As a reminder, we’re soon beginning two horticulture classes here at the UC Cooperative Extension office. Upcoming classes can benefit homeowners by conveying knowledge of how to take care of turf and landscape plants as well as how to grow food, including vegetables and fruits, saving time and money. We emphasize water conservation and non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.

The classes have also been attended by many in the turf and landscape industry as well as city and county parks, since we offer research-based information on how plants grow and up-to-date information on pest management and irrigation practices. Representatives from homeowners associations and real estate professionals may also wish to attend to pick up tips on evaluating landscapes, using appropriate terminology to request work from landscape contractors, and evaluating work that is done.

A Horticulture I class will be offered Tuesday nights, 5:30-8:30 p.m., beginning August 20, 2013, and extending 16 weeks. Topics will include plant selection, soil science, landscape design principles, and pest management with an emphasis on organic and IPM methods, as well as sessions on vegetable crops, deciduous fruits, and citrus. A syllabus is available.

A Horticulture IV class is planned for Monday nights, also 5:30-8:30 p.m., beginning August 19, also for 16 weeks. Topics will be additions to those covered in the introductory class. We’re planning field trips and to have guest speakers.

We ask those interested in either class to contact the Cooperative Extension office at cekern@ucdavis.edu or 868-6200, to pre-register to reserve a space and help us track class size. Cost of each 16-week class session will be $70, same price as in recent years. Actual registration will be handled at the first class meeting. Our office and meeting location is 1031 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue.

John Karlik
Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science

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