

# UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS • HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS • HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • HEALTHY CALIFORNIANS

## FROM THE FIELD:

"I am a novice gardener and this talk was super helpful with my rose challenges in SB and has inspired me to plant more roses. Thank you!" - Vanessa R. Quote from December Online Monthly Garden Talk, Growing Healthy Roses



This three-bladed propeller is notably quieter than industry-standard two-bladed propellers, but provides slightly reduced coverage. In areas where neighbor noise impacts are problematic this can be part of the solution.

## WATER RESOURCES & BIOMETEROLOGY

Avocado producers face significant damage risks due to temperature extremes, both hot and cold. Frost damage in the winter is a constant concern, and some traditional control measures using large volumes of water are becoming increasingly impractical due to the increasing cost and scarcity of water. Wind machines are often a viable alternative but have their own limitations. Advisor Battany discussed avocado frost protection and the use of wind machines in a recent Avocado Cafe online seminar. The recorded presentation is available at this link: [\(2437\) Avocado Cafe Session 15 - Preparing for a frost event - What to do and how frost events are forecast - YouTube](#)

## UC MASTER GARDENERS

The UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County were finally able to host an in-person class of new gardeners. The fall class of 'True Beginners' learned essential information including soil and soil testing, site selection, soil amendments, composting, when, what, and how to plant, and much more. Attendees increased their gardening knowledge and skills. Upon completion of the four sessions, a certificate was awarded.



Master Gardeners hosting a class of new gardeners



Fusarium wilt susceptible lettuce variety (left) and Fusarium wilt resistant lettuce variety (right)

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Fusarium wilt of lettuce has recently become one of the top lettuce pests on California's Central Coast. Management relies on resistant cultivars and early, accurate detection, but these tactics are complicated by the emergence of a potentially novel pathogenic race in California as of August 2021. The UC Integrated Pest Management program partnered with colleagues in 2023 to conduct two preliminary large scale field evaluations (one in Santa Maria) of commercial lettuce cultivars for resistance to Fusarium wilt of lettuce. This team was recently awarded a 2.5-year California Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant to develop a better understanding of the disease and evaluate commercial cultivars and breeding material for resistance to the pathogen. The project will be initiated Spring 2024 with the anticipated outcome that growers will be better equipped to rapidly identify the pathogenic race present in their soil and make more informed cultivar selections to manage this evolving disease.

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### Quarterly Report

October-December 2023

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