

# UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

## FROM THE FIELD:

“Thank you to ALL of your Master Gardeners for presenting such a wonderfully informative and inspiring program!!!”

- Chris Morales, Spring 2023 Victory Vegetable Gardening for the True Beginner.



Santa Barbara County Master Gardeners Class of 2023

## MASTER GARDENERS

This enthusiastic graduating class of UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County is already recharging our community efforts. We foresee impacts to our north county areas with events at the Solvang Farmers Market and demonstration events at the new Buellton Community Garden. Back Row: Endre Hudy, Heather Stoll, Susan Solomon 3rd Row: Abraham Lizama, Debbi Knauft, Devon DeFazio, Cathy Oliverson, Kathy Gleason, Jack Eisenhauer, Tammy Shorb, Lucile Boss 2nd Row: Katheryn Field, Jennifer Davila, Lisa Jones, Emmy Guzzon, DeDe Crough Front Row: Mary Ellen Kullman, Carl Barnes, Marivel Zambrano-Esparza, Lori Nash, Steven Craig, Melissa Fontaine Not Pictured: Russ Baldocchi, Kit Bonson, Christopher Fiorello, Dave McDonald, and Melissa Simpson.

## SUBTROPICAL CROPS

In orchards and vineyards, the Argentine ant is a stalwart defender of aphids, scale, and mealy bug, which excrete a sweet honeydew that the ants drink. The ants protect the pests from parasites, predators and parasitoids, allowing them to flourish and cause other problems such as sooty black mold, a dark fungus that can block leaves' access to sunlight, scaring fruit and reducing yield. The ant is a major problem in such crops as cherimoya, pitahaya and passion fruit which have few registered chemicals for use commercially. They are the major cause for use of pesticides in coastal lemon orchards. A new technique for controlling Argentine ants has been developed using hydrogels, allowing for precise control of this pest with little impact on other species. While this bait delivery system is currently only experimental, researchers hope this work leads to practical solutions to the Argentine ant issue.

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=27502>



Argentine Ants Feeding on Sugar-infused Hydrogels

## RANGELAND AND WATERSHED

The California Rancher Sustainability Assessment (CRSA) is now online. This tool provides a self-assessment questionnaire and library of science-based information that ranchers can use to evaluate their current management practices. In this way, the CRSA provides a guide that can help ranchers decide where improvements can be made and, over the longer term, evaluate how the changes are increasing the sustainability of the ranching operation and ranch resources. This tool was developed by ranchers and UC Cooperative Extension.

***Find out how sustainable your ranching practices are!***

The CRSA allows ranchers to evaluate multiple aspects of their operation to help ensure the sustainability of production, lands, and families. Modules in the self-assessment include forage management, soil health, wildlife management, drought management, and generational succession.

***Access A Learning Library with Guidelines, Videos, and More...***

The CRSA provides one-click access free, timely, and relevant information on best practices for managing soils, forages, and drought conditions, estate and financial planning, and a wealth of other topics.



Access the CRSA today:

<https://crsa.cnr.berkeley.edu/>

Ranching Sustainability Analysis (RSA) Workshop was last held, March 9, 2017, in Los Alamos. The new updated CRSA is now online, and anyone can visit the CRSA from the comfort of their own home, and at a convenient time.

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Director

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources