

# Master Gardener Newsletter

New Mexico State University  
Cooperative Extension Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
College of Agriculture & Home Economics

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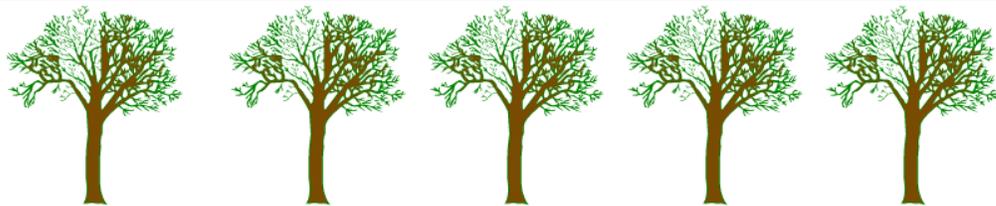
◀ March 2009 ▶

Volume 10, Issue #3

## Top MG Hotline Plant Questions (2000-2003)

This issue contains:

- 2000-2003 MG Hotline Data
- Flower Power for Hummingbirds
- Penstemon Help
- Poisonous Plants
- Water Wise Ideas
- Birthdays
- Dixie's March Honey Do List
- New Master Gardener Profile
- Garden Expo Schedule
- Master Gardener Matters
- MG Hotline Assignments



Master Gardener, Craig Severy, has completed an analysis of MG contact sheets from 2000 through 2003. He's discovered that seven of the top ten questions asked were about trees.

Here is the list of the ten top questions for these years.

- #1–**Grass** (brown spots, how to kill, & grubs)
- #2–**Pine Trees** (dying trees, and browning trees)
- #3–**Non-Commercial Pecan Trees** (casebearer spray & fertilizer)
- #4–**Tomatoes** (splitting, blossom rot, & curly top virus)
- #5–**Mulberry Trees** (dying and stopping fruit)
- #6–**Willow Trees** (yellowing leaves)
- #7–**Roses** (pruning & browning leaves)
- #8–**Oleanders** (pruning)
- #9–**Mexican Elder Trees** (dying trees, and dropping leaves)
- #10–**Ash Trees** (dying trees, and dropping leaves)

Craig is continuing to analyze data from more current MG contact sheets, and will provide us with more information soon.

At the March monthly meeting, Linda Fredrickson plans to begin developing care summary sheets for each of the above trees beginning with the Mexican Elder tree. If you are interested in this project, please contact Linda at: [lindapfred@aol.com](mailto:lindapfred@aol.com) or (575) 522-2267. ■

**Please submit all articles for the newsletter to Ann Shine-Ring by the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month:**  
**Contact Info:**  
[asring@hughes.net](mailto:asring@hughes.net)  
or  
(575) 640-7177



### Hummingbird Buffet

Hummingbird gardening is something anyone can try in most parts of the country and, yes, expect success. You don't need a huge manicured garden to get started. A simple hanging basket, container or window box packed with mostly red nectar-producing flowers does the trick. And once you see an iridescent hummingbird flitting from flower to flower, I guarantee you'll want to expand your planting next year to bring in more of these unbelievable birds.

### What Is Nectar?

Nectar is nothing more than sugar water produced naturally by all kinds of flowers. Some, like Queen Anne's lace and zinnias, produce nectar on their shallow clusters of flowers. These attract bees, butterflies and other insects, along with hummingbirds.

The real surefire plants designed to appeal to hummingbirds are deep tube-shaped flowers. Hummingbirds probe these blooms with their long bills and tongues to lap up the energy drink that keeps their high-revving motors humming.

What do the flowers get in return?

"Hummingbirds play a large role in pollination," explains backyard bird expert George Harrison of Hubertus, Wisconsin. "As hummingbirds dip their bills down into each flower, pollen clings to their bills and feathers so they transfer it from plant to plant."

The pollen fertilizes the flowers, which produce seeds that ensure their survival.

## Flower Power for Hummingbirds

By Jeff Nowak, Executive Editor  
Backyard Living Magazine, 2008

### Hummingbird Gardens

Many hummingbird lovers have discovered—if you know exactly what flowers hummingbirds are looking for—you're almost guaranteed regular visits.

Some hummingbird favorites are red pentas, Turk's cap lilies, butterfly weed and honeysuckle. If you are ready to set out the "welcome mat" for hummingbirds, here are some tips to get started.

**Seeing Red.** A patch of red flowers to hummingbirds is like a neon "EAT" sign along a lonely highway. These birds search out nectar from many different colored flowers, but it's the red ones that really have magnetic drawing power.

Scientists believe hummingbirds are attracted to red flowers because they've learned through experience that red tubular flowers contain the most nectar. So anything red—be it a flower, baseball hat or tricycle—triggers their instincts to investigate. That's why hummingbird feeders usually have red feeding ports.

**Tube-shaped Blooms.** Many plants on hummingbirds' hit list are tube-shaped flowers that provide large amounts of nectar deep at the base of their blooms. Hummingbirds can easily reach this sugar water, while bees and most other nectar-loving insects are left out.

Trumpet vine is an excellent example of tube-shaped nectar producers. It offers hummingbirds ten times more sugar water than other plants!

**Less fragrant, more filling.** Many flowers that hummingbirds flock to surprisingly have little to no scent. And, as nature would have it, there's a good reason.

## Flower Power for Hummingbirds - Continued

### Less fragrant, more filling (continued).

Sweet-smelling flowers attract bees and other insects. Hummingbirds, like most birds, have a poor sense of smell. They rely on sight to find food. So, by remaining odor-free, these flowers cater largely to hummingbirds.

**Cascading Blooms.** Hummingbirds are in a flying class of their own, with the ability to fly forward, backward, hover and even upside down!

Some nectar flowers, like fuchsia, have adapted specifically to accommodate hummingbirds. Their blooms hang downward; so only agile hummingbirds can reach their sweet treat.

### Planting Your Hummer Garden

Planting a hummingbird garden is no different than creating a perennial border, mixed container or any other garden. The basics are the same—soil rich in organic matter that drains well will keep the flowers healthy. And healthy nectar plants produce loads of the sweet stuff.

There are hundreds of blooming plants—annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs—that hummingbirds feed from. Which ones should you choose? How should you plant them? It's easier than you think:

**Mix plenty of annuals.** Annuals ensure long-blooming flowers that immediately produce nectar, from the time the migratory hummingbirds return north from their tropical winter grounds, until they leave in fall.

**Aim for continuous blossoms.** Perennials, flowering trees and shrubs are excellent additions to a hummingbird garden, but plan carefully before you plant. Seek a mix of nectar producers that bloom in succession, from early spring to fall.

**Plant in clusters.** Again, red is a sure bet for attracting hummingbirds. To get their attention, cluster red blooms together so they shout out, "Dinnertime!"

But that doesn't mean your garden has to be monochromatic. These sweet-toothed birds will gladly feed from any color nectar flower, but use red to draw them in.

**Plant low to high.** Consider your hummingbird garden as a stadium, placing shorter plants in front of taller ones. This gives the birds a chance to easily get to all the blooms, without plant stems and leaves interfering with their whirring wings. As a bonus, you get to see them better from your patio or window.

**Add to existing gardens.** You don't have to start from scratch. Many hummingbird plants blend in beautifully with existing flower gardens.

**Deadhead for more blooms.** The longer your nectar-producing plants produce flowers, the more hummingbirds you'll attract.

Even though many hummingbird plants are low-maintenance annuals and perennials, take time to deadhead blooms before they go to seed.

This keeps the plants pouring energy into flower production...a sure way to convince hummingbirds to stay near your backyard, and come back year after year. ■

### ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

Ann Palormo, NMSU Advancement Writer and Master Gardener, has a number of volunteer tiny penstemon plants. She believes they will have pink blooms. Ann wants to put them into small pots for the April 18<sup>th</sup> plant sale and would appreciate some suggestions as to how soon she should remove these volunteers from their current locations and re-pot them. Also, what kind of soil would you suggest? Right now, the plants range in size from 3/4" to 1.5" in diameter and have only the first set or two of leaves.

If you can help, contact Ann at:

Email: [apalormo@nmsu.edu](mailto:apalormo@nmsu.edu)

Office: (575) 646-1107

Cell: (575) 644-4277



# Poisonous Plants

Chart reprinted from materials provided by Texas State Department of Health & National Safety Council

We eat many plants, herbs and so forth in our daily diet. But, we must remember to be choosy. Some plants, trees or shrubs are potential killers of people and animals. Some part of the ornamental plants or flowers in your yard may contain deadly poison. Many poisonous plants are so common and seemingly innocuous we normally do not suspect their toxic qualities.

It is easy to be deceived by plants—one part may be edible while another is poisonous. The following chart lists some of the more common poisonous plants. *(This subject was suggested by Juliet Williams.)*

PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
<b>House Plants</b>		
Caladium	All parts	Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks airway.
Calla Lily	All parts	Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks airway.
Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane), Elephant Ear	All parts	Intense burning and irritation of mouth and tongue. Death can occur if base of tongue swells enough to block air passage.
English Ivy	Leaves & berries	Upset stomach, trouble breathing, and unconsciousness.
Hyacinth, Narcissus, Daffodil	Bulbs	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. May be fatal.
Jerusalem Cherry	Leaves, green fruit	Upset stomach, jittery, and unconsciousness.
Oleander	Leaves, branches, flowers	Extremely poisonous. Affects the heart, produces severe digestive upset and has caused death.
Philodendron	All parts	Burning of mouth and tongue. Deadly if tongue swells and blocks airway.
Rosary Pea, Castor Bean	Seeds	Burning mouth and throat, dizziness, upset stomach, and convulsions. A single Rosary Pea seed has caused death. One or two Castor Bean seeds are near a lethal dose for adults. Commonly made into necklaces.
<b>Flower Garden Plants</b>		
Autumn Crocus, Star of Bethlehem	Bulbs	Vomiting and nervous excitement.
Bleeding Heart	Foliage, roots	May be poisonous in large amounts. Has proven to be fatal to cattle.
Foxglove	Leaves	Large amounts cause dangerously irregular heartbeat and pulse, usually digestive upset and mental confusion. Can be fatal.
Tansy	Leaves, flowers	Upset stomach, and numbness.
Iris	Underground stems	Severe—but not usually serious but can produce digestive upset.
Larkspur	Young plant, seeds	Digestive upset, nervous excitement, and depression. May be fatal.
Lily-of-the-Valley	Leaves, flowers	Irregular heart beat and pulse, usually accompanied by digestive upset and mental confusion.
Monkshood	Fleshy roots	Digestive upset and nervous excitement.
<b>Vegetable Garden Plants</b>		
Rhubarb	Leaf blade	Can be fatal. Large amounts of raw or cooked leaves can cause

## Poisonous Plants - Continued

PLANT	TOXIC PART(S)	SYMPTOMS
Ornamental Plants		
Boxwood	Leaves, twigs	Upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, and trouble breathing.
Daphne	Berries	Only a few berries can cause diarrhea, convulsions and even death in a child.
Golden Chain	Bean-like capsules in which the seeds are suspended	Severe poisoning. Excitement, staggering, convulsions and coma. Can be fatal.
Jasmine	Berries	Can be fatal. Digestive disturbance and nervous symptoms.
Jessamine	All parts	Upset stomach, jittery, and weakness.
Lantana Camara (Red Sage)	Green berries	Can be fatal. Affects lungs, kidneys, heart and nervous system. Grows in the southern U.S. and in moderate climates.
Laurels, Rhododendrons, Azaleas	All parts	Produces nausea and vomiting, depression, difficult breathing, weakness, prostration and unconsciousness. Can be fatal.
Wisteria	Seeds, pods	Mild to severe digestive upset. This plant has poisoned many children.
Yew	Leaves, stems, seeds	Fatal. Foliage more toxic than berries. Death is usually sudden without warning symptoms.
Trees & Shrubs		
Black Locust	Bark, sprouts, foliage, seeds	Children have suffered nausea, weakness and depression after chewing the bark and seeds.
Chokecherry (wild and cultivated cherries)	Twigs, foliage	Can be fatal. Contains a compound that releases cyanide when eaten. Gasping, excitement and prostration are common symptoms.
Elderberry	All parts, especially roots	Children have been poisoned by using pieces of the pithy stems for blowguns. Nausea and digestive upset.
Horsechestnut	Flowers, seeds, sprouts, leaves	Upset stomach. Can be fatal.
Oaks	Foliage, acorns	Affects kidneys gradually. Symptoms appear only after several days or weeks. Takes a large amount for poisoning.
Water hemlock	All parts	Violent convulsions, upset stomach, and weakness.
Plants in Wooded Areas		
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	All parts, especially roots	Like Dumb Cane, contains small needle-like crystals of calcium oxalate that cause intense irritation and burning of the mouth and tongue.
Mayapple	Apple, foliage, roots	Contains at least 16 active toxic principles, primarily in the roots. Children often eat the apple with no ill effects, but several apples may cause diarrhea.
Mistletoe	Berries	Can be fatal. Both children & adults have died from eating the berries.
Moonseed	Berries	Blue, purple color, resembling wild grapes. Can be fatal.
Plants in Fields		
Buttercups	All parts	Irritant juices may severely injure the digestive system.
Jimson Weed (Thorn Apple)	All parts	Abnormal thirst, distorted sight, delirium, incoherence and unconsciousness. Common cause of poisoning. Has proven fatal.
Nightshade	All parts, especially the unripened berry	Can be fatal. Intense digestive disturbance and nervous symptoms.
Poison Hemlock	All parts	Can be fatal. Resembles a large wild carrot.
Pokeweed	All parts, esp. roots	Burning of mouth, upset stomach, trouble breathing, weakness, and

convulsions.



## Water-Wise Ideas

Here are five simple ideas to reduce your watering chores

- #1 Grant a second life to your worn-out hose by converting it to a soaker hose. Plug the end with a round stick and perforate the hose at random intervals with a sharp nail. You'll recycle the hose and conserve water at the same time.
- #2 Prevent water from running too quickly through hanging baskets by using ice cubes. The ice will melt slowly, giving plants a chance to absorb the water they require. If you'll be gone for a few days, punch small holes in the bottoms of disposable cups and fill them with ice cubes. Place a cup in each basket. Water will trickle into the pots slowly, and you won't need to ask a neighbor to water for you. (Do a trial run first to see how much ice you need.)
- #3 Tired of washing soil out of your strawberry pot or whiskey barrel when you water? Cut a PVC pipe so it will stand just above the soil when inserted in the pot. Drill staggered holes around the pipe from top to bottom, insert the pipe in the pot. To water, just fill the pipe. The whole pot will be watered evenly, without the mess.
- #4 Take a large tin can with both ends removed and sink it in next to your tomato plants, angling it toward the roots. Leave the top of the can at soil level. When you water and fertilize, pour directly into the can to send moisture and nutrients right to the roots.
- #5 Use a straight-sided can to monitor rainfall and irrigation. Adjust watering based on the water collected. Aim for about an inch of water a week.

*(Excerpt from Backyard Living Magazine, 2008)*

## Happy Birthdays

*Sorry, we missed your birthdays in February!*

George Rushing (February 11)

Carol Wootton (February 11)

Doug Brown (February 21)

Kristee West (March 7)

Sarah Wood (March 12)

## Dixie's Honey Do List for March



*We are all eager to get outside and start planting but, remember our average last freeze date usually occurs between April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>.*

### General Reminders

- 1) Be prepared to protect young plants from the desiccating winds and cold nights of March. Row covers, old blankets, and walls of water come to mind.
- 2) Be sure to check irrigation systems. Add more dry emitters if needed to water under drip line of plants.
- 3) Irrigate established shrubs and trees, preferably to a depth of two feet. Use soil probe to determine depth.
- 4) Don't forget to start new plants for the April 18<sup>th</sup> Master Gardeners' plant sale.

### Trees, Shrubs, and Vines



- Finish planting bareroot material before mid-month.
- Cut back overgrown or freeze-damaged shrubs and vines.
- Remove dead ocotillo canes. Bend cane gently; if it snaps off, it's dead. Then make a clean cut with loppers.
- Plant Carolina Jessamine, Virginia creeper, trumpet vines, silver lace vine, and Lady Banks roses.

### Fruits and Nuts

- Fertilize established fruit and nut trees.
- Plant strawberries and grape vines.



## Dixie's Honey Do List for March - Continued



### Flowers, Herbs, and Ornamental Grasses

- Plant cannas, crinum, dahlia transplants, hollyhock seeds, verbena, gaillardia, gazania, marigold seeds, Maximilian sunflower, aster, coreopsis, statice, and petunia.

- Divide and replant perennials such as chrysanthemum, daylily, and Shasta daisy.
- Cut back frost-damaged perennials herbs, e.g. mint and sage, then fertilize and water.
- Cut back pampas grass and other warm season ornamental grasses.
- Clean up cool season ornamental grasses by "combing" with your fingers or a rake. If plant is large and ratty looking, cut it back also.

### Vegetables



- Finish planting cole crops, radishes, parsley, lettuces, kohlrabi, & leafy greens.
- Plant garlic, beets, Brussels sprouts, and Chinese cabbage.
- In late March, plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, summer squash, sweet corn, and 'New Zealand' summer spinach.

### Lawns

- If you didn't fertilize cool season grass in February, do so now. Scalp warm season grasses, lower mower height and mow to remove dead leaf tissue. Rake or bag clippings. Clean air filter often during this process and wear a dust mask.
- Take your lawn mower to the shop for a tune up.



### Pests



- Keep an eye out for aphids on new succulent growth of roses, lilacs, and others. Hose them off with a strong jet of water (in early am).
  - To reduce problems with powdery mildew, water susceptible plants in the early morning. Also, clean leaf litter from under plants. This will reduce pathogens.
- Watch out for flea beetles that attack Mexican evening primrose foliage & tender spring vegetables. ■

## **New Master Gardener Profile: Marisa 'Risi' Thompson**

Taking the Master Gardener class has changed Marisa Thompson's life in more ways than she might have imagined when she enrolled in a class that was offered in Albuquerque beginning in January 2008. She was working (and getting burned out) in a commercial gardening business when a customer suggested that she might be interested in the Master Gardener program.

"I was getting tired of plant retail and was eager to learn more. It was just the boost I needed," Marisa stated. In fact she was so impressed with the guest lecturers who spoke to the class that she decided to return to school. Now she is a graduate student in Horticulture at New Mexico State University and loving all the changes that have occurred in her life in a very short time.

Marisa, who uses the nickname 'Risi', moved from Charleston, South Carolina, to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico. The only 'gardening' she did growing up was mowing the lawn for her allowance and her tan.

However, when Risi was a junior at UNM she got a job as the caretaker of the biology department's public greenhouse. That year she also started watering the beds around her apartment building for a discount on her rent.

During Risi's final year of college (2007), she got a job at a plant nursery in Albuquerque and loved it. In Spring 2007, she also started a gardening company of her own (in her free time) and enjoyed consultations, flowerbeds and weeding for two growing seasons. Her business was called, "The Happy Gardener."

Risi moved to Las Cruces from Albuquerque in January to begin graduate school. So far her gardening experience is limited to watering the live but neglect plants in the front yard of her rental home just a 12-minute walk from campus.

"I have more space than I've ever had before but it's a rental, so I think I'll mostly do easy seeds (morning glory & sunflower) along the perimeter and put pots closer to my porch" she stated.

"I really love my houseplants: orchids, philodendrons, various cuttings and succulent bowls. I have over fifty inside right now. This is my first year with a real garden of my own so I'm looking forward to planting bean vines, tomatoes, herbs, perennial flowers, and some lovely grasses," she continued.

Risi is a graduate research assistant for the NMSU Pecan Extension Specialist, Dr. Richard Heerema. With him and her co-advisor, weed guru Dr. Jill Schroeder, Risi is working on her thesis: A study of water competition and nitrogen competition between pecan trees and their associated weeds.

In her spare time Risi loves to dance, especially honky-tonk, swing and contra. She is looking forward to finding live music in Las Cruces and getting her dancing shoes on.

"I'm also a beginning face-painter. I specialize in painting flowers and bugs. I'd love to paint faces at MG events or parties, so call me up! My price is very competitive: \$0 + some cake n' ice cream," Risi added. ■



**GARDEN EXPO at ENCHANTED GARDENS**  
 Address: 270 Avenida de Mesilla, Las Cruces

**DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>**

TIME	TABLE 1	TABLE 2
10:00am to 11:00am	<b>ROSES</b>	<b>ATTRACTING BIRDS &amp; BUTTERFLIES</b>
	<u>Presenters</u> Ann Shine-Ring Colette Bullock	<u>Presenter</u> Betty Tomlin
11:00am to Noon	<b>XERISCAPE/GRASSES</b>	<b>IRIS &amp; DAYLILIES</b>
	<u>Presenters</u> Ann Palormo Val Fernandez	<u>Presenter</u> Kristee West
Noon to 1:00pm	<b>PRUNING</b>	<b>WEED CONTROL</b>
	<u>Presenters</u> Linda Fredrickson Frank Collins	<u>Presenters</u> Yvonne Kinn Lynn Moseley
1:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>WINTER GARDENING</b>	<b>HERBS</b>
	<u>Presenter</u> Dee Davis	<u>Presenter</u> Lauren Bishop

**DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>**

TIME	TABLE 1	TABLE 2
10:00am to 11:00am	<b>ROSES</b>	<b>ATTRACTING BIRDS &amp; BUTTERFLIES</b>
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1:00pm to 2:00pm	<b>WINTER GARDENING</b>	<b>HERBS</b>
	<u>Presenters</u> Dee Davis Nancy DeLouise	<u>Presenter</u> Lauren Bishop

# Master Gardener Matters

As usual, our February meeting was very busy.

## **Hotline Issues**

While the hotline training in January went very well, there were still a few topics to be addressed. Linda Fredrickson explained how the hotline sign up calendar is set up and suggested that everyone try to work at least one day per month. Linda also suggested that we bring our calendars or planners to each monthly meeting. A new substitution list (for MG's signed up for hotline, but unable to attend) was passed around so that those available to be called on Tuesdays and Fridays could sign up. If you would like to volunteer to be added to the hotline substitution list, please contact Barbara Arispe at 525-6649 or by e-mail at [barispe@nmsu.edu](mailto:barispe@nmsu.edu)

Linda also mentioned that a Virtual Landscape Center is being developed at NMSU. It was suggested that the organizers be invited to give an educational program at one of our monthly meetings. Linda also told us about Craig Severy's organization of our database of hotline questions and the progress he has made so far. It's a huge project and we really appreciate the time that he has put into it.

**Reminder: Volunteering for the Farmers' Market Booth counts towards hotline hours.**

## **Specimen Log Procedure**

Ann Shine-Ring has put together a comprehensive handout with instructions for handling specimens brought into the extension office. She's also organized a new green Specimen Log Folder that has divisions for all pertinent information regarding the handling and processing of plant and insect specimens. A copy of the new procedure is located in the front section of this green Specimen Log Folder if you didn't pick up a copy at the meeting. Jeff Anderson suggested a few, minor additions be made to the procedures. The final version is now located in the Specimen Log Folder.

## **MG Newsletter**

Ann Shine-Ring has also volunteered to produce our newsletter. She asks that any articles or information to be included in the newsletter be turned in to her at her email address: [asring@hughes.net](mailto:asring@hughes.net) by the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month. You can also phone her at (575) 640-7177. (For a few months, before Ann could start taking over production of the newsletter, Bonnie Eisenberg had been handling this assignment. We thank Bonnie very much for her invaluable assistance during those months.)

Ann Palormo, our newsletter profile writer regarding new Master Gardeners, will be in contact with interns soon.

## **School Programs**

Doug Brown reports that several schools have on-going garden programs and there will be several volunteer opportunities. Doug has been looking for a replacement and, fortunately, our recent Albuquerque transplant, Marisa 'Risi' Thompson, has agreed to take over for him. If you are also interested in volunteering to work with schools, please contact her at [happygardener505@gmail.com](mailto:happygardener505@gmail.com).

## **Master Gardener Matters - Continued**

### **Farmers' Market Booth**

Our farmer's market booths continue to be very popular. Barbara Sallach stated that we are fully scheduled for our March 14<sup>th</sup> booth and for our April 18<sup>th</sup> booth. Our big Master Gardeners' Plant Sale is also scheduled for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. As you begin gardening this spring, please keep our sale in mind and pot up any extra plants that you may have for our sale.

### **Garden Expo**

Dee Davis passed around a sign up sheet for those interested in volunteering at the next local Garden Expo which will held again at Enchanted Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29. If you are interested in helping at this popular event, please contact Dee at her new email address:

[potteryjunky@yahoo.com](mailto:potteryjunky@yahoo.com) (See full schedule for the Garden Expo on page 10 of this newsletter.)

### **Home & Garden Show**

For people who were not able to attend the February monthly meeting, you can still sign up to volunteer at the Home and Garden Show, which will be held at Dickerson's Barn March 6 – 8. If you can help, contact Jeff Anderson at [lantz@nmsu.edu](mailto:lantz@nmsu.edu) or (575) 525-6649.

### **Arbor Day Tree Event**

We also need volunteers to supervise tree planting at various schools during the Arbor Day Trees for Schools events, scheduled for March 16–20. Please contact Juliet Williams at [jwx2new@q.com](mailto:jwx2new@q.com). There will be no digging, just providing advice and making a publicity appearance.

### **Annual Tour of Gardens**

Several volunteers are also still needed for the annual Tour of Gardens to be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please contact Juliet or you can sign up at the March 18<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.

### **UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Garden Plant Sale**

Anyone interested in volunteering at the UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Garden Plant Sale, April 25-26, please contact Kay Mullins at 915-747-8994 or [kmullins@utep.edu](mailto:kmullins@utep.edu) ASAP.

Barb and Juliet



**Master Gardener Hotline Assignments  
for MARCH**

Tuesday, Mar. 3    Dixie LaRock  
                          Joan Woodward (I)

Friday, Mar. 6     Dixie LaRock  
                          Paul Hutchinson (I)  
                          Jesus Jimenez (I)

Tuesday, Mar. 10   Pam Crane  
                          Ann Palormo  
                          Terry McCatherin (I)  
                          Helen Moser (I)

Friday, Mar. 13    Ann Shine-Ring  
                          Ina Goldberg  
                          Mike Smith (I)

Tuesday, Mar. 17   Alberta Morgan  
                          Joan Lane  
                          Dale Petzold (I)

Friday, Mar. 20    Dee Davis  
                          Val Fernandez (I)  
                          Susan McNeill (I)

Tuesday, Mar. 24   Linda Fredrickson  
                          Katrin Sumpter  
                          Kelly Covert (I)

Friday, Mar. 27    Ann Palormo  
                          Nancy DeLouise (I)  
                          Mike Lee (I)

Tuesday, Mar. 31   Janie Elliot  
                          Marti Taylor  
                          Hope Moresian (I)

**Master Gardener Hotline Assignments  
for APRIL**

Friday, Apr.3      Dixie LaRock  
                          Velina Hames (I)  
                          Kristee West (I)

Tuesday, Apr. 7    Marti Taylor  
                          Joan Woodward (I)

Friday, Apr.10     Ann Shine-Ring  
                          Paul Hutchinson (I)  
                          Evicta Harvey (I)

Tuesday, Apr. 14   Alberta Morgan  
                          Janice Servais (I)

Friday, Apr. 17    Pat Anderson  
                          Linda Fredrickson  
                          Val Fernandez (I)

Tuesday, Apr. 21   Pamela Crane  
                          Linda Fredrickson  
                          Jesus Jimenez (I)

Friday, Apr. 24    Ina Goldberg  
                          Mary Thompson  
                          Marcella Newman (I)

Tuesday, Apr. 28   Bonnie Eisenberg  
                          Janie Elliot  
                          Terry McCatherin (I)

*\* Certified Master Gardeners' names shown in green*

<p>Next Monthly Meeting of the Doña Ana County Master Gardeners</p> <p>***</p> <p>Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup></p> <p>9-11am Cooperative Extension Office</p>
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