Shade tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. Don’t shade corn, squash, or melons.
Questions heat up along with temperatures

Q: Why are the nuts on my Almond trees rotting?
A: Green fruit rot is a fungal disease that manifests itself during the latter half of the blooming season, when the weather is cooler and moisture exists in the atmosphere. Monilinia laxa, Botrytis cinerea and Sclerotinia sclerotiorum are the three pathogens responsible for the disease.

Q: Why is the fruit on my nectarine trees deformed? They also have scarring, russetting, and clear gumming coming from the scared areas?
A: Western Flower Thrips are minute, thin insects that feed within the flowers and on young fruit. They are primarily a problem of nectarines at bloom. Their feeding damages the fruit and scars form as fruit matures. If left unchecked they continue to rip and shred the fruit surface with their rasping mouthparts causing the fruit to scar and leak sap. The leaking sap crystalizes and remains attached to the fruit where it is scarred.

Q: Why does my four year old healthy looking Kadota fig tree have undersized fruit with poor flavor?
A: Fruit trees need a lot of water. Put on about 30 – 40 gallons of water twice per week. Build a basin around the base of the tree to keep the water from going all over the place. The basin should be at least four inches deep, six feet across and level enough to fill it completely.

Q: Why do the leaves of my Cottonwood tree have holes in them?
A: Leaf miners of many kinds live in the Sonoran Desert as in many habitats around the world. They include flies, beetles, wasps and moths. Both the adults and larvae are very small and often dorsal-ventrally compressed so as to be able to tunnel between the upper and lower cortex of a leaf. Once the larva has eaten away the soft, nutritious center a translucent tunnel in the leaf can be seen. Heliozelid moth larvae cut the perimeter of the tunnel and form a case in which to undergo metamorphosis. The case drops out leaving a smooth oval hole.

Q: How can I get a copy of Dr. Wittwer’s publication Vegetable Gardening in the Moapa and Virgin Valleys?
   2) UNCE site search: www.unce.unr.edu – Publications - Search Publications - Publication Number - Sp-09-01
   3) Google search: Wittwer sp-09-01

Companion Planting:
ANISE: Licorice flavored herb, good host for predatory wasps which prey on aphids and it is also said to repel aphids. Deters pests from brassicas by camouflaging their odor. Improves the vigor of any plants growing near it. Used in ointments to protect against bug stings and bites. Good to plant with coriander.

Upcoming Opportunities:
• Master Gardener Help-line
• Chain Saw needed! Call 702-397-2604
• Newsletter article or pictures
• Grow Your Own!
• July Monthly Meeting
• Mesquite Heritage Garden Clean-up
• Master Gardener Orchard
  702-257-5555
“You know you’re a Master Gardener if your preferred reading matter is seed catalogs.”

**July Planting**

| Beans, Bush Beans, Pole Corn, Sweet Gourds | Melons Pumpkin Shallots Squash, winter | Sunflower Tomato, transplants Watermelon |

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**International Master Gardener Conference**

International Master Gardener (IMG) Conferences are held every two years and provide an opportunity for Master Gardeners and Extension specialists to come together and learn through seminars and tours, while also convening committee meetings and exchanging ideas and concerns.

Search for Excellence winners are also awarded to those Master Gardeners who have made outstanding contributions to their communities.

The next International Master Gardener Conference will be an Alaskan cruise, September 7 - 14, 2013. For more information visit:

http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013

**When to harvest your vegetables**

- **Asparagus:** Begin harvesting when spears are 6-8 inches tall and about as thick as your small finger. Snap them off at ground level and new spears will continue to grow. Stop harvesting about 4-6 weeks after the initial harvest, to allow the plants to produce foliage and food for themselves.

- **Beans (Snap):** Pick before you can see the seeds bulging. They should snap easily into two. Check daily. It doesn’t take long for beans to go from tender to tough.

- **Carrots:** Carrots can be hard to judge. The tops of the carrot will show at the soil line and you can gage when the diameter looks right for your variety. If the diameter looks good, chances are the length is fine too. But you will need to pull one to be certain. Carrots can be left in the ground once mature. A light frost is said to improve and sweeten the flavor.

- **Corn:** About 3 weeks after the silks form, they will turn dry and brown. The kernels should exude a milky substance when pricked.

- **Cucumber:** Cucumbers race to the harvest with zucchini. Check daily and harvest young. Timing and length will vary with variety. The fruits should be firm and smooth. Over ripe cucumbers can be very bitter or pithy, even before they start to turn yellow.

- **Eggplant:** Slightly immature fruits taste best. The fruits should be firm and shiny. Cut rather than pulling from the plant.

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**Grow Your Own!**

Grow Your Own is a series of back-to-basic gardening classes to help you produce great harvests in Nevada.

- **July 9** - Starting plants from seed: growing second-season crops
- **July 16** - Gardening is a contact sport: tool selection
- **July 23** - Eating on the cheap
- **July 30** - Composting in small places
- **August 6** - Insect and critter control: companion planting and other techniques
- **August 13** - Walipini
- **August 20** - Aquaponics
- **August 27** - GMO’s

**Offered via interactive video in Logandale, NV**

- **$5.00 each**
- **or $20.00 for all**

8 sessions – every Monday from 2 – 4 p.m.

Visit the website!

growyourownnevada.com
The Tamarisk Dies  By Master Gardener Andrea Meckley

Tamarisk is a general term for several species of Old World shrubs and trees in the genus Tamarix with scale-like leaves on very thin, terminal twigs.

Saltcedars are large shrubs or small trees 8-16 feet tall and usually less wide. They have tiny, triangular, scale-like leaves that are winter-deciduous. The flowers are pink to near-white, densely crowded along branched terminal spikes; they appear from January to October. Fruit and seeds are tiny, brown and inconspicuous. The several species introduced to North America have been labeled *Tamarix chinensis* (our current choice for southern Arizona plants), *T. ramosissima, T. pentandra, T. parviflora* and *T. gallica*. They are very similar in appearance and are hybridizing, so distinguishing among them is difficult. Apparently the hybrid populations are the most invasive.

Tamarisks are extremely invasive in riparian communities, often nearly completely replacing native vegetation with impenetrable thickets. They are extremely competitive against native vegetation because they are aggressive usurpers of water. They also sequester salt in their foliage, and where flooding does not flush out soil salts the leaf litter increases the salinity of soil surfaces. Dense stands of saltcedars support lower biodiversity than the natural communities they displace.

www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/tamarisk-beetle.htm

Athel tree (*Tamarix aphylla*, also called saltcedar) is a large, evergreen tree to 50 feet tall and wide with virtually no leaves (reduced to tiny scales) and inconspicuous whitish flowers. It was long thought to be sterile and therefore at most mildly invasive, but it is reproducing from seed in some localities. It has been doing so at Lake Mead for 30 years and is hybridizing with the deciduous saltcedars.

www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/tamarisk-beetle.htm

**Tamarisk Beetle:**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture set out to fight the plant in 2005 by introducing another imported organism to the Mountain West.
The beetles migrated and have now established more than a dozen footholds in the Grand Canyon and elsewhere in the West.

The Agriculture Department stopped its program last summer, but it may have been too late. In addition to their home regions in Kazakhstan and China, the beetles are now also found in eastern Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and northern Arizona.

Read more: http://azdailysun.com/news/local/tamarisk-eating-beetle-no-cure/article_fa00f1f2-06f3-5da2-a22f-ed4a4808c7f6.html#ixzz1yHLGjleu

Summary from www.grandcanyontrust.org

Enter the tamarisk leaf beetle

Two years before the Southeast Utah Riparian Partners (SURP) met, the Grand County weed supervisor released the tamarisk leaf beetle, imported from Fukang, China, on private land along the Colorado River. The beetles quietly began to multiply; by 2006, they were making a noticeable impact. That summer, the Skyline Cooperative Weed Management area had a statewide weed meeting in Moab to assess the beetle damage.

Because tamarisk is so difficult to remove with cutting and herbicides, biologists began searching for an agent to safely control their growth. APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) has been studying the beetle (Diorhabda Elongata) rigorously for 20 years. The beetle feeds only on tamarisk and, so far, it has shown no ability to cross over and eat other species. Reassured, the Grand County weed agent collected beetles from one of the study areas (Delta, Utah) and released them onto privately owned sites along the Colorado River, where they were not subject to legal restrictions. He also released beetles in larger numbers and greater frequencies than others, a strategy that has allowed the beetles to prosper.

An astonishing result

The first season, the beetles defoliated only a few tamarisks. After one year, two acres were defoliated. By the next year, the insect populations were established and tamarisk was totally defoliated (though not killed) on over 10 miles along the Colorado River.

Year three was like watching a brush fire “brown out” several miles of riverbank a week. Suddenly, the Colorado River corridor had been defoliated from Moab to near the Colorado state line and downstream 70 miles to the Green River. Those once-green tamarisks were turned into brown skeletons. Within a week, the 800-acre Matheson Wetland Preserve in Moab turned completely brown. It is breathtaking. It is also sobering.

The fourth year, because of a cooler spring, the beetles had a later start and tamarisks were not defoliated until the end of June. But within a week or two, huge strips along the river turned brown. Perhaps most promisingly, tamarisks have started dying out in the area where the beetles were first introduced.

Last fall the beetles went into diapause, a form of dormancy. Very quickly the tamarisk shot out new leaves, although certainly fewer than before. It was astonishing. This pattern will continue for a few years, until the root gradually weakens and the tamarisk dies.

Read more: http://www.grandcanyontrust.org/utah/invasives_history.php
July is here, and it is ridiculously hot outside. Some days, just the thought of getting out into the garden seems a bit overwhelming. Better to sit in front of the fan inside, right?

You can still enjoy your garden, even in the dog days of summer. Early morning watering is a great way to commune with your plants. And those long, sultry summer evenings are made for relaxing in the garden. There’s something about the heat of a summer evening that invites you outside to sip cooling beverages.

For a truly decadent adventure in gardening, consider creating a moonlit garden. It is a quirk of nature that many of our most fragrant flowers release their perfume at dusk. Take advantage of this fact to create a sitting area that glows in the moonlight, wrapping you in sweet fragrance as you sip your favorite imbibes.

Start with a comfortable place to sit. Whether a small bistro set or a bench for two, a seat turns the moon garden from a place to walk through to a place to savor. And to get the most enjoyment from a nighttime garden, you have to sit still long enough for your eyes to adjust to the dark. You might choose to add low lighting or a carriage light, or just allow the moon to provide illumination.

You may also find night time is the right time to be working in the garden. Under the cover of twinkle lights, soft, quiet twilight, and a misting system night time gardening may become a favorite tranquil pastime.

Talking about a nighttime adventure reminds me how nice it is to spend some time, quietly and on my own with my hands in the dirt creating something lovely that I will enjoy for a long time.