Shoestring Acacia (Acacia stenophylla) combines two qualities that are rare among desert landscape trees: columnar structure and evergreen foliage. This Australian native was introduced to the desert southwest decades ago but gained wide popularity only in the last few years. Shoestring Acacia is reasonably fast growing, maturing to a height of 20 to 40 feet with a 15 to 20 foot spread. Shoestring Acacia grows well in full sun or partial shade and is cold hardy to about 18 F. In Australia, where it is used as lumber and a food source for Aborigines, it is found growing at the edges of rivers. Preparation for acacia as a food source has been described by the Aboriginal people of Australia. The seeds of an acacia contain about twice the amount of protein as other grains. Typically the seeds are roasted, then eaten, or ground into a powdery flour used for cooking. However, the toxic qualities of these seeds has not been investigated, so their food value is questionable. Best growth is achieved in well-drained soil and regular deep irrigation. Cream to yellow colored, ball-shaped flowers, in small clusters, (3 to 6 flowers per cluster) occur throughout the (Continued on page 2)
Companion Planting

Another type of companion planting is called Nurse Cropping, where tall or dense-canopied plants may protect more vulnerable plants through shading or by providing a windbreak. Nurse crops reduce the incidence of weeds, prevent erosion, and prevent excessive sunlight from reaching tender seedlings. Often the nurse crop can be harvested for grain, straw, hay, or pasture. In desert landscape designs Shoestring Acacias are among the most versatile and well adapted trees for a wide assortment of landscape uses.

July Reminders

1. Fertilize Bermuda lawns with ½ lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
2. Use ammonium phosphate in flower beds to keep flowers blooming.
3. Water roses deeply as the temperature rises.
4. Check garden centers for mark downs on plants.
5. Solarize empty plots.
6. Move potted plants to the shade for protection.
7. Harvest cucumbers frequently to keep them producing.
8. Keep the compost pile moist.
9. Order seeds and starts now for August vegetable planting.
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. Keep feeding the compost pile with organic materials.

Desert Favorite (continued from page 1)

year with the majority produced in spring. Flowers mature rapidly to pods. Pale grayish green leaves are long and narrow approximately 1/4 to 1/2" wide and up to 12" long. Leaves are generally straight but can be slightly curved or twisted. Stenophylla's do produce some leaf, flower and pod litter. The columnar shape of the tree is the result of its weepy branches and leaves that hang down parallel to the upright main trunk(s). Its structure and open canopy allows Shoestring Acacias to be used in a variety of landscape applications. They are used in screen planting around the perimeter of properties or along streets or sidewalks. They are also used near or against taller structures to add color and graceful silhouettes to large walls. The columnar structure makes them ideal for planting in narrow or tight landscape settings. Trees can also be planted in small clusters or groupings without encountering tangled branches. In desert landscape designs Shoestring Acacias are among the most versatile and well adapted trees for a wide assortment of landscape uses.

Homemade Organic Rose Fertilizer

| 2 tablespoons Mermaid’s fish fertilizer (powdered fish) |
| 1 teaspoon kelp extract (powdered seaweed) |
| 1 tablespoon Epsom salts |
| 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar |
| 2 tablespoons molasses |
| 3 cups water |

Combine in a quart-size, liquid measuring cup. Stir with a wire whisk to remove the lumps. Pour into a 2-gallon watering can, and fill the can with water. This mixture makes a good foliar feed. You can pour the extra around the root zone. It’s best to apply it in the evening, since harsh afternoon sunlight might burn the leaves. Don’t apply fertilizer to drought-stressed roses. They should be well-watered first. You might want to water in the fertilizer applied around the root zone, although this mixture is so mild that it won’t harm the roots. One batch feeds 2-4 roses, depending on their size.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Mesquite Heritage Garden
- Veggies by the Season Classes
- MG Classes
- Social Media Manager
- Newsletter Article
- Yard clean-up at UNCE office
- Garden Club
- “Ask a MG”
You know you’re a Master Gardener if your vacation is based on which gardens and nurseries to visit.

July Planting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garden Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beans, snap</td>
<td>Melons</td>
<td>Sunflowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beans, pinto</td>
<td>Onions, shallots</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Squash, winter</td>
<td>Watermelon</td>
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Cockroach Bait – Combine 1 part each: flour, cocoa, oatmeal, plaster of paris and boric acid. Spread mixture on a piece of cardboard. Set where cockroaches will eat, and children and/or pets will not eat.

Southern Nevada Garden Clubs

Cactus and Succulent Society of Southern Nevada - Meets second Sunday of month, 2 pm at Springs Preserve [www.cssn.org](http://www.cssn.org)

Las Vegas Chrysanthemum Society - Meets second Tues. of month, 2 pm. Contact Alana Sullivan by e-mail anala51@yahoo.com for more information.

Carnation Garden Club - Meets first Thurs. of month, 9 am For information contact Barbara Appel at (702)459-0662 or sblv@netzero.net

Las Vegas Flower Arrangers Guild - Meets second Thurs. of month, 9:30 am Please contact Judy Stebbins at (702)259-6459 or judystebbins@earthlink.net for more information.

Growers Study Guild - Meets second Weds. of month, 11 am. Contact Susan Radcliffe at (702)267-0050 or e-mail liztkco@cox.net

Las Vegas Iris Society - Meets first Mon. of month, 6 pm Contact Dorlene Waite at (702)876-1525 or dwaite0364@aol.com


Las Vegas Valley Rose Society - Meets second Thurs. of month, 7:30 pm [www.desertoasis.net/lvrs/](http://www.desertoasis.net/lvrs/)

Rose Garden Club - Meets third Thurs. of month, 11 am. Contact Lee Pears at (702)878-4797 or pearns4320@aol.com

Sunset Garden Club - Meets second Tues. of month, 12:00 noon [http://sunsetgardenclubofnv.org](http://sunsetgardenclubofnv.org)

EVENING!!

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.

NEW EVENING HOURS

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

July 10 - Planning for Fall Planting
July 24 – Preparing your Fall Garden
August 14 – Irrigation
August 28 – Soil Science
September 11 – Direct seeding and Transplanting
September 26 – Extending Your Vegetable Harvest

Cost is $3.00 per class

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

Integrated Weed Management (IWM) is a process of selecting and using a combination of management techniques that, together, will control a particular weed species or infestation efficiently and effectively. It is a multi-technique approach to weaken the noxious weed at hand. The tools used from IWM are species specific, site dependent, and focus on the ecology of the entire plant community.

Why Practice Integrated Weed Management?

IWM is recommended because, over the long run, it should lead to greater success in meeting our management objectives. Using more than one control method creates additive effects that weaken the noxious weed and prevents the weed from establishing resistance to one control method continually being used.
AWARENESS & PREVENTION IS THE 1st STEP...

- **BE INFORMED:** learn how to identify Nevada's noxious weeds and report new infestations to the NDA using the Noxious Weed Complaint Form.
- **BE ON THE LOOKOUT:** Periodically inspect areas near roads, waterways, wildlife corridors, or where new gravel, soil or fill materials have been brought in from elsewhere. These can be the areas where weeds first appear.
- **DO NOT SPREAD SEEDS:** check clothing, pets, and tires for seeds. Use certified weed free materials.
- **MINIMIZE DISTURBANCES:** soil disturbances can be a prime area for new plant invasions to occur.
- **ESTABLISH & MAINTAIN NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES:** A healthy stance of desired vegetation will be less susceptible to invasion.

IWM Control Techniques

*There is never a fix all solution that will always control a specific weed. The control methods used in IWM largely depend on the species at hand and the site in which it is found.*

Click on each individual control method below for more information on that technique and when it is most effective to use.

- Hand Pulling
- Mowing and Cutting
- Prescribed Burn
- Livestock Grazing
- Biological Control
- Herbicides
- Other Cultural Control Methods

*For control methods recommended for specific Nevada noxious weed species go to the Nevada Noxious Weed List and click on the common name of the plant you are interested in.*

**Noxious Weed Education and Outreach Program**
http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Noxious_Weeds/NoxiousWeedProgram_Education_Outreach/

**Noxious Weed Brochures/Educational Materials**
http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Noxious_Weeds/brochures/

**Noxious Weed Grants**
http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Noxious_Weeds/Programs_Grants/
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 some fresh squeezed lemonade.

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 the nighttime is the right time to be working in the garden. Under the cover of twinkle lights, soft, quiet twilight, and a misting system nighttime 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.

See? It’s not too hot in the garden after all.