Native to the Chihuahuan desert in central Texas and Mexico, red yucca loves the heat and can tolerate cold temperatures down to 10 degrees F. Not a yucca, this member of the Century-Plant family produces several pups adjacent to the parent plant that will eventually reach about 3 feet across and as high. The "red" in red yucca refers to the flower color which can be misleading because there is also a yellow flowered variety available. Red yucca produces several arching flower stalks March thru July that can reach 5 feet long with abundant showy coral-red tubular flowers. The flowers attract hummingbirds and my experience is rabbits will browse the foliage. The 1 ½ to 2 feet serrated leaves are plum colored in winter and blue-green other times and have finer leaves than true yucca giving it a more grass-like appearance. Red yucca is evergreen, drought-resistant, and adaptable to a variety of soils. This plant is a spineless alternative to agave and yucca species. Versatile and long-lived, this plant can be used on rocky hillsides for coverage, in rock and desert landscapes, as an accent plant alone or in groups, and are great for large pot culture. After flowering, do not remove the flower stalks immediately, leave them to produce large green fruit. After the ripened fruit opens, seeds appear and are used to start new plants or can be a food source for birds. New plants can also be started by dividing established clumps or removing individual pups. Plant red yucca in full sun 2 to 3 feet away from sidewalks, walkways, or driveways where it has room to grow without needing to be trimmed back. Seeing one of these plants with the leaves cut off or shredded by a weed eater is not attractive and the leaves will not re-grow. Removing dead flower stalks and older lower leaves will create a neater appearance and are the only maintenance practices needed. The hot summer months are challenging for some plants, but not red yucca which has many attributes.
Companion Planting

Researchers attempted to grow chili seeds in the presence or absence of other plants. In the absence of a neighboring plant, germination rates were very low, but when the plants were able to openly communicate with the seeds more seedlings grew. However when the seeds were separated from the other plants with black plastic, so that they could not be influenced by either light or chemical signals, they germinated as though they could still communicate with the other plant. A partial response was seen for fully grown chili plants blocked from known communication with the seeds.

This may involve acoustic signals generated using nanomechanical oscillations from inside the cell which allow rapid communication between nearby plants.

http://ehe.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/h-230.pdf

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Garden Workshops at Springs Preserve

Dining in the Desert

Some desert plants covered with thorns and spines are actually hiding a highly edible interior. Don't let them hide any longer!

Laura Eisenberg will help you discover some of the desert's most edible plants and flowers and use them in new recipes you'll take home.

Learn the joys and rewards of Mojave Desert gardening from the best in the business--our horticulturists!

Location & Date: Springs Preserve Gardens - Aug 10 or Aug 11, 2013.

Landscape Design with Trees

Trees can cool and clean the air while also creating welcome relief from the sun. Learn how to make the best tree choices for your landscape, lot size and exposures--including proven, lovely trees that thrive here in the Mojave Desert.

Location & Date: Springs Preserve Gardens - Aug. 24 or 25, 2013.

Get information about other gardening workshops:

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August Reminders

1. Prepare for fall vegetable and flower planting.
2. Be on the lookout for whiteflies!
3. Lift your Dutch and Spanish Iris and let rest for 6 months.
4. Do not fertilize perennials this month.
5. Solarize empty plots.
6. Plant cactus and succulents while it is hot.
7. Transplant strawberry starts.
8. Deadhead roses as soon as they are spent.
9. Apply a final application of fertilizer to citrus for the year.
10. Harvest ripe vegetables and fruits as soon as possible to stay a step ahead of pests.
11. Keep lawns at about 3", to protect from summer heat.
12. Do not prune anything this month.

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Homemade Organic Grass-Based Fertilizer

Grass-Based Fertilizer is rich in nitrogen, oxygen and phosphorus. **Caution:** Be careful not to use grass treated with herbicides.

1. Fill a 5 gallon bucket 2/3 of the way full with fresh grass clippings.
2. Fill with water to a few inches below the top.
3. Let it sit and steep at room temperature for 3 days, making sure to stir it once a day.
4. Strain the liquid off.
5. Dilute the “tea” with equal parts water.

Fertilizer the soil or use with a foliar sprayer and spray the leaves.

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Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Veggies by the Season Classes
- MG Meetings
- Newsletter Article
- Yard clean-up at UNCE
You know you’re a Master Gardener if you don’t have any dress shoes, just eight pairs of garden shoes.

**Native Flowers Suited to Home Gardens**

**Mexican Gold Poppy** - after good winter conditions and rainfall, can provide incredible color displays as they carpet the desert between late February and mid-April. Mexican gold poppy grows on a single stalk and remains open only in full sunlight. The flowers are bright yellow to orange with four petals that form a cup between 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches wide. They have fernlike leaves about 2 1/2 inches long and can grow to a height of 16 inches. It can be poisonous, if ingested.

**Desert Bluebells** - do fine in dry conditions. They will grow in tight spaces such as between pavers and in front of flowerbeds. The 1 inch wide, tubular flowers have five petals that are bright inky blue with yellow stamens. The leaves are dark green, fuzzy, heart-shaped, coarsely toothed, and edged in dark red. The stems are reddish and hairy. This showy wildflower is often included in desert wildflower seed mixes.

**Clarkia** – is an erect or sprawling annual with showy, 4-petaled, cup-shaped, pink flowers occurring in the axils of several of the uppermost leaves. The large flowers are highlighted with a splash of bright red on each petal. Below the flowers are four reddish sepal s which often remain attached after the flower buds have opened.

**Chinchweed** - covers the ground with carpets of yellow flower and blooms throughout the year. Chinchweed, if you gently touch it, leaves an aroma, perhaps of citrus, on your fingers. However, when the seeds are crushed the whole plant is strongly aromatic. Cinchweed’s growth is signaled by our summer monsoon rains and can be expected to bloom from the mid-summer to the early fall.

**Tidy Tips** - are an annual, daisy like plant with narrow, rough hairy leaves. Tidy tips are showy during the months of March to June. The flower heads are composed of five to eighteen yellow ray flowers with white tips and many central yellow disk flowers. Its daisy-like flowers are attractive, making it a popular garden ornamental plant and ingredient in commercial wildflower seed mixes.

**August Planting**

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<tr>
<th>Beans</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Tomatoes</td>
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**The Garden in Bloom**

The Garden in Bloom is a series of year round, month-by-month flower gardening classes designed to educate people on producing a fabulous ongoing display every month of the year!

Classes are every First and Third Wednesday of the Month at the Clark County Fair garden.

**Veggies by the Season**

Veggies by the Season is a series of year round, month-by-month gardening classes designed to educate people on producing timely vegetables in their back yard gardens.

**August 14 – Irrigation**

**August 28 – Soil Science**

5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.
Cost is $3.00 per class

For more information call Denise at 702-397-2604 x 4
Summer Landscape Tips

Learn how to keep your landscape healthy during the hot summer months

For complete article visit: http://www.snwa.com/land/maint_tips_summer.html

Take a Day Off

One way to keep your water bill down during peak temperatures is to cut one watering day per week out of your daily sprinkler schedule. Taking just one day off can reduce your water use by as much as 10 to 15 percent.

Time of Day

Water in early-morning hours before sunrise to lessen water lost to evaporation and daytime winds.

Plant Selection

Use Southern Nevada Water Authorities Plant Search to choose plants that are native to the arid climate of Southern Nevada and require less water and time. There are a variety of low maintenance plants which will add both color and vibrancy to your landscape. Bermuda and other warm-season grasses require about one-third less water than Tall Fescue grass.

Monitor Your Landscape

Make adjustments to watering times as needed. Shaded or protected areas may need less water than other zones. You may even be able to water less frequently than seven days a week.
Cycle and Soak Watering

Schedule sprinklers to water in three short cycles, each about one hour apart. The Southern Nevada Water Authority recommends watering lawns 3 times a day for 4 minutes each watering.

Drip Irrigation

While drip irrigation is permitted any day of the week during summer, experts agree that running it a maximum of three days a week during warmer months is much better for plants than daily watering. The length of watering time for plants on drip systems varies depending on the type of emitter, plant types and soil conditions. See our drip watering tips for details.

Check Your Irrigation System

Check your irrigation system weekly for broken or misaligned sprinkler heads and drip emitters, which can be prime water-waste culprits.

Upgrade Your Irrigation Clock

Replace your irrigation system with a "smart clock" and save water and money.

Mow for Best Results

Each time you mow the lawn, change directions. Set your mower to the proper height to promote a healthy lawn and to reduce water use. Recommended mowing heights are 2 1/2" to 3" for Tall Fescue and 3/4" to 1 1/2" for Bermuda.

Brown Spots on the Lawn

Hand water brown spots and check your irrigation system. Lawns usually develop brown spots because of faults in the sprinkler system, such as mixed types of sprinkler heads, blocked spray patterns and improper spacing between sprinklers.

Check that your sprinkler heads are level to grade, perpendicular to the slope of the lawn and not watering sidewalks, walls or patios. If grass blocks the spray, trim around the sprinkler head or install a taller 3- or 4-inch pop-up.

Lawn sprinkler heads should provide "head-to-head" coverage. That means the spray of one sprinkler should reach the head of the adjacent sprinkler. If your lawn looks great except for stressed areas in front
of the sprinkler heads, the heads are too far apart. A device called an undercut nozzle can help. Talk to an irrigation specialist if you decide to change out the nozzle.

Watering system pressure also can cause brown spots. Misting and excessive drift are signs of high pressure. Low pressure displays itself with weak, short spray patterns and reduced coverage.

**Combat Compacted Soils**

Compacted soils also can stress your lawn. Sometimes simply aerating a stressed area and giving it a good soaking solves the problem. Purchase a hand-operated coring aerator at a nursery, or hire a professional to do the job. Aeration should be done at least twice a year.

An extremely dry lawn becomes hydrophobic, or water-repelling. Add a tablespoon of liquid soap to a gallon of water and drench the dried area. This breaks down the surface tension of the grass, making it hydrophilic, or water-loving. Then give it a good soaking.

Water between 2 and 5 a.m. through September. This is the coolest time of the day or night, and your lawn will more effectively soak in the water you give it.

**Leaf Scorching and Burning**

Leaves usually are stressed for one of two reasons: improper watering or improper fertilization. Since both over watering and under watering can damage plant leaves, the best solution is to water deeply and infrequently. This allows oxygen in the soil, washes salts away and encourages deep rooting.

For most trees and shrubs older than three years, water deeply once every seven to 10 days (*Run your drip system one to three hours to soak the root zone*). Newer plants may need water twice as often until established. Add a layer of surface mulch 2- to 4-inches thick to conserve water between waterings and cool and enrich the soil.

Make sure you have the right fertilizer both for your specific plants and for the time of year. Some fertilizers release much faster in hot weather, increasing the potential for damage. Follow package directions exactly and err on the conservative side. Then, irrigate well to move nutrients to the soil.

**Bug Damage**

For a non-pesticide alternative to getting rid of aphids and other pests, spray plants with a strong blast of water from your hose. You'll knock bugs off and damage or drown many of them. Or, buy beneficial "predator" bugs like ladybugs at nurseries and set them loose to attack aphids and let nature run its course.
Lawn Care Watering Guide

Schedule start times one hour apart and water between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The actual amount of time you water may vary due to different types of sprinklers, soil and weather. This suggested schedule is for tall fescue. Bermuda grasses may require even less water.

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