

Meetings and Announcements

CPRS Conference, February 7, 2020

The California Parks and Recreation Society, District 15, is holding a one-day conference on Friday, February 7, 2020. I expect to be there presenting information on pruning of shade trees. This conference is oriented toward parks and recreation workers of cities, and special districts, such as North-of-the-River Parks and Recreation. If you are interested, I suggest you call Paul Anderson of NOR and he can give you details as well as registration information.

38th Annual Landscape Management Seminar, February 12, 2020

The all-day 38th Annual Landscape Management Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at Hodels. Visiting speakers include Jim Downer of UCCE Ventura, who will speak about trees. We will have a special guest speaker, and that is Walt Bentley, Advisor Emeritus, who was for many years with our UCCE office in Bakersfield. We'll have a noon demonstration and updates on laws and regulations including a representative from DPR. Abate-a-Weed is cooperating as a sponsor for this meeting and is handling registration. We expect eight hours of PCA credit for this meeting, including two hours of laws.

Return to Chernobyl, August 2020

Chernobyl is calling us again. Chernobyl, Ukraine, was the site of a nuclear accident in 1986. 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 August 17-21, 2020. 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 contact me if interested at jfkarlik@ucdavis.edu.

Rule of the Superbowl

As a reminder, spring-germinating weeds, in particular crabgrass, can often be managed with pre-emergent herbicides, but to be effective these materials must be applied before germination has progressed.

Crabgrass is one of the most common weeds in turf in the Bakersfield area. Because it is an annual, it grows from seed each year. Therefore, its biology offers an opportunity to suppress it as it is becoming established, specifically through the use of a pre-emergent herbicide.

In the Bakersfield area, crabgrass seed begins to germinate around the first week of February. That is well ahead of the time bermudagrass and other warm season grasses emerge from dormancy, so crabgrass can have a month or more without competition from other plants. There are several products on the market that can be used with bermudagrass or tall fescue (be sure to check the label!) that will suppress crabgrass but not injure the underlying turf. However, most of these herbicides have little post-emergent activity; that is, they are not effective against established plants. If applied too late, they will not be effective.

By some quirk of fate, the playing of the Superbowl and crabgrass germination occur about the same time in Bakersfield and the southern San Joaquin Valley. So, a handy way to remember when to apply a pre-emergent herbicide is to associate its application with the game. If one does that, the herbicide will not be applied too late.

New Publications

Mulches for Landscapes is a just-released publication by UC ANR, found at [Mulches for Landscapes](#). It is a free download. The publication is co-authored by Jim Downer, who will be coming to our landscape seminar of February 12. If you download a copy and bring to the seminar, I would think Jim would autograph it for you.

Another new publication is *Understanding Your Residential Water Bill*, found at [Understanding Your Residential Water Bill](#).

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Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science

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