

This week we concluded the insects and IPM management lesson set. One last lesson set to deal with butterfly gardens will be next. The gardens are doing very well all things considered. The weather this year has been a bit of a mix with a lot of cool days mixed in with a few hot days. As a result the spring crops are still doing very well. The onions are beginning to look as though they've reached the end of their growing cycle. The tops are showing signs of dying off as they are losing green intensity and starting to bend over. That means in a week or two we will begin harvesting the onions. The potatoes have been growing vigorously as well and have spread out a great deal. We will also be looking to harvest them in May, just in time for planting the summer sweet potato crop! So some big harvests are in the works. Last year we harvested almost 186 pounds of onions (the bulk on 5/21/20) and 172 pounds of white potatoes (05/9 -17/20). I think we are going to do better this year! If you recall a couple of news letters back, I talked about the gamble of planting tomatoes so early as a frost was still a possibility. Please take a look when you are in the gardens at the tomatoes! They are doing fabulously, so this year the gamble was well worth it. Look closely and you will see green fruit already on the vine or bush. It is a sight to behold!

Our citrus remains a large concern as none of the oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, and lemons are showing signs of recovery. The kumquats are making a comeback though. This week we've begun to trim off the dead limbs from the citrus trees in anticipation of removing the trees sometime during the summer if nothing changes.

This next week will be a butterfly gardens lesson set as mentioned above. We will have class next week on Thursday. We look forward to everyone getting together.