



# Master Gardener Newsletter

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Cooperative Extension Service  
US Department of Agriculture  
College of Agriculture & Home Economics

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## Hotline Training and Review Session

January 2009  
Volume 10 Issue #1

The January 21 Master Gardener Meeting will be devoted entirely to training for the Hotline, both for newly graduated interns and for returning Master Gardeners. The Hot line is our most important activity as Master Gardeners, yet it is not always handled as skillfully as we would like. Some MGs dread working the hotline because they feel they don't have the expertise to help others. Their key is to remember that you are not expected to know everything, all you need to know is how to find the answers. This training will cover all of the basic procedures required for handling incoming questions and specimens, as well as covering the various resources at our disposal for finding answers outside our personal expertise. The hotline training is being prepared by Linda Fredrickson, Dee Davis, Anne Shine-ring, Yvonne Kinn and Lynn Moseley and will include the following:

- Introduction: certification requirements, sign-up commitment, public service, volunteer hours, intern assessment
- Hotline Checklist: messages, sign-in, log sheet, phone protocol, email protocol, plant & insect samples
- Contact Sheets: essentials of documentation Hort & Insect forms: process of consultation with agent, NMSU
- MG Hotline Resources: people, printed material, books, internet
- Other Volunteer Opportunities: community events, field days, community gardens, educational conferences
- In Our Office: locating essentials as post-test, call-back demo for interns
- 

**Plan to attend this important training meeting.**

16th Annual

## "High on the Desert" High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference

The wonderful world of gardening has unique opportunities and challenges. The High Desert Conference benefits all gardeners, novice and seasoned, with over 20 sessions focusing on food production, landscaping with native plants, and environmental stewardship.

Location: Windemere Hotel & Conference Center, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Date: February 12th and 13th, 2009

Time: 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

Cost: One day \$65; Both days \$100 -- includes breakfast, lunch & Reception

Go to: <http://ag.arizona.edu/cochise/mg/hotd.htm>

For more conference information and registration forms.

Accommodations in Sierra Vista range from camping, bed and breakfast inns to local and national motels. Go to:

[http://visitsierravista.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=view\\_template&id=6736&cityid=20](http://visitsierravista.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=view_template&id=6736&cityid=20)

To find lodging.

## To all master gardeners and interns:

The proofs from the graduation party are in our MG room. Those who want their pictures can put their name and photo number on the attached sheet of paper. I'll use a cut-off of Feb 1 for having a cropped photo of those requests by the February monthly...George

# Master Gardener Matters

On December 13<sup>th</sup> we had our final “meeting” of 2008 and an excellent time was had by all. Our awards reception was a potluck this year and we had a wide variety of excellent side dishes to choose from along with turkey, brisket, green enchiladas, and other hot dishes. Bonnie Eisenberg, Valice Raffi, Colette Bullock, Joan Lane, Jeff Anderson, and Barb Sallach are all to be thanked for doing such a great job of organizing the food, door prizes, and decorations. Our volunteers who also helped set up and clean up should also be given a round of applause so pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. We welcomed the graduating members of our 2008 class as our new 2009 interns, congratulated our 2008 interns that were certified as bona fide master gardeners, and applauded all recertified master gardeners. We are growing wonderfully!

On January 21 the first meeting of 2009 will take place at the extension office, from 9 – 11 am. All two hours will be spent on **updated Hotline training**. Everyone needs to attend if at all possible. The Hotline is open on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the year. The hours in January and February will be 9 am – 12 pm, from March through November hours are 9 am – 1 pm, and in December from 9 am – 12 pm again. It’s recommended that everyone sign up to work one day per month. During the first part of the year, one intern will work with two more experienced master gardeners. Later, there are spaces for two interns to work with one experienced master gardener. The 2009 calendar will be available for sign ups at the meeting. There are openings in January before the meeting so call Barbara Arispe, 525-6649, and sign up if you are available.

Our **Farmer’s Market booth** on January 10 is fully booked with volunteers, Hurray! Our Farmer’s Market booth on February 14<sup>th</sup> does have openings for volunteers, so if you are interested please let Barb Sallach, bsallach@nmsu.edu, know ASAP. We prefer to schedule one intern with two experienced master gardeners. In February, one intern slot is available from 9 am – 11 am and one from 11 am – 1 pm. There is one slot for an experienced master gardener available from 9 am – 11 am, and two slots available from 11 am – 1 pm with one of those being willing to return the tables, etc. to the office on Monday. There will be a few plants for sale since it is Valentine’s Day and Barb has been making cuttings of jade and coleus. If you also want to donate some plants for that sale, contact Barb

Sallach. Plants that are in bloom would be particularly welcome. Our spring plant sale will probably be on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Think about which plants you might like to donate as you repot, separate, or otherwise dig in your garden early in spring.

We will be having our second **Garden Expo** this spring, probably in March. If you are interested in participating please contact Dee Davis, deedavis2114@gmail.com, and let her know. We meet the public and answer questions on topics ranging from roses to native plants to herbs and vegetables.

Each year all master gardeners complete a minimum of 50 hours. Interns do a minimum of 25 educational hours and 25 hours on the Hotline or at the Farmer’s Market booth. Attending meetings provides 2 educational hours per month. All recertifying master gardeners do a combination of educational hours and volunteer hours. There are many opportunities for education and volunteering available throughout the year. Some that are coming up soon are:

- February 2 – 4, the **NM Chile Conference** and Salsa Contest, here in Las Cruces. More information will be available later.
- February 12 - 13, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “**High on the Desert**” **High Desert Gardening & Landscape Conference** will be held at the Windemere Hotel & Conference Center in Sierra Vista, AZ. For more information check out their web site; <http://cals.arizona.edu/cochise/mg/hotd.htm>.
- February 26 – 27, the **International Water Conservation & Xeriscape Conference** will be held at the Pyramid Marriot Hotel in Albuquerque, NM. The free 2009 Water Conservation Expo will be immediately following the conference on February 28 – March 1 at EXPO NM – The Fairgrounds. For more information, the website is [http://www.xeriscapenm.com/xeriscape\\_conferences/2009/index.php](http://www.xeriscapenm.com/xeriscape_conferences/2009/index.php)
- March 22 – 26 is the **International Master Gardener Conference** in Las Vegas, NV. Their website is <http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc/>. Several master gardeners are planning to attend so contact Barb Sallach if you are interested so travel arrangements can be made.

Hope to see you January 21<sup>st</sup>. - Barb and Juliet

## January is Bareroot Season for Roses and Fruit Trees

Our sunny winter days are perfect for getting out into the garden and planting roses for spring and summer blooms. Below is an excerpt from the Bayer™ website on planting bareroot roses.

### How to Plant Bareroot Roses

In mild winter parts of the country where the ground doesn't freeze, it's prime bareroot rose planting season (in colder areas, plant in early spring as soon as the ground can be worked). Nurseries and garden centers are full of fresh plants, which have been dug from growing fields without any soil on their roots. Most have their roots packed in moist wood shavings and sealed in plastic. If you've ordered roses through mail order catalogs, they'll be sent to you in similar fashion.

So it's a great time to buy and plant roses. Here's the procedure, step by step:



**1-Purchase quality plants.** Rose plants are graded according to standards set by the American Nursery & Landscape Association. A #1 rose is the highest quality and will give you the best show the first summer. #1-1/2 and #2 grade roses are often sold at discount prices and usually won't grow as vigorously the first year. So if you want the best results, spend a little extra money and buy #1 roses. You'll find the grades on the rose packaging.

Even when you purchase #1 roses, make sure the packing around the roots hasn't dried out and that the canes are dark green. Avoid roses with dry looking, shriveled canes.

**2-Soak roots over night before planting.** Remove the rose from the packaging and place the roots in a bucket of muddy water (the mud will cling to the roots and help prevent them from drying out after planting). Let them soak at least overnight.

If you can't plant immediately, keep the packing around the roots moist until planting time. If it will be several weeks before you can plant, plant temporarily in containers and keep the soil moist.

**3-Choose a sunny planting site.** Roses need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day to thrive. If they get any less, expect fewer blooms and more disease problems.

**4-Check soil pH and drainage.** Dig a hole deep and wide enough to accommodate the plant's roots. Have the soil tested to make sure the pH is in the proper range for roses (5.5 to 7.0 is fine). Ask your nurseryman or cooperative extension agent how to test your soil and, if necessary, adjust the pH.

Fill the hole with water, let it drain, then fill it again. If the hole hasn't drained completely in 24 hours, you probably have a drainage problem. The easiest solution is to plant elsewhere or grow roses in pots or raised beds.

**5-Plant properly.** Mix the soil dug out of the hole with equal amounts organic matter, such as compost or ground bark. Place some of the mixture in the bottom of the hole, creating a cone-shaped mound. Examine the rose carefully. Prune off damaged or dead roots. Spread the roots of the rose over the mound and check planting depth. The rose should be planted at about the same level it was grown in the field (you'll see a color change on the stem) and with the bud union (the swollen part of the stem) above ground. In colder climates, plant several inches deeper so the bud union is covered with soil.

Fill the hole with soil and create a watering basin around the plant. Water well. If necessary, adjust the planting level by grasping the lower trunk and gently pulling upward. You can also add [Bayer Advanced™ 2-in-1 Systemic Rose & Flower Care Granules](#) to help your plants get off to the right start.

**6-Mulch heavily.** Mulch the rose with organic matter, such as compost or ground bark. Pile the mulch up high enough to cover the canes several inches above the bud union. Covering the canes will help prevent them from drying out.

**7-Fertilize and protect from insects.** Once the plant begins to leaf out, pull the mulch away from the stems, fertilize and watch out for insect pests like aphids. To fertilize and protect from insects in one easy step, apply [Bayer Advanced™ 2-in-1 Systemic Rose & Flower Care Granules](#). One application protects for up to 6 weeks. Read the label and follow the directions.



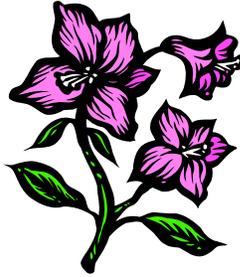
# JANUARY GARDEN TIPS

By Dixie La Rock

Happy New Year to all!

## FLOWERS

- Plant corms of gladiolus and dahlias this month.
- Sow seeds of spring and summer annuals indoors now for transplant outdoors in a couple of months.
- Plan new plantings. Order seeds and garden doo dads.
- Plant and tend pansies, stock and other winter annuals. Keep them watered and dead headed.



## FRUIT, NUTS, SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS

- Plant bare root, balled and burlap and container grown specimens. Bare root plants should become available soon and must be planted before they break dormancy.
- Time for dormant season pruning. Remove dead, crossing, diseased and damaged limbs.
- Use horticulturally sound pruning practices leaving branch collars when removing limbs.
- Don't "top" trees.
- Wait to prune stone fruit trees and spring flowering shrubs.
- Vigorous shrubs such as photinia and ligustrum may be pruned by 30% while junipers by no more than 20% at one time.
- Clean up crepe myrtles and oleanders by removing seed heads.



- Spray deciduous trees and shrubs prone to insect damage with dormant oil.
- Deep water established trees, shrubs and succulents once a month during winter.

## VEGETABLES

- Plant cool season crops such as carrots, onions, parsnips, radishes, English peas, snow peas, fava beans, garbanzo beans, lettuces and other green leafy vegetables after mid month.
- Start seeds of summer vegetables indoors then transplant outdoors when threat of frost has passed.

## LAWNS

- Relax— warm season grasses are dormant and cool season grasses are quiet; no need to mow or fertilize.
- Water lawns at least once a month; twice a month may be preferable depending on soil type, temperature, wind, rain and quality of turf desired.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Turn over garden beds adding organic matter.
- Add extra mulch to established plantings and seed beds.
- Control weeds before they set seed.

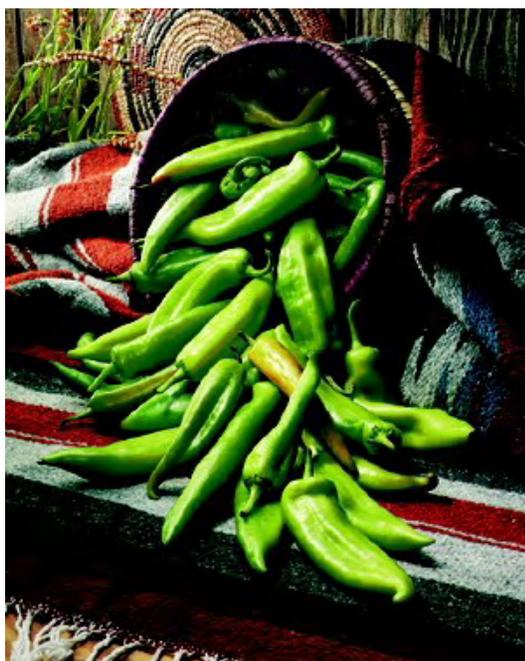


## 2009 New Mexico Chile Conference

Practical Solutions for Growers, Processors and Producers - See the Latest Mechanical Harvesters and Destemmers - Hear Solutions to Disease & Pest Management - Learn the Latest Food Safety Issues PLUS - Commercial Booths and Current NMSU Research Poster Displays

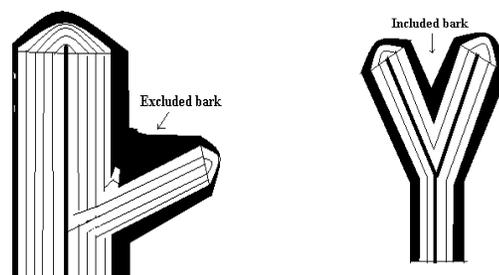
February 2 & 3, 2009 at the Hotel Encanto formerly the Las Cruces Hilton - Las Cruces, NM.

*Master Gardeners may be needed to help with this conference, more information coming soon.*



## Tree Pruning Time

Michael Lee, a Master Gardener intern, relayed some pertinent information to me about two of his young mulberry trees. Both of the tree trunks have a narrow angled, divided crotch. One of the trees has included bark like the diagram on the right, while the other has excluded growth, the build up of bark tissue between the two branches of the crotch, similar to the diagram at left. While by no means ideal, this added tissue provides some strength to the tree, helping to knit the branches together.



The moral to the story: As you prune this winter, be sure to evaluate the structural integrity of your trees. It is best to remove included branches while trees are young as trees with narrow crotch angles and inclusions are more likely to break in high winds. Breakage is even more likely when other environmental and cultural stresses are applied. Trees with an outgrowth of bark between branches of the crotch may be salvageable but may also need some corrective pruning. Each tree needs to be evaluated on an individual basis. For more information, talk to Michael. — Dixie

## Pistachio Grower's Workshop In Alamogordo February 9

NMSU-OTERO COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

### Schedule

9:00 AM - Welcome and Introduction - Beth Gordon, Otero County Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agent

9:30 AM - Richard Heerema, NMSU Pecan and Pistachio Specialist - **Irrigation of Orchards**

10:15 AM - Natalie Goldberg, NMSU Plant Pathologist and Interim Plant Science Dept. Head - **Disease of Pistachios**

11:00 AM - Carol Sutherland, NMSU Entomologist -

### Insects of Pistachio Orchards

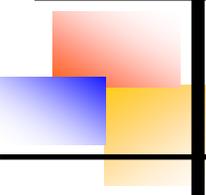
Lunch Provided

1:00 PM - Robert Flynn, NMSU Specialist in Agronomy, Irrigation Systems, Ecology & Conservation -

- **Soil Properties for Productive Pistachio Orchards**

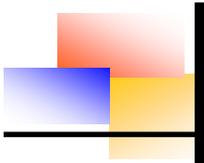
1:45 PM - Lonnie Matthews with NMSU - **Pesticide Safety**

Space is limited and pre-registration is required by February 1, 2009 CONTACT: Otero County Extension office at 575-437-0231 or [egordon@nmsu.edu](mailto:egordon@nmsu.edu)



# JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Hotline: Clara C OPEN	7	8	9 Hotline: Bonnie E. OPEN	10 Farmers' market Booth 9-1
11	12	13 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	14	15	16 Hotline: Alberta OPEN	17
18	19	20 Hotline: Katrin S Ina G	21 MG Class 9:00 Hotline training	22	23 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	24
25	26	27 OPEN OPEN	28	29	30 OPEN OPEN	31



# FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 NM Chile Conf Feb 2-4	3 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	4	5	6 Hotline: Alberta OPEN	7
8	9	10 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	11	12 Pecan Conf. Alamogordo High Desert conf. Sierra vista, AZ	13 Hotline: Anne S-R OPEN	14 Farmers' market Booth 9-1
15	16	17 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	18 MG Mtg 9:00 AM	19	20 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	21
22	23	24 Hotline: OPEN OPEN	25	26 Water Con- servation & Xeris- cape conf. Albu.	27 Hotline: Ina G. OPEN	28

*As you can see, we have many open days on the Hotline. Hotline hours for January and February are 9–noon. Bring your calendar to the Hotline training meeting on Jan 21 and be prepared to sign up.*