



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

December 2016

## Community Connection

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*Have a very safe holiday  
season and a happy, healthy new year!*

*--from everyone at Cooperative Extension*



### TIME TO BEGIN COLD SEASON GARDENING

Once the autumnal equinox has passed and days are noticeably shorter, gardeners in many parts of the country put their fruit and vegetable plots to bed. They must spend the cool or cold seasons wistfully leafing through seed catalogs.



This is not the case for the intrepid Mojave grower, however. In the great American Southwest it is possible to grow edibles almost year round, as long as the gardener can address some of the desert's unique challenges. Rarely does this region experience long periods of freezing temperatures, nor is there much sleet to damage tender leaves. This does not mean there are no concerns, of course.

During the spring we plant most of the fruiting crops, such as tomatoes and peppers. The intense summer conditions of heat and light generally do not cause serious problems for some of the vining vegetables such as squash and pumpkins, nor does the desert summer bother plants like melons, sweet potatoes and okra.

When daytime temperatures drop into the 50° to 60°F range with cooler nights, most of those warm season fruits begin to suffer. That is the time when they can be taken out of the garden and moved into the compost bin. Read [more!](#)



#### ON BACK

Handwashing is key to preventing colds

Save the date for winter/spring classes/workshops

**Who we are:** We are the outreach unit of the University of Nevada, Reno. We design and deliver community programs to residents of Nevada with other agencies and volunteers.

**What we do:** We learn about the needs of our community and develop programs to meet them. We teach classes, hold workshops, sponsor seminars related to those needs and provide online information.

**What we offer:** Education, training and instruction in: Health & Nutrition; Children, Youth & Families; and Water, Horticulture, Economics & Environment.



**Cooperative Extension  
Southern Area office locations  
and phone numbers:**

**Clark 702-222-3130**

8050 Paradise Road  
Las Vegas, 89123

**Northeast Clark 702-397-2604**

1897 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.  
P.O. Box 126,

Logandale, 89021

**Southern Clark 702-299-1333**

55 Civic Way  
Laughlin, 89029

**Southern Nye 775-7274-5532**

1651 E. Calvada Blvd  
Pahrump, 89048

**Northern Nye/Esmeralda  
775-482-6794**

P.O. Box 231  
#1 Frankie St., Old Courthouse  
Tonopah, 89049

**Lincoln 775-726-3109**

P.O. Box 728  
360 Lincoln St.  
Caliente, 89008

**Eureka 775-237-5326**

P.O. Box 613  
701 S. Main St.  
Eureka, 89316

**White Pine 775-293-6599**

950 Campton St.  
Ely, 89301

**Cooperative Extension's mission:**

*Discover:* by assessing community needs; understanding emerging issues; *Develop:* science-based programs to help resolve the needs of community residents; *Disseminate:* through evidence-based educational programs; classes and publications; *Preserve:* by publishing findings via curriculum and fact sheets and demonstrate knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of people.

## HANDWASHING IS KEY TO PREVENTING COLDS

*It's the start of cold and flu season so cold viruses are lurking within your reach...*

Cold viruses are transmitted via hand contact. When you shake hands with an infected person or touch a door knob after someone with a cold virus has touched it, and then touch your nose, eyes or mouth, you can become infected.

According to John Messmer of the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, hand washing has been shown to reduce significantly the chance of spreading cold viruses. He reports that studies in elementary schools have shown a 50-percent reduction in absenteeism with the introduction of a comprehensive hand-washing program.

There's a proper method for effective hand washing. Dampen hands with warm water, lather with soap and rub vigorously for 20 seconds – about the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice. Rinse in a downward motion and dry with a disposable paper towel. Remember that soap is key to proper handwashing since it keeps the germs and dirt suspended in water so they can be rinsed off. Read [more!](#)



## ROSE SOCIETY MEETINGS ~ SAVE THE DATE!



**January 26, 2017:** Pruning Demonstration by Steve Schneider  
The New Year begins with our annual pruning session. Bring your gloves, shears (pruning & lopping), tool wipes and leaf strippers. Consulting Rosarians will teach in small groups, their pruning techniques for all rose varieties.

**February 23, 2017:** Roses Diseases, Insects, Bugs & Bunnies  
Join Cooperative Extension and learn how to protect desert roses from powdery mildew, aphids, spider mites, thrips and other common banes that can spoil or even destroy your gardens.

**March 23, 2017:** Preparing for the 2017 Rose Show & PSW District Convention by ARS Certified Judges

It's time to bring your favorite "pet" roses to hear what the ARS Apprentice and Horticultural Judges will be looking for at these events: Las Vegas Rose Show (April 15) Pacific Southwest District Convention (April 21-23).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The **Gardening in Small Places** series educates southern Nevada residents how to improve their urban landscapes while conserving natural resources. Angela O'Callaghan, social horticulture specialist for Cooperative Extension, teaches the workshops.

The 2017 series begins with:

**Pruning on Jan. 14:** This hands-on class gives you a chance to get a feel for pruning by letting you try your skills on our landscape before doing your own. If you want to get some hands on experience, please bring your pruners, gloves and eye protection

**Vegetable gardening on Feb. 25:** The workshop is geared to help the beginning gardener, returning gardener, gardeners from outside the desert or current gardeners that just want a little refresher, learn how to be successful growing their own food in the Mojave Desert.

**Composting on March 11:** So why not make your own? If you eat fruits and vegetables and throw any parts of them away, you have the beginning makings of compost. Even if you live in an apartment, you can make compost. You can make compost in the smallest of areas...just maybe not conventionally.

Watch for details in upcoming newsletters or, [email](#) or call Elaine Fagin at 702-257-5573.