

Master Gardener Newsletter



University of California
Cooperative Extension

YUBA & SUTTER COUNTIES
142A Garden Highway
Yuba City CA 95991
(530)822-7515 FAX 673-5368
<http://cesutter.ucdavis.edu>

April, 2007

Coordinator: Jan Kendel

Farm Advisor & Program Supervisor: Janine Hasey

Thoughts grow as freely as the flowers, and the dreams are as beautiful. Abram L Urban

Timely Tips

by Edie Young



For the plants that were damaged by frost, look for little shoots and leaves of green and then prune all of the dead leaves and stems above them. Fertilize lightly and be sure to water.

Plant spring annuals. Snapdragons, poppies, and calendulas are good choices.

It's time to fertilize the lawn and re-seed bare patches. To repair bare patches, scrape to loosen the soil, then heavily seed the area with grass seed, cover with light mulch and keep damp until sprouted.

It is still a good time to start your vegetable plants from seed.

Don't forget to weed, weed, weed! The weeds harbor places for undesirable inhabitants to dwell. They take away nutrients from your desirable plants and make the garden look messy. Do not use a pre-emergent around your vegetables, just to be on the safe side. I prefer mulch. It keeps the weeds down and helps keep the moisture in.

Tree of the Month

Chilopsis linearis.

Desert Willow

Chilopsis is a single species of small tree native to inland southwestern USA and northern Mexico. It is a member of the Bignonia family and has showy, two-inch trumpet shaped flowers. These are borne in summer and can be white, pale pink, or deep pink, depending on variety. Flowers are on short spikes at branch tips, opening in succession. While not related to willows, the common name comes from the willow-like leaves. The sparse leaves are pale green and may be as long as twelve inches. It does best in a hot dry climate with cool nights. *Chilopsis* grows to thirty feet or more, but in the garden it usually grows to ten or fifteen feet. It needs little to moderate water and should be grown in full sun.

USDA 7-11 and Sunset 3B, 7-14, 18-23.

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CHLI2>

Insect of the Month

Lygus spp.

Tarnished Plant Bug

Members of this genus are among the most common bugs in California, occurring on a wide variety of flowers, fruit trees, truck crops and weeds. Adults are 4-6 mm in length (1/4 inch). Colors range from pale greenish or yellowish to dark brown or reddish with pale scutellae. *Lygus* are winged; nymphs are pale yellow to green. They range throughout California, except in deserts. *Lygus elisus* and *Lygus olineatus* occur abundantly in the Central Valley. *Lygus* cause gnarling and twisting in strawberries. Many broadleaved weeds are hosts: lambsquarters, redroot, pigweed, mustard and wild radish. *Lygus* have developed resistance to many pesticides; however, they have many natural enemies. For more information, see:

<http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/VEGES/PESTS/lygusbugs.html>

Plant of the Month

Mimulus spp.

Monkey Flower

There are 180 plus species of *Mimulus*, characterized by tubular flowers with flared mouths, often spotted and mottled. Flowers may be yellow, orange, red, brown or purple. Most prefer moist situations, growing in full sun or part shade. Sizes range from four inches to three feet, depending on the species. Zones vary by species, but all will grow in USDA 9, Sunset 7-9. *Mimulus guttata*, Common Monkey Flower, is a California native wildflower and grows in full sun in wet places throughout the west. It is bright yellow with brown freckles.

http://www.laspilitas.com/groups/Monkey_flower/California_monkey_flower.html
<http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/nature/gorge/5petal/figwort/monk/monk.htm>

Weed of the Month

Raphanus spp.

Wild Radish

An erect branching annual, 2-5 feet tall with lower leaves pinnately divided. Upper leaves are small, mostly undivided, with a few small segments. Flowers are $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and vary from white to pink to purple or yellow. Seed pods are $1\frac{1}{2}$ – 3 inches long and are $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter with 2-8 seeds per pod. *Raphanus* is very early to flower and is showy in a wildland setting. It may be hand pulled when young but quickly develops a very deep taproot.

Roundup or other non-selective herbicide may be used for control.

http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/wild_radish.html#content

Disease of the Month

Phragmidium spp.

Rust

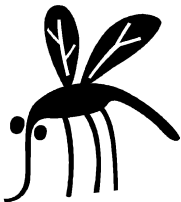
Rust fungi belong to the class Basidiomycetes. Like mushrooms, they have spores known as basidia. The term 'rust' is applied to both the pathogen and the disease it inflicts. There are more than 4000 species of rusts, all obligate parasites of ferns or seed plants. Some are autoecious, having all spores on a single host plant. Rust forms powdery, golden orange pustules on the undersides of leaves and yellow spots on the upper sides. Eventually the whole leaf may discolor and drop. Losses in food crops due to rust have been enormous since the beginning of history. The Romans had a festival to propitiate the Rust Gods.

Control with fungicides, carbamates and antibiotics. Prevention, when possible is the best control.

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/DISEASE/yellowrust.html>

ATTENTION GARDENERS!

A WEST NILE VIRUS REMINDER...
IT'S SPRINGTIME, AND TIME
TO FIGHT THE BITE



1. Protect yourself with a mosquito repellent containing DEET.
2. Wear protective clothing at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are especially active.
3. Drain water that collects in pots, buckets, gutters, etc.
4. Keep your swimming pools and water features clean and maintained.
5. For more preventive measures, check with the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District at <http://fightthebite.net> or the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District at <http://www.sutter-yubamvcd.org/main.htm>

NITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, AND COUNTIES OF SUTTER & YUBA COOPERATING

The University of California prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person employed by or seeking employment with the University on the basis or race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam-era veterans or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized).

University Policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunities policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action Director/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.