



# Home & Garden Pest Newsletter

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## Welcome to our First Issue!

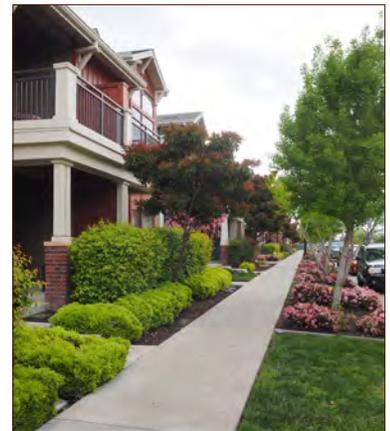
The UC IPM program began publishing the *Retail Nursery and Garden Center IPM News* in 2011 to provide pest management information to employees at retail stores. Over the years, our readership has expanded to include more than retail store employees, so we are pleased to announce the creation of our new publication, the *Home & Garden Pest Newsletter*.

We created this newsletter as a resource for all California residents, including retail nursery and garden center employees, UC Master Gardeners, garden enthusiasts, educational institutions, county and state agencies, and many others. In this publication, we will provide you with the latest urban and community pest information from the University of California.

### Who are we?

The UC IPM Urban and Community team is part of the UC Statewide IPM Program, within the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. UC IPM develops and publishes content online and in print to extend research-based information about pest management around homes, gardens, landscapes, and structures. We offer resources such as the *Pest Notes* series, *Quick Tips*, how-to videos, decision support tools, webinars, online courses, and many other activities to assist our audiences achieve a more sustainable environment with fewer pests. We collaborate with scientists across the state at

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E Lander, UCIPM

UC IPM offer pest management resources that residents can use around the home.



P Kosina, UCIPM

Learn to manage pests in your garden with UC IPM's online tools.

### Connect with us!



# Garden Tasks for Fall and Winter

**W**ith the cooler weather, gardening tasks may be slowing down some, but there are still plenty of things to do in the garden and landscape in the fall and winter months. Here are a few things to think about as you head into the next planting season. Follow the list to reduce future pest problems and have healthier plants.

## Cleaning up

- \* Pull out annual plants that have reached the end of their growing season, such as tomatoes, squashes, and peppers.
- \* Remove and clean up old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests and diseases.
- \* Remove fallen leaves from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses.
- \* After cleaning up, add leaves dropped during fall to a compost pile. Turn and keep the compost pile moist.



J. Auerbach, UCANR

Fall colors mean it's time to clean up the garden.

- \* Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs. For more information about mulching, see [ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/ENVIRON/mulches.html](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/ENVIRON/mulches.html).

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## Welcome ...continued from page 1

UC campuses, county UC Cooperative Extension offices, and other state agencies and institutions to ensure delivery of the most accurate, current pest-related information available.

### Need help finding solutions?

Our UC IPM website contains free information on pest management solutions including nonchemical options as well as details on pesticides and how to use them safely and effectively. You'll find easy-to-access, practical ways to identify and manage pests in and around gardens, landscapes, homes, buildings, parks, and other areas.

In upcoming issues, we'll feature information on new and invasive pests, new pest management tools, and the latest UC resources that can help you prevent or reduce pests in your area. Please contact us with feedback or with suggestions for specific topics for future issues.

For readers of the *Retail Nursery and Garden Center IPM News*, all past issues can still be found on the UC IPM website at [ipm.ucanr.edu/RETAIL/retail-newsletter.html](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/RETAIL/retail-newsletter.html) and on our *Pests in the Urban Landscape* blog [ucanr.edu/blogs/UCIPMurbanpests/](http://ucanr.edu/blogs/UCIPMurbanpests/).

UC IPM's Urban and Community IPM Team are:

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Contact us at [ipm.ucanr.edu/IPMPROJECT/directory.html](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/IPMPROJECT/directory.html)

# Garden Tasks for Fall and Winter *...continued from page 2*

## Pruning

- \* Prune deciduous trees and shrubs such as apple, crape myrtle, pear, rose, spirea, and stone fruits.
- \* Make cuts properly to encourage good form and structure.
- \* Remove dead, diseased, and borer-infested wood.
- \* Not all pests and host plants should be pruned in the fall. Certain pest-infested wood, such as damage from shothole borers, and plants such as apricot and cherry should be pruned during the summer.

## Planting

- \* Fall is a good time to plant bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines, such as caneberries, fruit and nut trees, grapes, and roses.
- \* Plant California natives now so they can establish before the summer.
- \* When you add new plants to your garden, select species and cultivars that are well-adapted to the local site.

## Adjusting irrigation

- \* The weather has turned wetter and cooler, so adjust watering schedules since plants won't need as much water.
- \* Check your irrigation systems for leaks and broken emitters and do any maintenance.
- \* You might want to upgrade the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.
- \* If it's not raining, water plants as needed to keep root zones moist, but not soggy.

- \* Prepare for rainfall by improving drainage. The goal is to prevent water ponding around trunks and foundations.
- \* Install downspout diverters to direct runoff into landscape soils, but avoid waterlogging of soil.

## Monitoring for pests

- \* Look for Asian citrus psyllid on your citrus trees and if you find it in a new location, report it to your local county agricultural commissioner.
- \* Also monitor for damage and pests such as brown rot, leafminer, root rots, and snails on citrus trees.
- \* Check for leaf curl or shot hole on apricot, nectarine, peach, and plum trees.

## Lawn care

- \* All types of lawns are actively growing during the fall months. Fertilizer applied at this time will help ensure that turfgrass is vigorous enough to outcompete weeds and resist other potential pest problems. For more information about correct fertilization of established lawns, including when to fertilize in your region, see [ipm.ucanr.edu/TOOLS/TURF/MAINTAIN/fertilize.html](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/TOOLS/TURF/MAINTAIN/fertilize.html).
- \* Practice weed management for annual cool-season weeds. It's also not too early to consider management for weeds that emerge in springtime.

**For more information, see the *Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist* at [ipm.ucanr.edu/landscapechecklist/](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/landscapechecklist/).**



## Giving Tuesday is November 30!

Join us for #GivingTuesday, a day of giving to celebrate generosity worldwide. UC IPM helps residents, growers, land managers, community leaders, and other pest management professionals prevent and solve pest problems.

You can directly support the Urban and Community IPM Program here: [donate.ucanr.edu/?program=Integrated%5FPest%5FManagement](http://donate.ucanr.edu/?program=Integrated%5FPest%5FManagement)

# Invasive Pest Spotlight: Black Fig Fly

The invasive pest spotlight focuses on emerging or potential invasive pests in California. In this issue we are covering the black fig fly.

## Black fig fly facts

The black fig fly is a new invasive species recently found in Southern California. It has been found in fig orchards in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties.

This small insect attacks only figs and prefers unripe or unpollinated fruit. The adult female lays eggs inside the fig (Figure 1). The larvae that hatch inside the fig will feed on the fruit, damaging it (Figure 2). The larvae will make their way out of the fruit, drop to the soil and pupate. Some may pupate inside the fig.

## What can you do?

The most important action you can take is to NOT move figs out of the counties known to have the black fig fly. If you live in one of these counties and have a fig tree, check your fruit for signs of activity such as small holes (Figure 3) or damage. There are no chemical control options currently available so anyone growing figs must rely on sanitation. Make sure to remove and destroy any fruit infested with the black fig fly.

If you find infested figs or suspect that black fig flies may be attacking figs in your yard, please contact your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

You can also report this pest to California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899 or [cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/](https://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/).

For more information about this pest visit [ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/pestaalert/pestaalert\\_blackfigfly.pdf](https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/pestaalert/pestaalert_blackfigfly.pdf).



Figure 1. A black fig fly laying eggs inside a green fig.



Figure 2. Damage inside a fig caused by the larva of the black fig fly.



Figure 3. A small hole in the skin of a fig caused by the black fig fly.

All photos by H Wilson, UCR

For more information about managing pests, contact your University of California Cooperative Extension office, or visit the UC IPM website at [ipm.ucanr.edu](https://ipm.ucanr.edu).

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