

Adaptation is sustainability

Dear Editor,

Steve Funk is entitled to his belief, opinions and free speech, but none of those equal proven facts. I find none of those in his letter about ultraviolet levels and chemicals. He's helping no one with his campaign of disinformation.

Those of us who are armed with scientific fact about climate change, causes and the newly-discovered elevation in the ultraviolet B spectrum of sunlight are giving out accurate scientific information so people can adapt and protect themselves. We're providing a valuable community service.

Your readers are entitled to real scientific facts. First, why does Steve falsely state what kind of UV meters our scientist used to measure UVA-B-C?

The meters used were the top-of-the-line expensive research-grade kind that separates A, B and C parts of the UV spectrum, donated by an anonymous person who wanted the truth the government isn't sharing.

The scientist who did the metering is a 40-year veteran in environmental measurement and interpretation. Steve was told this. Yet he erroneously states that a \$119 cheapo was used for our measurements.

His comments on the protective atmospheric ozone layer are wrong. It's been thinning for many years. Man-made chemicals are to blame.

Global warming has started a chain reaction of methane release from Arctic and oceans that's far worse than Freon ever was. That combination is why the increase in UV.

We're seeing the environmental effects already, as gardeners deal with the effects of excess UV – reduced sprouting of seeds and growth, reduced flowering, reduced pollination, and fruit drop or lack of development.

Some plant species are more sensitive, others seem to be fine at current levels. So we adapt, as I have, with UV shade cloth over sensitive plants, perhaps a greenhouse later. I also wear a full-brim hat, long sleeves and pants in that burning sun.

Adaptation is the new sustainability.

Barbara Coulter
Mount Shasta