



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension



# Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

## July 2014 Community Newsletter

### HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

702-257-5555 or [LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu](mailto: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>

### JULY 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
- **July 5 & 19, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** – Visit the “**Ask a Master Gardener**” information booth 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!
- **July 19, 8 a.m. to noon** -- “**Gardening in Small Places: The Dirt on Soils**” by Dr. Angela O’Callaghan at Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123. **Pre-registration** is required; **\$25 fee**. Contact Elaine Fagin at 702-257-5573 or [fagine@unce.unr.edu](mailto:fagine@unce.unr.edu)



### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

The Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada are pleased to welcome 40 graduates from the Spring 2014 Training Class! The students are now Interns and must complete Help Desk training and volunteer 50 hours on community projects in order to become Certified Master Gardeners.

The Las Vegas MG training class is offered in the Spring semester each year. Registration sessions will be held in January and February 2015. Twenty classes will run MWF from 8:30 – 12:30 in March and April. Contact Mary at 702-257-5501 to be added to our email notification list. Join us!

## DEALING WITH DROUGHT (IN THE HOME LANDSCAPE)

The following is excerpted from the July 17, 2013 article in *Moapa Valley Progress* by Angela O'Callaghan. Dr. O'Callaghan is the Social Horticulture Specialist for Clark County Cooperative Extension. Contact her at [ocallaghana@unce.unr.edu](mailto:ocallaghana@unce.unr.edu) or 702-257-5581.

If we get thirsty, we can go into the house and get something to drink, but plants, being rooted in the ground, do not have that option. Since local landscapes usually have irrigation installed, it can be easy to forget that as trees and shrubs grow, their water needs grow as well.

Could you go out to the yard and see trees growing in place for five or more years still receiving only the water provided by a couple of drip emitters close to the trunk? It is more than likely that tree needs considerably more water than it is receiving, which can obviously be a source of some major problems.

The first indication of water shortfall is that the leaves, whether they are on a tree, shrub or a tomato, will become brown and crunchy. Sad to say, that is not the only symptom; water shortage can look like any number of problems. It may be that a stem is noticeably barren. Sometimes leaves are not uniformly brown and dry, but rather have patches of dead tissue. The plant might be growing abnormally slowly.

A barren stem might be mistaken for an insect infestation. Examine that branch closely. Patches of dead leaf tissue might be the result of an infection by bacteria or fungi. A slow growing plant could need fertilization. Or, it could need water!

How does one check for watering problems? Feel the soil. Is it dry?

Take a look at the irrigation system. Are there enough emitters? One or two gallons per day will not support a mature tree in a well-drained soil. Even a young one may need a little more than that. Water need depends on the trunk diameter (caliper) as well as the variety. A mature cottonwood, for instance, can transpire over 100 gallons daily. Usually the tree's root system will extend through a wide area, but roots cannot grow in dry soil.

For landscapes in the summer desert, water shortage is an especially big issue. Take a look at the plants, and if necessary either add emitters, or start watering by hand.

## WANT PLANTS THAT CAN "BEAT THE HEAT?"

The Cooperative Extension Demonstration and Test gardens (8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123) contain over 500 species of desert appropriate landscape plants, including trees, shrubs, herbs, perennials, palms, cacti and agaves. Come and see hardy plants to incorporate into your low-water use landscape. Xeriscaping can be surprisingly verdant, not parched and boring!

Plants in our Demo Gardens are identified by botanical and common names. The grounds are open for self-guided walks on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Master Gardeners are available at the Help Desk to answer any questions. Stop by, call (702)257-5555 or email [LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu](mailto:LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu).



Desert Willow (*Chilopsis*)



Bottlebrush (*Callistemon*)



Texas Olive (*Cordia*)



Lantana (*Lantana*)

This newsletter is prepared by Ann Edmunds, Program Coordinator, [edmundsa@unce.unr.edu](mailto: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](mailto:bertschm@unce.unr.edu) or 702-257-5501.