

Meetings and Announcements

As you have seen in daily media, most meetings and events in the near term (late March, early April) have been cancelled or postponed. That applies to UC-sponsored events as well. That said, I hope things will clear up so that our planned trip to Chernobyl can go forward....

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.

UCCE Kern County Office Closure

Which brings me to our local situation. Our local UC Cooperative Extension office at 1031 S. Mt. Vernon Ave., like all other UCCE offices, will be closed to public access for awhile. I could give an end date, but that might change, so I’ll just say “awhile.” All of us advisors have been told to work from home beginning this week. That means I will still read and respond to email on a daily basis, and I can make field calls if necessary. Since we’re supposed to work “remotely,” I suppose the more remote the field call the better, speaking tongue-in-cheek.

If you have a question about something or have a question about a plant problem, please do contact me, and attach a photo to your email if you can. My email is jfkarlik@ucanr.edu. I will still be picking up messages on my office phone, but email is best.

March: A Few Things to Do

The rest of March and early April is a good time for several horticultural practices. These include the following:

- Turn on irrigation and test all valves. Check for clogged heads and sufficient clearance of heads so plants receive water.
- Adjust irrigation clocks to reflect spring conditions. Summer has not yet arrived, so we don’t need the full amount of water needed in summer. Spring water use by plants is about 2/3 that of summer.
- Plant new roses. The sooner the better, since planting stock at home stores and nurseries will dry out, unless plants are already in containers.

- Plant fruit trees and whitewash trunks for sunburn protection.
- Finish up any residual pruning.
- Add fertilizer to lawns and landscapes as needed. For mature landscapes, no fertilizer may be needed.
- It's a good time to do a plant removal before weather warms.
- It's a good time to lay sod or reseed a lawn area, again before weather warms.
- It's a good time to plant palm trees.
- With the economic downturn and coronavirus fears, there may be some good deals to be found on equipment.

New Publications

Our *Rose Diseases and Abiotic Disorders* has finally made it through peer review and is now available on the UCIPM website, <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7463.html>

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Environmental Horticulture/Environmental Science

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