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Summer Vegetable Gardening Webinar Question and Answers

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Q. How do you graft a mulberry tree?

A. Great question, but one that I'm unable to answer effectively. I did, however, do some research on this topic and found a great article on the Sacramento County Master Gardeners Web page. Go to <http://www.sacmg.ucanr.edu> and click on the bar labeled orchard. They also have a link to their video library and there is a video on grafting that has good information.

Q. What is an easy and inexpensive way to shade for hot weather?

A. Burlap is a fairly cost effective way to provide shade for your plants. You don't need a lot, just a few pieces to protect your vegetables from sun scald.

Q. Hubby and I have difference of opinion about how often to water our tomatoes. He's watering every other day. I say it should be daily and 2x day when it is super-hot. How do we know how often to water? We have drip system.

A. Tomatoes need regular irrigation during the growing season and your drip system is a great way to provide that. Try to avoid extreme fluctuations in watering as this can lead to blossom end rot or cracking. There is a great article on growing tomatoes on the California Garden Web website <http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/>

Q. How to manage squirrels who are eating fruits?

A. Squirrels can sometimes be difficult to manage in your yard. You can try covering the trees with bird netting to discourage them. Visit the UC Statewide IPM Website ipm.ucanr.edu for more information on squirrels.

Q. How do you remove poison ivy?

A. Poison Ivy can be controlled by cutting and digging out the roots, but **extreme caution and care must be used** to protect you from the plants toxins. I did some research and found a helpful article published by Washington State University, https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2072/2013/11/WesternPoisonIvy2010_000.pdf

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Q. I was watering our tomatoes with rain water only, I then transitioned to tap water and they died. Could have the tap water caused them to die?

A. I doubt that tap water (drinking water) could have killed your tomatoes. Over watering tomatoes could be the cause of their demise. I found a great article on growing tomatoes on the California Garden Web webpage <https://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu>

Q. Does increasing amount of water to tomatoes will prevent sun burn of tomatoes?

A. No, increasing the amount of water will not prevent sun burn. Sun scald or burn is caused by direct sun exposure on the tomatoes

Q. I fertilize my veggie garden with fish emulsion. How often should I fertilize?

A. As with any amendment or fertilizer follow all the directions on how to correctly use the product. The directions should include the amount and how often to feed.

Q. What is the best type of mulch to use in a garden and around fruit trees?

A. The type of mulch that you use is a personal preference. I use small nugget bark around my fruit trees because they will be in their location for a long period of time. Garden beds are different because they can change seasonally. Using materials like straw, shredded paper or cardboard, grass clippings or leaves are good options for garden beds.

Q. What do you use as mulch if you're container gardening?

A. The type of mulch you use is a personal preference. Here are a few suggestions that work well in containers: straw, shredded paper or cardboard, grass clippings, or shredded leaves.

Q. How do I control grasshopper babies?

A. Grasshoppers are one of the most difficult insect pests to control in the garden. You can try using floating row cover or other protective covers to discourage them from munching your plants. I recommend visiting the UC Statewide IPM site, ipm.ucanr.edu, for more information on grasshoppers.