



Retail Nursery Newsletter

An Information Source for Retail Nursery Professionals

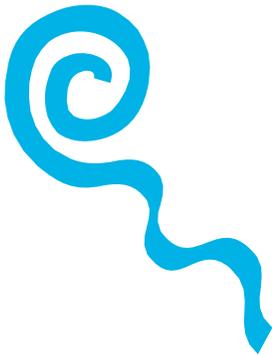
Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2006

Healthy Garden— Healthy Home

Helping to improve
water quality in
San Diego County
through the
implementation of
Integrated Pest
Management
practices.

It's The Water That Connects Us!



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POISONOUS SPIDERS—Part 2

Adapted from UCIPM Pest Notes: *Brown Recluse and Other Recluse Spiders* (R. Vetter, 2000, UC ANR Publication 7468) and *Spiders* (R. Vetter et al. 2000, UC ANR Publication 7442)

For the most part, spiders are beneficial because of their role as predators of insects and other arthropods, and most cannot harm people. Spiders that might injure people—for example, black widows—generally spend most of their time hidden under furniture or boxes, or in woodpiles, corners, or crevices. The spiders commonly seen out in the open during the day are unlikely to bite people. Black widows are very common throughout the state, are potentially dangerous, and are easily identifiable by their shiny black body color and red hourglass on the belly. There are no populations of the brown recluse *Loxosceles reclusa*, in the state and fewer than 10 verified specimens have been collected over several decades in California. Yet people frequently relate stories in which they or someone they know

was supposedly bitten by a brown recluse in California.

Recluse Spiders

Recluse spiders of the genus *Loxosceles* include the well-known brown recluse spider, *L. reclusa*, which does not occur in California. While the brown recluse has occasionally been brought into California in household furnishings, firewood, and motor vehicles, it does not reside in the state. Another recluse spider, the Chilean recluse spider (*L. laeta*), was introduced into Los Angeles County in the late 1960s. The native recluse spider of California (*L. deserta*) is found in the desert regions of southern California and neighboring states. Its bite can cause problems, but it is not as toxic as that of the Chilean recluse. Bites from either species are rare. Both the native desert recluse spider and the Chilean re-

cluse spider occur principally in the drier areas of southern California.



Brown Recluse Spider

The most definitive physical feature of recluse spiders is their eyes: most spiders have eight eyes that typically are arranged in two rows of four but recluse spiders have six equal-sized eyes arranged in three pairs, called dyads. There is a dyad at the front of the cephalothorax (the first main body part to which the legs attach) and another dyad on each side further back.

Some spiders share each of these physi-
(Continued on page 3)

New Pest of *Myoporum* Now in San Diego County by David Shaw, Farm Advisor, UCCE San Diego County

Myoporum, a popular tree and ground-cover plant material, is currently being affected by an exotic thrips new to San Diego County. The thrips is a member of the genus *Teucothrips* but the species is yet to be



Thrips Damage on *Myoporum*

identified. Damage to *Myoporum laetum* and *M. 'Pacificum'* is characterized by gall-like symptoms and distortion of new leaves and growing points. It is similar to the damage caused by the
(Continued on page 2)

Thrips continued from page #1

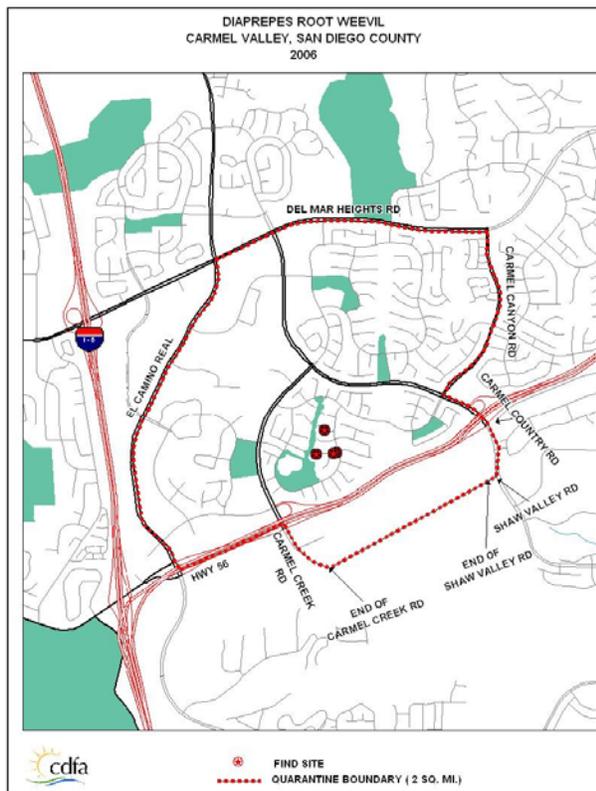
Cuban laurel thrips on *Ficus microcarpa*. The pest has also been found in Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

Myoporum is widely planted in landscapes in Southern California, valued for its aesthetic beauty, minimal management needs, and low water requirement. However, it is also considered an invasive species threatening natural habitat areas. While the *teucothrips* will reduce the aesthetic value of landscape plantings, it will do little to reduce the invasiveness of *Myoporum*.

Control of the thrips will involve the use of insecticides, but biological control, resistant cultivars, and other IPM methods may be available in the near future. Currently, Jim Bethke and I have a trial underway looking at the effectiveness of Conserve, Avid, and Merit for thrips control. We hope to have results in late September.

What can you do now? Carefully inspect nursery plants for thrips and their damage before purchasing and planting in the landscape. Please let us know if you observe this pest in plantings of *M. parvifolium*.

Diaprepes Root Weevil Update — 4th Quarantine Area Added to San Diego



120 + Attend IPM RETAIL NURSERY SEMINAR

On August 10, 120+ individuals attended the *Healthy Garden/Healthy Home Integrated Pest Management Seminar* in Carlsbad, CA. The attendees represented a cross section of industry professionals, governmental and educational institutions as well as concerned citizens. Participants attended 6 hours of training related to IPM and its importance to the retail nursery industry. Additionally, each guest received a copy of the new UC Publication, **Retail Garden Center Manual**, edited by Dennis Pittenger. The event organizers would like to thank all our attendees for making this event a success. We would also like to extend a special "thank you" to the **San Diego County Master Gardeners** for volunteering to staff this event. Additionally, we would like to thank **CANGC** and their staff for their support in advertising our seminar to the retail nursery industry of Southern California.

Integrated Pest Management Community Workshop Series For You & Your Customers

The *Healthy Garden –Healthy Home* program is conducting a series of FREE community workshops integrating the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) with a variety of topics. The underlying message of each workshop is to demonstrate how residents can be an important part of the solution to improve water quality in San Diego County. Monthly workshops will include topics such as *Ants, Snails & Slugs, Backyard Citrus Pests, Irrigation & Lawn Care, Plant Selection, Vertebrate Pests, and Beneficial Insects*. Our next workshop will be on **How to Safely Manage Snails & Slugs!** This program will be held on **Saturday, September 23 at 10:30 AM** at the **Chula Vista Nature Center** in Chula Vista (Please see ad.) **CCN Pro CE Units have been approved for this workshop.** For more information please contact Scott Parker at saparker@ucdavis.edu or **858-694-2184**.

How to Safely Manage Snails & Slugs

FREE Community Workshop Saturday Sept 23, 06

Time 10:30am to 12:00pm

Topic Controlling Snails & Slugs on Your Property

- Favorite Plants of Snails & Slugs - What are Your Alternatives
- Strategies for Managing Snails & Slugs in Your Landscape
- Safe and Effective Management of Snails & Slugs for a Healthy Garden

Speaker Carolyn Kinnon
Environmental Horticultural and Landscape Plant Control Advisor

Location Chula Vista Nature Center
1900 Sanguinier Point Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91916

For additional info: UCCE San Diego County Farm & Home Advisor Office
Tel: 619-434-2178
Web: <http://www.sanidiegocounty.gov>

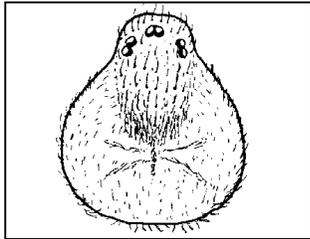
FREE CEFT for the next 50 subscribers!

IT'S THE WATER THAT CONNECTS US!

HEALTHY GARDEN HEALTHY HOME

POISONOUS SPIDERS continued from page #1

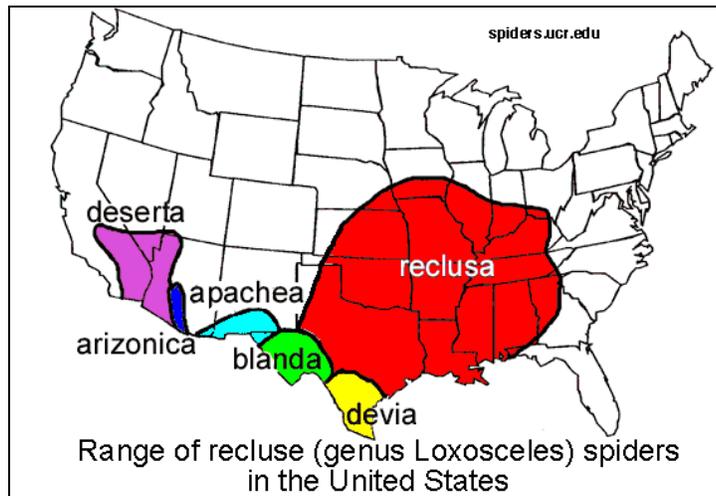
cal characteristics (six eyes in dyads, dark pattern near the eyes, uniformly colored abdomen with fine hairs, no spines on the legs); however, no nonrecluse spider has all four characteristics. On this basis, more than 99% of the spiders found by Californians can be identified as something other than a recluse spider. If, however, you do find a recluse spider in California, it will most likely be the native desert recluse, *L. deserta*.



**Head Region of Recluse Spider
Including 6 eyes in Dyads**

All recluse spiders make large, irregular, flattened, cobweb-type webs with thick strands extending in all directions. These spiders avoid light, are active at night, and tend to build their webs in out-of-the-way places. Chilean recluse spiders may be found indoors in boxes, in corners, behind pictures, in old clothing hanging undisturbed, and in other similar places. Desert recluse spiders appear outdoors where they may be found under rocks or wood.

A person bitten by a recluse spider may not be aware of having been bitten at the time of the bite. The first symptoms often appear several hours later. They consist of pain, formation of a small blister, redness, and swelling at the bite site. In the days following the initial bite, the tissue dies and sloughs off, exposing underlying flesh. The area develops into an open sore that is very slow to heal and may leave a sunken scar after healing. There may be accompanying flulike effects such as nausea, fever, chills, and restlessness. Bites from brown recluse spiders have never been confirmed in California. More detailed information on these spiders is available in *Pest Notes: Brown Recluse and Other Recluse Spiders*, available at <http://>



ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7468.html

General spider bites: Typically the symptoms persist from a few minutes to a few hours. Like reactions to bee stings, however, people vary in their responses to spider bites, so if the bite of any spider causes an unusual or severe reaction, such as increasing pain or extreme swelling, contact a physician, hospital, or poison control center (in California, the number is 1-800-876-4766 or 1-800-8-POISON).

Prevention and Nonchemical Control: Spiders may enter houses and other structures through cracks and other openings. They also may be carried in on items like plants, firewood, and boxes. Regular vacuuming or sweeping of windows, corners of rooms, storage areas, basements, and other seldom used areas helps remove spiders and their webs. Vacuuming spiders can be an effective control technique. To prevent spiders from coming indoors, seal cracks in the foundation and other parts of the structure and gaps around windows and doors. Good screening not only will keep out many spiders but also will discourage them by keeping out insects that they must have for food.

In indoor storage areas, place boxes off the floor and away from walls, whenever possible, to help reduce their usefulness as a harborage for spiders. Sealing the boxes with tape will keep spiders out

of the boxes. Clean up clutter in storage areas. Be sure to wear gloves to avoid accidental bites.

Outdoors, eliminate places for spiders to hide and build their webs by keeping the area next to the foundation free of trash, leaf litter, heavy vegetation, and other

accumulations of materials. Trimming plant growth away from the house and other structures will discourage spiders from first taking up residence near the structure and then moving indoors. Since outdoor lighting attracts insects, which in turn attracts spiders, if possible, keep lighting fixtures off structures and away from windows and doorways. Clean webs and spiders off buildings regularly. Insecticides will not provide long-term control and should not generally be used against spiders outdoors.

It cannot be stressed enough that most spiders found outdoors are not harmful and are in fact, beneficial. It is not advisable to control them with insecticides. Typically pesticide control of spiders is difficult unless you actually see the spider and are able to spray it. There are various insecticides available in retail outlets labeled for spider control, including pyrethrins, resmethrin, allethrin, or combinations of these products. If you spray a spider, it will be killed only if the spray lands directly on it; the spray residual does not have a long-lasting effect. Control by spraying is only temporary unless accompanied by housekeeping.

Because spiders are primarily beneficial, their activities should be encouraged in the garden. Pesticide control is difficult and rarely necessary. The best approach to controlling spiders in and around the home is to remove hiding spots and regularly clean webs off the house with brushes and vacuums.

HEALTHY GARDEN—HEALTHY HOME

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Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the SWRCB, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations for use.

FREE Point-of-Purchase Educational Materials and Training Workshops Available for Local Nurseries and Garden Centers!

As part of the **Healthy Garden – Healthy Home** Integrated Pest Management (IPM) outreach effort, research based educational materials, and the fixtures necessary to display them, are available to nursery and garden centers throughout San Diego County. Materials include water resistant pest cards and informational tear-off sheets. Pest Card topics include; *Ants, Aphids, Cockroaches, Earwigs, Fleas, Giant Whitefly, Head Lice, Snails & Slugs, Spiders, Termites, Safe Use & Disposal of Pesticides, Lawn Insects, and Gardening with Good Bugs*. Tear-Off Sheet topics include; *General IPM Information, Ants, Snails & Slugs, Aphids, and Preventing Irrigation Runoff*. *And coming soon; Giant Whitefly.*

In addition to these Point-Of-Purchase items, several educational videos ranging in length from 15 second to 3 minute are available for use in your store. Both DVD and video format are available.

Workshops for nursery staff focusing on topics related to IPM and Water Quality are also available for booking.

For more information about any of these opportunities or to make arrangements for your nursery or garden center to participate in this program please contact Scott Parker by phone, 858-694-2184, or email, saparker@ucdavis.edu.



*Sample Pest Cards
Display Racks*