rural Vacaville on Aug. 19 from Napa County. The raging wall of flame "destroyed everything." She has nothing left but hope.

Pope Valley Queens is one of the nation's few women-owned queen bee breeder businesses. Yelle breeds bees for "a better tomorrow" and now "tomorrow" and "better" are almost singed from her vocabulary. She lost 500 hives.

Her mentor, best friend and business partner Rick Schubert (who recently sold his business, [Bee Happy Apiary](#), Vacaville), lost everything in the Hennessey Fire, including his newly remodeled home at 8307 Quail Canyon Road--and where the PCQ office was.

"I bought the company in 2017 from my mentor," said Yelle, who began working there in 2012. "This year, 2020 is my seventh year in producing queens."

"I was studying to be a lawyer in Canada," she related. "After I got my degree, I decided to move here and left everything behind to follow my dream with the bees and helping them."

Veteran beekeeper Schubert, who has kept bees for some four decades, is well known in the bee industry and agricultural world. He helped her settle in California and build the company, offering contacts and expertise. "Rick had just remodeled his house and that (the fire) happened," Yelle said. "He lost everything." Schubert's only surviving bees are the 100 hives he keeps in Dixon.

"Basically after selling Bee Happy, he invested in my company, Pope Canyon Queens," she said. "We lost everything together on different levels."

[Continue reading The Heartbreaking Story of a Bee Scientist Who Lost Everything blog post...](#)



Poultry 101 Guides New Parents of Chicks

Author: Pamela Kan-Rice

As Californians began sheltering in place at home, they started growing their own food. In addition to gardening, people have begun adopting chickens for fresh eggs. For people who have little to no experience raising poultry, University of California Cooperative Extension has care and feeding tips to keep the birds healthy.

UCCE dairy advisor Randi Black and Karen Giovannini, UCCE agriculture ombudsman for Sonoma County, collaborated with UCCE poultry specialist Maurice Pitesky in the School of Veterinary Medicine to create Poultry 101. Their tips for new poultry owners are free at <http://ucanr.edu/poultry101>.



“Raising chicks and hens can be incredibly rewarding, particularly with delicious farm fresh eggs made right in your backyard,” said Black, who is also a proud backyard poultry parent. “However, like other animals, they take a lot of care and management to ensure they stay healthy and productive. With new poultry parents on the rise, providing informative and accessible resources is critical to keeping our backyard flocks thriving.”

[Continue reading the Poultry 101 guides new parents of chicks article...](#)

UCCE Central Sierra Agriculture

Covid-19 Resources for Agriculture **UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health & Safety**

With harvest in full swing for tree fruit and upcoming for grapes, and later, Christmas trees, the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety has a lot of great resources for training workers. In English and Spanish.

[Go to the UC Davis Western Center for Agricultural Health & Safety website.](#)

UCCE Central Sierra Forestry

California Forest Stewardship Workshops

Two workshop locations to choose from:

- **Online beginning August 24th – October 21st, 2020 and in-person Saturday, September 12th, Plumas County**
- **Online beginning September 21st – November 19th, 2020 and in-person Saturday, October 10th, Santa Cruz County**



Join the workshop to understand and protect your forests by developing a Forest Management Plan.

Topics include:

- Forest management objectives and planning
- Forest health, insects and disease
- Forest and fire ecology, wildlife, watersheds
- Fuels reduction and forest resource marketing
- Mapping, inventory and silviculture
- Project development & permitting
- Getting professional help and cost-share opportunities

Participants will utilize online resources on their own time to complete learning modules and short activities. Zoom meetings with all participants and presenters will take place once a week on Thursdays, 6-7:30 pm. The in-person field day will cover silviculture, forest inventory and mapping activities. Participants who complete the workshop will be eligible for a free site visit with a California Registered Professional Forester.

Registration for the workshop is \$60. Sign up now at: <http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/>

For questions, contact Kim Ingram, kcingram@ucanr.edu.

Please note, this workshop may move to an online format depending on any COVID-19 restrictions.

Project Learning Tree E-Learning Workshops

PROJECT LEARNING TREE SCHEDULE FOR E-LEARNING – FALL 2020:

Are you ready for the fall? A new program year? With PLT e-learning materials and resources? We are here to help!!

- PLT EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION
- PLT E-UNIT WORKSHOPS
- PLT FACILITATOR CERTIFICATION
- SUSTAINED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FALL 2020

For more information and registration details, download the [Complete list of PLT Fall Workshops](#).

UCCE Central Sierra Livestock & Rangelands

Recent blue oak mortality on Sierra Nevada foothill rangelands may be linked to drought, climate change

by Dan Macon, Tracy Schohr, Doug Schmidt and Matteo Garbelotto

UC Cooperative Extension and landowners join forces to probe possible causes of mysterious blue oak mortality in the Sierra foothills.

In the course of their everyday activities, like fencing, checking livestock health and assessing forage growth, ranchers are often among the first to observe changes in the landscape.

This research brief describes how rancher observations of blue oak tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada foothills prompted an investigation by UC Cooperative Extension scientists and the rapid identification of likely causes for the tree loss.

During the first week of June 2019, two foothill cattle producers contacted author Macon about an unusual number of dead and dying blue oaks on their annual rangelands in Placer and Nevada counties. Other reports of blue oak mortality emerged in the foothill region, including Butte County, where ranchers and landowners reached out to author Schohr. Reports indicated that diseased or dead oaks of different size classes were intermixed with what appeared to be healthy trees.

Macon conducted a field visit after the calls and observed the following conditions:

- Some trees that had been observed with normal leaf out in the spring appeared to be entirely dead and devoid of leaves by early summer.
- Several trees appeared to be dying from the top down or on individual branches. Many of the leaves on these trees also appeared to be scorched.
- These trees did not appear to have any lesions on their trunks — no wounds or noticeable fungal growth.

[Continue reading the Recent blue oak mortality on Sierra Nevada foothill rangelands may be linked to drought, climate change article...](#)

Amador County Rangeland Soil Health Project 2020 Project Update

A project by the Amador County Resource Conservation District and the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Compost on Rangelands Studying the effects of a one-time application of compost to annual rangelands

Rangeland covers more than half of California's land mass. These rangelands provide a multitude of beneficial uses, including open space, livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

The goal of this project is to increase the implementation of best management practices that will improve soil health, and address a number of key issues facing livestock producers. Livestock producers in the area are challenged with multiple landscape scale issues. Rangelands are typically on shallow soils that are nutrient poor and low in organic matter. Climate variabilities including winter drought and infrequent precipitation decrease winter forage availability and the length of the growing season. As a result, invasive weeds thrive and outcompete desirable vegetation. These compounding issues result in less forage for livestock and make it economically difficult for producers.

Studies have shown a direct benefit from the one-time application of compost to rangelands, including increases in water holding capacity, forage productivity, and carbon sequestration (Silver et al 2010, Ryals and Silver 2013). Based on these preliminary studies, this project is testing the one-time addition of compost to annual rangelands in an area that currently lacks localized data. By adding compost to the soil, we hope to see an increase in both soil fertility and water holding capacity which will ultimately increase the ability of desirable vegetation to be more resilient to climate variability and better able to compete against noxious weeds. In addition, the added fertility will make desirable forage more nutritious and more abundant for livestock, ultimately resulting in a financial benefit to the producer.

[Continue reading the Amador County Rangeland Soil Health Project: 2020 Project Update...](#)

UCCE Central Sierra Living with Fire

Be Prepared for Fire Season!

Are you prepared for fire season? There are many things that you can do to help make your home and property more fire resistant. We all face these challenges every summer as the vegetation becomes dryer and dryer. Don't let down your guard. Visit the [UCCE Living with Fire webpage](#) for information and resources.

Publications that can aid you on your endeavor of becoming more fire resistant:

[Landscaping Tips to Help Defend Your Home from Wildfire](#), UC ANR Publication 8322

[Fire Resistant Landscaping](#) - CalFire's firesafe landscaping information.

[The Combustibility of Landscape Mulches](#), UNCE Publication

Tahoe Retrofit Workshop



UCCE Central Sierra Master Food Preservers

As we create a plan to return to work we are still working remotely to answer your questions and address needs during this unprecedented situation. Check out our [website](#), or our "[Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)" link or call 530-621-5506 to leave a message and someone will return your call.

Thank you for your understanding.



Upcoming Food Preservation Classes

Ask a Master Food Preserver Q&A Online Event

Date & Time: **Thursday, September 3, 2020, 6:30-7:30 pm**

UC Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County invite you to an "Ask a Master Food Preserver" question and answer session Thursday September 3rd at 6:30 PM. The topic for the evening will be "*Play it Safe: Changes and Substitutions to Home Food Preserving Recipes.*" Have you asked yourself, "Can I swap agave for sugar in my jam? Do I really need to add salt to my recipe? I do not like hot peppers; can I change the type of peppers in my salsa? I don't have yellow onions, can I use red onions? My family doesn't like cilantro; can I use basil?" These and other questions will be answered about changes to reputable recipes.

[Click here to preregister for the presentation.](#) You will receive an email with a link and instructions on how to join the class after you have registered.

Please feel free to submit questions prior to the session to edmp@ucanr.edu.

Follow Us Online

UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra

Amador/Calaveras

- Phone: **209-223-6482**
- Email: acmfp@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

El Dorado County

- Phone: **530-621-5506**
- Email: edmp@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

UCCE Central Sierra Master Gardeners

While we work on plans for resuming meetings or small classes, our UCCE Master Gardeners are still available to answer your questions! When leaving phone messages, be sure to include your contact information so they can get back to you with answers. You can also explore our online resources, including [monthly gardening tips](#), original articles written by UCCE Master Gardeners in [Amador](#), [Calaveras](#), [El Dorado](#), and [Tuolumne](#) Counties, and [South Lake Tahoe](#), and [Over the Garden Gate](#), a radio show presented by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County's, by visiting our [UCCE Master Gardeners of Central Sierra website](#) anytime!



Online Class Recordings

Amador County's [Handouts and Presentations webpage](#).

El Dorado County's [Presentations and Handouts webpage](#).

Tuolumne County's [Presentations and Class Recordings webpage](#).

Tuolumne County's [Over the Garden Gate Master Gardeners' local broadcast](#).

Upcoming Online Gardening Classes

Master Gardener Programs across our 4 county area have been hosting live online gardening classes. You must register to get the link to join the classes in most cases and any residents of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties may attend these classes:

9-5: [Fall & Winter Vegetables - Part 2](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County. (If you missed part 1 check the [Presentations and Handouts webpage](#).)

9-9: [Gardening in a Changing Climate, Part 1](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

9-12: [Summer Fruit Tree Pruning](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County

9-12: [Virtual Garden Tour and Q&A Session](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County

9-16: [Gardening in a Changing Climate, Part 2](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

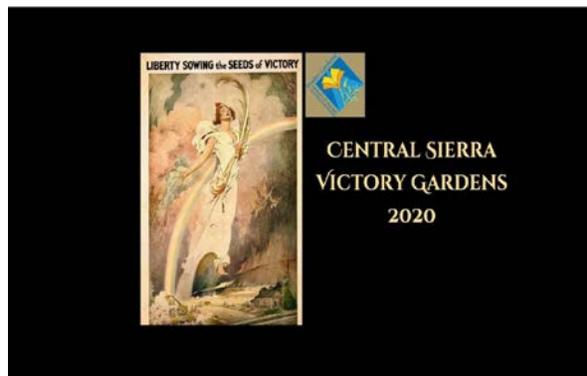
9-23: [Gardening in a Changing Climate, Part 3](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

9-30: [Gardening in a Changing Climate, Part 4](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

Central Sierra Victory Gardens

Author: Maggie Murphy, UCCE Master Gardener of Calaveras County

Did you know that Victory Gardens originated during World War I as "War Gardens for Victory"? They were first developed in the United States in March 1917 before we entered the war. The National War Garden Commission was formed and the war garden campaign launched with slogans like "Dig for Victory." The altruistic purpose was to alleviate the severe food shortage experienced by our starving allies in Europe. Americans were encouraged to grow their own fruits and vegetables so that more food could be exported. School grounds, parks, backyards and vacant lots all became gardens.



[Continue reading the Central Sierra Victory Gardens 2020 article...](#)

Farmers Markets

UCCE Master Gardeners in Rural Counties

The UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County realize that quite a few of their clientele don't have internet or computers. They are trying to address those needs by posting flyers titled "How to Reach the Master Gardeners." The flyers list a variety of methods that can be used to contact the Master Gardeners. This flyer has been distributed to our Master Gardener Volunteers and they in turn are going to be posting the flyers locally.

Download the [Calaveras County Flyer](#).

Download the [Tuolumne County Flyer](#).

Calaveras County

Master Gardeners are hosting a [CalaverasGrown Certified Farmers Market](#) at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden located at 891 Mountain Ranch Road in San Andreas on the third Thursday of every month from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm through October.

The CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market offers a wide variety of products from local farmers and artisans based right here in Calaveras County. "Local produce is closer to the source, so it is fresher, tastier and more nutritious than produce that has traveled further to reach your plate. Dollars spent at the Market are an important source of income for local farmers and tend to recirculate locally," emphasizes CalaverasGROWN President, Sean Krietlich.

Eating healthy is easier when you have access to fresh, affordable choices. The market accepts EBT and offers Market Match, which doubles shoppers' EBT nutrition benefits, enabling them to purchase even more healthy fruits and vegetables. So, if a customer spends \$10 of their allotted benefit, they are given an extra \$10 in market tokens to spend on fruits and vegetables. This includes P-EBT benefits being issued in response to the current health crisis. More details about P-EBT at <https://ca.p-ebt.org/en/>. Market Match is made possible by a grant to CalaverasGROWN from the Ecology Center.

Customers can also use their WIC checks and WIC and Seniors FMNP fruit and vegetable checks at the market.

El Dorado County

Master Gardeners will be at the [El Dorado Hills Farmers Market](#) in Town Center on the first and third Sunday of each month through October 25th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Tuolumne County

Master Gardeners are at the [Sonora Certified Farmers Market](#) every Saturday Morning, through October from 6:30 to 11:30 am.

Have a gardening questions or need a pest identified...? Stop by and see us.

Follow us on social media!

Master Gardeners of Amador County

- Phone: 209-223-6838
- Email: mgamador@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

- Phone: 209-754-2880
- Email: calaverasmg@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

- Phone: 530-621-5512
- Email: mgeldorado@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#)
- Follow us on [Pinterest](#)

Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe



- Phone: 530-314-8383
- Email: laketahoemg@ucanr.edu
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#)

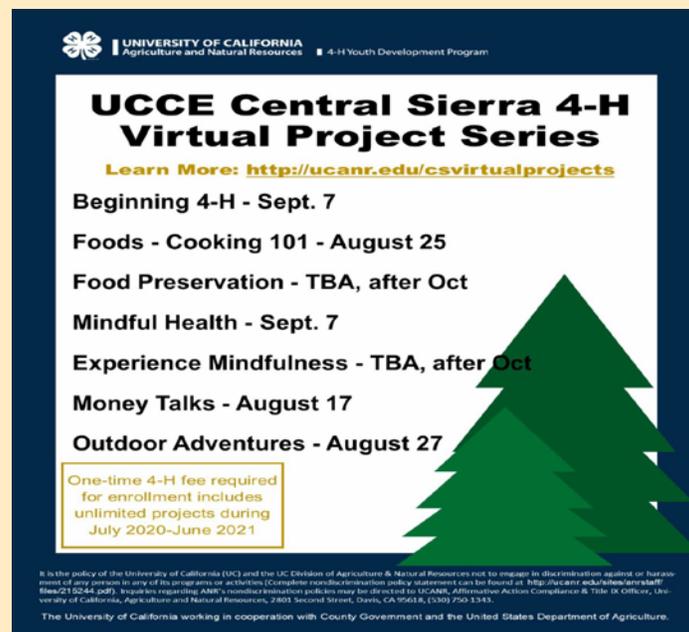
Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County

- Phone: 209-533-5912
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

Join us on Facebook for our Victory Gardens 2020 community! Click the link and click JOIN.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2869134093201149/>
 Open to ANY resident of Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado or Tuolumne Counties.

UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Youth Development

UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Virtual Project Series



The flyer features the University of California logo and the text 'UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources | 4-H Youth Development Program'. The main title is 'UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Virtual Project Series'. Below the title is a link: 'Learn More: <http://ucanr.edu/csvirtualprojects>'. The list of projects includes: 'Beginning 4-H - Sept. 7', 'Foods - Cooking 101 - August 25', 'Food Preservation - TBA, after Oct', 'Mindful Health - Sept. 7', 'Experience Mindfulness - TBA, after Oct', 'Money Talks - August 17', and 'Outdoor Adventures - August 27'. A yellow box contains the text: 'One-time 4-H fee required for enrollment includes unlimited projects during July 2020-June 2021'. At the bottom, there is a small disclaimer and the text 'The University of California working in cooperation with County Government and the United States Department of Agriculture.' A green tree graphic is on the right side of the flyer.

Kicking off the 2020/2021 4-H Program Year with a Virtual Bang!

To kick off the 2020/2021 4-H program year and because we are still under the shelter-in-place directive, 4 of our UCCE Central Sierra Program Representatives will be facilitating 7 virtual 4-H projects with the first one starting on August 17 and running into November. These projects run 6 weeks long each and last from 45 minutes to 2 hours once a week. Projects are open to all 4-H members and non 4-H members (registration is required with a nominal enrollment fee).

To learn more <http://ucanr.edu/csvirtualprojects>. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Starr, njstarr@ucanr.edu.

4-H Youth Development Calendar

Enrollment is open for the 2020/2021 Program Year.

[Join 4-H Now](#)

Check your county 4-H website for details about the 4-H Youth Development Program in your area. There you will find information about joining 4-H and becoming a member, the clubs and projects available and the calendar of events.

[Amador County website](#)

[Calaveras County website](#)

[El Dorado County website](#)

[Tuolumne County website](#)

Join us on social media & follow 4-H from home!

Visit your county's Facebook page for updates and activities to help keep us all connected:

[Amador 4-H](#)

[Calaveras 4-H](#)

[El Dorado 4-H](#)

[South LakeTahoe 4-H](#)

[Tuolumne 4-H](#)

[California 4-H](#)

[California 4-H at Home webpage](#)



[Amador 4-H](#), [Calaveras 4-H](#), [El Dorado 4-H](#), and [Tuolumne 4-H](#) are also officially on instagram! Follow [@tuolumne4h](#) to keep up to date on what's happening in their county! Or [@California4H](#) to see whats happening around the state. We will be posting fun activities and resources - be sure to check it out!

UCCE Central Sierra Community Health & Nutrition

Visit our [UCCE Central Sierra COVID-19 Community Resources page](#) for the latest information about food resources and topics in your area.

Nutrition News for the Central Sierra

Welcome to our monthly newsletter about food, nutrition, and healthy living in the Central Sierra.

To read the [most recent newsletter](#), or peruse past issues, visit our [website](#), or click below to subscribe.



[Click here to join the Nutrition Newsletter Mailing List.](#)

Harvest of the Month



Few things signal the end of summer and the beginning of fall as clearly as grapes beginning to ripen. Many different varieties of grapes are available throughout the season in shades of green, red, purple, and some dark enough to be considered black. In addition to grapes for fresh eating, grapes used to make wine are an important and widely grown crop in the Central Sierra. The flavors of different varieties differ widely, but all grapes make a sweet and refreshing snack. Grapes are a good source of vitamin C, and also contain antioxidants known as polyphenols that may help prevent certain chronic diseases. See below for new ideas to cook with grapes, or learn more about grapes and view their nutrition facts at the USDA's [Seasonal Produce Guide](#).

Recipe Ideas:

- [Grape, Feta and Mint Quinoa Salad](#)
- [Roasted Grape, Rosemary Goat Cheese and Pecan Toast](#)
- [Crunchy Chicken Salad](#)
- [Frozen Grape and Banana Skewers with Chocolate Drizzle](#)

UCCE Integrated Pest Management and more...

Houseplant Problems

Published: August 2020



Houseplants are typically grown in enclosed and secure environments that may exclude many pests. Nonetheless, pests sometimes occur on houseplants. Decline in houseplant health is most commonly associated with improper watering (too much or too little water provided), improper fertilization amounts, root diseases, poor sanitation, and adverse environmental conditions, such as low light intensity or low relative humidity. Sometimes, however, houseplant problems may be caused by insect or mite pests. Routinely check your houseplants and promptly address these problems when detected.

When handling or observing your plants, examine them for signs and symptoms of pests and other types of damage and problems. Table 1 provides a quick guide for diagnosing houseplant problems.

In many instances, solving the problem or treating the pest will be difficult. Once a problem has been detected, it is sometimes not practical to restore a plant's health; it may be too late to solve the problem, and effective management for the pest may not be available. In these cases, it may be better to discard the plant and purchase a new one.

[Continue reading the Houseplant Problems UC IPM PestNote...](#)

Updated [UC IPM](#) PestNotes

[Brooms: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#),
Publication Number: 74147

[Mosquitoes: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#),
Publication Number: 7451

[Green Bulletin, Summer 2020 Issue](#) - Information for pest management professionals and pesticide applicators.

[Plant problem diagnostic tool](#)

[Natural Enemies Gallery](#)

[Weed Identification and Photo Gallery](#)

[Seasonal IPM](#)

[Recent Updates at IPM](#)

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



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

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller
Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

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