

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.

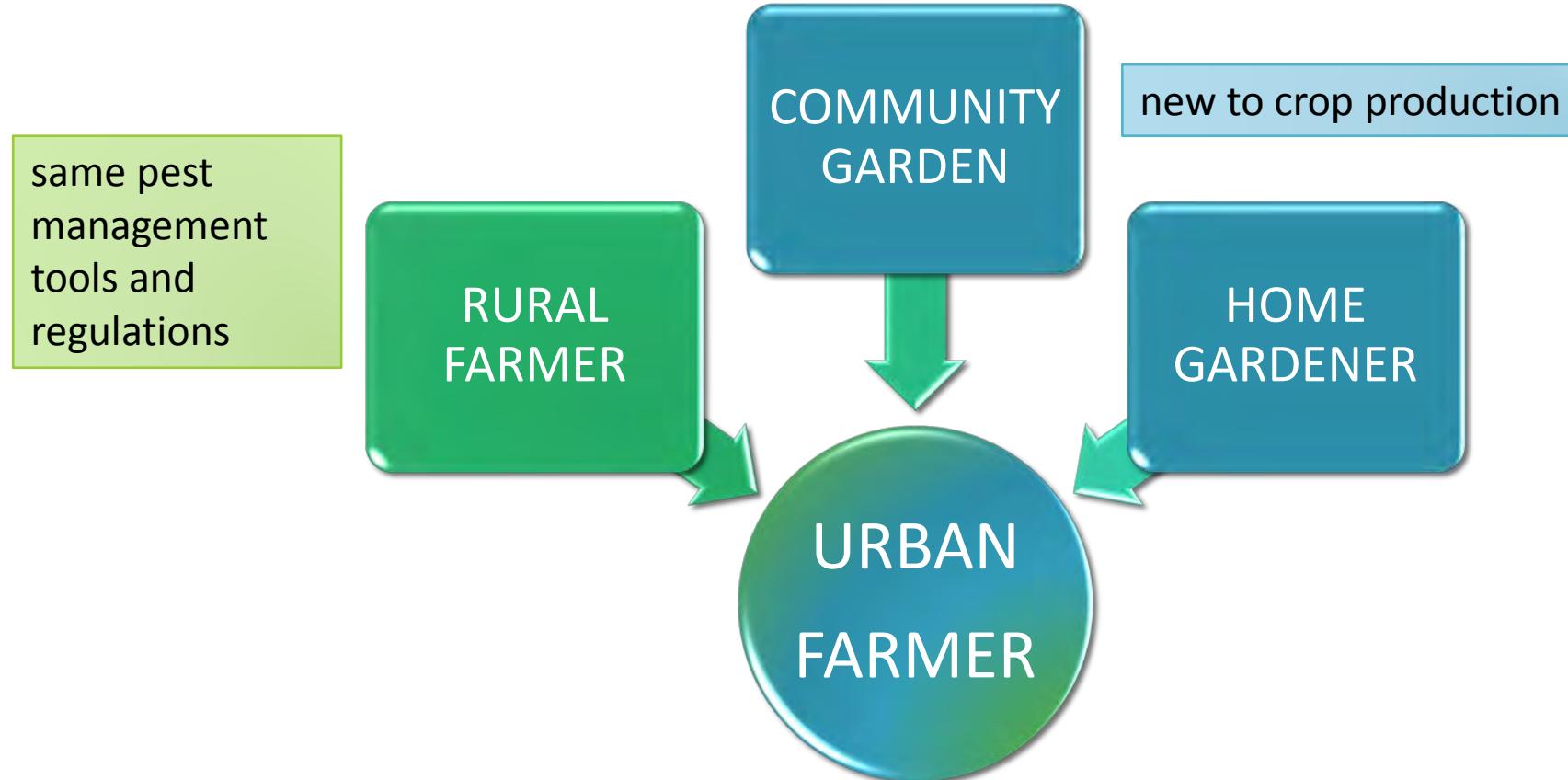
Needs assessment survey* found that educational materials and training in pest management **specifically for urban agriculture** was ranked as one of the top three needs by both extension personnel and producers.

<i>"Would research-based educational materials on the following topics, if developed or adapted for California, be valuable to your urban agriculture clientele?</i>	Frequency N=156	%
Pest management in UA	63	40.4
Water management in UA	55	35.3

* 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.

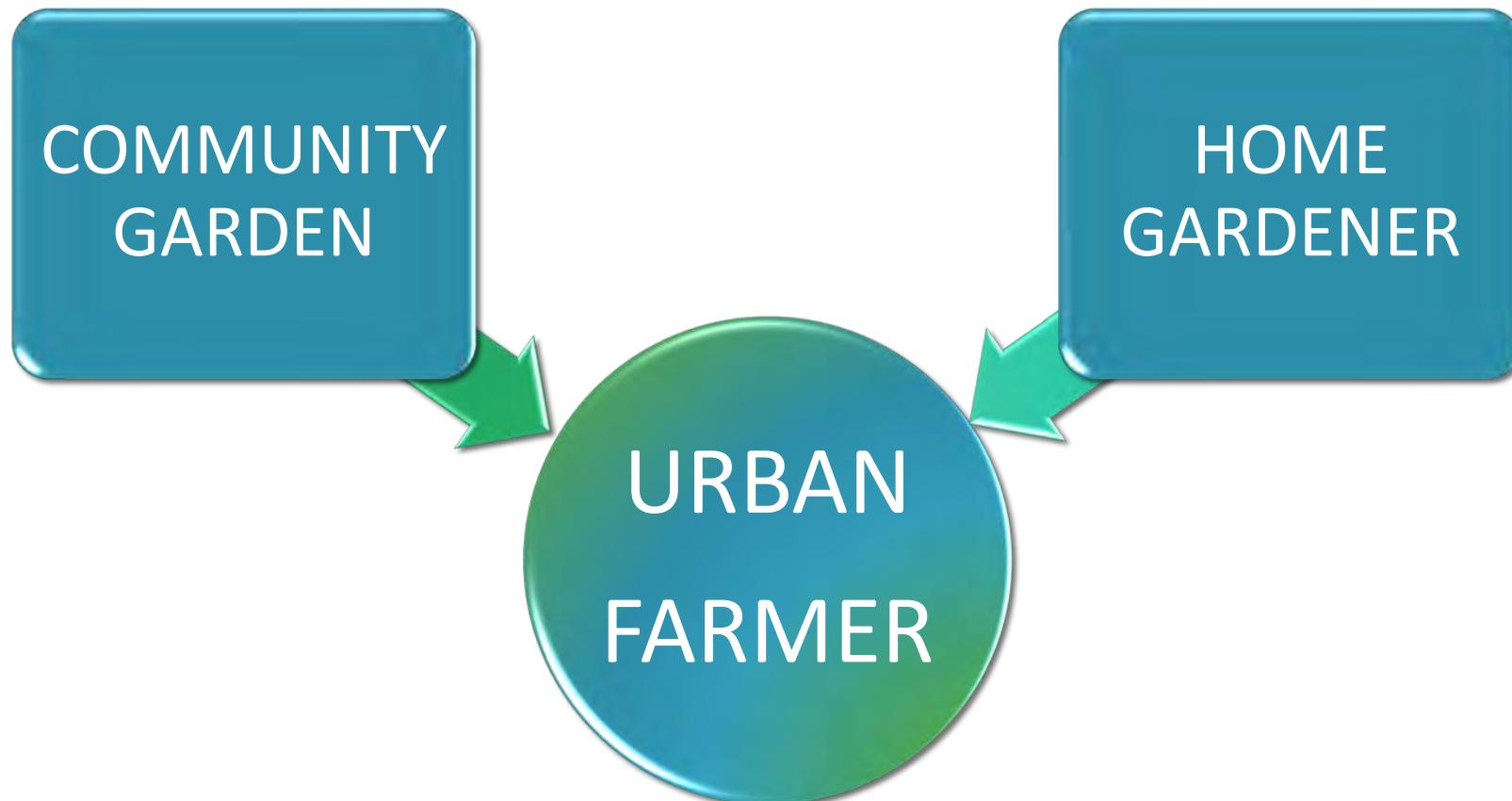
Need information about:

- identification of pests and diseases
- appropriate management programs



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”.



IPM Needs

Pest ID



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

Pest Management

- Methods
- Tools
- (Labor)



CE Advisors, **UC IPM, New Publications, New Training**

Pesticide Regulations

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



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>

University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Urban Agriculture



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Welcome!

Starting an Urban Farm?

Business Management

Production

Food Safety, Handling, and Processing

Community and School Gardens

Laws, Zoning and Regulations

Research

Resources and Help

[Twitter icon](#) [Facebook icon](#)

Are you interested in [starting an urban farm](#)? Seeking details on how to [raise backyard chickens and bees](#)? Looking for information on [laws, zoning and regulations](#) that relate to urban agriculture? We offer resources on small-scale [production](#), including [soil](#), [planting](#), [irrigation](#), [pest management](#), and [harvesting](#), as well as information on the [business of farming](#), such as how to [market](#) urban farm products.

After you explore the site, please complete our [survey](#)! We'd like to know if you found what you were looking for and hear your suggestions.

Benefits of urban agriculture

Urban agriculture can positively impact communities in many ways. It can improve access to healthy food, increase



What is urban agriculture?

It means different things to different people (See our working definition [here](#)). From backyard chicken-raising and beekeeping, to small-scale commercial farming on the edge of cities, urban agriculture is increasingly popular and is often in the news.

UC ANR Urban Agriculture Blog

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Welcome!

[Starting an Urban Farm?](#)[Business Management](#)[Production](#)[Farm/Garden Design](#)[Soils](#)[Planting](#)

Pest Management

[Quick Guides and References](#)[Water](#)[Animals and Bees](#)[Food Safety, Handling, and Processing](#)[Community and School Gardens](#)[Laws, Zoning and Regulations](#)[Research](#)[Resources and Help](#)

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.

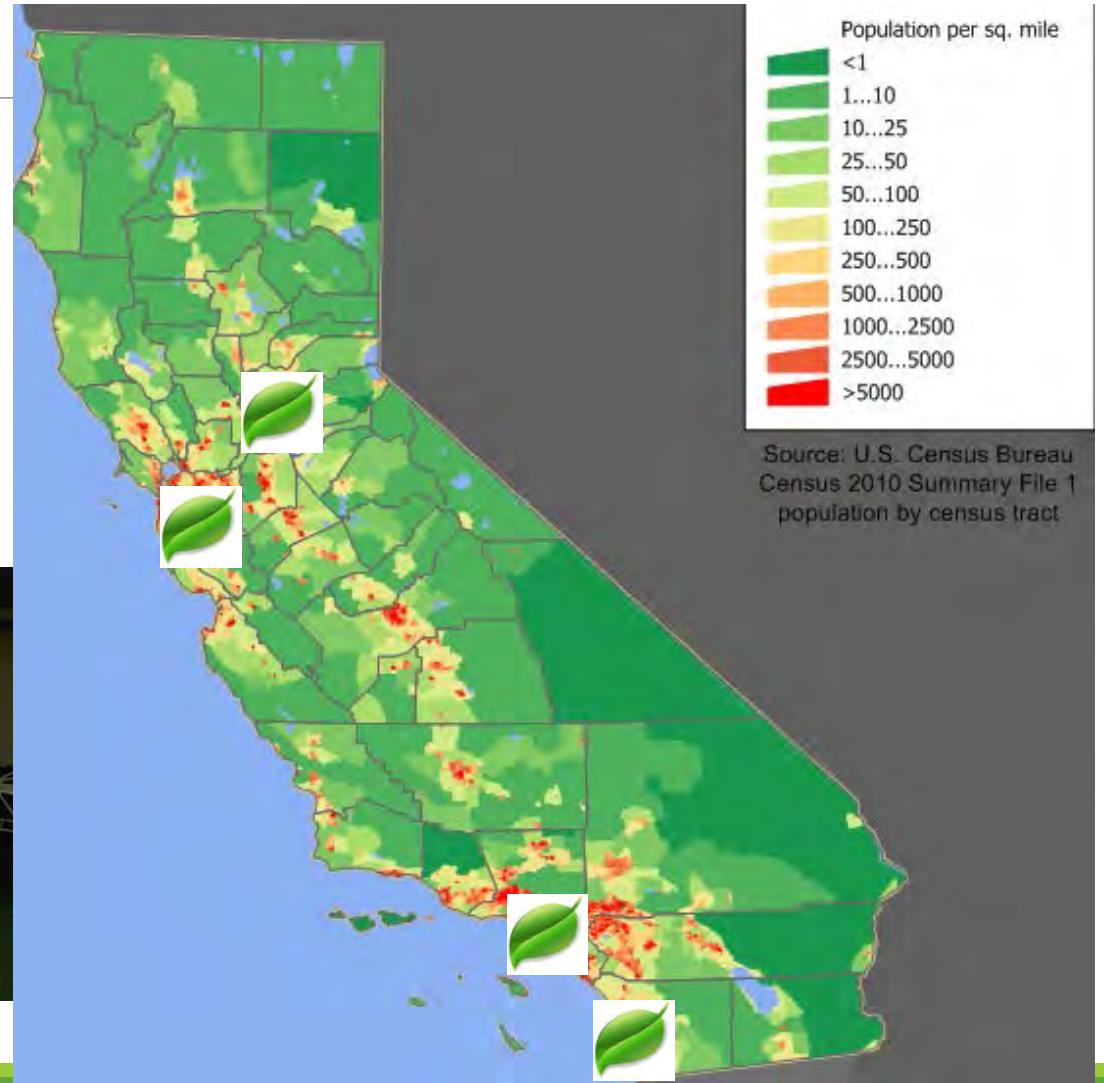
Because urban agriculture often happens in close proximity to people and residences, urban farmers commonly use organic methods or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to manage pests. IPM is a management strategy in which decision-making is based on biology and ecology. You can learn more about IPM principles [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.



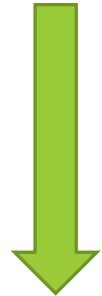
16 workshops in Los Angeles, San Diego, the Bay Area, and Sacramento. Clips with workshop materials will be posted on the UC Urban Agriculture portal



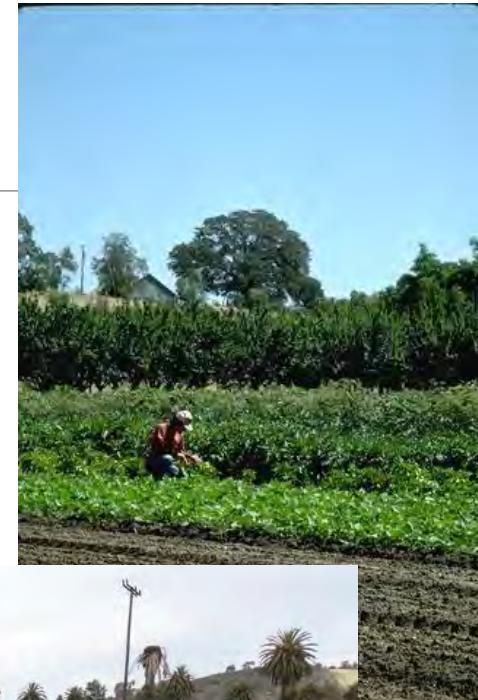
Workshops need to be specific

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

