

# UC Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County

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

## FROM THE FIELD:

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, one community member shared:

*"We are literally using this as our [homeschool] science curriculum. Hands on learning in the garden at volunteer workdays and online with the Master Gardeners."*

*~ Juli L., Bucket Brigade Volunteer*



Planting cabbages in a community garden.  
Photo courtesy Abe Powell



Program Partners: Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade (photo from their webpage)

## UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

We partnered with Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade, a local nonprofit, to teach county residents about growing produce for the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County. The "[Growing Community Project](#)" builds on traditional victory gardens and community gardens by connecting with foodbank needs to increase community resilience. Master Gardener volunteers provide [weekly online talks and Q&A sessions](#) for gardeners from all backgrounds. This partnership promotes a safe, socially distanced community effort to support local food security and individual mental health in a time of increased indoor isolation and hunger.

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The 4<sup>th</sup> Ag Innovations Conference, Strawberry Field Day, Small Fruit and Vegetable Meeting were organized in a virtual format with a total attendance of 364. Survey indicated that 92-100% of the respondents found the information useful, 84-91% will use the information, and 58-73% expected improvements in their farm operations. Preliminary data from a field study indicated that mating disruption significantly reduces diamondback moth populations in cole crops. This information will help reduce pesticide applications and pest damage and increase returns. A [recent article](#) on IPM expands the global outreach of Dr. Dara's [new IPM model](#) ([video version](#)).



Checking diamondback moth traps



## SUBTROPICAL CROPS

The avocado industry needs to find more productive varieties that perform well despite challenging conditions, such as root rot disease, poor water quality, and increasing issues of climate change. Subtropical Crops researchers are conducting one of the largest field trials in the world investigating varied combinations, nine rootstocks, and five scions in real life conditions. This is the tenth year of the trial and researchers completed the eighth year of harvest. This experiment will allow researchers to inform growers on the best combination(s) to grow on their lands.

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### Quarterly Report

July – September 2020

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources