If your tomatoes and peppers are still alive, trim them back to 18 inches.

Desert Favorite  By Master Gardener Andrea Meckley

September is a time to evaluate the plants in our landscapes to determine the ones that have thrived our hot summer and which ones did not. Damianita also called Desert Daisy (Chrysactinia Mexicana) is a good example of one that thrived. Vivid yellow daisy like flowers April to September catch your eye on this evergreen, low growing shrub. Stems rising in a mounded or bouquet form grow from a woody base eventually maturing at about 1 foot high and 2 feet wide. Plant it in full sun to light shade and in well-drained soil. The foliage is highly aromatic and when crushed or after summer showers emit a wonderfully sweet, minty, herby fragrance that inspired me to plant them by the front door of my home to enjoy. When not in bloom it could almost be mistaken for a kind of conifer because of its small leaves. Hardy to 10° and being a low water user are extra benefits of this plant native to Texas and Mexico. Damianita is a useful plant at golf courses and other areas with rabbit invaders because it is rabbit resistant. Walkways or borders lined with Damianita are stunning during bloom times. Color can be added to rock and cactus gardens with Damianita. Because of the size it can be planted in small areas or grouped together in larger areas. Maintenance is very low. If desired, light prune in the cool season to re-invigorate plants. Damianita is a tough, durable plant, tolerating our extreme temperatures and low rain fall plus giving a beautiful sun-yellow punch of color.
Wormwood

Wormwood, *Artemisia Absinthium*, is an odorous, perennial shrub native to Europe that grows extremely well in Nevada. Its aromatic leaves have a strong sage odor and bitter taste, and its multi-branched stems are covered with fine, silky hairs. The plant has a fibrous root system and grows to about 3 feet in height. The deeply lobed leaves are grayish-green in color. Leaves and stems are used medicinally. Wormwood is classified as an unsafe herb by the Food and Drug Administration because of the neurotoxic potential of thujone and its derivatives.

Wormwood has been used throughout history as a general pesticide companion plant and as a tea/spray to repel slugs, snails, aphids, caterpillars, flea beetles and moths. Before its toxicity was known it was used as a worming medicine for people and animals. Wormwood leaves contain absinthin a substance which can be toxic to other plants. You may have heard of the alcoholic drink "absinthe" a green colored beverage that is now illegal. The absinthin being water soluble will wash off the leaves and leach into the soil interfering and stunting the growth of plants in close proximity to the wormwood. Because of this do not use wormwood tea as a spray on small plants or seedlings, only on more established plants.

As a precaution use it warily until you see how it works for you. For best results spray directly on the target insects or use dried wormwood cuttings spread on the soil in the garden. Don't use wormwood tea on edible plants, use only on ornamental plants. Dried wormwood sprigs may be used in the garden as a scent deterrent. Wormwoods are toxic so do not ingest.

After stating all that, the employees at the Cooperative Extension office in Logandale have been eating herbs for a year now that are grown in the same bed with two large wormwood bushes, with no adverse side effects. In addition, the herbs in the bed are not stunted and they are practically pests free. It can be assumed that the lack of rain in our area has inhibited the leaching of absinthin into the soil. Wormwood leaves can be obtained from the herb bed at the Extension office.

**Upcoming Opportunities:**
- Master Gardener Help-line
- Newsletter article or pictures
- Grow Your Own!
- September Monthly Meeting Sept. 5
- Mesquite Heritage Garden Clean-up
- Fair garden clean-up
- Chain-saw needed 702-677-1425

**Companion Planting:**

**Wormwood Tea**
- 8 ounces wormwood leaves
- 4 pints of water
- 1 teaspoon castile soap

Putting dried sprigs of wormwood in the garden alongside vegetables will mask their scent, confusing insects. The dried wormwood will not have the growth inhibiting effects of the fresh herb.

1. Simmer wormwood leaves in the water for 30 minutes. Stir, strain, and leave to cool.
2. Add the castille soap to wormwood mixture and use to spray.
You know you’re a Master Gardener if you carry pruners, baggies, bottled water and paper towels in your vehicle, just in case the opportunity for a "cutting" arises.

**September Planting**

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**Some Plants That Rabbits Don’t Eat**

- *Achillea* (Yarrow)
- *Agastache* (Just Peachy)
- *Agastache* (Shades of Orange)
- *Agastache* (Licorice Mint)
- *Agave* (Century Plant)
- *Amphora* (Lead Plant)
- *Aquilegia* (Columbine)
- *Artemisia* (Sage)
- *Cacti*
- *Digitalis* (Foxglove)
- *Gaillardia* (Firewheel)
- *Geraniums* (Hardy Geraniums)
- *Kniphofia* (Red Hot Poker)
- *Lavandula* (Lavender)
- *Narcissus* (Daffodils)
- *Nepta* (Blue Catnip)
- *Origanum* (Oregano)
- *Oxytropis* (Locoweed)

- *Penstemons Paeonia* (Peony)
- *Rosmarinus* (Rosemary)
- *Salvia*
- *Santolina*
- *Scrophularia* (Redbirds in a Tree)
- *Sedum* (Stone Crop)
- *Stanelya* (Prince's Plume)
- *Tagetes* (Perennial Marigold)
- *Tanacetum vulgaris Crispum*
- *Thymus* sp.
- *Tritoma*
- *Yucca Zinnia grandiflora*
- *Zizaphora* (Blue Mint Bush)

**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 backyard gardens.

**Fall**

- **Sept. 12** – Seed sowing and transplanting
- **Sept. 26** – Thinning, harvesting and irrigation timers
- **Oct. 10** - Season extenders and mulching
- **Oct. 24** – Seed harvesting and storing

$5.00 each

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

Or visit the website!
Choosing the Right Tree for Your Landscape
Rodney L. Davis, Extension Educator

Here are some characteristics that you should consider in making a wise choice for your new tree.

Root Characteristics-The roots of some species can heave sidewalks and invade turf and garden areas. This is a major consideration for trees planted near driveways, sidewalks and right-of-ways.

Life Expectancy-How long a tree lives depends on where it is planted and the care it receives. Still, some species can be expected to live longer than others. Generally, the faster growing species do not live as long or stay as healthy as ones that grow at more moderate rates.

Maintenance-Cleaning up twigs, branches, fruit and leaves all adds to the maintenance requirements of your trees. Pruning dead and diseased branches is needed to keep your trees healthy.

Growth Rate-How fast a tree grows is greatly influenced by its site, water and fertilizer. All of these things considered, there is still a great variation in the average growth rate between species. Faster growing species generally require more water, pruning and are more disease prone and short lived.

Disease Resistance-To a large extent disease resistance is dependent on the overall health and vigor of the individual tree. The faster growing species lack the ability to fight diseases compared to slower growing species.

Insect Resistance-The extent to which a tree will become damaged or killed from insect attack largely depends upon its overall health and vigor. Some species tolerate this damage better than others. Drought, heat or other stresses can attract damaging insects.

Salt/High pH Tolerance-This is of critical importance in tree species selection. If you are unsure as to the salt and/or alkali condition of your soil, check with your local Cooperative Extension Educator, NRCS representative or other knowledgeable individuals. While leaching can sometimes alter salt concentrations in the soil, it is almost impossible to effectively change the pH (alkali) level on the scale necessary for most moderate to large trees.

Drought Tolerance-Tree species vary greatly in the quantity of water they use daily as well as their ability to withstand extended periods of drought. Improper watering can greatly influence tree health and survivability.
Size at Maturity-The mature size of any individual tree will be determined by its planting site, care and the genetic potential of the species. Always consider size at maturity and the planting site in making your selections. Severe pruning to limit size can greatly reduce health, beauty and life expectancy.

Soil amendments-Remember that most lower elevation soils (under 6,000 ft.) are alkaline, salty and lack organic matter. Tree roots usually extend far beyond the drip line of the tree. It is not practical or even advisable to amend Nevada soils to meet the needs of the tree. Heavily amended soils can actually restrict root development. Rather, select trees that are adapted to our unique soils, humidity levels, temperature ranges and light exposures.

Job Description-Every plant in your landscape ought to have a job description, including trees. The first step in selecting just the right tree for your yard is to decide exactly what it is you want the tree to do. Shade, wind protection, wildlife cover? Every tree species has its own strengths and weaknesses. You wouldn’t ask a banker to do an electrician’s job. Don’t expect a cottonwood to perform like a pinion pine.

Stationary-Remember that trees are stationary. They are totally dependent upon you and the planting site to meet their needs. The more of these needs that are met by the site, the less work for you and the healthier and longer lived will be your tree.

Site Inventory-Evaluate your site for exposure to the sun, wind, and traffic. Know your soil. Is it salty; alkaline or acid; sandy or heavy clay; or somewhere in between? Does it drain?

Resources-Once you know clearly the job you wish your new tree to do and the abilities of both you and your planting site to meet the needs of your tree, you are ready to choose! Use other University of Nevada, Reno Fact sheets, the advice of friends, nursery/tree professionals, Master Gardeners or other information to assist you in selecting just the right tree for your yard.

Useful UNR Fact Sheets
• #88-73-Hardy, Drought Tolerant and Moderately Salt Tolerant Trees for Northern Nevada
• #89-05-Hardy, Drought Tolerant and Moderately Salt Tolerant Shrubs and Vines for Northern Nevada
• #93-83-Planting Bare Root Trees and Shrubs in Nevada
• #94-45-A Guide for Hand Planting: 10 Steps to Successful Tree Planting

Fact Sheet References
• Cox, Klett, Trees & Shrubs, Evergreen Trees, CSU Gardening Series #7.403, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Co.
• Feucht, Klett, Wilson, Trees & Shrubs, Large Deciduous Trees, CSU Gardening Series #7.419, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Co.
• Feucht, Klett, Wilson, Trees & Shrubs, Small Deciduous Trees, CSU Gardening Series #7.418, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Co.
• Johnson, Baji, Hardy, Drought Tolerant and Moderately Salt Tolerant Trees for Northern Nevada, Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet #88-73
A note from Denise

Congratulations to Master Gardener Andrea Meckley on receiving her 500 hour pin. Andrea’s commitment to the UNCE horticulture program for the NE Clark County office has been exceptional and we sincerely thank her for her dedication. She really put her heart into helping our community! Thank you, Andrea!