



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada *February 2014* Community Newsletter

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.

HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

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

Call, email or visit the MGs at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123

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

FEBRUARY HORTICULTURE EVENTS

The following classes and events are offered in conjunction with UNCE Horticulture. Most are free and open to the public; some require registration and/or fees. Contact numbers are included for more information.

NOTE: UNCE OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 17.

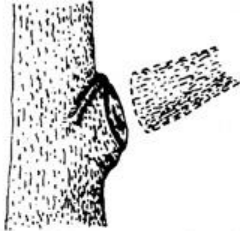
- **Fridays, 10am-noon** – *Garden Tips and Tour* of UNCE Demonstration Gardens by MG Garden Guides; meet at Master Gardener Office at UNCE, 8050 Paradise Road, LV, 89123; 257-5555
- **Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 8am-noon** – Seasonal produce, classes, advice at UNCE Research Center & Orchard, 4600 Horse Dr., NLV 89131; 257-5555
- **Jan. 31, 7am-3:30pm** -- Annual Professional Tree Care Seminar (in English) at UNCE; \$20 pre-register; \$25 at the door; 257-5536
- **Feb. 2 at 2pm** -- “Fruit Trees: Selection & Care” by MG Don Fabbi at W. Charleston Library; 507-3964
- **Feb. 3 at 10am** – Registration and Interviews for MG Training Classes at UNCE; fee; 257-5501.
- **Feb. 3 at 6pm** -- “Soil Amendments & Fertilizers” by MG Don Fabbi at Iris Society at Garden Club Ctr.; 876-1525
- **Feb. 7, 7am-3:30pm** -- Annual Professional Tree Care Seminar (in Spanish) at UNCE; \$20 pre-register; \$25 at the door; 257-5536
- **Feb. 11 at noon** -- “Tomatoes” by MG Lori Evans at Sunset Garden Club/Paseo Verde Library; <http://sunsetgardenclubofnv.org>
- **Feb. 15 at 9am** -- “Growing Tomatoes” by MG Helen Brown at UNCE Research Ctr./Orchard; \$5 fee; 257-5555
- **Feb. 15 at 9am** – Grape Pruning Class by Master Gardeners at UNCE Research Ctr./Orchard; \$5 fee; 257-5555
- **Feb. 15, 8am-noon** – “Gardening in Small Places: Vegetables” by Dr. Angela O’Callaghan at UNCE; pre-registration required; \$20 fee; 257-5573
- **Feb. 20 at 10am** -- “Time for Tomatoes” by MG Helen Brown at UMC Family Resource Ctr.; register at 383-2229
- **Feb. 22, 9am-noon** – “Gardening in Small Places: Pruning” by Dr. Angela O’Callaghan at UNCE; pre-registration required; \$20 fee; 257-5573
- **Feb. 27 at 7pm** -- “Soil, Soil Additives, Fertilizers & Irrigation” by South Valley Rose Society at UNCE; 257-5555

PRUNING TIPS

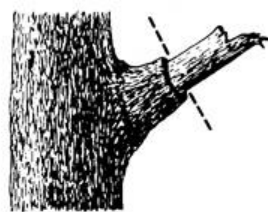
Landscape Trees -- Now, when deciduous trees have dropped their leaves and are dormant, is the time to check your landscapes to see what could benefit from PROPER pruning. Maintenance pruning is done to remove dead or broken branches and to remove rubbing limbs. Pruning is NOT topping (indiscriminately reducing the height of a tree), lion tailing (stripping off side limbs) or trimming the canopy to resemble a "lollipop on a stick." These are poor pruning practices and should be avoided in order to maintain a healthy tree.

Pruning Cuts -- The following information on the "3-cut method" is from the International Society of Arboriculture website, "Trees are Good:" http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/pruning_mature.aspx

Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar. The branch collar contains trunk or parent branch tissue and should not be damaged or removed. If the trunk collar has grown out on a dead limb to be removed, make the cut just beyond the collar. Do not cut the collar.

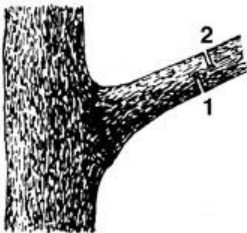


Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar.



On a dead branch that has a collar of live wood, the final cut should be made just beyond the outer edge of the collar

If a large limb is to be removed, its weight should first be reduced. This is done by making an undercut about 12 to 18 inches from the limb's point of attachment. Make a second cut from the top, directly above or a few inches farther out on the limb. Doing so removes the limb, leaving the 12- to 18-inch stub. Remove the stub by cutting back to the branch collar. This technique reduces the possibility of tearing the bark.



Use the three-cut method to remove a large limb.

Fruit Trees -- Pruning fruit trees is slightly different from regular maintenance pruning. You still want to remove dead or diseased branches, branches that rub, water sprouts and suckers. In addition, you want to control the tree height for picking purposes and improve the size and quality of the fruit. IMPORTANTLY, you want to have as much of the fruiting-aged wood on the tree as possible. For example, apples, pears, cherries, and plums fruit mostly on 2- to 3-year-old wood, while peaches, nectarines, and figs fruit mostly on one-year-old wood.

The Master Gardeners have been hard at work the past month pruning fruit trees at the Research Center/Orchard. Their work will continue into February. If you'd like more information on pruning, stop by on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday from 8 a.m. – noon. Bring your pruners if you want to practice! We'll show you how to sharpen, sterilize and care for your equipment, too. The Center for Sustainable Urban Horticulture is located at 4600 Horse Drive, North Las Vegas, 89131.

You may also contact the MG Home Gardening Help Line at 257-5555 if you have pruning questions. Master Gardeners are available M-F from 8a-5p.