



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada *February 2017* Community Newsletter

JUST THE FACTS -- 2016

The Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada completed another busy year assisting Clark County residents. In 2016 they helped 31, 097 people. The Master Gardeners volunteered 35,268 hours on community projects. Based on the \$23.56 national average, the value of Master Gardener volunteer service to Clark County is \$830,916.90.

Master Gardener volunteers:

- answered 1648 phone calls, 246 emails, and helped 268 visitors at the Help Desk
- offered garden tours and plant selection advice to 5100
- taught classes to 1709
- talked to 8486 at “Ask a Master Gardener” information booths.

WORKSHOPS “IN THE GARDENS”

Join the Master Gardeners “In the Gardens” as they prepare the gardens for Spring. Free demonstration, Q&A, open to the public. Dress to be outdoors.

- **Rose Garden** – Mondays, **FEBRUARY 13 and 27** 9 a.m.
- **Herb Garden** – Wednesday, **FEBRUARY 22** at 9 a.m.
- **Guided Tours** – Fridays, **FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24** at **10 a.m.** (park in front lot and meet at MG Help Desk)

The Cooperative Extension botanical gardens are located at 8050 Paradise Rd. (Windmill exit off 215.) Park in the back lot and look for the Master Gardeners “in the gardens!”

CREATE A BUTTERFLY HABITAT

On Saturday, **FEBRUARY 4 at 10 a.m.** University of Nevada Master Gardener Anne Marie Lardeau will explain the process of creating a Monarch Butterfly habitat in your garden. The workshop takes place outdoors at the Research Center and Demonstration Orchard located at 4600 Horse Drive, North Las Vegas, 89131. Seeds of the native Rush Milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*) and instructions on how to grow them will be available. The workshop is free to the public.

Las Vegas is a part of the fall Monarch Butterfly migration. Learn about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly and how you can attract Monarchs to your garden. Learn about southern Nevada native Milkweed plants -- the exclusive food for the Monarch caterpillars, the non-Nevada Milkweeds that are attractive and can survive in our climate, and the nectar plants favored by Monarchs that bloom during their migration.



L: Monarch butterfly on native rush milkweed (*Asclepias subulata*) in Cooperative Extension Botanical Gardens.

R: Master Gardener Anne Marie Lardeau will distribute rush milkweed seeds at her presentation on February 4. Seeds are also available at MG Help Desk.



FREE MILKWEED SEEDS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN RESEARCH PROJECT

Join our milkweed project! *Asclepias subulata*, rush milkweed seeds, are available to participants who want to create a monarch butterfly habitat. These seeds were collected by Master Gardener volunteers in the Cooperative Extension botanical gardens.

Pick up seeds at the Master Gardener Help Desk weekdays, 9-3 through FEBRUARY 15. (Sorry, seeds cannot be mailed.) Participants will receive a free seed packet plus germination and planting instructions. Follow-up surveys will help us assess the viability of seeds and the zip codes of monarch habitats across the valley. Seeds are available in January and February 2017 for starting indoors and then transplanting outside in early March when the conditions are best.

2016 Field Trial Results: Spring planting seems to be preferable. The *A. subulata* seeds that were transplanted into the Cooperative Extension Gardens in Fall 2015 were not vigorous. They struggled to survive the winter, and their growth was LESS than seeds that were transplanted in early March 2016. Seeds planted after March 2016 struggled to survive the hot weather.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL RUSH MILKWEED SEED GERMINATION

The best time to germinate Mojave-native Rush Milkweed seeds (*Asclepias subulata*) is late January to first week of February. Soak the seeds and plant indoors. Keep pots moist and in a sunny area.

The seedlings will be large enough to transplant outdoors in early March. Plant the entire peat pot in the landscape. Water deeply (8-10") at least 3x per week to encourage the roots to establish. *If your irrigation system is set to a "winter/ 1 day per week" watering schedule, this will mean hand watering your seedlings!*

NOTES ON WATERING:

- A one gallon/hour emitter must run for 60 minutes in order to put out 1 gallon of water.
- If your system runs for 10 minutes, your plants are only getting 2 ½ cups of water. That is generally not enough water to wet the entire root zone to a depth of 8 inches.

GARDENING IN SMALL PLACES: VEGETABLE GARDENING

Come to University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123), on Saturday, **FEBRUARY 25** for a workshop on growing your own vegetables in the Mojave from 8 a.m. to noon. Dr. Angela O'Callaghan, social horticulturist, will teach you what you need to know to get started and have a successful garden this year. Topics include types of containers to use, differences in potting mixes, using artificial light, fertilizers, success with seeds.

There is a \$10 fee to cover materials. Class space is limited and pre-registration is required for this workshop. For more information contact Elaine Fagin at fagine@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5573. To register online, visit [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-gardening-in-small-places-vegetable-gardening-tickets-30267281253\[eventbrite.com\]](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-gardening-in-small-places-vegetable-gardening-tickets-30267281253[eventbrite.com]).

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BOTANICAL GARDENS Three acre botanical garden at 8050 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas 89123 featuring 1300 species of desert-adapted plants that are identified by botanical and common names. Specialty plantings include: Roses, Herbs, Monarch Butterfly Habitat, Vegetables, Fruit Orchard, Native Wash, Cacti. **Gardens are open to the public weekdays, 8-4:30. Master Gardeners are available to answer questions at the Help Desk from 9-3 at 702-257-5555.**

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION RESEARCH CENTER AND MG ORCHARD Fruit and vegetable gardens at 4600 Horse Drive, North Las Vegas, 89131. **Open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. – noon.** Freshly picked seasonal produce (fees) plus free mulch. Master Gardeners offer tours and gardening advice

MASTER GARDENER HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

702-257-5555 or LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu

Updates posted at: <https://www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfSouthernNevada>

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension – 8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89123

Contact edmundsa@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5587 to UNSUBSCRIBE from this newsletter

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