



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

March 2013 *Community Newsletter*

Dear Gardener -- You are receiving this email newsletter because you gave your email address to the Master Gardener program. If you no longer wish to receive updates, please contact Mary Bertsch, Program Assistant, at bertschm@unce.unr.edu or 257-5501.

HOME GARDENING HELP LINE:

702-257-5555; Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

GARDENING INFORMATION AND PEST ALERTS:

<http://www.facebook.com/MasterGardenersOfSouthernNevada>

UPCOMING CLASSES AND EVENTS:

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/blogs/southernarea/>

MARCH EVENTS

Events are free UNLESS NOTED and open to the public. Contact MG Help Line at 257-5555 for more information or visit the UNCE blog site at <http://www.unce.unr.edu/blogs/southernarea/> for complete details.

- Weekly on Thursday, 10 a.m. – “Ask a Master Gardener” Info. Table – Springs Preserve Farmers Market
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8 a.m. – “Ask a Master Gardener” Info. Table – Tivoli Village Farmers Market
- March 2, 9 a.m. – \$5 DONATION -- Grape Pruning Class --MG Orchard
- March 2, 9 a.m. – MG Tour of Acacia Demo. Garden – Acacia Park
- March 3, 2 p.m. – Fruit Trees by MG Don Fabbi – W. Charleston Library
- March 9, 9 a.m. – MG Talk on Landscape Design – Acacia Park
- March 9, 10 a.m. – Summer Gardening by MG Helen Brown – Plant World
- March 12, 9:30 a.m. – Desert Plants by MG Howard Galin – Sun City Anthem Garden Club
- March 16, 8 a.m. – FEE CHARGED – Composting in Small Places – UNCE
- March 16, 9 a.m. – MG Talk on Composting – Acacia Park
- March 16, 9.m. -- \$5 DONATION – Tomato Class by MG Helen Brown – MG Orchard
- March 16, 10 a.m. – MG Garden Tour – Preparing for Spring – UNCE Demo. Gardens
- March 23, 9 a.m. – MG Talk on Companion Planting – Acacia Park
- March 28, 7 p.m. -- Rose Society Meeting – Go to the Rose Show – UNCE

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PALM DAMAGE

To determine if a palm is still living, tug on the bud center. If it is mushy or pulls out, the palm needs to be replaced.

When pruning palm fronds, remove ONLY those that are mostly/completely brown. Green leaves can still photosynthesize and produce food for the plant. Retain as many fronds as possible that are ABOVE the "9 o'clock and 3 o'clock" positions.

In Las Vegas we recorded temperature lows of 23 degrees in our courtyard and 14 degrees in our Outdoor Education Center. Most of the palms came through surprisingly well, although some show significant damage due to freeze/wind/desiccation. Our hardiest palms are Mexican Fan, Canary Island Date, Windmill, and many Sabal palms. The palms that did NOT do well were the Queen Palm and the "houseplant" palms: Chamaedorea, Kentia, Fishtail. Even those planted in a more sheltered microclimate area did not do well this year.

Consider replacing dead palms with one of the more cold-hardy palms listed in "50 PALMS THAT ARE GROWN OR SHOULD BE TRIED IN SOUTHERN NEVADA" by UNCE Prof. ML Robinson. Available to download at:

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2010/fs1064.pdf>

THINK SPRING!

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR ROSES

MARCH, APRIL, & MAY: Continue to fertilize roses monthly with a balanced rose fertilizer. Apply iron chelates as needed to correct iron deficiency. For higher quality blooms, foliar feed with a soluble fertilizer in early April. For larger blooms, remove secondary buds below the lead bud on hybrid teas. For a more uniform bouquet of flowers, on floribunda remove the large center blooms. Water early in the morning to minimize mildew. If possible, avoid wetting the foliage - use drip or soaker irrigation. Use a recommended fungicide if the mildew becomes a problem. Control aphids and thrips with a recommended insecticide. The big rose display occurs from mid-April through May. For fresh roses, cut back to where a cane is strong enough (thickness of a pencil) to support a new bloom. Cut just above an outside leaf (five leaflets.)



For a monthly "to do" list plus more information on pruning, planting and care:

UNCE Special Publication 03-15,
"The Rose in the Desert Southwest"

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2003/sp0315.pdf>

MG Community Newsletter prepared by:

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