

## Horticulture Notes for Home, Garden and Landscape

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### *Introduction:*

The Internet has become a wonderful extension tool in terms of providing a great deal of horticultural information on-demand to home gardeners. For example, the Pest Note Series for home gardeners is currently available on the web via **Communication Services** and the **UC Integrated Pest Management Project** Website. The Communication Services website has free publications on various pest management topics as a part of its 8000 series. There is also a **California Master Gardener** Website that connects many MG programs in California and has a few “current topics” on their web pages. Many other states’ Cooperative Extension Programs have Internet sites with free digital publications that relate to their needs and programs but few are relevant to the needs of California. Most importantly, the University of California has a large number of very old publications that have been pulled from the DANR publication catalogs and are no longer available because the information is too out of date. Farm advisors and specialists are not rewriting or updating them because the demands on their time are too great to be able to accomplish the task. The information, however, if updated has value to meet the information needs of home gardeners in California. Specifically, many of the publications written by H.M. Butterfield, the one-sheet answers series, Hortscripts and the Teletip scripts have application today and could be rewritten, updated and placed on the web. New titles could also be developed that reflect the changing face of California Horticulture.

### *Objectives*

The primary objective is to develop a series of Horticulture Notes for Home Garden and Landscape to meet the information needs of home gardeners by extending research-based information related to plant

culture and basic horticulture techniques. These horticulture notes will be available via the Internet, which is a cost-effective, non-interpersonal method of providing information to clientele. It links well with the mission and program priorities of DANR and increases the number of up-to-date publications adapted to the needs of home gardeners. It also provides a mechanism for farm advisors, Master Gardeners and office staff to quickly print on demand “take away” or “mail away” publications that help to answer many home gardening questions.

### *Discussion:*

The first step in this project was to determine what the high priority needs for this type of written materials was. We conducted a survey of advisors, master gardeners and MG program coordinators to get their input on the major topics we should pursue first. We received about 30 of the 75 surveys distributed but the input was very helpful to our project. The “TOP 10” high priority publications were as follows:

1. Composting
2. Water Conservation Tips for the Home Gardener
3. Lawn Water Guide for Home Gardeners
4. Fruit Trees-Pruning & Training
5. Fruit Trees-Young Tree Planing and Care
6. Fruit Trees-Pruning Overgrown Trees
7. Planting Tips for Landscape Trees
8. Frost Protection in the Home garden
9. Fire Resistant Landscapes
10. Citrus Problems in the Home Garden

In our initial project proposal we had hoped to have between 40 and 50 publications completed in the first year. This figure was highly and overly ambitious. We have not been able to achieve that goal due to the long delays that occur through each step in the process including multiple peer reviews of each publication, developing illustrations, rewrites and working with numerous authors, each of whom have their own projects. Additionally, the project was delayed in its initiation until summer of 2000 due to a family conflict of the assistant hired to help conduct the project. Irrespectively, we have been able to achieve a significant amount of work over the last year. We currently have 27 Horticulture Notes at some phase of publication and most are at or beyond the peer review stage. The first five publications are currently in the hands of Communication Services and will be on the web as an 8000

Figure 1: Publication Production Status as of August 8, 2001

	<i>1st Draft</i>	<i>2nd Draft</i>	<i>Illustra- tions</i>	<i>Peer Review</i>		<i>Final Edit</i>	<i>CS</i>
				<i>sent</i>	<i>rec'd</i>		
<i>1 Compost in a Hurry</i>	X	X	N/A	3	1	X	X
<i>2 Water Conservation Tips for the Home Gardener</i>	X	X	N/A	3	2	X	X
<i>3 Lawn Watering Guide for California</i>	X	X	X	3	3	X	X
<i>4 Turfgrass Selection for the Home Garden</i>	X	X	N/A	3	2	X	X
<i>5 Navel Orange Split</i>	X	X	<i>draft</i>	3	2	X	X
<i>6 Fruit Trees: Young Tree Planting &amp; Care</i>	X	X	<i>draft</i>	3	3		
<i>7 Fruit Trees: Thinning</i>	X	X	X	3	3		
<i>8 Fruit Trees: Pruning Overgrown Trees</i>	X	X		3	3		
<i>9 Fruit Trees: Pruning &amp; Training</i>	X	X	<i>draft</i>	3	3		
<i>10 Sagos in the Landscape</i>	X	X	<i>draft</i>	3	2	X	X
<i>11 Landscape Trees: Planting Tips</i>	X	X	<i>draft</i>	3	2	X	
<i>12 Fruit Trees: Calendar for Apples and Pears</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	2	X	X
<i>13 Fruit Trees: Calendar for Apricots</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	2	X	X
<i>14 Fruit Trees: Calendar for Cherries</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	1	X	X
<i>15 Fruit Trees: Calendar for Peaches &amp; Nectarines</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	2	X	X
<i>16 Fruit Trees: Calendar for Plums</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	2	X	X
<i>17 Nut Trees: Calendar for Almonds</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	2	X	X
<i>18 Nut Trees: Calendar for Walnuts</i>	X	X	N/A	3+1	2	X	X
<i>19 Frost Protection for Citrus</i>	X	X	N/A	<i>Opitz</i>			
<i>20 Landscaping Your Mountain Property</i>	X	X	N/A				
<i>21 Vegetable Garden Basics</i>	X	X	N/A	3			
<i>22 Climate Zones of California</i>	X		<i>(map)</i>				
<i>23 Firewood Facts</i>	X	X	<i>draft</i>	3			
<i>24 Pressure-treated Lumber and Railroad Ties</i>	X	X	N/A	3			
<i>25 Lavenders for California Landscapes</i>	X	X		3			
<i>26 Annual Color in the Landscape</i>	X		N/A				
<i>27 Wreaths and Garlands from Your Garden</i>	X						

series publication by September 2001. The production grid (see figure 1) shows the status of each publication as each stage of production is completed. This includes draft issue, illustrations required, status of peer review, and if the manuscripts have been returned to us and when they have finally gone to Communication Services for final copy editing and placement on the web. We intend to continue with this project until we complete a

minimum of 40 web-based publications.

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