



Master Gardener Newsletter

- New Mexico State University
- Cooperative Extension Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

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◀ February 2010 ▶

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Plant of the Month

<u>Contents:</u>	<u>Page</u>
• Plant of the Month	1-3
Next Month: Barrel Cactus	
• Windy Day Strategies	4
• Down & Dirty—Composting	5
• Combating Squirrels	5
• Spring Vegetable Planting	6
• State MG Conference Update	7
• Complete Chile Pepper Book	8
• Natural Pest Management	8
• Unethical Native Plant Harvesting	9-10
• New Master Gardener Profile	10
• Got the Wrong Cane?	10
• February Honey-Do List	11-12
• Handy New Tools	12
• <u>High on the Desert</u>	13
Conference in Sierra Vista	
• <u>February MG Birthdays</u>	13
• Thanks for the Goodies	13
• Seed Exchange Idea	13
• New Educational Programs	14
• Recipe: Bird Suet	14
• NM Organic Farming Conf.	14
• Save Dates--Garden Expo	14
• MG Matters	15-16
• Re-Certification Requests	16
• Hotline Assignments	17
(As of 1/29/10)	



HOLLYHOCKS

Hollyhocks are tall, showy flowering plants in the mallow family, which are used in gardens all over the world, particularly to provide depth and texture to an old fashioned garden. It is a colorful and hardy flower that thrives in the cooler areas of the arid Southwest. From a clump of big, rough, rounded leaves, strong vertical flower stems graced with large tubular or double ruffled flowers soar upward in a rainbow of colors.

Hollyhocks come in annual, semi-annual, and perennial varieties, depending on the species, and will readily reseed, sometimes appearing in strange places and being mistaken for flowering weeds. When Hollyhocks are grown in conditions they enjoy, the plants will achieve impressive heights and put out a profusion of flowers in colors such as purple, pink,

The most popular cultivar is *Alcea rosea*, although Hollyhocks comprise over 60 species in the *Alcea* genus in the mallow family Malvaceae, native to southwest and central Asia. They are biennial or short-lived perennial plants growing to 3.5m tall, with broad, rounded, palmately lobed leaves and numerous flowers, pink or yellow in the wild species, on the erect central stem.

Hollyhocks in Your Garden

Growing Hollyhocks is the goal of many gardeners who have fond memories of these impressive flowers from their youth. The flower stalks on Hollyhocks can reach heights of 9 feet tall! They can tower above a garden, adding a lovely vertical element to your yard.

Hollyhocks have been selected for variations in color, with dark purple, red and white-flowered plants available in addition to the colors found in wild plants. Gardeners can grow Hollyhocks from seed and seedlings, and many set aside Hollyhock seeds to grow in the following year. The flowers prefer full sun and well-drained soil, with infrequent, deep waterings, and they should be grown with a little bit of space so that the stalks do not interfere with each other. Hollyhocks grow in USDA Zones 4-10, and they are relatively hardy, although they are susceptible to fungal infections. To avoid infection, check the Hollyhocks regularly, and do not water them in the evening, as this puts plants at risk for fungus infestation.

In old-fashioned gardens, Hollyhocks are often used to provide a tall wall of color in the back of a bed. Many gardeners also plant Hollyhocks close to fences and other divisions in the garden, to soften the transition, and Hollyhocks also complement wildflower gardens. Because Hollyhocks readily reseed, care should be taken when planting them around less vigorous species, as the Hollyhocks can choke out smaller plants.

Hollyhocks are very drought resistant, and do well in full sun locations that might be too hot or dry for other plants. They produce large, flat coin-shaped seeds (1/2" diameter) that seem to grow easily wherever they drop. While an individual plant might only live a handful of years, by that time chances are good it will leave plenty of descendants. They have very long taproots that make transplanting difficult. *Article Continued on Page 2*

Please submit information, articles, & suggested topics for March 2010 newsletter to Ann Shine-Ring by Wednesday, February 24th.

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Hollyhocks—Continued from Front Page**Hollyhocks in History/Culture**

Hollyhocks appear to be native to Asia, although they have been cultivated in Europe for centuries. The name “hollyhock” has been used to refer to the flowers in England since the 13th century, although it was originally spelled *holihoc*, a portmanteau of *holi*, for holy, and *hoc*, for mallow. The plant was also referred to as St. Cuthbert's Cole, suggesting that it may have been included in religious gardens such as those at churches and monasteries.

In Asia, Hollyhocks appear in artwork from both China and Japan, and are closely associated with the Tokugawa Shogunate, which used the Hollyhock in its seal. Hollyhocks were probably brought from Asia to the Middle East by traders, and began appearing in parts of the Middle East by the 11th century. European visitors brought the flowers back with them around this period, and Hollyhock seeds were also included in the cargo on early ships to the Americas.

Remains of Hollyhocks have been found in a Neanderthal burial site at Shanidar. The flower was incorporated into the official seal of the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan, and through this influence has maintained importance in modern Japanese culture. For example, it has become the name and symbol of a professional soccer club located in a city formerly led by the Tokugawa family.

Tips for Planting and Growing Hollyhocks

Hollyhocks are big, beautiful flowers than can add a touch of country or cottage charm to any yard or garden. Because of their height they make terrific backdrops in flowerbeds and look lovely when grown up next to a building like a shed, garage or house. Hollyhocks are also beautiful when grown next to fences and their height can help to provide a bit of privacy and make your yard feel more enclosed. Depending upon the type of Hollyhock you plant and the growing conditions, Hollyhocks can grow as tall as 6-8 feet and occasionally even taller than that.

Hollyhock flowers can be purple, magenta, yellow, pink, white, deep scarlet, coral and just about any other color you can imagine. Depending upon the variety, Hollyhocks can either be annuals, biennials or perennials. Hollyhocks tend to reseed themselves and if let go can develop into Hollyhock patches over time.

Hollyhocks are great for attracting hummingbirds because of their trumpet shaped flowers and bright colors.

Hollyhocks are usually either grown from seed or from small seedlings. You should plant Hollyhock seeds in the early spring just barely under the surface of the soil. Hollyhocks tend to do best if they have a bit of room to grow, so try to space the seeds at least 18 inches apart for formal plantings. If you prefer to grow a large patch of Hollyhocks rather than a row or organized grouping you can just scatter the seeds and cover them with a light layer of soil.

At the end of the season after the last of the blooms has faded the Hollyhocks should be cut back to the ground to grow again next year. You can harvest seeds from your Hollyhocks to plant the following spring if you would like. Just wait for the seedpods to turn brown and dry out at the end of the year and then pull them off and remove the seeds to plant again next year.

--**Seed Saving Instructions:** Hollyhocks will cross-pollinate.

Gardeners should only grow one variety at a time to save pure seed, or isolate varieties by 1/4 mile. Seeds are ready to harvest when the seed capsules are completely dry and brown. The capsules can then be picked and the seeds easily separated from the paper-like husk.

Article Continued Page 3

**FACTS PAGE**

Classification:	<i>Alcea rosea</i> L.
Kingdom:	Plantae
Order	<i>Malvales</i>
Family	<i>Malvaceae</i> (Mallow family)
Genus	<i>Alcea</i> L. (Hollyhock)
Species	Malvales
Subkingdom	<i>Tracheobionta</i> – Vascular plants
Superdivision	<i>Spermatophyta</i> – Seed plants
Division	<i>Magnoliophyta</i> – Flowering plants
Class	<i>Magnoliopsida</i> – Dicotyledons
Subclass	<i>Dilleniidae</i>

Some Hollyhock Varieties

Chater's Double	Double, ball-shaped flowers are red, pink, white or yellow
Indian Spring	Mix of white, pink, red & yellow single flowers
Majorette Mixed	Dwarf form about 30" tall. Large, semi-double flowers in pastel colors
Nigra	Dark red-maroon flowers that are almost black in the center
Pastorale	Pastel mix of single flowers
Powderpuffs	Double flowers an inch larger than other double Hollyhocks (flowers are yellow, white, pink, scarlet and salmon)
Rugosa	This species of <i>Alcea</i> has yellow flowers produced on spikes 6 feet tall
Summer Carnival	Double flowers in a wide range of colors are produced even on lower parts of the stem

SOURCES:

- Hollyhocks for Beginners: How to Plant & Grow These Easy Flowers by J. Sigurgeirson in Perennials, Jan. 22, 1999
- Associatedcontent.com
- Planetnatural.com/site/xdpy/kb/growing-hollyhock.html
- New Mexico Gardener's Guide-Revised Edition, J. Phillips, 2001
- Tips On Hollyhocks: Growing Hollyhocks Successfully (<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com>)
- USDA Source National Resources Conservation Service
- Wikipedia.com
- WiseGeek.com

(Research and compilation of information for this article conducted by Ann Shine-Ring, Certified Master Gardener)

Hollyhocks—Continued from Page 2**Tips for Planting and Growing Hollyhocks—Continued**

One great thing about Hollyhocks is that they are easy to grow which makes them a great choice if you are just getting started with gardening. The only real concern with Hollyhocks is that they are susceptible to fungus growths. If your Hollyhocks become heavily infested with fungus it can cause the leaves to curl or become disfigured. To help prevent the growth of fungus try to water them close to the ground instead of directly on the plant and keep an eye out for signs of fungal infections. You may need to treat them with an anti-fungal spray occasionally as well.

Hollyhocks like lots of sunshine and grow well in zones 4-10 which makes them a great choice for a large number of locations. Be sure to shop around and check out all of the different types available.

When, Where, and How To Plant Hollyhocks prefer full sun to partial shade and rich, moist soil to thrive. Prior to planting, work in plenty of compost or well-aged animal manure. Sow outdoors just beneath the surface of the soil one week before the last frost. Seeds will germinate in 10-14 days. Space plants 18-36" apart. Water regularly during dry conditions to keep them blooming. Fertilize a couple times during the season with all-purpose fertilizer. When flower stalks fade, cut to the ground. Hollyhocks also benefit from fertilizer or compost in the spring.

Seedgrown plants of the long-lived strains bloom the following spring. They develop strong stems if grown in full sun, and withstand the wind best when grown with the extra protection of a wall or fence. Hollyhocks adapt to most soils, but good garden soil with some organic matter worked in retains moisture best. The mistake many novice Hollyhock growers make is to plant them in soil that is too dry. If you are planting seeds, sow the seeds outside about a week before last frost. If you are planting seedlings out, wait about 2-3 weeks after the last frost. In northern and high-elevation gardens where plants are subject to frost heaving, set the crowns a little below the soil surface when transplanting, or mulch seed-grown plants to avoid exposing the crown buds and roots to drying winter wind. Cluster three or more plants 18 to 24 inches apart for the best show.

Once planted, your Hollyhocks will need minimal care, but there are some things to be aware of. Hollyhocks are a short-lived perennial. This means that most varieties will only live 2-3 years, however their lifespan can be extended some by removing growing flowers as soon as they fade. And if you live in a non-tropical region, cutting them back to the ground and mulching them will also help.

Growing and Fertilizing For their first year, Hollyhocks will bear leaves only. Dress the soil around them with compost, rotted or mushroom manure or seaweed. Once the leaves have died back for winter, give your plants rock phosphate or bonemeal its roots. Some people use fireplace ashes to help with flowers. Water Hollyhocks to a depth of 2 feet weekly while the plants are flowering, and every two weeks or monthly during the rest of the year. Slow-release fertilizer is only necessary in very light sandy soil.

Growing and Fertilizing Hollyhocks—Continued

Once established, Hollyhocks often self-sow, forming a colony of plants themselves. The seedlings transplant well--do so on a cool day to avoid heat-wilting. For more flower stalks, pinch out the growing tips once or twice early in the growing season. This produces shorter plants with more branches.

Double-flowered types may need staking after a rain because the flowers fill with water and fall down.

Hollyhocks are often infected with rust disease. Planting these plants in full sun in an area with good air circulation helps prevent this. A little rust is normal and will generally only spread to other Hollyhocks. Most people plant Hollyhocks where diseased foliage will be hidden by shorter plants. Sow the seeds directly where they are to bloom at a time when the soil is above 50 degrees. The best time is in spring or summer. Seeds sown this year will bloom next year.

--**Care:** Avoid self-sowing in small garden spaces like patio courtyards by removing spent flower stalks nearly down to the ground before they scatter seeds. This may spur a second bloom in late summer. Remove any rust-infected leaves as soon as you notice them.

--**Companion Planting and Design:** Few plants look as good growing against an adobe garden wall or weathered wood fence. By virtue of size alone, Hollyhocks are striking in bloom, but they are not very attractive afterwards, so they are best grown in the background with deergrass or 'Jose Select' tall wheatgrass to carry on the show later in the season.

The one benefit that comes from growing Hollyhock flowers is that they easily reseed themselves. While they may be short-lived, in their proper growing conditions, they will continually grow more, which will keep the Hollyhock flowers consistent in years to come.

In addition, Alcea species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including *Bucculatrix quadrigemina* and the Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*).



Painted Lady



Lepidoptera

--**Insects and Disease:** Hollyhocks are susceptible to fungal diseases, such as rust and powdery mildew, which can disfigure its leaves under severe infestations. Avoid overhead watering whenever possible and apply copper or sulfur sprays to prevent further infection. Hollyhocks are easy to grow, but they are not without problems. When growing Hollyhocks, keep an eye out for rust. Rust will typically attack the lower leaves but it may spread to more upper leaves. To help keep rust to a minimum: 1) water from below, 2) treat with a fungicide, and 3) make sure the plant has good air circulation. These tips should help but will probably not eliminate the rust problem. Your best bet is to keep rust contained to the lower branches. Then the problem will only affect the leaves and not the flowers. Slugs and snails can be a problem in heavily irrigated gardens. ■

Strategies for the Windy Season

Let the winds begin! Ready or not, sometime in February our seasonal west winds will begin to blow. So, what options do food gardeners have to reduce the winds impact when transplants and seedbeds are vulnerable to being battered and desiccated? Even though temperatures may be cool, plants can be water-stressed by high transpiration rates from young tissues and excessive evaporation at the soil surface. Managing microclimates successfully will reduce both plant stress and loss of soil moisture. Here are some effective strategies:

Mulch Mulching planting beds provides a shaded windbreak at the soil surface creating a moist microclimate. Remember that organic mulches cool and plastic mulches warm the soil, so choose a mulch most appropriate to your seed germinating requirements.

Windbreaks There are many ways to break the wind's impact on small plants. Simple folded cardboard barriers stuck in the soil on the west side of transplants will reduce transpiration loss for a few days while root systems adjust to new conditions. Paper cups without bottoms make good temporary wind protectors for seedlings. Plastic gallon jugs with the bottoms removed also make excellent windbreaks and mini greenhouses. Be careful to provide adequate ventilation.

Row Covers Fabric or open-weave row covers provide excellent protection for transplants and soil surfaces and allow adequate airflow at the same time. A middleweight fabric supported on metal or plastic hoops is easy to install and hold down in the wind. By tying each end to ground stakes the cover can be drawn tight, making it easier to hold down the sides. If possible, orient the row covers with the long axis on an east/west orientation for improved aerodynamics.

Inplanting Planting on the lee side of perennial vegetation and transplanting into established beds of taller plants can provide wind protection while transplants become established.

Beware of the Beet Leafhopper They are out and mobile during the windy season. Row covers and barrier skirts will provide protection from leafhoppers and the wind for tomatoes and peppers.

This windy season be prepared to create beneficial microclimates to reduce wind and water stress and encourage strong growth in your food plants.

Additional photographs available on Darrol's Website

Link: www.darrolshillingburg.com/GardenSite/WindyStrategies.html

Article written by Darrol Shillingburg

Doña Ana County Extension Master Gardener



Organic Mulch



Mylar Mulch



Row Cover



Woven Fabric Skirt



Transplanting Into A Mature Planting

Get Down and Dirty

With the Master Composter Training Program in Bernalillo County

After a 16-year absence, the Master Composter Certification Program is being offered again in New Mexico by a collaboration of Bernalillo, Sandoval and Valencia County Co-op Extension Services.

The training program, which is open to the public, is currently scheduled for April 24, 25 and May 1, 2 and will run from 9am to 3pm on all four days at the Open Space Visitor's Center in Albuquerque. Course objectives, curriculum and reference materials are available online at:

Link: <http://bernalilloextension.nmsu.edu/mastercomposter>.

There is a \$25 fee for the class (refundable upon completion), and a requirement of 10 hours of public service in the year following completion.

For an application and additional information, contact the Program's Volunteer Coordinator, John Zarola (Email: johnzarola@comcast.net)



Open Space Visitor's Center

For information about the Open Space Visitor's Center see this website

Link: <http://www.cabq.gov/openspace/visitorcenter.html>

Additional information on home composting is also available from these resources:

- ✓ [Backyard Composting](#) (NMSU Guide H-110) by George W. Dickerson
- ✓ [A Sustainable Approach to Recycling Urban Organic Waste](#) (NMSU Guide H-159) by George W. Dickerson
- ✓ [Vermicomposting](#) (NMSU Guide H-164) by George W. Dickerson
- ✓ [Composting for a Clean Environment](#) (NMSU video– iTunes – broadband)

Information Provided by Darrol Shillingburg
Certified Master Gardener



COMBATING SQUIRRELS

Excerpt from Birds & Blooms, Jan./Feb. 2010

Sure, squirrels have to eat, too, but you don't want them gobbling your birdseed supply in just a few short hours. Here are five top tips to keep squirrels away from your feeders.

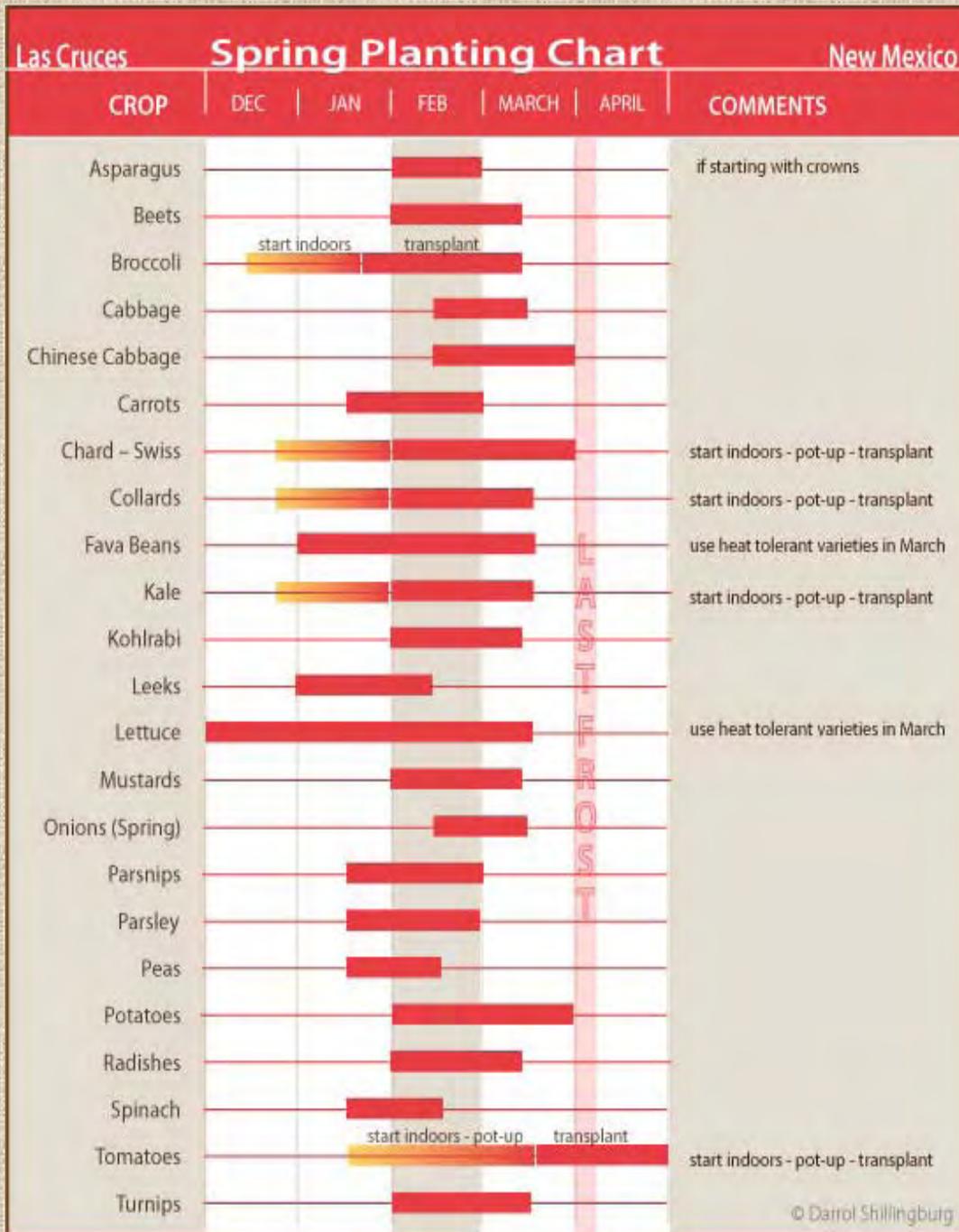
- ❖ Squirrel baffles above and below bird feeders work well if you follow the rule of 5-7-9: if the feeder is 5 feet above the ground, 7 feet from the nearest tree or building and 9 feet below an overhang, squirrels should not be able to reach it.
- ❖ To keep squirrels and raccoons from eating suet cakes, sprinkle the cakes with cayenne pepper. Birds can't taste or smell the way mammals do. After just one lick, the squirrels should go running for water, but the pepper won't bother your birds.
- ❖ If you want to hang a bird feeder from a wire, string at least half a dozen 1-liter soda bottles on each side. Just punch a hole in the bottom of each bottle and thread the wire through it to the bottle's open top. Squirrels may try to run across the spinning bottles, but after falling enough times they will give up.
- ❖ Use chicken wire to build an enclosure around any feeder to allow birds but not squirrels to reach the food.
- ❖ Squirrels love sunflower seeds in any form. If you feed the birds other seeds, such as safflower and nyjer, the squirrels should show far less interest.

Now Is The Time!

If you plan on growing some of your own food this spring, now is the time to begin planning and planting. Last year Darrol assembled the chart below. Good gardening and good eating.

This chart was prepared by Darrol Shillingburg, Certified Master Gardener, and it is also available on his website.

Link: <http://www.darrolshillingburg.com/GardenSite/SpringPlantingChart.html>



Additional Resources:

- [Growing Zones, Recommended Crop Varieties & Planting & Harvesting Information for Home Gardens \(NMSU Circular 457B\)](#)
- [Home Vegetable Gardening in New Mexico \(NMSU Circular 457\)](#)
- [Vegetable Varieties for New Mexico Backyard and Market Gardens \(NMSU Circular 572\)](#)
- [When to Harvest Vegetables \(NMSU H-216\)](#)

The Clock Is Ticking....

The Upcoming 2010 New Mexico Master Gardener Conference, June 10-12

The new website for the 2010 New Mexico Master Gardener Conference will launch at the end of February and it is going to be full of useful information! When it launches, you will be able to view the agenda which includes a pre-conference Leadership Workshop and Thursday Night Welcome Party with a Silent Auction, information about speakers and tours, lodging information and much, much more. Most importantly, this is where you will register and pay. To get the tours and break-out sessions you want, be sure to register early as the tours and break-out sessions are space-limited, so it's first come, first served. **Registering before May 1st will also get you an early bird discount of \$20.**

There will be a number of spectacular hands-on workshops and tours on Thursday & Saturday afternoons. The Albuquerque Biopark will host a number of combined workshops and tours led by their Curators to include:

- Japanese Garden Tour and Design Workshop
- New Desert Rose Garden Tour
- Pollinator Garden and Butterfly Pavilion Tour and Pollinator Workshop
- Tour of the Heritage Farm
- Tree Identification & Trees of the Botanic Garden tour
- Rio Grande Zoo Greenhouse tour and Flower Lab.

Additional workshops include:

- Tree Identification and Tour of the Urban Forest of the University of New Mexico
- Seminar on Canning, Freezing and Dehydration of Fruits and Vegetables
- Tour of Solution's Compost site
- Guided Tour of a Certified Wildlife Habitat Garden

Several more tours & workshops are in the works, including several home garden tours. Many tours will run simultaneously, so register early to get your first choice.

You'll also be amazed at the number of cutting-edge speaker choices (19 to date) with a wide array of topics. There are many options to choose from and you'll be able to tailor a schedule that is just perfect for you. And just to entice you even more, here are two more bios of speakers that will be at the Conference.

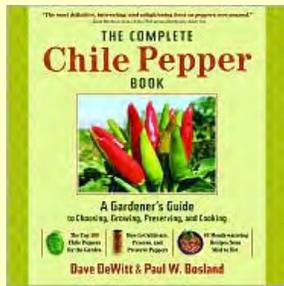
Joel Glanzberg—Dryland Traditions and Strategies: Native American water harvesting traditions and patterns we can use today in arid environments. Joel has broad experience in environmental design and ecological restoration projects in the arid regions of the Southwest US and Latin America. He is also an active author and educator in fields of permaculture, nature awareness, and tracking and ecological restoration. His research has focused on the integration of traditional agricultural/agro-forestry techniques into a modern environment. He co-founded the Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute, a low cost, family-scale permanent agricultural system.

Deborah Madison—Kitchen Herbs, Garden Herbs: Herbs are beautiful, aromatic plants in the garden landscape and a must in the kitchen. This talk will take a look at culinary herbs for the Southwest as well as their role in cooking including their pairings with fruit. Deborah's interests lay with issues of biodiversity, seasonal and local eating, farmers markets, and small and mid-scale farming. She is on the board of the Seed Savers Exchange, has been involved with Slow Food for over a decade, and is presently co-director of the Monte del Sol Edible Kitchen Garden in Santa Fe. Connecting people to the food they eat, the source and history has long been her work, and writing is one way to reveal the deeper culture of food, whether through recipes or through profiles of farmers and ranchers, producers and cooks, and even a humorous book on eaters, *What We Eat When We Eat Alone*.

As you can see just from the sampling above, our agenda is varied, full and growing daily. So mark your calendar and plan to attend. And send us an email at nmmgstateconf@yahoo.com if you want immediate information, and if you do that, we will also put you in our system and will notify you as soon as the website is launched! Until then, think Green!



Think Green! Thriving Gardens in an Arid Land



The Complete Chile Pepper Book

Chile peppers are hot—in every sense of the word. They add culinary fire to thousands of dishes from a variety of cuisines and inspire near-fanatical devotion in those who have succumbed to their incendiary charms. In this comprehensive book, world chile experts Dave DeWitt and Paul W. Bosland have assembled all the information that anyone with an interest in chile peppers could ever hope to find. Detailed profiles of the 100 most popular chile varieties including information on how to grow chiles; how to diagnose and remedy problems, pests, and diseases; and post-harvest processing and preservation. The book culminates in 85 mouth-watering recipes that make brilliant use of both the characteristic heat of chile peppers and of their more subtle flavor qualities. You'll find out the fascinating story of 'Bhut Jolokia', acknowledged by Guinness World Records as the fieriest chile on earth. Confused about the identity of those chile peppers you bought? The authors' clear photographs and precise descriptions will clear up the mystery.

The Complete Chile Pepper Book may be the only guide to chile you'll ever need. At the back of the book there is an extensive bibliography, glossary and list of resources. I can't imagine any chile pepper lover who would not be able to find the answer to his/her question about this spicy vegetable in this book or be directed from it to the appropriate resource.

Biographies: A foremost international expert on capsicums, **Dave DeWitt** has written or co-authored more than 30 books on peppers and has edited two magazines on the subject. His *Chile Pepper Encyclopedia* won Best Spice Book in English in 1999 at the Versailles World Cookbook Awards. He's been a radio announcer and television producer as well as has appeared on many national television programs. Dave is a board member of the Chile Pepper Institute at NMSU, chair of the board of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, and adjunct associate professor at NMSU.

Paul W. Bosland made the *Guinness World Records* of 2006 for discovering the world's hottest chile pepper, 'Bhut Jolokia'. A regents professor of horticulture at NMSU, he has released more than 30 cultivated varieties, including a no-heat jalapeño pepper, for which he won the infamous IgNobel from Harvard University, and a habanero chile, 'NuMex Suave', which retains the unique habanero flavors without the heat. He has written or co-authored more than 100 scientific papers and is co-author of six books. Known as the "Chileman", Paul leads the chile breeding and genetic research program at NMSU where he cofounded and directs the University's Chile Pepper Institute, a research and educational center. ■

Thank you to Mona Nelson, Certified Master Gardener,
for bringing this book to our attention!

Natural Pest Management

Horticulture Magazine, December 07, 2009



Mold, mealy bugs and strains of fungus are disgusting on houseplants. Here are some simple solutions to make them go away. Use the solution to wash down the plant leaves that are affected. Then, put a little into the top inch of the soil around the plant leaves and the topsoil around the plant. (You may want to first dig out the top inch of potting soil and replace it with fresh before adding the solution as an extra measure of control.)

Mold & Mealy Bug Wash

1/2 cup (114g) cup Epsom salt
1 cup (240ml) warm water

Put Epsom salt into the warm water. Stir until dissolved. Use immediately on plants.

Mildew, Mold and Mealy Bug Spray

1 teaspoon (5ml) liquid Castile soap
1 teaspoon (5ml) tea tree extract
3 teaspoons (14g) baking soda
2 quarts (2L) water

Pour the Castile soap, tea tree extract and baking soda into the water. Mix well. Store in a spray bottle. Label with name and date. Shelf life: 3 to 4 months

One of the most famous fungicides in the world is known as the Bordeaux mixture. It was discovered when French botanist, Alexis Millardet, noticed that certain grapevines in France were not suffering from mildew. He asked the farmer why, and was told that the grapes, which had a blue tinge on the leaves, had been sprayed with a mixture of copper sulfate (bluestone) and lime. This was quite a discovery as it turns out that copper is toxic to the fungus. The addition of lime adheres the mix to the vine and helps reduce the chance of getting too much copper on the plant, which would be toxic.

Fungus Stopper

3 tablespoons (43g) copper sulfate (bluestone)
2 tablespoons (29g) lime
1 cup (240ml) warm water

Mix ingredients. Pour in a spray bottle. Label with name and date. Store in a cool dark place. Shelf life: 1 to 2 weeks.

Article submitted By Dale Petzold, Certified Master Gardener

Unethical Native Plant Harvesting



Strawberry Cactus (*Echinocereus stramineus*)
(Endangered Species in the Franklin Mountains)

The Chihuahuan Desert is home to almost a quarter of the 1,500 cactus species known to science. A whole range of desert dwellers—from hummingbirds to mountain lions—rely on desert plants for food or shelter. A booming demand for xeriscaping to reduce landscape water consumption has increased the demand for native plants. Unethical harvesting can severely deplete wild populations, endanger rare flowering species of native plants, disrupt ecosystems and deprive wildlife of their natural habitat.

Cacti are slow-growing plants, sometimes taking between 10 to 30 years to produce a landscape-sized specimen. Unethical (and frequently illegal) harvesters who supply native plant nurseries will completely denude a native cacti habitat to obtain specimens for sale. Homeowners who harvest cacti from native habitats further increase this pressure. As a consequence, many of these plants have become endangered.

How can I ETHICALLY find cacti and other native plants for my garden? Learn about native and adapted xeric plants, and then select the appropriate plants for your site and the region. Cacti have differing cold-hardiness and sun requirements. Some cacti can actually sunburn. Some cacti and native plants will not survive the harvesting process. Educating yourself on the plants growth requirements is essential to successful incorporation of these plants into your landscape.

The El Paso County Master Gardeners, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (active in El Paso), and the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club are excellent resources to provide information on native plants and cacti.

Growing From Seed. Cacti can be grown from seed or offshoots, using a sandy, well-draining potting mix. The seeds can be harvested from cacti in their native habitat without damaging the plant by removing the cacti fruit and allowing the seeds to dry prior to planting. Seeds can also be purchased from specialized nurseries and the Internet. However, cacti are very slow growing and it will take years to produce a viable landscape plant.

Ethical Plant Procurement. Numerous nurseries and plant vendors specialize in native plants and cacti. Some purchase their plants from unethical harvesters. Ethical plant vendors grow their specimens from seed or only purchase plants grown from seed. They may also participate in sanctioned plant rescues. Prior to purchasing native plants and cacti, ensure that your supplier (nursery, landscape contractor, etc.) is an ethical provider.

Cactus Rescues. The Master Gardeners, the Native Plant Society, and the Cactus Club have formed a collaborative effort to rescue cacti and native plants that will be destroyed because of land development or other man-made interventions. Developers contact us prior to bulldozing land to harvest and replant the specimens. We also assist homeowners by thinning overgrown home cacti gardens or removing plants that will be damaged by new landscape efforts. Rescued plants are replanted in state parks, public gardens, roadside rest areas and offered to homeowners.

Cactus Rescues-Continued

Anyone who volunteers to participate in a rescue gets first choice of the rescued plants. This is an excellent source of mature native plants. The sponsoring organization obtains the necessary permits and approvals, ensuring that all relevant legal and good conservation requirements are met.

What if I just want to go out to the desert and get my own plants?

First, know the laws about plant harvesting. Secondly, a good rule of thumb is that if the population at a given site contains less than 100 of the same specimen, it should be left undisturbed (*Native Plant Society of Texas' Collections Policy*). And finally, if you are thinking that all you have to do is dig a hole and drop that yucca, or barrel or ocotillo into the ground the injured root system may not support the plant and your garden soil may not be suitable for it. Your plant may die under poor harvesting and planting conditions.

What are the laws regarding plant harvesting?

Laws vary widely by country, state, and federal facilities. A different set of laws and/or requirements exist for harvesting from private property. Remember, taking anything from private property without permission is considered vandalism and may be stealing! These laws are continuously updated and penalties can be very severe.

In New Mexico. The state of New Mexico is highly regulated with various state agencies involved - regulations require individuals to obtain harvest permits for native plants from its Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Land Management also sells harvest permits for specific species, for noncommercial purposes only. Federal collecting permits for species listed as endangered or threatened must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Neither a state nor a federal collecting permit exempts permit holders from state trespass laws. Individuals may be fined between \$300-\$1,000, imprisonment for up to 120 days, or both for violating New Mexico's Endangered Plant Species Act. Plant collectors, dealers, and growers are regulated under the Plant Protection Act, which is implemented and enforced by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA).

In Texas. According to state law, individuals collecting cacti on private property in Texas must have prior written authorization from the landowner. Remember, taking anything from private property without permission, in the least, is considered vandalism and, at the most, stealing! Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. regulates the harvest on private and public land of native plants that are **listed as threatened or endangered** under state and federal law by issuing permits. Endangered species may not be collected without the permission of the landowner. For a listing of these plants go to:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/endang/plants/index/phtml>. *Article continued on Page 10*

Unethical Harvesting of Native Plants--Continued From Page 9

In Arizona. The state of Arizona has explicit laws concerning the destruction, removal, and trade of plants native to and protected by the state. Those laws apply to state-managed and privately owned lands. Salvaging and transporting protected native plants from private land is legal, provided that the necessary harvest permits, plant tags, or seals are obtained in advance from the Dept. of Agriculture.

See [Link: http://www.azda.gov/ESD/nativeplants.htm](http://www.azda.gov/ESD/nativeplants.htm)

On Federal Lands. Cactus collection in the **Lincoln National Forest** is regulated by the US Forest Service, which issues harvest permits for scientific research only. The public on occasion *may* collect wild succulents, cacti included, without permits for personal use from a designated area in which USFS officials have determined that no rare species occur.

White Sands Missile Range. All requests to collect wild plants must be submitted to and approved by the Environmental Stewardship Division at White Sands Missile Range.

Fort Bliss. At Ft. Bliss all rare or threatened plants, including cacti, and sites harboring such species are protected from public and military activities under an endangered species management program.

White Sands Missile Range and Fort Bliss have restricted public access and there are high penalties for trespassing at either installation.

In Mexico. The harvesting and exporting of wild plants, including ocotillo, from federal and communal lands in Mexico is restricted and requires a permit from the Mexican government. Mexico has strict rules on harvesting native plants and cacti. Attempts to bring illegally harvested plants or plants collected without required documentation across the Mexico/US border can result in very severe penalties.

For additional information, contact:

Daphne Richards, MS, Co. Extension Agent-Horticulture
Texas AgriLife Extension
190 San Elizario Road, PO Box 929, Clint, TX 79836
(915) 851-2515

Article submitted by Marcella Newman, Certified MG

HAVE YOU SEEN A BROWN CANE?

A few weeks ago, someone who attended the monthly MG meeting accidentally took the wrong cane home. Mary Thompson is missing a brown cane that belonged to her mother, which has great sentimental importance to her. If you use a cane, please check to see if you have the right one! Please contact Mary at (575) 524.4665. Thank you for your help!

New Master Gardener: Dale Petzold

Dale Petzold sinks many roots in New Mexico. He now qualifies as a full-fledged Doña Ana County Master Gardener but he has been a gardener since his pre-school days working in his parents' Victory Garden during WWII.

A transplant from Michigan, Dale grew up in a family that tended a 70'x50' vegetable garden every summer. Fall was a busy time in his house with all the canning and preserving that followed those harvests.

Dale and his wife, Roxann, both retired teachers, live on half an acre in the County north of Las Cruces off Del Rey Boulevard which they have called home since 2002. Dale likes to grow everything. Now that his vegetable garden is a more manageable 8'x12' size, Dale is busy landscaping the rest of his yard. He has found that roses, which he loves, grow well in New Mexico soil and adding terraces offers him new gardening opportunities.

Dale will be the first to say that his years of gardening experience needed some modification to be successful in the Southwest. He started with research on the Internet but wasn't getting all the answers. That led him to sign up for the MG class in 2008. "Although I came to the class with a solid basic knowledge of horticulture and plant science (I developed and taught a Vocational Horticulture and Landscaping course for 15 years), I am always learning something from my fellow gardeners," Dale says. "The camaraderie among Master Gardeners is unique."

Dale has many interests in addition to gardening. He is an Elder at his church, an Ombudsman for the New Mexico Department of Aging and Long-Term Care and past President and Treasurer for a faith-based outreach program in the Anapra area of Sunland Park. And, of course, he continues to work on Roxann's "Honey-Do" List.

Dale and Roxann share their home with her 89-year old mother. Their three married sons are scattered around the world. Five grandchildren complete the family, the newest born in mid-January and another is due in April. That gives Dale and Roxann reasons to travel, at least in the gardening off-season.

Written by Ann Palermo, Certified Master Gardener

Dixie's Honey-Do List for February



Many of our suggested garden tasks is information coming directly from [*Month-by-Month Gardening in the Desert Southwest*](#) by Mary Irish (2002). We wanted you to know that this is an outstanding gardening resource book.

General: February is typically a transition month; the worst of winter is over, theoretically. Finish up last month's chores and cool-season planting. Add the following to your task list:

Ornamentals

- Sow seeds of perennial and hardy annual wildflowers such as columbine, penstemon, dianthus, candytuff, larkspur, pansies, stock, and Johnny jump-ups. Later in the month check nurseries for transplants of these and other favorites.
- Start caladium tubers indoors for transplant later.



Fruits, Nuts & Shade Trees



- Harvest pecans and pick up fallen fruit again to prevent pest damage.

Trees

- Continue to plant pines and bareroot deciduous trees and shrubs. Most desert-adapted trees can be planted toward the end of the month, but do not plant any species that are frost-tender until all danger of frost is past (late March/early April).
- Water established trees once during the month unless winter rains have been abundant. Water newly planted trees every three weeks during the winter. Provide enough water to soak to a depth of three feet.
- Mesquites may ooze a black, sticky sap in late winter. This is normal and there is rare concern for alarm.



Vegetables & Herbs

- Plant perennial crops such as asparagus, horseradish, and rhubarb. Also plant beets, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, collard greens, mustard greens, and Irish potatoes.
- Plant parsley, rosemary, and other hardy herbs this month.
- Review Darrol's [Spring Vegetable Planting Chart](#) on page 6 of this newsletter.



Lawns/Grasses

- If your cool season turf is dense, remove browned leaf tissue by moving, then fertilize using a complete product with a 3-1-2 ration such as 15-5-10. Apply 1 lb N/1000 ft³.
- If necessary, apply a pre-emergent herbicide to control warm season weeds. Follow the label's directions carefully.

Roses

- Prune bush roses before St. Valentine's Day. Wait until after spring bloom to prune climbers.
- Renew a regular fertilization schedule for established roses mid-month.
- Water established roses weekly to a depth of 16"-18". It is more important to water deeply than to water often.



Dixie's Honey-Dos for February – Continued

Cacti & Succulents



- Continue to plant cool-season succulents outside.
- Apply quarter-strength liquid fertilizer every second watering to actively growing succulents in containers. Do not fertilize any plant that is dormant or is a warm-season grower.
- Water winter-growing succulents every 10-14 days to a depth of 4"-6" for large plants and 3"-4" for smaller plants.

Miscellaneous

- Rake up fallen leaves and clean up perennial beds to discourage disease and insect problems later in the year.
- Continue to weed regularly to keep beds tidy and plants properly spaced.
- Add leaves and grass clippings to the compost pile.
- Begin removing extra mulch applied to insulate delicate plants but be prepared with a sheet or towel in case temperatures dip too low.
- Keep everything well watered. Spring winds are brutal. Foundation plants, turf, and ornamentals all need extra care.

dig it | got weeds? Excerpt from Horticulture Magazine, Aug/Sept. 2009
 HANDY TOOLS FOR CHEM-FREE WEEDING

dig deeper
 Get tips for keeping weeds at bay at www.hortmag.com/article/waytoweed

1. Half-Moon Hand Hoe, also called an onion hoe, weeds between closely growing plants. This one is hand forged in the Netherlands. \$48, sneeboerusa.com **2. CobraHead Weeder and Transplanter** comes long- or short-handled (shown). It's great for precise weeding. Its hooked head works like a large fingernail. Short-handled tool, \$24.95, cobrahead.com **3. UpRoot Weed and Root Remover**, by Fiskars, wrenches tough weeds like dandelions out of the ground when you step on the foot lever. \$40, amazon.com **4. 2-Tine Hand-Weeding Fork** twists and extracts the most stubborn weeds. Modeled after a favorite tool of legendary gardener Gertrude Jekyll. \$31, redpigtools.com **5. Stirrup Hoe** slices through the soil in a push or pull motion. A long-handled tool. \$43, johnnyseeds.com **6. Circlehoe**, with its round head, can be easily maneuvered through tight spaces. It's like a short version of the stirrup hoe, for close-up detail work. \$16.50, leevalley.com

HORTICULTURE



HIGH ON THE DESERT 17th Annual Gardening & Landscaping Conference

Link: www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/mg

- When? Thurs/Fri, Feb. 25 & 26, 2010
- Where? Conference Center, Sierra Vista, AZ
Windemere Hotel, 2047 South Hwy 92
- Costs? Full Conference \$100*; one day \$65*
* Register by Feb. 12th to avoid \$15 late charge
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
(Registrations include breakfast, lunches and the closing reception.)

Session Topics Include:

- Hydrology of the Southwest
- Meat & Potato Plants for the High Desert Garden
- Organic Vegetable Growing
- Using Native Plants as a Landscape Architect
- Rooftop Rain Harvesting
- Native Grasses for Turf
- Top Ten Perennials
- Rain Gardens
- Agaves
- Hot Plants for the High Desert
- Drip Irrigation
- Rainwater 'Round the World
- Noxious Weeds
- Home Gardening and Landscaping IPM
- Growing Herbs
- Storm Water Harvesting
- Fruit Tree Care
- Designing Landscapes
- RainScapes
- Plants for Attracting Butterflies
- Pests of Evergreens
- Integrated Rainwater Systems

Sponsored By:

Cochise County Master Gardener Association
In coordination with
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

For more Information, call University of Arizona Cooperative Extension:
(520) 458.8275 Ext. 2141

(Thank you to Marcella Newman, Certified MG, for providing this information)



FEBRUARY MG BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| George Rushing | Feb. 11 |
| Carol Wootton | Feb. 11 |
| Doug Brown | Feb. 21 |

MANY THANKS FOR THE GOODIES

We appreciate your thoughtfulness

January Goodies

- Collette Bullock
- Bonnie Eisenberg
- Ann Shine-Ring
- Juliet Williams

February Goodies

- Ann Palormo
- Janice Servais
- Mary Thompson



Seed Exchange Suggestion

Hope Movsesian, Certified Master Gardener, has suggested that we do a seed exchange at the Feb. 17th monthly meeting. Anyone with seeds to share is encouraged to bring them to the meeting. Perhaps, we could make this a monthly exchange?

Upcoming Topics for MG Educational Programs

Ready for wind, drought, spring fever, monsoons, and winter freezes? Beginning in February, **this year's Master Gardener education program will be organized around Las Cruces' notably challenging gardening seasons and seasons of community service.** The new format will involve briefer presentations and greater interaction to help tap the MG collective learning experience. So, for starters, bring questions and experiences to share as we prepare to grow successful gardens in the gusty month of February. Here's a peek at our upcoming program:

February 17, 2010, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Winds of Change: Jeff Anderson, Mona Nelson, Darrol Shillingburg, and Joan Woodward will kick off discussions of our region's climatic context, learning about wind in your own garden, growing food against the odds, and strategies for landscape design.

Article submitted by Joan Woodward, Certified Master Gardener

2010 Water Conservation & Xeriscape Conference

February 25-26 • Albuquerque Marriott Hotel

2010 Water Conservation & Xeriscaping Expo

February 27-28

Just a reminder to register asap. Check the agenda and speaker information at: xeriscapenm.com

You are urged to consider early registration since this event has been oversubscribed the past two years.

Registration will remain at \$200 for the two-day conference. This is possible because of major sponsorships by the Bureau of Reclamation and Intel. The two-day Expo is free courtesy of a major two-year grant to the Xeriscape Council.

For more information, please contact:

Scott Varner, Executive Director NM Xeriscape Council
www.XeriscapeNM.com (505-468-1021)

ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Please share your ideas for future Plant-of-the-Month (trees, shrubs, vegetables, flowers, cacti, succulents, etc.), research and magazine articles and any gardening-related tips or concerns. Contact Ann Shine-Ring at email: asring@hughes.net or (575) 640-7177.



Bird Suet Cakes (Birds Love It!!)

1 lb lard (do NOT substitute*)

2 C chunky peanut butter

Melt these together. (I use 4 C glass measuring cup in microwave)

Put the following in a large bowl.

2 C oatmeal

2 C corn meal

2 C flour

2 C birdseed (optional)

1 C chopped dried fruit (optional-expensive, too)

- Pour the melted lard/peanut butter over dry stuff and mix well.
- Pour into 9x13 pan lined with plastic wrap. Cool and refrigerate overnight.
- Cut into blocks to fit into suet feeder cages OR to fit into whatever you want to use to feed birds.

***NOTE: Lard has to be used as anything else will melt in the sun even in winter. Buy the cheapest ingredients you can find as the birds don't care.**

Recipe submitted by Alberta Morgan
Certified Master Gardener

SAVE THE DATES



Spring Master Gardener GARDEN EXPO

Sat/Sun, April 10-11 at Enchanted Gardens

If you are interested in participating but didn't sign up at the January meeting, contact Ann Palermo, apalormo@nmsu.edu, or 644-4277 for more details.

Master Gardener Matters

—Monthly Meeting, January 20, 2010—

▣ Welcome & Introduction

New certified Master Gardeners and new Interns were welcomed. Badges were presented to the newly certified Master Gardeners.

▣ Committee/Project Reports

MG Hotline—Pam Crane reported that two training classes had been held for Interns. Unfortunately, we have had several no-shows on the hotline. This is not acceptable. If you sign up, please show up. If your co-worker does not show up, call and remind him/her.

MG Contact List—An updated MG contact sheet had been prepared. It was passed around to MG's to get their updates/corrections.

Refreshment Sign-Ups—MG's were asked to volunteer to provide refreshments for our 2010 monthly meetings. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Newsletter—Juliet stated that our newsletter gets better and better each time. Ann Shine-Ring announced that the next Plant-of-the-month will be Hollyhocks. Also, she mentioned that Darrol has provided articles on planting in the windy season and a spring vegetable planting chart. Marcella Newman has provided an interesting article on unethical harvesting of native plants.

Jeff Anderson said that he plans to nominate our newsletter for an award from the statewide County Agents' organization. Ann mentioned that the newsletter happens each month because of the many contributions of several people—that it is truly a team effort:

- ✓ Jan Brydon posts the newsletter to the University's website, usually within a day or two of it being posted.
- ✓ Darrol compresses the newsletter's Word file into PDF so it can be distributed and opened more easily.
- ✓ Frank Connor checks on the Hotline signups each month.
- ✓ Jeff Anderson previews the text for the Plant-of-the-Month article every month.
- ✓ Ann Palormo writes the new Master Gardener profiles each month.
- ✓ Juliet and Bonnie prepare the MG monthly meeting minutes.
- ✓ And many MG's submit articles and ideas for the newsletter every month.

CoCoRAHS—Juliet asked for a show of hands of those interested in participating in some spring training on CoCoRAHS. She reminded us that we do get MG hours for attending CoCoRAHS training.

Graduation/Awards Event—It was agreed that this celebration was the most wonderful awards luncheon we have ever had. All had a good time and it was very well attended. The food was also really good. Many thanks to Valice for all her hard work on this event!

Education Programs—Joan Woodward announced that the Feb. education program will feature, Winds of Change, which will include a panel discussing wind and growing conditions in our area.

Farmer's Market—Juliet reported that the Farmer's Market will be held in February. She will send an e-mail reminder to those who signed up to help.

Spring Garden Expo—Ann Palormo announced the Expo will be held on Saturday & Sunday, April 10-11 at Enchanted Gardens. Those who participated last time have been asked to do it again. Sunday workshops will begin at noon. A sign up sheet was passed around for people interested in doing new workshops or for general help with the day. (See page 14 for those who are interested in participating, but have not yet signed up.)

Charlette Duttie mentioned that she is a deaf-interpreter and can help with conferences or plant sales if needed.

▣ Old / Continuing Business

Plant Sale (April 17th)—Dixie reported that we will need lots of help: advertising, gathering plants from donors, set-up, selling on the day, etc. Betty Tomlin and Dale Petzold volunteered to assist Dixie. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers. Ann Shine-Ring agreed to handle the advertising for the sale.

Minutes Continued on Page 16

Master Gardener Matters

—Monthly Meeting, January 20, 2010 (Continued)—

▣ New Business

Activities Coordinators are needed for the following events:

- **Home and Garden Show** Because this event conflicts with the Pecan Conference, we will not be participating.
- **Earth Day** We have no information as yet.
- **Hatch Chile Festival** Labor Day weekend
- **Snack Sign-ups & Meeting Set-up /Clean-up** Betty Tomlin volunteered to be the Coordinator.

2010 New Mexico Chile Conference—(Feb.1-2) This event will include a Silent Auction and Salsa contest, which MG's are encouraged to enter. Official sign-up sheets for this event were passed around. The Conference will be held at Hotel Encanto. Help will be needed with set-up, staff sales table, etc. Instructions for entry will be coming soon. The Conference also needs our help to gather items for the silent auction, need 10+ items that are chile-related. Susan Blank, Colette Bullock, and Carla Clouser volunteered to get the silent auction items. Myles agreed to serve as Coordinator for this Conference.

Juliet mentioned that there are a lot of Conferences this time of year. They are all great learning experiences for Master Gardeners.

High on the Desert Conference—(Feb. 25-26 in Sierra Vista, AZ). Jeff will probably be attending and several other MG's are planning to go. Registration is online. The cost will be \$100 for both days.

Website Link: See page 13 in this newsletter.

Pecan Conference—(March 6-9) Mary Thompson will be this event's Coordinator. We will need people to set-up, crack pecans for the judging, guard displays, etc. If you can help, let Mary know.

Citrus Conference—Jeff plans to attend this Phoenix event in March.

International Pepper Conference—(Sept. 12, 13 & 14) The Conference will be hosted by the New Mexico Chile Pepper Institute and will be held at Hotel Encanto, here in Las Cruces. More information will be forthcoming.

Program for the Meeting: "Getting to Know You", social hour.

Jeff talked about some of his citrus trees, which he has grown from seed. If the tree freezes, Jeff said it usually comes back because the rootstock is genetically the same as the rest of the plant. He asked other MGs who have unusual plants to tell us about those.

Leigh asked about palm trees. Jeff stated that the Mexican fan palms are widely planted here but they do freeze. However, they usually come back in the spring. The California fan palm is more cold hardy. There are many other palms that are more cold-hardy that grown well here.

Someone talked about the Chinese Pistache trees in the downtown mall and inquired about how these trees have managed to grow so well? Jeff stated that the trees are very drought tolerant, so have done okay. Whether or not the city decides to remove/move them to the new city hall is a matter of money and has yet to be decided.

Doug Brown stated that he has a relationship with the City's Gardening Dept. and will find out if they have gotten a cost estimate to move these trees. Then we could look into fundraising to save these trees. Valice suggested we get Derrickson Moore behind the project.

Next MG Business Meeting – Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Bonnie and Juliet



Re-Certification Certificates

We didn't create certificates for the Re-Certification Master Gardeners this year because many said they didn't care to have a certificate. If you would like to have one, we would be delighted to make you one. Please e-mail Valice (valice@q.com) to order one.

Please note open timeslots for Interns in March (*Hotline assignments listed were current as of 1/29/10*)
Our apology if we got the names incorrectly—it was very difficult to read several names written on the sign-up roster!
Reminder: MG Hours for February are 9-12 noon; March hours will return to 9-1pm

Master Gardener Hotline Assignments for February

- Tuesday, Feb. 2 **Leigh Matthewson**
Jane Zimmer (I)
Jeanene Cathey (I)
- Friday, Feb. 5 **Alberta Morgan**
Sylvia Hacker (I)
Linda Schukei (I)
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 **Joan Woodward**
Jodi Richardson (I)
Christine Chavez (I)
- Friday, Feb. 12 **Pam Crane**
Jane Zimmer (I)
Linda Schukei (I)
- Tuesday, Feb. 16 **Leigh Matthewson**
Beth Paris (I)
Maya Brewington (I)
- Friday, Feb. 19 **Richard Hiss**
Jeanene Cathey (I)
Linda Morgan (I)
- Tuesday, Feb. 23 **Mary Thompson**
Russ Boor (I)
Linden Ranel (I)
- Friday, Feb. 26 **Richard Hiss**
Maya Brewington (I)
Beth Paris (I)

Master Gardener Hotline Assignments for March

- Tuesday, Mar. 2 **Joan Woodward**
Linden Ranel (I)
Maya Brewington (I)
- Friday, Mar. 5 **Alberta Morgan**
Linda Schukei (I)
Open _____ (I)
- Tuesday, Mar. 9 **Betty Tomlin**
Holly Richardson (I)
Charlotte Duttle (I)
- Friday, Mar. 12 **Dale Petzold**
Bruce Begin (I)
Open _____ (I)
- Tuesday, Mar. 16 **Leigh Matthewson**
Beth Paris (I)
Maya Brewington (I)
- Friday, Mar. 19 **Marti Taylor**
Sylvia Hacker (I)
Russ Boor (I)
- Tuesday, Mar. 23 **Pam Crane**
Mary Thompson
Jane Zimmer (I)
Open _____ (I)
- Friday, Mar. 26 **Nancy DeLouise**
Paul Hutchins
Bruce Begin (I)
Open _____ (I)
- Tuesday, Mar. 30 **Leigh Matthewson**
Dixie LaRock
Linden Ranel (I)
Open _____ (I)

Next Monthly Meeting of the
 Doña Ana County Master Gardeners
 * * *
February 17th @ Cooperative Extension Office
 9am-11am