



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada *June 2015* Community Newsletter

MASTER GARDENER HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

702-257-5555 or LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu. Master Gardemers are available Monday – Friday, 9am -3pm to answer your gardening questions. Call, email or visit us!

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

The Cooperative Extension **Demonstration and Test Gardens** (8050 Paradise Rd, LV 89123) feature over 1,000 species of desert-appropriate plants, from Mojave natives to fruit trees, vegetables, roses and herbs. The Gardens are open to the public Monday-Friday from 8-5. Plants are labeled with botanical and common names.

The Cooperative Extension **Research Center and Demonstration Orchard** (4600 Horse Dr., NLV 89131) offers seasonal produce and compost (fees) plus free mulch, guided tours and gardening advice. It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

RARE MILKWEED SEEDS COLLECTED AT THE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Native desert Asclepias subulata encourage Monarch butterfly migration

The Monarch Watch Organization was “over the moon” with excitement when Master Gardener Anne Marie Lardeau sent them one cup of rare, desert native Milkweed seeds collected at the Cooperative Extension Demonstration Gardens. Monarch butterflies deposit their eggs on the *Asclepias subulata* as they migrate from west to east and vice-versa. The caterpillars feed on the plants.

The 10 milkweed plants created about two ounces of seeds, equivalent to one cup. These were the first donation and the first desert milkweed seeds the Monarch Watch Organization received from Nevada.

In addition to milkweed seeds Master Gardeners collect seeds from other native desert plants. Seeds have been donated and grown at Nellis AFB Environmental Grove; the City of Henderson Parks Department; the Las Vegas and Pittman Washes; and two local elementary schools for their school garden project.

Lardeau took the Master Gardener training class in 2012. She has conducted extensive research to find out what native seeds in the Demo Gardens have value and what organizations might be interested in seed donations.

Master Gardener Lardeau was recently featured on “Fighting to Flutter: Preventing Monarch Butterflies from Going Extinct” on KSNV-TV 3: <http://www.news3lv.com/content/news/story/Fighting-to-flutter-Preventing-Monarch/K1kP0QVnSUKI2eYQOR8I2A.csp>



IS ORGANIC REALLY BETTER?

If someone wants to start an argument, a sure way is to ask a group of horticulturists whether the fruits of organic gardens and farms are really better for people and the environment. Organic produce is often more expensive, but is there enough of a quality difference to make the cost worthwhile?

What exactly is “organic” in the 21st century? Although there are organic equivalents of standard fertilizers or pesticides available, growing organically is far more than replacing a conventional fertilizer or pesticide with a more acceptable one. There are hundreds of pages of federal regulations that cover everything from what can go into compost, to what kind of seeds may be used, and much more.

For the complete article by Dr. Angela O'Callaghan, Social Horticulture Specialist, go to:

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/life/organic-really-better>

GARDENING IN SMALL PLACES: ORGANIC GARDENING

Dr. Angela O'Callaghan will teach a workshop on Organic Gardening on Saturday, June 13 from 8 a.m. to noon. There is a lot of talk about organic gardening, yet people have different ideas about what this means. Some think it means using no pesticides at all, while others think it means using non-GMO seeds

There is a \$25 fee and preregistration is required. To register for this class, held at the Lifelong Learning Center (8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nev.), email Elaine Fagin at fagine@unce.unr.edu or call 702-257-5573.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-in-small-places-organic-gardening-tickets-13736780079>

The next Gardening in Small Places workshop dates are July 11, The dirt on soil; August 22, Landscape design; September 19, Native plants; October 3, Tree selection; and November 21, Growing fruit at home.

REGISTER IN JUNE FOR FALL MG CLASS

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

We will hold registration on Monday, June 15 and Wednesday, June 24 from 9-11 at Cooperative Extension (8050 Paradise Rd, 89123). Contact Martha Barajas at 702-257-5522 or barajasm@UNCE.unr.edu to select the Registration date of your choice. Full details will be emailed to all who pre-register.

Master Gardener Training will be offered on a MWF schedule from 8:30 – 12:30 from September 9 through October 28, 2015.

You do not need a gardening background in order to become a Master Gardener! The most important qualifications are commitments to complete the Training and to share your knowledge through Volunteer service.



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