

Meetings and Announcements

Palm Workshop, Monday, November 27

If you have an interest in palms, I invite you to come to a seminar on palms brought by Don Hodel, a UC expert on palm species and palm management. That meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Monday, Nov. 27, at our UC Cooperative Extension office, 1031 S. Mt. Vernon Ave. The time coincides with my current Horticulture IV class, but Don is an exceptional visitor, and so I do want to open this meeting to those interested.

December Pruning Demonstrations

We invite you to come to our annual fruit tree pruning demonstrations, this year held Tuesday, December 12, and Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the orchard adjacent to the UCCE office, 1031 S. Mt. Vernon Ave., Bakersfield. The demonstration will begin at 12:00 noon each day, led by Mohammad Yaghmour of University of California Cooperative Extension. Trees include apple, apricot, cherry, and almond, and Mohammad will also show how to prune grapevines.

The beneficial climate of Kern County allows residential planting of many deciduous fruit tree species. Unlike shade trees, deciduous fruit trees should be pruned every year before bud swell for optimum growth and yield. Pruning need not be complicated, but if pruned incorrectly the yield of fruit will be reduced or eliminated, and the life of the tree will be shortened. Pruning diagrams or photographs in books or on the Internet may be helpful, but seeing pruning in three dimensions and being able to ask questions are advantages for those who attend one of the demonstrations.

We will also be offering our publication on pruning of deciduous fruit and nut trees, as well as publications on fruit varieties and fertilizer for fruit trees.

36th Annual Landscape Management Seminar

The 36th Annual Landscape Management Seminar is scheduled for February 7, 2018, at Hodels. Visiting speakers include Maggie Reiter of UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno, who will speak about turf diseases. We'll have a noon demonstration, updates on laws and regulations, and updates on vertebrate pest problems. Abate-a-Weed is cooperating as a sponsor for this meeting and is handling registration. We expect 8 hours of PCA credit.

Spring Horticulture Class--Ridgecrest

At the moment, I am working on a syllabus for a spring horticulture class to be offered in Ridgecrest with cooperation of the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD)

and the East Kern Resource Conservation District. The focus will be plants and water conservation. I expect the class will begin sometime in February, and be held at the IWWWD office.

Spring Horticulture Class--Tehachapi

I am considering offering a spring horticulture class in Tehachapi. If you live in that area and have an interest in such a class, please contact me.

Pruning of Outdoor Roses

I pruned my home roses in September and have enjoyed a strong fall bloom. In December / early January, annual winter pruning will be needed for hybrid teas and grandifloras.

Rose pruning in home gardens and landscapes can be a simple matter requiring relatively little time. As for other woody plants, pruning is used for roses to invigorate the plant and direct its growth, but the amount of pruning depends on rose type and purpose in the landscape.

Broadly speaking, most roses grown outdoors can be divided into two groups. The hybrid teas and grandifloras are grown for cut flowers, for example, the classic varieties 'Peace' and 'Oklahoma.' The shrub- or landscape-type roses are grown as floriferous shrubs, for example, the varieties 'Pink Simplicity,' 'Knock Out,' and 'Flutterbye.'

For hybrid tea and similar roses, we remove dead, diseased and damaged wood as well as older canes showing poor vigor. Canes severely affected by scale insects can also be removed. The rose plant can be thinned, removing central canes to favor 3-5 canes growing toward the outside. The function of the rose plant in the landscape should influence the amount of pruning. Roses used for screens or accent plantings can be lightly pruned so as to retain their size. Pruning a rose to short canes does result in longer flower stems, if that is important to you. Although a standard recommendation is to make cuts at a 45° angle just above an outward-facing bud, it is not necessary for plant health to be so precise, since roses have many dormant buds and can form new buds readily. For hybrid teas and grandifloras, about 10-15 minutes per plant should be enough time for pruning. In other words, don't worry too much about exactly how and where cuts are made. An exception to that statement would be pruning for show roses and, of course, we are not talking about greenhouse flower production where pruning is specific per variety.

Shrub- or landscape-type roses should be treated as floriferous shrubs, and should not be pruned back to a few short canes as hybrid teas can be. Rather, older canes can be removed, and (gasp) a hedge trimmer can be used for speed to shorten long canes and make the plant a bit smaller in size. Use of a hedge trimmer, however, does not imply that plants should be formed into little globes or boxes, diminishing their aesthetic value and defeating their purpose in the landscape. Landscape roses are typically (and should be) only lightly pruned, since they function as colorful shrubs, so upright varieties can be left to 5-8 feet.

A recent peer-reviewed study conducted by Dr. Jim Downer of the University of California Cooperative Extension showed that it was variety rather than pruning that had the most influence on flower number and growth of landscape-type outdoor roses (Downer et al., 2015, *Acta Horticulturae* 1064: 253-258). There were few differences in plant quality between intermediate pruning treatments (36 or 18 inches height). Severe pruning (6 inches) resulted in significantly fewer flowers in most varieties during the four-year study

period. Plants pruned lightly had the greatest number of flowers. Variety selection had the most influence on plant characteristics over four years.

The University of California has three free publications that describe the care of outdoor roses, including insect and disease management. These can be read and downloaded from the UCIPM website, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu. Currently, the rose Pest Notes are under revision, and new versions should be out in a month or two. Also, the University has a booklet, Healthy Roses, available via its publications catalog at <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu>.

More Meetings and Announcements

Return to Chernobyl, April, 2018

In December, I will be moving toward finalizing who wants to join our group for a return visit to Chernobyl. Therefore, please let me know if you are interested.

Chernobyl, Ukraine, was the site of a nuclear accident 31 years ago. Since that time, the ecosystem in the affected area (the “Zone”) has recovered remarkably. Several people have said they would like to visit, but did not have previous opportunity. We have plans for a return visit April 15-20, 2018. We anticipate access to areas not previously visited, and there have been developments in the social and cultural aspects of the Zone as well. Please see the flyer on our website at <http://cekern.ucanr.edu/> or contact me at jfkarlik@ucdavis.edu.

John Karlik

Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science

Disclaimer: Discussion of research findings necessitates using trade names. This does not constitute product endorsement, nor does it suggest products not listed would not be suitable for use. Some research results included involve use of chemicals which are currently registered for use, or may involve use which would be considered out of label. These results are reported but are not a recommendation from the University of California for use. Consult the label and use it as the basis of all recommendations.

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service. UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities. UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University’s equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to: John I. Sims, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer and Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. Email: jsims@ucanr.edu. Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.
