2019 Horticulture Classes...

Thanks for the input from several people, which I am considering. I am leaning toward offering an intro class this fall, Horticulture for Landscapes and Gardens I, and I may offer an additional class.

Horticultural Study Tour XI: May 2020

Our eleventh horticultural study tour is planned for May, 2020, to gardens of Wales with an optional extension to Scotland. We plan to begin in the London area with free time and then proceed west, first to visit Wisley Garden, the flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society. Then, we continue west, stopping to see Stonehenge, perhaps the world’s most famous prehistoric monument, and Salisbury Cathedral, begun 1220 AD, still a working church and one of the finest examples of gothic architecture in the UK. (Salisbury Cathedral was also featured in a number of paintings of John Constable, one of which at the Huntington, and a print in my office.) We then proceed to Wales, which has quite a mix of gardens, promising to be scenic, interesting, and fabulous. Then, for those interested, we continue to Scotland, specifically Edinburgh, for several days, including a visit to the Royal Botanic Garden and the National Museum with its superb displays of geology and Earth history. There are many other options in Edinburgh a person may wish to explore. The link to the tour may be found on the Travel Gallery website at https://www.travelgallery.com/hort-wales-2020. (If the link doesn’t work, you can copy and paste, or just go to travelgallery.com and then “join your group” and you’ll find it. The complete itinerary will be posted soon by Travel Gallery.)

Rose Rosette Disease Has Been Discovered in Kern County

As a reminder, we are on the lookout for rose rosette disease!

Rose rosette disease (RRD) is a destructive disease of roses caused by a recently identified virus. The virus is transmitted by a very small (microscopic) eriophyid mite. RRD is always fatal to a rose plant, although the length of time to kill the plant varies up to perhaps three or four years. RRD has been a major problem in some eastern U.S. states but not in California. Identification and removal of infected plants can safeguard other roses in...
the landscape, as well as protecting Kern’s rose plant crop.

Please be on the lookout in rose plants in your landscape or that you see in public parks or commercial plantings for the early RRD symptom of excessive thorniness (two photos to the right), multiple terminal shoots (called witch’s broom), and in a very late stage, the bright red of terminal foliage. I have posted three papers to our UCCE Kern County website (cekern.ucanr.edu) under the heading “Environmental Horticulture/ Environmental Science” that give further information and contain additional photos. These include an Extension publication from Texas A&M, an article from American Rose magazine, as well as an article from HortScience. Conditions in Kern will affect the spread and development of the disease, so our experience may not be the same as has occurred back east.

If you see such a plant, please note its specific location (address, placement on the property), and contact me at 868-6220, or jfkarlik@ucanr.edu. A photo would also be helpful. I will arrange for sample submission to test for the rose rosette virus and check for the presence of the vector.

Please note that damage to rose plants from glyphosate (Roundup™) (photo at right) has a limited resemblance to RRD. However, glyphosate damage does not produce excessive thorniness. Also, rose terminals affected by glyphosate are needle-like and do not appear as a witch’s broom.

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Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science
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