Urban Agriculture Resources: IPM challenges and solutions in California

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There are a number of challenges for urban agriculture practitioners to obtain appropriate information for pest management in California.

Large and Small Farms
Rural Areas

Large-ish and Small Farms
Urban Areas

Home and Community Gardens
Urban/Rural Areas

UA is beyond the scope of the Master Gardener Program and is often considered too marginally commercial to be a focus for UCCE personnel who work with farmers.
Needs assessment survey* found that educational materials and training in pest management specifically for urban agriculture was ranked as one of the top three needs by both extension personnel and producers.

* Surls, R.A. et al. 2014 Gearing up to support urban farming in California: Preliminary results of a needs assessment. Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Would research-based educational materials on the following topics, if developed or adapted for California, be valuable to your urban agriculture clientele?”</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pest management in UA</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>40.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water management in UA</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>35.3</td>
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* Surls, R.A. et al. 2014 Gearing up to support urban farming in California: Preliminary results of a needs assessment. Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems.
Need information about:

- identification of pests and diseases
- appropriate management programs

same pest management tools and regulations

new to crop production
AB 1990 legalizes the sale of whole (uncut) produce and shell eggs from backyard and community gardeners directly to the public and to restaurants by registering as “Community Food Producers”.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

URBAN FARMER

HOME GARDENER
IPM Needs

**Pest ID**

**Pest Management**
- Methods
- Tools
- (Labor)

**Pesticide Regulations**
- License/certificates (PA)
- Buffer
- Fieldworker safety
- Organic?
- REIs

Pest Control Advisers, CE Advisors, UC IPM, County Entomologists

CE Advisors, UC IPM, New Publications, New Training

Advisors, UC IPM, UrAg website, UC PESP, County Agricultural Commissioners’ offices
Challenges/Opportunities Related to IPM

Many urban farmers are unaware of agricultural regulations and pest quarantines.

Created a resource portal for urban farmers http://ucanr.edu/urbanag
Pest Management

Pest control can be a challenge on any farm—large or small. Pests, including insects and other arthropods, vertebrates such as gophers and squirrels, weeds, nematodes, fungi, bacteria, viruses, and veterinary parasites, are an unavoidable part of growing plants or raising animals.

Because urban agriculture often happens in close proximity to people and residences, urban farmers commonly use organic methods or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to manage pests. IPM is a management strategy in which decision-making is based on biology and ecology. You can learn more about IPM principles here. UC ANR has an Integrated Pest Management Program that features great tools and updated information on new and common pests.

See our Quick Guides and References to identify common pests and learn more about pest control strategies.

Be aware that urban agriculture producers will need to follow applicable pest control regulations any time their products are being sold, traded or donated. For example, use of some pesticides requires special permits or licensing. Locally, each county’s agricultural commissioner’s office regulates and monitors agricultural pesticide use, so that is a good place to start. This office also enforces any local pest quarantines, which you should be aware of before distributing your farm products. It’s important to be in touch with your county agricultural commissioner’s office so that you can learn about any applicable quarantines in your area.
16 workshops in Los Angeles, San Diego, the Bay Area, and Sacramento. Clips with workshop materials will be posted on the UC Urban Agriculture portal.
Workshops need to be specific

IPM material and workshops that address and recognize
- the diversity of cropping systems
- experience of these growers

IPM adoption
Participatory action research and extension
Researchers and practitioners together identify priorities, develop research protocols, gather data, analyze it and draw out implications
Provides accessible, science-based information for urban farmers and policy makers