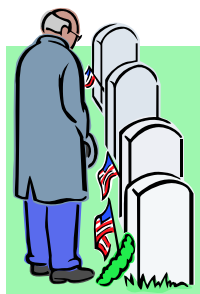


Master Gardener Newsletter



University of California
Cooperative Extension

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November, 2005

Coordinator: Jan Kendel

Farm Advisor & Program Supervisor: Janine Hasey

"Remember: the strong oak tree in your back yard is just a nut that held its ground."
---Author Unknown (honestly)

Plant of the Month

Angelonia-Summer snapdragon

USDA Zones 5-10

Sunset Zones 1-11, 14-17

Flowering Season: All season

Light Requirements: Sun

Flower Color: Blue, purple, white, pink, bicolor

Height: 2 to 4 feet

Spacing: 9 to 12 inches

Comments: Vigorous; heat and drought tolerant; sprawls but does not need staking; well drained soil; does not need deadheading; good cut flower

Cultivars: Alba (white); AngelMist (mixed colors)

Angelonia angustifolia hybrid
Angelface™
Blue Bicolor
(Summer Snapdragon)
Height: 12-18"



Insect of the Month

Western Flower thrip-*Frankliniella occidentalis*
Piercing/rasping mouthparts

Many thanks to Roland and Carolyn for this little gem of an insect. Ever heard of Pansy spot? Well Carolyn Pickel has, and she educated Poland and I. Pansy spot is a condition that occurs when the Western Flower thrip invades and lays her eggs in flowers of your resident apple tree. As the nymphs emerge they start feeding on the very young fruit and cause spots on the outside of the fruit that look just like a pansy.....hence the name. They are tiny, elongated, and fringe-winged insects that may produce 3 generations per growing season. Can wipe out a greenhouse, rose flowers or citrus leaves in a NY minute!



The culprit: Western Flower Thrips



Pansy Spot on apple

Disease of the Month

Sooty mold: Genus-*Capnodium-Fumago-Scorias*
Fungus

This is a nasty, black mold that grows on the excretions of plant sucking, honeydew-producing insects. This time of year, and especially since the advent of Woolly Hackberry aphids, we get this question a lot. Usually found on automobiles, sidewalks, plants under hackberries or on an old cantaloupe in my refrigerator (had a nice example of *Botrytis* too). Control: includes controlling the plant-sucking insects, washing down the car, sidewalk and/or plants with soap and water, and of course, cleaning the refrigerator. My oven for a self-cleaning refrigerator!



Sooty mold is a common occurrence on citrus when cottony cushion scale is also present. The scale produces honeydew. A buildup of honeydew in turn helps the mold grow.

For more information on sooty mold, go to UC IPM Online at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74108.html>

Weed of the Month

Horseweed/Marestail-*Conyza canadensis*

Family: Sunflower

This erect, winter or summer annual can reach more than 7 feet tall. In the last few years marestail has been growing like wildfire on roadsides and in irrigated pastures. Seedlings develop a basal rosette and mature plants have leaves that are entirely without petioles (great ID tool). Pulling, mowing and systemic herbicides like Roundup help control this weed, but timing hugely important here, as this weed is known to be resistant to a wide range of herbicides, including Roundup used alone. Deer, goats, and yellows striped armyworms will eat it.



Young plants



Mature plant

From the Master Gardener Office

Homeowner Calls



My apples have worms in them, what do I do?

Codling moths...not much to do now but come this spring get ready to rumble! Carolyn will offer us some dandy ideas come November's meeting. Spraying at 50% open bloom, after petal fall and 2 weeks later is an excellent triple threat approach. I have used BT

I have these bugs all over the walls of my house what are they?

Typically grass bugs move into houses either when nearby tall grass is cut or dries out. They also move indoors as the seasons change. They don't like being out in the cold any more than you do, and will make themselves quite at home in your house or garage. Repellants work well: hot pepper spray, Bio-Organics herb mixture, etc. A variety of dislocated insects will go somewhere else if you simply turn off your porch light at night! Treating your lawn for these bugs is not my favorite answer; these insects are nuisance only, rarely becoming lawn issues and thus total annihilation is the absolute last resort!

Idle thoughts from your coordinator

Hopefully more of us Y/S MGs than Gillian and I listen to Farmer Fred on Sunday mornings on KSTE. He is a lifetime MG and writes a column for the Lodi News Sentinel, along with his dandy Sunday morning radio show. This Sunday he asked fellow lifetime MG Bev O'Brien (she does a tree of the week segment) the following question (highlighted)...he was kind enough to let me use it in the newsletter...makes you think huh?

Farmer Fred: When I was prepping for the Tree of the Week, I went in search of deciduous conifers, and could only come up with four: dawn redwood, bald cypress, ginkgo and larch. In that group, there are several larches that are deciduous, including the Japanese and European larch. I think my question to Bev was, **"How many deciduous conifers can you think of?"** Ginkgo is usually the hardest one to remember, because it is a broadleaf, not needlelike. I think the larch is the only one that is a member of the pine family. By the way, the book, "North American Landscape Trees" by Arthur Lee Jacobson says that there are five deciduous conifers (p. 304). He adds the Chinese bald cypress, Glyptostrobus. Think Gymnosperms.....

NOTE: visit Farmer Fred's website at <http://www.farmerfred.com/>