

THE DIRT

Long Beach Community Garden Association



Bountiful Summer Gardens

HEALTHY



FRESH

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to thank everyone who came out to the Annual LBCG Picnic! It was so much fun to get avid gardeners together to discuss garden issues and just enjoy each others' company. Thanks to all of the Board Members who worked so hard at various assignments to make this event happen. Great food, great tomato and salsa tasting, great raffle give-aways and great conversation! If you missed it, make sure to attend next year.

Speaking of Tomato Tasting, according to Lonnie Brundage who managed this amazing activity, the winners are:

- #1 Japanese Black Trifle
- #2 Hillbilly
- #3 Pineapple
- #4 Lemon Boy

There were 18 different varieties entries. Thanks to everyone who contributed your wonderful tomatoes -- a major reason why most of us garden. They never taste the same from the store!

I'm very excited about our new website at lbcg.org. Our old website was

created on a platform that will no longer be supported by the IT industry. The goals of the new website were to make it visually more interesting and easier to use as well as to provide much more information that can be updated and revised by the Board on an ongoing basis. I will do everything in my power to keep it current and relevant for the existing members as well as for future members -- those of you looking for a great place to grow healthy vegetables for your own table.

Please note that if you are a current member, you can submit a photo or two through the Gallery tab which I will review and post, as appropriate. This is one of the ways we can make the website more interactive. You can also send questions or information to the President or the Membership Chair through the website via the Contact tab.

NOTE that we now have a calendar where you can watch for Upcoming Activities of the garden. Take some time to browse the site and enjoy the new look and feel of *your garden's* website.

Watch the website for updates and current information!

In this issue

Bagrada Bug



Ugghhh!

More than you ever wanted to know about the pest that won't go away.

Birds in the garden

Garden watchers

Member Annabelle Rice shares her appreciation for our winged friends.

Orchard news

We're saving water

Improvements in the orchard irrigation system mean healthier trees, better fruit, and less expense.

Put a smart gardener to work for you

Smart Gardener

Member Mary Ensich shares one of her favorite gardening tools. When you use it, your hands will never get dirty.

Recipe

Love your kale all year round?



Here's a recipe for something a little different: kale pesto. Compliments of member Pam Rayburn.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR GARDEN

A frequent sight

Often seen: a pair of mating insects on a leaf of kale, tomatillo, or broccoli (and many other plants!) One gardener I talked to said he plants a row of “sacrificial radishes” to attract the bugs, then just pulls out the plants and disposes of them, and the bugs, in a plastic bag.

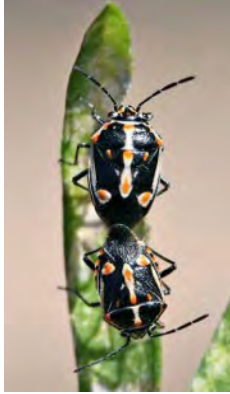


Photo by [Gevork Arakelian](#)



Photo by [Surendra Dara](#)

Bagrada bug identification

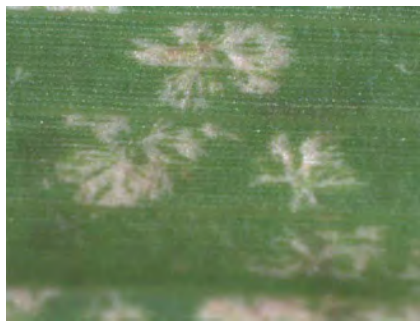
Adult Bagrada bugs shown on a dime to illustrate size/scale. Females are larger than males.

Watch a video about current research

UC Cooperative Extension agricultural researcher Surendra Dara is an expert on all things Bagrada.

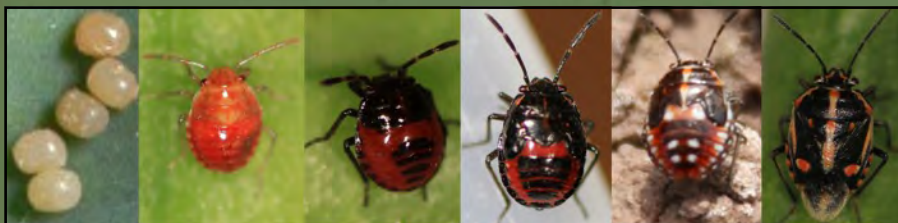


[Short video](#) (requires Flash Player. Get Flash Player [HERE](#)).



Leaf damage by Bagrada Bug

Bagrada bugs leaves distinctive starburst markings showing where they've been feeding.



Eggs and the last instar [photos](#) by Eric Natwick and the rest by Surendra Dara

“Bagrada bug females deposit barrel-shaped whitish eggs on the foliage and in the soil in clusters. Eggs hatch and nymphs go through five instar stages before becoming adults. Early instar nymphs have black and orange coloration and the late instars and adults have black, orange, and white patterns.”

- Surendra Dara, UCCE Researcher

GET THE FACTS

Bagrada Bug

The Bagrada bug is a major agricultural threat. There is a lot of new information from University of California researchers:

Identificaton

UC Davis Integrated Pest Management Guidelines

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74166.html>

UCIPM Pest Alert, September 2013

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/pestalet/pabagradabug.html>

(also has links to other research)

Current status in California

Updated in January 2014:

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=12609>

Control

Biological controls

Read about the potential for natural controls of the Bagrada bug:

<http://ucanr.edu/blogs/strawberries-vegetables/index.cfm?tagname=Bagrada%20bug%20assays%20and%20video>

Slide show

For the inner nerd in you: view a somewhat technical [slideshow](#) on Bagrada bug biology (presented to agricultural interests in the Coachella Valley). Lots of pics and info on insect life cycle, plants that are hosts, climate factors, etc.

Bagrada Bug Fact Sheet

compiled by Darcy Reed, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside

Bagrada Bug (*Bagrada hilaris*): Serious Invasive Pest of Cole Crops and Mustard Greens

Recognition:

- Size: Adults are approx. 5-7 mm (about 1/3 size of Harlequin bug)
- Color: Primarily black with orange and white markings
- Adults are typically found in tandem mating pairs with end-to-end position. Female is larger.
- Immature stages (nymphs) may resemble ladybird beetles or ladybugs but lack spots, have longer antennae and sucking mouthparts.
- Eggs are slightly barrel-shaped and dirty white when first laid, gradually becoming more orange-red. Eggs are found in small clusters (<10) on undersides of leaves, on hairy stems of non-host plants and in soil cracks.

Host Plants:

- Primarily feed on members of the mustard family (Brassicaceae)
- Crucifers (including both head-forming and leafy greens); grasses (including corn, Sudan grass, Bermuda grass); flowering plants (sweet alyssum, sunflower)
- Various weeds, including shepherd's purse, London rocket, various wild mustards (shortpod mustard, black mustard, Sahara mustard), pepperweed.

Damage to Plants:

- Young crucifers are most susceptible, especially at germination.
- Feeding involves multiple insertions of needle-like mouthparts resulting in starburst-shaped lesions. Initial deformation or wilting of leaves.
- Ultimately damage results in 'scorched' leaves, blind terminals, forked or multiple heads on cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, etc.
- When starving, these bugs will attack fruits of various plants, including melon and bell pepper.

Monitoring:

- Check plants during sunny days around mid-morning when temperatures rise above 75oF. These insects prefer warmer temperatures. Often hide on undersides of leaves or around the base of the stem or in soil cracks and crevices when temperatures are low or extremely hot (if soil is moist).
- Check plants for fresh feeding damage (light green starburst lesions). Older lesions are white and if heavy resemble scorching.

Life Cycle:

- Presumed to overwinter as adults, but may continue to reproduce if temperatures are mild and preferred food is available.
- Adults are usually found in pairs, end-to-end. Tend to fly when temperatures are quite warm >85oF.
- Each female can produce >100 eggs.
- Eggs – color varies with age progressing from dirty white to orange-red. Hatch in 3-4 days depending on temperature.
- Immatures – 5 nymphal instars. Newly emerged nymphs of all stages are orange-red but legs, head and thorax darken quickly. First instars usually remain near the empty eggshell and do not feed on plants. Older nymphs develop wingpads prior to becoming adults.
- During the fall (prior to planting of cole crops), bugs are present in large numbers and attempt to feed on almost anything green (including bell peppers, citrus, seedling potatoes, cotton, weeds) in order to bridge them into the crucifer growing season.
- Generations per year: multiple, depending on temperature.

Control Measures:

- At germination: sprinkling, chemigation, pre-treated seeds
- Cotyledon and Seedling (up to 6 leaves) stage: most vulnerable for head-forming cole crops
- Leafy Greens: depends on variety and local bug population, soapy water
- Insecticides: pyrethroids during stand establishment begin immediately upon detection; 2-3 leaf stage change to neonicotinoids (e.g. dinotefuran)

Distribution History:

- Found in Africa, India and Pakistan, also areas of Italy and southeast Asia
- First documented in the US in 2008 in greater Los Angeles area
- Spread throughout southern areas of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada Texas, and Utah

Birds in the Garden

contributed by Annabelle Rice, plot I-11 (Coyote Creek Farm)

While pulling weeds in my plot, I hear “whichity, whichity, which”: looking up, I see a pair of common yellow-throated warblers traveling through the plants looking for bugs; overhead a pair of red-tailed hawks are circling and calling; a small flock of bushtits sweeps through the garden, eating aphids.



*What a glorious place,
sky and sunshine,
plants and earth and
everywhere our
seasonal avian
visitors.*



Our location next to the Nature Center brings a variety of birds: orchard orioles, swallows, white-crowned sparrows, Anna’s hummingbirds. One day I saw a great egret striding through the garden looking for grasshoppers (or lizards, or mice).

It is a bird-friendly garden. A high perch for hawks sits in the center of the garden



Photo: <http://www.birds-of-north-america.net/bushtit.html>

near the gazebo, and an owl box has been installed in the corner near the Nature Center.

Last year I put up a bluebird house in my garden. The first pair lost their clutch due to either a rat or a snake, so now I have a defense against them, and the second pair

fledged at least one. This year a house wren has taken up occupancy. After a month of singing and nest-building, the pair are now busy bringing bugs, worms, etc. to feed the babies.

For a gardener and a birder, this is a special place.



**Build a
nest
box for
your
own
garden!**

Want to build your own bluebird box? There are many resources on the internet. Here’s one for you to have a look: www.nabluebirdsociety.org/nestboxes/nestboxplans.htm

Tiny onions causing big tears of frustration?

I found this delightful Pat Welsh video on YouTube that explains how to grow large luscious onions here in SoCal.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAd_jPW92DU

Another gardener recently asked me about growing onions as he had the same failure to thrive after planting onion sets that I've experienced. Thought the video might be a good share for other gardeners.

submitted by
Caroline Martin C-19

Orchard News

contributed by Alan Coles

One of the most frequent questions I get asked is, “where does the fruit go?” Sadly, many people don’t know that all of the fruit from the orchard is placed on the share table in the gazebo. Gardeners are limited to 2 fruit of each kind per plot per day and a handful if the fruit are small. So if 2 people share a plot, their combined amount must be at or less than that limit. With over 300 plots in our garden, we don’t produce enough fruit in the orchard for everyone, so please be considerate.

The best way to get fruit is to attend an orchard work party which are held weekly. Workers are still limited to the daily quota but they do get the first opportunity to take fruit before it is placed in the gazebo. If you are unable to attend a work party, try to be in the gazebo around ending time of the work party. There are usually several trays of fruit. Please do not go into the orchard and pick fruit without

permission. We lost avocados this year when someone picked them far too early. August and September are our “dry” months where we don’t have a lot to pick.

The weather has not been helpful this year. The dry winter brought out new growth weeks earlier than normal. The hot spells have caused sunburn on some of the fruits. This can be cut out and the rest of the fruit should taste normal.

Improvements continue in the orchard. You can see that many of our trees now have 2 sprinklers. These form a “C” pattern which disperses water away from the trunk. Not only does this save water, the trees stay healthier by preventing the transfer of pathogens from the soil into the trunk above the graft union.

Apricots formed and ripened this year but they were small and somewhat disfigured. The trees appear to be inflicted with one or more

diseases. The fruit is still delicious and safe to eat. If we are unable to rectify the problem, the trees will probably be removed after harvest and replanted in winter with more disease resistant varieties. We rely on the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR information for tree care in our region. I highly recommend “The Home Orchard” which is published by UCANR (it can be purchased [here](#) or [here](#)).



editor’s note:

Leaflets detailing care of fruit trees and garden crops can be downloaded at no charge from UCANR. Here are a couple of links for you:

General vegetable gardening:
<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8059.pdf>

Growing tomatoes:
<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8159.pdf>

And since tomato season is well underway:
<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8116.pdf>

Smart Gardener: off to a quick start!

contributed by Mary Enschede (C-18)

Here is a great site you might want to use the next time you are planning your garden plot for a new season:

www.smartgardener.com.

I use this site to draw my plot - then I add the vegetables I am growing - the site actually will complete a journal for me (reminders etc). The fun part - you can ask the site to design where you should plant which vegetable based on required spacing. You pick the vegetables. There is also a



section for requesting which plants do well in our area.

I was able to print my plan and take it with me to the nursery.

The site will ask "how many" people in the household and determine the number of plants required to feed them all.

There is a section for "community garden" which would work for the Food Bank (one plot - many helpers) to record watering etc.



GARDENER'S RECIPE RECOMMENDATION



Kale Pesto

contributed by Pam Rayburn, N-09

Ingredients:

About 8 cups coarsely chopped kale (central stalks removed), about 2 bunches; see Cook's notes at left.

- 1 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pine nuts
- 3 garlic cloves; chopped
- 2 teaspoons salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dried red pepper flakes

Procedure:

1. Bring a large pot of water to boil on high heat. Fill a large bowl with ice and water. Plunge kale into the boiling water for 3 minutes. Use tongs or slotted spoon or scoop to place kale in the ice water. After 3 more minutes, place kale in colander.
2. Squeeze handfuls of kale to remove excess water and place in food processor. Add remaining ingredients and process until smooth. Transfer to container and store airtight in refrigerator up to 3 days.

Cook's notes: Remove hard central stem in each kale leaf. You can do this by cutting around the stalk to remove it. Or use your hand by cupping fingers and thumb around the stem below the leaf; holding the stem with the opposite hand, move the cupped hand toward the leaf's tip, scraping leaves from stems in the process.

General information

Contacts, procedures, reminders, announcements

Board Of Directors

Your 2014-15 Long Beach Community Garden Association Board, their assignments and contact information:

Carol Meyer - President
562-343-3326

Kathy Jarvis - First V.P.
Membership
714-716-7002

Sher Meyers - Second V.P.
Gazebo
562-428-8604

Merilee Atkinson - Secretary
Newsletter
562-427-4501

Mary Rasmussen - Treasurer
562-498-7428

Nancy Bernstein
General Maintenance
562-597-4552

Lonnie Brundage
Food Bank
562-597-0926

Frank Dayak
Critter Control
562-596-1975

Kevin Holman
Diseases/Landscape
562-439-2326

Lisa Owen
Border Boards
310-713-8999

Michael Roide
Printing/Renewals
562-755-6781

Gary Sarka
Water Systems/Gate
562-430-0695

Marc Soto
Border Boards - Lead
562-685-6151

Ernie Trait
Orchard
562-431-7074

Occasionally we will feature one or two Board Officers or Directors in the newsletter. If you have a question for any of them, please feel free to contact them directly.

Community Service

Now is the time to do your community service hours. The sooner in the year, the better!

Garden Reviews

Garden review walks are conducted on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. Actual dates are posted on the bulletin board at the garden entrance. Any member is welcome to come along.

Vacations

You do not need to inform the Board if you are going on vacation for a short time (a week or two), particularly if you have someone managing your garden for you. If you plan to be gone for an extended time (more than 2 weeks), it is best to notify the President or Vice President of your extended absence. You should always arrange for another gardener, family member or friend to water and weed your garden in your absence. These individuals should be well-informed of the R&As.

Recipes

Once in a while, we wish we could think of something new to fix with our wonderful produce. If you have a great recipe for garden veggies that you would like to share with others, please email to nancybernstein@aim.com

Leaving The Garden In Good Standing

If you find it necessary to give up your garden plot (life happens sometimes), it is critical that you do the following:

- Notify the President or 1st VP by email or phone
- Remove all personal items
- Clean up the plot: failure to leave the garden in good condition will result in inability to return at a later date
- Return your gate opener(s) and vehicle tag(s)

Wheelbarrows

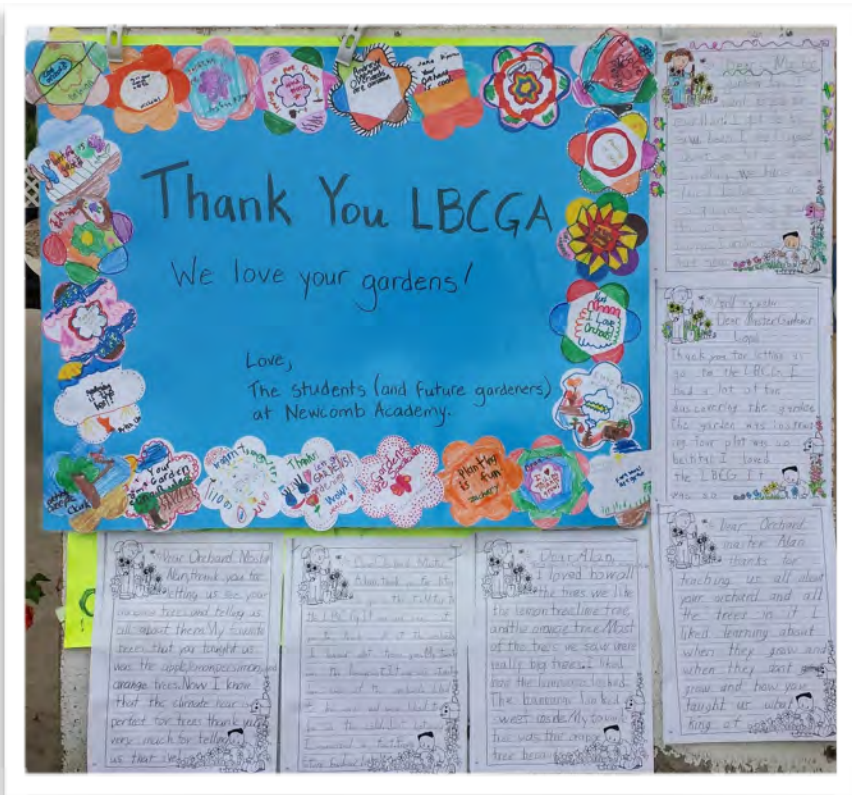
Maintaining the wheelbarrows so they are in good repair for all of us is a real job! Don't remove the wheels from the wheel barrows, and never store them behind a dumpster. **If a wheelbarrow is broken, take it to the green shed (southeast corner) or place it upside down away from the road.** Call Nancy at 562-477-1598 or tell another board member so it can be fixed.

Chipping Paths & Border Boards

Garden members should keep their pathways covered with chips to discourage weed growth and keep dust and mud to a minimum.

When adding chips to your paths, keep in mind:

- Make sure border boards are visible.
- When the border boards are showing it's easier to see if any need to be replaced or repaired.
- The boards will last longer when they are not covered with chips.
- If your border boards need to be replaced, contact Marc Soto or Lisa Owen. Contact info is in the list on this page.



You may have seen this sign at the Gazebo. It is a wonderful thank-you poster and letters from students from the Newcomb Academy, who came to LBCGA for a field trip earlier this year.

The kids really appreciated the information presented to them by Lonnie Brundage and Alan Coles!

LBCGA member Lisa Hakey (B-19) is the link between the garden and the school.

Your newsletter committee:

Editor: Merilee Atkinson

Editorial Board: Carol Meyer and Kathy Jarvis

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attach mailing label here