



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

August 2014 Community Newsletter

HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

702-257-5555 or LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu. MGs are available Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm.

Answers to your gardening questions! Call, email or visit Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd., LV 89123

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfSouthernNevada>

AUGUST HORTICULTURE EVENTS

The following activities are offered in conjunction with UNCE Horticulture. Some require reservations and/or fees; some are free and open to the public. Updates are posted on Facebook page.

- **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon** – Seasonal produce, mulch and compost available (**fees**) plus free guided tours and gardening advice at Cooperative Extension **Research Center and Demonstration Orchard**, 4600 Horse Dr., NLV 89131. Call Master Gardener Help Line for information or directions: 702-257-5555
- **August 2 & 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** – Visit the “**Ask a Master Gardener**” information booth INDOORS at Tivoli Village Farmers Market (440 S. Rampart Blvd, LV 89145) on the First and Third Saturday of the month. Gardening advice, horticulture publications, and seasonal displays...all for free!
- **August 2, 8 a.m. to noon** -- “**Gardening in Small Places: Landscape Design**” by Master Gardener Denise McConnell at Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123. **Pre-registration** is required; **\$25 fee**. Contact Elaine Fagin (702-257-5573; fagine@unce.unr.edu) or register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-in-small-places-landscape-design-tickets-12033190597>
- **August 2, 10:30 - noon** -- “**A Proactive Approach to Desert Gardening**” by Master Gardener Howard Galin at **Gibson Library**, Henderson. Learn the special steps needed to be a successful home garden in the Mojave! Topics include: the desert bioscape; soils; irrigation; plant, tree and shrub identity and care. For more information or to register **702-565-8402 X5** or www.mypubliclibrary.com
- **August 9, 10:30 – noon** -- “**A Proactive Approach to Desert Gardening**” by Master Gardener Howard Galin at **Green Valley Library**, Henderson. See August 2 listing for workshop details. For more information or to register: **702-207-4261** or www.mypubliclibrary.com
- **August 23, 10:30 – noon** -- “**A Proactive Approach to Desert Gardening**” by Master Gardener Howard Galin at **Paseo Verde Library**, Henderson. See August 2 listing for workshop details. For more information or to register: **702-492-6580** or www.mypubliclibrary.com

DESERT BIOSCAPE

The Desert Bioscape model is a practical approach to landscape establishment and maintenance.

The following information is excerpted from these publications by UNCE Prof. ML Robinson:

<https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/other/sp9808.pdf>

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2004/sp0412.pdf>

Our Goal: To become cities of the desert instead of cities in the desert

We live in a unique area of the world. Las Vegas is one of the driest places on Earth, receiving an average of only four inches of rainfall each year with an annual evaporation rate of over 80 inches of water. The Mojave Desert is a very dry place. The smallest desert area in the United States, it lies between the colder and higher Great Basin Desert and the hotter Sonoran Desert. This produces extremes in both hot and cold temperatures and makes it imperative that we choose and use properly adapted plants in the landscape. Then we can make this desert bloom--not always like a rose, but like a desert.

An environmentally sound world begins in your own yard.

For new residents, it is especially important to understand and accept that we have a very unique and wonderful climate in the Mojave Desert. Because of this, however, many of the plants that grow well here will not grow in other areas of the country. Nor will many of the plants that were common and easy to grow in other locations do well here. Those not adapted just die. There are nurseries and garden centers in our area that try to carry plants for our climate, but others just sell plants that are shipped to them. Before buying any plant, know if the plant is adapted to the area and if it has the potential to thrive in your yard. This includes the soil type, average temperatures, water availability, hours of full sun, etc.

Each year plants such as azaleas are sold by the thousands here in the desert. This is a plant that needs acidic soil with high organic content of the soil, low salts in water and soil, high humidity, and a temperate climate. None of these exist in Southern Nevada, and so each year thousands of azaleas just die. If you choose plant materials that need a lot of accommodation, you will make more work for yourself, the plants will have less of a chance of surviving, and you will have to use more chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Design Principles of Desert Bioscape

1. Know your climate and your microclimate.
2. All landscapes begin with the soil.
3. Select plants that are adapted for your area.
4. Plant properly and give supplemental maintenance until the plant is established.
5. Chose plants that attract wildlife.
6. Select plants that will save water and energy.

Maintenance Principles of Desert Bioscape

1. Make your own soil and maintain it.
2. Implement principles of safe pest management.
3. Learn how to implement these principles when someone else maintains your yard.
4. Use water wisely in the landscape



This newsletter is prepared by Ann Edmunds, Program Coordinator, edmundsa@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5587. Earlier newsletters are available online at: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/areas/southern/newsletters/> To UNSUBSCRIBE to this newsletter, please contact Mary Bertsch, Program Assistant, bertschm@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5501.