



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

November 2014 Community Newsletter

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Master Gardeners and Cooperative Extension Horticulture are participating in the following events. Some require reservations and/or fees; some are free and open to the public. Updates are posted on Facebook page.

Cooperative Extension and the Orchard are CLOSED on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 and Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 27 & 28.

- **Fridays at 10 a.m. – Walking Tours of Demonstration and Test Gardens** on Fridays from September through May. UNR Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd., LV 891323. Meet at the MG Help Desk; 702-257-5555
- **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon – Seasonal produce, mulch and compost** available (fees) plus 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
- **November 1, 9 a.m. – “How to Deal with Weeds and Insects”** by MG Libby Powell. **Free Gardening Class** at **Acacia Park** (50 Del Fuego St., Henderson). Register [online](#) using activity code 144059-58 or at any rec center.
- **November 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Visit the Master Gardeners at Harvest Fest at Tivoli Village Farmers Market** (440 S. Rampart Blvd, LV 89145). Special displays on: winterizing your garden, vertical gardening, harvesting herbs, container gardening, hay bale gardening and more!
- **November 8, 9 a.m. – “What’s the 411 on Fertilizers?”** by MG Mike Bell. **Free Gardening Class** at **Acacia Park** (50 Del Fuego St., Henderson). Register [online](#) using activity code 144060-58 or at any recreation center or pool.
- **November 15, 9 a.m. – “Getting Ready for the Winter”** by MG Jodi Starkey. **Free Gardening Class** at **Acacia Park** (50 Del Fuego St., Henderson). Register [online](#) using activity code 144061-58 or at any recreation center.
- **November 15, 10 a.m. – “Alternatives to the Tired Ten”** by Master Gardeners. **Garden Tour** of the Cooperative Extension **Demonstration and Test Gardens** (8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123). Master Gardeners will discuss which plants can be used in place of the hardy, but overused, landscape plants such as red yucca, oleander, Texas ranger, etc. The outdoor walking tour lasts about 1 ½ hours. Meet in center courtyard. Call Master Gardener Help Line at: 702-257-5555.
- **November 15, 8 a.m. to noon -- “Gardening in Small Places: Growing Fruit at Home”** by Dr. Angela O’Callaghan at **Cooperative Extension** (8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123). Learn how to grow fruit in the desert. Examples are figs, nectarines, peaches, apricots, pears, apples, strawberries, cantaloupe, grapes and blackberries. Pre-registration is required; \$25 fee. Contact Elaine Fagin (702-257-5573; fagine@unce.unr.edu) or online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-in-small-places-growing-fruit-at-home-tickets-12033876649>
- **October 23, 7 p.m. – “New Rose Introductions for 2015”** by Larry Kaplan, Yearbook Editor. South Valley Rose Society Meeting at **Cooperative Extension** (8050 Paradise Road, LV 89123). Free and open to the public. Call Master Gardener Help Line for information or directions: 702-257-5555.

GLOBE MALLOW – ADAPTED TO SURVIVE IN THE DESERT!

from an article by Dr. Angela O’Callaghan, Social Horticulture Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

Globe Mallow, *Sphaeralcea ambigua*, is an indigenous plant which exhibits several effective adaptations for life in the desert – a desert with little water or soil fertility, but a surfeit of sunlight and wind.

The flowers are relatively flat and brightly colored – frequently coral. The shape and color attract butterflies, honey bees and more importantly, native bees. All of these insects are threatened by habitat loss and our overuse of insecticides that remain in the environment for weeks or even months.



Its leaves indicate just how well it can survive in this region. Like the leaves of most desert or desert-adapted plants, they are not large. Smaller leaves have less area to lose water through stomata (plant pores). They are also less likely to be shredded by the winds that can destroy larger, floppier leaves.

Another adaptation is the leaf color. At first glance, one might be tempted to call it grey, although this is not exactly correct. While the leaves themselves are green, they have a downy protective coat that makes them appear to be grey.

When handling it, remember its other common name – “sore-eye poppy” (do not rub your eyes after touching the leaves). For the plant, however, this fuzziness serves as a shade, blocking blistering sunlight and decreasing some water loss. Being native to the Mojave Desert as well as other North American deserts, this is critical. Globe mallow protects itself even more.

If you look closely, you see that the leaves are not flat, but wavy with a scalloped edge. This change in shape lessens the area directly exposed to the sun, another essential adaptation for a desert denizen.

Since globe mallow will grow wild in the desert, one might be tempted to think it could grow in any garden, but that is not the case. It requires very good drainage, as in a sandy soil. Too much water around the root zone will kill it. Modern varieties are available in many local nurseries and on-line distributors.

Excerpted from 8/13/14 Moapa Valley Progress. For complete article by Dr. O’Callaghan go to: <http://mvprogress.com/2014/08/13/garden-spot-globe-mallow/>

MASTER GARDENER HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

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

MGs are available Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm to answer your gardening questions! Call, email or visit.

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

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