



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

October 2015 Community Newsletter

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Daily, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Master Gardener Home Gardening Help Line. Answers to your gardening questions by phone or email to LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu. Walkins welcome.

Fridays, 10 a.m. (Sept. – May, except holidays) – Walking Tours of the Demonstration Gardens by Master Gardeners. Introduction to the gardens with over 500 species of desert appropriate landscape plants. Meet at MG Desk at Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd, LV 89123. For info call MG Help Line at 702-257-5555.

October 3, 10 a.m. – Just Trees by MG Garden Guides. View a variety of landscape and fruit trees – big, small, blooming, evergreen, fruiting, or fall color. Learn how to choose the right tree and the right spot to enhance your yard. Plant list provided. Use west side gate to meet in Courtyard at Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd, LV 89123. For info call MG Help Line at 702-257-5555

October 3, 9 a.m. – Fertilizer, Weeds and Insects by Master Gardeners. You do not need harmful chemicals to control pests or weeds. What should one do to add nutrients to the soil for gorgeous plants and still have a safe landscape for the family and pets? Acacia Park, 50 Casa del Fuego, Henderson, 89012. Reserve a seat by going online www.cityofhenderson.com/parks and clicking Online Registration.

October 3, 8 a.m. – Gardening in Small Places: Tree Selection and Care by Laura Eisenberg, Certified Arborist. Trees are a long-term investment in your landscape. Learn how to site, plant and care for them Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd., LV 89123. Registration and pre-payment is required, \$25 fee. Call Elaine Fagin at 702-257-5573.

October 10, 9 a.m. – Birds, Butterflies and Bees by Master Gardener Denise McConnell. Learn simple tips on how to attract these wondrous creatures to your yard and how not to. Find out what ones live here all year and how to recognize them. Acacia Park, 50 Casa del Fuego, Henderson, 89012. Reserve a seat by going online www.cityofhenderson.com/parks and clicking Online Registration.

October 17, 9 a.m. – Tree Care and Pruning by Bob Morris, Cooperative Extension Professor emeritus. Learn how to irrigate, fertilize and prune properly for the long-term health of your trees. Acacia Park, 50 Casa del Fuego, Henderson, 89012. Reserve a seat by going online www.cityofhenderson.com/parks and clicking Online Registration.

October 22, 7-9 p.m. – Growing Roses in Containers/Pots by South Valley Rose Society. Consulting Rosarian Christina Ropter will discuss Growing roses in small areas and to enhance a garden bed. Discover which roses grow best in containers/pots and how to plant, including: size of pots, material, potting soil, watering methods and placement location. Use west side gate to meet in Classroom C at Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd, LV 89123. For info call MG Help Line at 702-257-5555.

October 24, 9 a.m. – Composting 101 by Master Gardener Kristy McCumby-Hyland. Composting is a recycling process that turns nature's trash into a vital healthy soil, and it IS possible in the desert! Acacia Park, 50 Casa del Fuego, Henderson, 89012. Reserve a seat by going online www.cityofhenderson.com/parks and clicking Online Registration.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

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

A WEIRD SHAPE MIGHT NOT BE THE END OF YOUR PLANT

Angela O'Callaghan, Social Horticulture Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Part of a plant, which could be a tree, a flower, a cactus or even a vegetable, might on occasion develop an odd shape, while the rest of the plant appears healthy. The oddly formed part might not look damaged or diseased, exactly, but most certainly not normal.

The name of this odd phenomenon is "fasciation." It is one of the more interesting and strange marvels you can sometimes see with plants. Several slender stems became flattened and fused. These fused, or fasciated, stems cannot function normally; they do grow many leaves but will not produce flowers. In some plants, however, flowers themselves can become fasciated.



Fasciation on Texas Mountain Laurel/ Mescal Bean (*Sophora secundiflora*)

Note: all photos are of the same plant, taken on the same date

Sophora secundiflora is an evergreen tree with dark green foliage and large, purple spring blooms. It is drought-tolerant and slow growing. Pests include Sophora worm which feeds on new growth.

Left photo: normal stem on left, fasciated on right
Center and Right photos: flattened, fasciated stems

Many gardeners have pointed out that fasciated plants had often been afflicted by aphids earlier in the growing season. There are studies at horticulture labs that are looking for a viral cause. Because aphids are a major carrier of plant viruses, they may be one of the predictors for the phenomenon. There may also be a fungal cause.

Herbivory, when an insect or another animal takes a nibble of succulent tissue, might stimulate fasciation, as can drift from herbicides that have not been applied correctly. Perhaps the environment stressed the plant, and it responded by developing fasciated stems. When conditions promote fast growth, it tends to show up more often. It could be that different plants, at different times in their lives, produce flattened, thickened stems or flowers for any number of reasons.

Complete article available at:

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/life/home-and-garden/weird-shape-might-not-be-the-end-your-plant>

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

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

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