



UCCE: A PATH TO GROWTH

How University of California Cooperative Extension master gardeners can help you

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) master gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers who extend research-based information to the public about home horticulture and pest management.

ONLINE

The UCCE website, mgorange.ucanr.edu, features how-tos about plants, weeds, soil, fertilizer, compost, pest management, monthly gardening tips and more.

THE GARDEN BEET

Subscribe to this quarterly e-newsletter for home horticulture topics and trending gardening tips.

IN THE GARDEN

Tune in to this UCCE broadcast at 88.9 FM on Thursday mornings, click Listen/Live on your computer or download the podcasts. It's a great resource for home gardeners and preservers.



FACEBOOK

Visit the UCCE Orange County Facebook page to keep up to date on horticultural news, post a message, leave a comment or ask questions.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

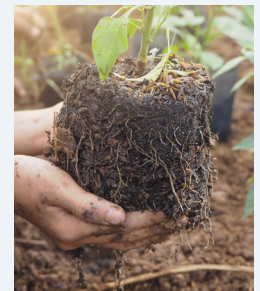
UCCE provides speakers for groups of 20 or more gardeners.

QUESTIONS?

Call the UCCE Gardening Hotline at **949-809-9760** or email ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu. A member of the UCCE crew will get back to you with answers.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS STEP FORWARD

Once a month on weekends, student volunteers will be on hand to assist gardeners



with weeding, trimming, picking, cleaning and general organizing; help staff keep common areas neat and tidy; and clean and prepare vacant plots for new gardeners.

Gardeners will be given ample notice of the student volunteer schedule (to be determined). If you have questions or wish to schedule assistance, email Alice Yoo at alice.yoo@vmsinc.org.

If you need temporary assistance with weeding, watering or pruning/trimming, visit the office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon to check availability.

CITRUS TREE PRUNING

When pruned correctly, citrus-fruit trees are hardier and less prone to disease—and produce quality fruit.

Prun a citrus tree only when fruit is present—this short window extends just a few weeks after the fruit is completely ripe. Prune the plant prior to its next flowering.

If you are pruning a small tree (10 feet in height and width), aim for an open branch form that has a dense foliage canopy but an uncluttered crown of branches. Remove all dead branches and branches crossing others.

Shape trees with selective pruning (not hard pruning) once every three months. Always make clean cuts with clean tools. After pruning, disinfect tools with a weak dilution of water and bleach.

You'll know it's time to harvest fruit when the citrus is in full color and just slightly soft. Removing the fruit is not only beneficial to your health, but it also prevents citrus regreening, which severely decreases the future fruit quality and production.



FERTILIZE ... NATURALLY

Feed plants and enrich soil with items from your pantry, refrigerator and backyard.

- Banana peels
- Coffee grounds
- Egg shells
- Seaweed
- Molasses
- Grass clippings
- Manure
- Worm castings



Don't Forget ...

- **Keep** pathways, common areas and plots weed free
- **Harvest** all produce; leave nothing on the vine
- **Remove** all vines and dead plants from past season
- **Remove** trees from your garden plot
- **Be** courteous and respectful to your neighbors
- **Share** water if necessary; do not overwater
- **Report** water issues/leaks to staff
- **Try** to not waste resources
- **Keep** your plot tidy; eliminate debris and clutter
- **Fold** up your umbrella when not in use
- **Care** for the tools you use; return them to storage after use