



Branching Out

A Newsletter of the Inland Urban Forest Council

The Asian Citrus Psyllid

Major threat to California's home and commercial citrus

Fred Roth, Ph.D. Cal Poly University, Pomona and Consulting Arborist

California has, for some time, been plagued by an influx of non-native insects that, because of our great climate and freedom from their natural predators, can reproduce and establish extraordinarily quickly. The rate of new introductions is, on average, one every 60 days. One pest, the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP for short), stands out for the potential harm it can do to California's farm economy and our backyard fruit orchards. The insect causes little damage on its own, but has the ability to spread a bacteria-like pathogen of citrus that causes a devastating disease called citrus greening disease or huanglongbing (translates as "golden dragon disease").



Photo by M.E. Roger

Fruit from infected trees never sizes up, remains green and sour, and has a medicinal taste. In other words, it is useless. For the present, the range of the citrus psyllid is small, including several counties in southern California. However, it is spreading and is "at the doorstep" of the central valley, California's most important citrus production area. We do not currently have the bacterial pathogen, but it is well established in Florida where it is devastating their citrus, and has recently been found in Texas. If the ACP becomes widely established, it would, for our citrus trees, be like strewing crumpled newspaper in your living room and hoping no one brings in a match.

Work is ongoing to slow the spread and gain long-term control of the ACP. Quarantines are in place to regulate the movement of citrus from infested areas.* Known infested areas are being carefully monitored and sprayed on a schedule to try to eradicate the insect. Biologists are working to produce varieties of citrus plants with a gene that makes the plant unpalatable to the ACP, but does not affect nutritional and eating quality, or the safety of the fruit. This is still in the early stages of development, and even if wildly successful, will take many years before any such citrus will be in your local market.

Here's what we can all do to help. When you find yellow triangular traps placed in your home citrus trees, leave them alone. They were placed there by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to monitor the spread of ACP. When you take your backyard citrus fruit anywhere, make sure they do not have leaves or stems attached. Do not object if a worker from the County wants to spray your trees.

With some luck, we will have the high quality citrus that is one of the most cherished icons of California for many years to come.

*Since this article was written, huanglongbing has been found in Hacienda Heights. The area is under strict quarantine and complete control is hoped for.

If you think you may have seen the pest or need more information, please call the Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 or visit "Report a Pest" online: California Department of Food and Agriculture – <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/ReportaPest/index.html> USDA – www.saveourcitrus.org Citrus Research Board – www.californiacitrusthreat.org

Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit — Phase II Grant Update

Nancy Humenik-Sappington

The Inland Urban Forest Council was the recipient of a short-term CAL FIRE grant in late 2011. The purpose of the grant was to promote a statewide educational program that would assist participants in the development of their urban forest management plans through the use of the online toolkit. There are 31 participants in the program. They represent local governments, educational institutions, homeowner's associations, and non-profit foundations. Hands-on workshops both in northern California and southern California have been held with more scheduled throughout the year.



Photo by Diana Ruiz

Dave Roger introduced the online UFM toolkit to southern California workshop participants.

Thank You

The Inland Urban Forest Council would like to thank its 2011 speakers and host locations for supporting IUFC educational programs:

Dr. Fred Roth, Professor, Cal Poly, Pomona: *Ethnobotany of the Southwest*, also *Mature Tree Culture*

Dr. John Kabashima, Environmental Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension: *Pests of Landscape Trees*

Dave Roger, Ca Urban Forester, Consulting Arborist: *Mature Tree Issues*

Rebecca Latta, Consulting Arborist: *Construction Impacts to Trees*

Dr. James Downer, Horticulture and Plant Pathology Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension: *Root Health and Management*

Dr. Bill Baker, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, Certified Arborist, Ca Pest Control Advisor: *Trees on the Golf Course*

Paul Santos, Soil and Plant Laboratory Inc.: *Pathogens*

Host Locations

Sims Learning Center, www.simstic.com

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, www.rsabg.org

Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District, www.rcrcd.com



Photo by Diana Ruiz

Some members of the Inland Urban Forest Council toured the Arbor Trail at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District following the fall meeting. Join us for our next quarterly meeting.

Citrus Leaf Miner Damage

A cause of more concern than damage.

Mark Porter, Mark's Tree Service and Consulting, Riverside, CA

I often get asked by clients: "What is going on with all the leaf damage to my citrus trees?" Well the answer is best described through our great online resource called: UC IPM Online (University of California Integrated Pest Management). This great resource is the one the pros use for timely, quick and free online pest information. You can pay me or others a fee to visit your property, or read it here for free: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74137.html>. Google: UC IPM Online -citrus leaf miner.



Photo by Mark Porter

Healthy leaf as compared to damaged leaf (above).



Photo by Diana Ruiz

Arbor Day 2012

The Inland Urban Forest Council helped sponsor a regional Arbor Day which was held by the City of San Dimas at Bonelli Regional Park on March 3, 2012. The event included educational programs, activities and tree plantings. Those who represented the IUFC included Dave Roger who talked about selecting nursery stock, Dr. Fred Roth who discussed how to train and prune young trees, and Mark Porter who spoke about tree law.

Dr. Fred Roth demonstrated pruning procedures during the fall IUFC meeting.

Preserving Trees During Construction

Mark Porter, Mark's Tree Service and Consulting, Riverside, CA

Existing trees add value, beauty, and function to homes during both remodeling and new construction. Successful tree preservation requires serious consideration from design through construction and involves all members of a project team (owner, architect, city officials, builder, contractors, arborist).

Successful preservation provides needed space. Following an analysis of the tree inventory, a preservation report should be prepared and shared with the project team. The report would identify the critical root protection zone (CRPZ), location of protective fencing and signage, and tree care treatments (applying mulch, pruning, irrigation, fertilizer or pest management).

Trees require space to grow, above- and below-ground. Physical damage to tree roots and crowns such as soil compaction and wounding is difficult to correct. Root loss and wounds compromise tree health and stability. Paint, stucco, cement and other chemicals will alter soil chemistry. Therefore it is important to focus on preventing injury. Successful tree preservation involves selecting good trees and a committed team.



Photo by Lisa Smith

Drastic "root pruning" as a result of construction activities.

Tree Trimming Safety from Southern California Edison

Beware of all overhead power lines: Death and injury can result from contact even with low voltage power lines. Assume all overhead lines are energized and potentially dangerous, including service drops that run from utility poles to buildings. Never touch power lines directly, or touch a tree whose trunk or branches are in contact with power lines. Never use long-handled metal tools or aluminum ladders when trimming trees near power lines. Trees may conduct electricity from the wires to you.

Follow the 10-Foot Rule

Keep vehicles, equipment, tools, and people at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Never trim or remove trees within 10 feet of high-voltage power lines. If you must trim or remove trees near low-voltage power lines, and you cannot do it safely, call SCE or other utility to request that the lines be temporarily de-energized or moved. If you must work closer than 10 feet, contact SCE (1-800-611-1911) or the local utility company in advance to make safety arrangements. More at <http://www.sce.com/Safety/worker/tree-timmers-and-landscapers.htm>.

2012 Upcoming Events

For questions, or to RSVP for IUFC events, please email IUFC2@aol.com

June 14 *Strengthen Your Roots in Tree Care*, 9 am – 3 pm at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District, 4500 Glenwood Drive, Bldg F, Riverside, CA

October 23 *Next quarterly meeting:* **Quarterly meetings** are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join and help plan future activities.

Other Events (not IUFC)

May 18 **Fire Summit** 8:00am – 4:00pm, South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 Copley Dr., Diamond Bar, California 91765 <http://www.socalrast.org/news.htm>

October is National Neighborwoods Month

October 24 **2012 Inland Empire Green Building+Business Expo** 3:00 PM - 8:30 PM www.usgbc-ie.org

Nov 14 – 16 **2012 Partners in Community Forestry Conference**, Sacramento, CA www.arboday.org

Resources: Urban Forest Management Tool Kit: <http://www.ufmptoolkit.com/>
California Urban Forest Council (CaUFC): <http://www.caufc.org/>
California ReLeaf: californiareleaf.org/

The **Inland Urban Forest Council (IUFC)** is a network of tree advocates that works to advance the sustainable management of trees in urban ecosystems of inland southern California, including portions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and eastern Los Angeles County. www.inlandurbanforestcouncil.org

Mailing address: PO Box 7444, Riverside, CA 92513



The IUFC:

- shares information that will help with the planning and management of community forests
- obtains and shares region-wide funding for urban forestry programs
- conducts educational field trips, tours, and workshops
- advocates for tree planting and care by supporting outreach events, such as Arbor Day and Earth Day.

If you would like to join our free mailing list to receive announcements about upcoming programs, please contact us at IUFC2@aol.com or through one of our Steering Committee members listed below.

IUFC Steering Committee

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The IUFC is one of seven regional councils in California. The Council advances regional concerns to the California Urban Forests Council, CAL-FIRE (formerly California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection), and the California Community Forestry Advisory Committee (CCFAC).

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