



Doña Ana County Master Gardener Monthly Magazine

- Doña Ana County
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Office
 530 North Church Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001
 Phone: (575) 525-6649 Fax: (575) 525-6652
MG Program Administrator: Jeff Anderson
Editor: Ann Shine-Ring, Certified Master Gardener

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Monthly Master Gardener Updates

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- As of this month, we will be moving to a shortened version of our Master Gardener Magazine for a few months. Sorry for any inconvenience. Ann Shine-Ring, Editor*
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Master Gardener Hotline Client Data

(July 31 to August 29, 2012)

# Total Contacts	98	Geographic Area	Subject of Inquiry				
# Telephone Calls	44	Deming	1	Bio-soil	1	Lawns	9
# Emails	0	Doña Ana	2	Diseases	10	Shrubs	15
# Issues Addressed	98	Gila	1	Fertilizer	7	Trees	16
		Las Cruces	35	Insects	15	Vegetables	11
		La Mesa	2	Irrigation/Water	10	Weeds	4
		Mesilla	1				
		Ruidoso	1				
		Silver City	1				

Thank you to Certified MGs Joan Lane & Valice Raffi for collecting this data.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joan Woodward	Sept. 3
Yvonne Kinn	Sept. 4
Leigh Matthewson	Sept. 6
Barb Sallach	Sept. 13
Bonnie G. Hosie	Sept. 26

MANY THANKS FOR THE GOODIES

We appreciate your thoughtfulness

Sept. Goodies	October Goodies
B.G. Hosie	Juliet Williams
Mona Nelson	Ina Goldberg
Joan Woodward	Nancy DeLouise

The deadline for submitting information for the October 2012 MG Monthly Magazine will be Friday, September 28th

Contact Info: Ann Shine-Ring, Editor
asring@powerc.net
 (575) 640-7177

BRANIGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY "LUNCH & LEARN" PRESENTATION

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012

Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Place: Branigan Memorial Library

Location: Roadrunner Meeting Room



Speaker: Howie Dash, President-Mesilla Valley Iris Society

Topic: Growing Irises in the Desert

Synopsis: Everything you need to know to grow award-winning irises in the Las Cruces area

Honey-Do List for September 2012



Much of our suggested garden task information comes 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. Also, some of our recommendations come from *Southwest Planting Tips by the Month* and the *Tucson Gardening Calendar* both of which are produced by the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Another resource used in our Honey-Do List is "The Desert Gardener's Calendar: Your Month-by-Month Guide" by George Brookbank (1999).

General: Now is the time of year when the days are still hot and it's tempting to just kick back in a lawn chair or hammock, but do take time to remain involved in your yard and garden. Plants are thirsty and many are at the critical stage of peak production or almost ready to harvest. (Backyard Living, August/September 2008).

ORNAMENTALS

- Sow seeds of California poppy, columbine, calendula, candytuft, and alyssum.
- Depending on the temperature, plant winter annuals such as dianthus, stock, snapdragons, pansies, bachelor buttons, nemesia, statice, wall flower, and forget-me-not.
- Continue planting mums this month.
- Continue dividing iris and other clumping perennials such as Shasta daisy, wood violets, Mexican feather grass, and other ornamental grasses.
- Buy big, fat, healthy spring flowering bulbs now as selection is best early in the season. Refrigerate them in paper sacks until time to plant. Add super-phosphate or bone meal to planting holes. Look for daffodils, crocus, freesia, tulips, narcissus, grape hyacinth, hyacinth, cape tulips, harlequin flower, butterfly iris, and bugle flower.
- Begin forcing bulbs of amaryllis and narcissus now for Christmas bloom.
- Kalanchoes can also be forced into bloom using 12 hours of darkness per day for 4 to 6 weeks.
- Begin inspection, repotting, and pest control of patio plants before bringing them in for the winter.
- Keep plants watered deeply but frequency may be reduced as temperatures fall.



FRUIT, NUT, CITRUS & SHADE TREES

- In the Southwest, fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs as roots grow well in our warm fall soil but canopy stress is lessened by cooler temperatures and reduced wind speeds.
 - When planting, dig hole only as deep as the soil depth is the container but make hole 2 to 3 times wider than the container. Do not add soil amendments other than phosphorus to the backfill.
 - Start root pruning established trees you plan to move in midwinter. Severed roots will begin to regrow making a tighter root ball.
 - Reduce frequency of irrigation to succulent trees such as willows in preparation for winter.
 - Continue deep watering pecans as nuts are still filling.
 - Black pecan aphids can cause premature leaf drop and reduce nut quality so control them with an appropriate insecticide.
- Harvest fruit promptly and maintain good sanitation practices.
 - Remove suckers from base of trees at the point of attachment.

VEGETABLES, FRUIT & HERBS

- Finish planting leaf lettuces, collards, and mustard greens.
- Plant spinach seed this month.
- Continue to divide mints, marjoram, oregano, and chives.
- Plant perennial herbs such as rosemary, lavender, sage, and thyme.
- Prune summer damages stems from rosemary, sage, thyme and others.
- Fertilize perennial herbs with a side dressing of compost or regular fertilizer.



LAWNS / TURF / ORNAMENTAL GRASSES



- Time to seed cool-season turf grasses now.
- There is still time to lay sod of warm-season species.
- Fertilize both cool-and warm-season grasses. This will likely be the final fertilization for warm-season types so use a 2-1-1 formulation or something higher in P & K.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to established turf to control cool-season weeds.
- Reduce irrigation frequency to once a week, depending on temperature.

Honey-Do List for September—Continued

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

- Most warm-season succulents grow fastest in late spring and slow down in the hottest summer weather, and then resume growing in the fall when temperatures are cooler. Therefore, this is an ideal time to plant most succulents, especially agaves, yuccas and cactus.
- Fertilize container-grown warm-season succulents now. This will be the final fertilization of the year for these plants.
- Spread out a layer of compost or mulch and scratch it lightly into the soil. This should be all the enrichment your succulents will need for the remainder of the year.

Some of the above recommendations came from the Tucson Botanical Garden's monthly "Calendar of Care" for cacti and succulents.



ROSES



- This is a good time to evaluate the roses you already have and determine how well they endured the summer. Plants that have lost over half their canes or had numerous yellowed or dying leaves, need to be located in a shadier or cooler place in your garden.
- This is also a good time to plan where new bushes will be planted in early spring. Check out rose catalogs for plant options for our area. Consider planting one or more of the newer shrub roses that require less maintenance.
- In shopping for new roses, look for plants that are rated for good heat tolerance or are highly recommended by local rose experts.
- You can now begin to plant container-grown roses. Since our days are still hot, be prepared to water them deeply and often in order to establish the plants.
- Roses will continue to be stressed due to continued high temperatures. Continue to water

regularly and deeply so that your plants will recover quickly when our temperatures cool down.

- If you discontinued fertilizing your roses over the summer, resume a regular fertilization schedule this month. When using a granular fertilizer on roses, water the plant thoroughly before applying the fertilizer, then scatter it evenly around the plant. Then scratch it into the soil around the bush, but be careful not to disturb the plant's roots. Water the plant deeply when finished.
- Go ahead and prune lightly when the temperature dips below 100°. Be sure to take out all dead canes and remove any diseased or deformed canes with severe tip damage. Take off any yellowed or diseased leaves and pick up all fallen leaves around the plant. Be sure to discard the leaves and do not put them into your compost pile. Take out any canes that arise from below the union bud, but leave those that begin just above it; do not overly prune any healthy or growing rose bush canes at this time. They will begin to grow later in September in order to put on a strong fall bloom.
- As you prune, look for signs of cane borers. A stem infested with this insect or its larvae will be hollow. Cut the cane until there is no further sign of borers, then coat the cut with white Elmer's glue or clear nail polish in order to prevent re-entry.

PESTS

- If you have agaves that have been infected with agave snout weevil, you will experience sudden drooping of leaves with only the tight bud erect on the plant. If this has occurred, the plant is dead and should be removed. Prevention is difficult and there is no cure for this weevil, so replant with a less-susceptible species of agave.
- If any diseases have ravaged your prickly pear or cholla, cut them back severely this month to an uninfected portion of the plant. Keep the plants well watered to encourage new growth.
- Whiteflies may still be active, but as temperatures fall their numbers will decline. Spray with water or soapy water solution to keep the populations under control. Light floating row covers can also prevent large infestations on plants.
- Continue to hose off plants frequently, once or twice weekly, to control aphids and spider mites.
- If the humidity rises, powdery mildew (a fungus disease) may show up. To prevent rampant infestation, apply a sulfur-based fungicide at first evidence of mildew and repeat applications as necessary. You can also make your own fungicide spray with 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 quart water and a few drops of liquid soap. Before treating your plants, test the spray on a few leaves to make sure they are not too sensitive (GardenGuides.com).

It is always important to correctly identify any insect you suspect may have caused damage to your plants. If you do not know what the insect is, collect one in a plastic bag or small jar and take it to the Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Office located at 530 N. Church in Las Cruces (located just north of the Main Post Office downtown.)

Miscellaneous

- Depending on the weather, continue a deep watering schedule for everything.
- Check drip-irrigation system timing--reduce watering if rains penetrate deeply.
- Keep weeds under control--pull summer-season weeds before seeds are set.



Master Gardener Intern Profile

DAEL GOODMAN –She Believes A Garden Is For Growing

Dael has a passion for gardening. It has been a part of her life since she was a child. Her mother was an avid gardener and they had four gardens--two large mixed vegetable gardens, a strawberry patch, and an asparagus garden as well as extensive wild blueberry fields and blackberry bushes on or near their property.

After previously living and gardening in the San Francisco Bay area as well as the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, Dael has called Las Cruces home for the past 16 months. She lives east of "A" Mountain in the Talavera area on four acres that includes both cultivated and wild sections, an arroyo and a stamp-sized area that produces some wonderful peppers, tomatoes and the occasional eggplant.

Dael's first introduction to the MG program came through Frank Connor who was working the booth at the Farmers Market. Frank was enthusiastic about the Program and was certain Dael would enjoy it.

"The prospect of participating in the MG program was both delightful and emotionally charged. Dael felt strongly that her mother, an inspiring and gifted green thumb, who died in 2009 after a prolonged battle with MS, was cheering me on."

In fact one of Dael's favorite gardening stories involves her mother and her penchant for thumbing her nose at authority. As the child of an avid gardener, Dael was enlisted to help pull weeds and being acutely attuned to pleasing her parents, she made weeding a high priority. When she saw an abundance of supremely healthy weeds growing near the carrots, corn, and pole beans, she was determined to pull every last one. Years later, she was informed that she had yanked her Mother's crop of marijuana--much to the neighbors' dismay as they had been promised the fruits of her rebellion.

Many of Dael's most treasured memories are of being in the garden with her parents. "It was in the garden that I learned to be the person I wish to be and still hope to someday become," she says. "Every time I return to the garden, I am reminded of what is real and true and beautiful, and I have my green thumb Mom and biologist Dad to thank."

"I enjoy growing anything and everything," Dael continues, 'as long as I feel it is in harmony with the surrounding environs. I hope to continue to be aware, curious, and open to what life and the MG program has to offer. I am especially interested in native plants, their uses and habits. I am also a huge fan of vermi/composting, a firm believer in drought-tolerant plants, and a wildlife enthusiast."

Beyond her own garden, Dael currently working with some folks at NMSU to implement "environmental changes" (such as community gardens, farmers markets, and getting fresh fruits and vegetables into schools, senior centers, and grocery stores) in areas of the state considered to be "food deserts."

A quote Dael found in one of her Dad's garden books sums up the importance of gardening to her, "We garden to be closer to our goodness."

Profile Provided by Ann Palermo, Certified MG

Master Gardener Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2012

(Notetaker: Solange Graham, MG Intern)

Introduction and Welcome & News

Ann Shine-Ring convened our meeting since Jeff Anderson and Juliet Williams were both out of town. Ann thanked Jill Klann and Debra Tallent for bringing our refreshments (Ann brought goodies, too). Ann announced that Darrol had been in the hospital and is now out and recovering. Ann asked MG's to email and/or send Darrol "Get Well" cards but please no phone calls. Ann welcomed Ann Palermo back after her recent knee replacement surgery.

Committee/Project Reports

A. **MG Hotline** The Hotline Coordinator position is still vacant. Let Jeff know if you want to take over this position. Ann asked MGs to please check for unfilled Hotline days. The Specimen book was still missing—it might be in Jeff's office. Valice stated that Katrin Sumpter is helping Jeff clear his desk.

Alberta mentioned that recently a lady wanted a Hotline MG to come out to her home. For safety reasons and insurance reasons, we **do not** provide home visits on the Hotline. Jeff sometimes will go out for specialty things or Richard Herrema for fruit trees, but this is rare. If related to First Detectors, Jeff may make a home visit.

B. **MG Hours Log** Pamela Crane was not present—she was attending the Olympics. Ann commented on our new online hours log. We gave a round of applause to Eric Graham for creating the database program and for its ease of use.

Ann commented on the MG Contact list. She stated that many MGs listed as "inactive" are still very involved in the MG Program, but do not accumulate the 50 hours annually. Everyone listed on our MG Contact List does receive our monthly MG Magazine.

C. **MG Magazine (Ann Shine-Ring)**

- Next Plant-of-the-Month topic: Crinum lilies.
- Veggie Column: A Guide to Freezing Vegetables.
- Other articles of gardener interest: tree planting, gardening advice on smartphones, and Autumn Sedums
- Weeds and Invasives: Teasel and Dodder
- Book: What's Wrong with My Vegetable
- Wildlife – Where and What Birds Eat.

Ann expressed her thanks to Jan Brydon who posts our MG Magazine to the NMSU web site every month.

D. **Finance Committee:** Mary was not present but had asked at our July meeting if someone would take over her position. Currently we have about \$20,000 in our account. If you are interested in being the Finance Committee Coordinator, please contact Jeff.

E. **Lunch & Learn Presentation Topic:** August 16th, Speaker: Michael Downs, Interpretive Park Ranger from the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument. Topic: "What You Can Learn From Trace Fossils".

F. **Community Garden Report** In the absence of Sherm and Darrol, Dael Goodman gave this report. She stated that the term "biosolids" needed to be rectified. Because the City deposited too large an amount of biosolids, only a few of the garden plots are doing well. Sherm and Jeff have redone plots adding gypsum and have been reworking them for the third time. Two plots have been planted. The corn and one squash plant of the Three Sisters garden are surviving. We will continue to work with the City to see what can be done.

No classes have been held yet but we hope to have some in the fall when Darrol has recovered. Sherm, Dael and Jeff have taken over responsibility for the garden while Darrol recuperates. The garden has been flooded a few times but drainage is poor.

There was much discussion about the City stating that biosolids are composting material and does not differentiate between fertilizer and compost. Joan calls this is an outstanding learning experience. We will ask Jeff to contact the City staff and see if we can rectify this issues. Too much biosolids in the garden will lead to an abundance of salt.

G. **New MG Classes** New MG Class to start August 23rd. Juliet (on vacation) but she will need mentors. Karim stated that over 35 people applied but class size had to be limited to 25 students. Jeff is reviewing the applications. Linda Morgan asked why class size was limited. Karim stated that controlling size for comfort in a small meeting room is very important.

A chairman for the Mentors is needed.

H. **January MG Graduation** Valice stated she is unable to serve as Graduation Chairperson due to upcoming hand surgery. The Graduation Planning Committee plans to continue. Linda Morgan agreed to take over Valice's position.

Old & New Business

A. **NMSU Leyendecker Centennial – August 25** Volunteers will work in shifts that will be scheduled. Lunch provided for a fee. Vendors will be out there. Governor and University President will be there. Parking available.

B. **Butterfly Flutterby @ Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park – August 18** Hope has emailed people who signed up for it. Same spot as last year. Be there at 8:30, opens at 9:00. The Committee willing to take Hotline day on the 17th. It's the 10th Anniversary of this Event.

C. **Hatch Chile Festival, September 1-2, 2012**—Myles stated that we will need more volunteers. Copies of handouts will be also needed. Contact Myles at mylesmunoz@hotmail.com

D. **Pecan Production Short Course – September 25** Karim was not sure if Jeff needs help or not. This Course is primarily for farmers.

Minutes Continued on Page 6

Master Gardener Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2012

(Continued)

Old & New Business

- E. **Southern NM State Fair** We will need a new Coordinator as Val is stepping down. The Fair is scheduled for October 3-8 this year.
- F. Additional MG volunteers are needed to sign up for MG Hotline. Ann requested that we be considerate when there are too many MGs in the Office while the Hotline people are working. It is difficult to talk to people calling in when too much noise occurs in the Office.
- G. **CoCoRaHS** There is a new climatologist working with this Program, Dr. Dave DuBois. Alberta stated that she has a few rain gauges still so people can replace their old ones. Alberta asked for updates on Volunteers' email addresses. A CoCoRaHS newsletter will be started for whole state. A CoCoRaHS meeting was scheduled for August 16th at NMSU.

Other Updates

- Hope would like to take photos of MG gardener gardens. Contact her at email: hope.movsesian@gmail.com and she will take photos.
- Linda Morgan announced that our Educational Program for the Sept. 12th meeting will be on Hydroponics with Tony Miller from Indoor Garden Supplies.
- Next month's refreshment providers will be: B.G. Hosie, Mona Nelson and Joan Woodward.

Educational Program:

"Gourd Creations" Presenter: Cathy Stark

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 – At the Roadrunner Room of Branigan Library
9:15am to 11:45am



2012 Art in the Garden Tour

The Tour will take place on Sunday, Sept. 16. Elaine Childs is organizing the Event and has invited the Master Gardeners to help by being available to answer questions in the gardens.

The Event will be open from 11:00am to 4:00 pm. Elaine would like 1 or 2 MGs to be available at each of the six gardens. Elaine has arranged for volunteers to tour all the gardens that morning between 9 and 10:30. There will be cold water and deli sandwiches available for volunteers. Tables and chairs will be available at each garden.

Homeowners for each garden would like MG' to visit the gardens prior to the Tour in order to become familiar with the plants (plants will be labeled).

If you are interested in doing this, please contact MG Mary Andrews for more information: email: marymandrews@hotmail.com or (575) 523.4161



WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS

A Weather Spotter Class has been scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 10:00am at the Extension Office.

All MGs and CoCoRaHS volunteers can attend. However, you do not have to be a CoCoRaHS volunteer to attend, but you are encouraged to become a Weather Service Official Weather Spotter. After attending the class you will be given a station number (different from the CoCoRaHS station number) and an 800-phone number to call in your reports directly to the Weather Service located in Santa Teresa.

Please let Alberta Morgan know if you will be attending, as space will be limited to the kitchen/meeting area at the Extension Office. You can sign up at the Office or email Alberta.

The class will last about 3 hours, and the course content will be geared toward CoCoRaHS volunteer interests in weather.

Alberta Morgan, SW NM Volunteer Coordinator, CoCoRaHS
Email: mitzisami@yahoo.com
(Please use Weather Spotter in the subject line)

