



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Volunteers: Mark Your Calendars

- Reno Potluck, August 11 at noon.
- Master Gardener Appreciation BBQ at Bowers Mansion, September 13 at 2 p.m., RSVP required.

All Gardeners: Mark Your Calendars

- Proactive Management in Forest Stands, August 13 from noon to 1 p.m., live in Reno and via videoconference to Carson City.
- Grow Your Own, Nevada! Fall 2014 Session "Landscaping, Lawn and Garden." Tues. and Thurs., Sept. 9-25, 6-8 p.m. Live in Reno and via videoconference statewide. Visit GrowYourOwnNevada.com for more information.



Wendy's Master Gardener Corner

All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of yesterday.

What's Been Happening in July?

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer thus far and the return of summer thunderstorms with rain! If we look back at the past several years, July and August are the months when we would see "thunder boomers" rolling in. Unfortunately, they would only produce wind, lighting and fires. This summer, some areas have received up to an inch of rain, while others just a spritz. In a drought-stricken state like ours, anything is better than nothing, especially with June temperatures hitting record highs. With the moisture in the air and the warm evening temperatures, the evenings have been wonderful.

As the summer flies by, lots of changes have been happening in our gardens and to plans for the MG program. I have been toying with the idea of something different for months. With the suggestions and positive feedback from our recent Washoe County MG survey, we are making some changes.

Here is the first: during the growing season, I will put out a monthly "what is happening in the horticulture world" email to all MGs. It will also be printed and available to the public. The email is not a replacement for the newsletter, just a way for up-to-date horticulture-related information to be distributed quickly. As winter comes around, the updates may be bimonthly or just timely depending on current issues and conditions. Please let me know what you think of this first edition. I would love feedback.

We are also implementing many of the ideas that came out in the survey. One is to find a way to capture and utilize all of the talents that Master Gardeners possess. We are creating an information database to help me and our horticulture office to better recognize and remember everyone's skills (see page 4). Please take a moment to go to the [Grow Your Own, Nevada!](http://GrowYourOwnNevada.com) website and submit your information.

We will be taking more steps forward with new and exciting changes that I will explain further in the fall MG newsletter.

You are encouraged to forward or share this publication with friends and neighbors as the information is for all northern Nevadans and Californians who are interested in gardening and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.



Black-eyed Susan can bring attention to any garden. Many Rudbeckia are perennial. They are great additions to any landscape, but especially to low water use landscapes.

Cole Crop Pests



W. Mazet

If you see holes appearing on any of your cole crops, take a close look at the underside of the leaves for cabbage looper larvae.

First things first: what is a cole crop? Cole crop is a general term used to describe several vegetables in the Brassicaceae family. This family is commonly called the mustard family and it includes broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale and kohlrabi. They are cool-season vegetables that prefer temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit for optimal growth.



W. Mazet

The cabbage looper (*Trichoplusia ni*) is a very destructive and difficult-to-control cole crop pest. The adults are nocturnal moths with grayish brown wings and a wing span of 1 1/2 inches. They have a figure-eight-shaped silver spot near the middle of each of the front wings. The moths can be seen in the garden during sunset or evening hours. Their eggs are easily seen on leaves. Newly hatched larvae eat small areas on the undersides of leaves creating odd-shaped holes.

Control can be difficult but there are several options. The first is to look at your crops and hand pick. These little loopers die quickly when submerged in soapy water, rubbing alcohol or vodka, and they make a tasty treat for chickens or birds. You can also plan ahead next year and plant these crops in cloche beds where flying insects cannot enter.

Blooming Weeds



W. Mazet

Western Salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*) in bloom.

If you find a 2-foot tall plant with yellow flowers and seed heads similar to dandelion, you are probably looking at western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*) a.k.a. buck's beard, go-to-bed-at-noon, Joseph's flower, noonflower, etc. You might now see why it is so important to know Latin names when you want to purchase the correct plant. In this case, western salsify is considered a common biennial weed in northern Nevada. For more information, [download our factsheet \(A Northern Nevada Homeowner's Guide to Identifying and Managing Western Salsify\)](#).



W. Mazet

IPM to Combat Insect, Weed and Disease Problems: Part 1

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a process you can use to solve pest or weed problems while minimizing the risks to people, pets, wildlife and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests in urban landscapes, gardens, agricultural and wilderness or natural areas.

IPM programs use a combination of methods that can work together or separately to achieve the goal. There are four categories or processes that make up the IPM toolbox: Biological controls, Cultural controls, Mechanical and Physical controls and Chemical controls. I will break down each of these categories in detail in our next printing. Interested in IPM? Check out the [Nevada Urban Integrated Pest Management Facebook page](#) for timely updates and interesting articles.



IPM: Integrated Pest Management

Getting to Know Master Gardener Volunteers



Surrounded by the buzz of busy bees and blooming flowers Catherine, KD and Kristin enjoy the morning hours while pulling weeds and watering flowers and shrubs.

With Master Gardeners all over the state of Nevada and northern California, it is hard to see everyone monthly, let alone get a chance to really know everyone. I thought it would be nice to interview a randomly chosen MG each month to highlight in Wendy's MG Corner. I hope you will all enjoy this opportunity to learn what drives people to become Master Gardeners and to get to know all the wonderful people who help our community.

This month's Master Gardener is Catherine Hancock. She is well known by many for her deep passions: the Reno Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, perennials and pulling weeds.

Q: How long have you been a Master Gardener? *I don't remember when I took the MG course-- somewhere in the 80's. One of the earliest classes, I think.*

Q: What brought you to the Master Gardener program as far as your gardening experiences? *I have always done some gardening, but the catalyst was when I volunteered to care for the garden at St. Thomas Cathedral after the pastor (who had established the*

garden the year before) was transferred. I thought I ought to know what I was doing, so signed up for the MG class.

Q: How do you fit the MG program into your life? *The MG program is a regular part of my life. I'm chief babysitter for the Pioneer Center landscape and work there one morning a week during the growing season. I also attend occasional educational classes at Cooperative Extension and the potlucks.*

Q: What do you do outside of volunteering as a Master Gardener? *I also volunteer at our grandson's school-- read with the kids once a week.*

Q: Where do you expend your energy? *My energy quotient (I'm in my 80's) isn't quite what it used to be. Our yard, fruit trees and veggie garden keep me pretty busy, and I enjoy occasional classes for seniors at Osher Institute of Lifelong Learning. I walk a good deal for exercise and enjoy helping out with my son's family (8-year-old grandson and daughter-in-law crippled by a stroke).*

Q: Tell me about your passions? *My passions: enjoy the arts, especially music, concerts and dance performances; love to read; and am addicted to crossword puzzles.*

"MGs are fun people and some of my closest friends--a great way to meet like-minded souls!"



Q: How does your garden grow? *My garden doesn't grow so well this year. Neighboring tree shade and roots are ongoing problems. But we had great raspberries and rhubarb and lots of volunteer lettuce from last year. I am always hopeful that we get a tomato crop before frost.*

Q: Final thoughts? *The MG program is an important part of this community and I've enjoyed participating. MGs are fun people and some of my closest*



MGs: What Are Your Areas Of Expertise?



A seed is just a seed until someone takes the time to plant it, care for it and watch it grow. ~WHM

As the years fly by and new Master Gardeners enter the program, I am finding there is a vast well of knowledge and expertise of which we need to take advantage.

I would like to create a database of active Master Gardeners and their areas of expertise.

Participation is not mandatory but is greatly appreciated. The information will be used for helping the horticulture office with specific office needs, client assistance, potential future classes or clinics. The opportunities are endless, but without a list it is difficult for us to remember who likes vegetables, trees or succulents; who enjoys writing and editing; who has computer knowledge; who actually enjoys filing and office work; or who truly wants to help our children learn how to garden.

We would also like to know if you are interested in providing presentations to garden groups, schools or functions such as Gardening in Nevada.

To let us know what you can do, visit GrowGourOwnNevada.com.

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Websites

[Cooperative Extension \(www.unce.unr.edu\)](http://www.unce.unr.edu) • [Grow Your Own, Nevada! \(www.growyourownnevada.com\)](http://www.growyourownnevada.com) • [Master Gardener Program Advisory Council \(mgpac.org\)](http://mgpac.org)

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