



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Words from Wendy

Hello everyone; welcome to fall!

As I sat down to write this newsletter, I wondered if I should welcome everyone to fall or to a continuation of summer. Then, I saw the forecast. So much for welcoming everyone to fall. Welcome to winter!

Ironically, if we remember back, we have had killing freezes on the valley floor the second week in October for the past three years. As vegetable gardeners, we must be in tune with the weather patterns of our area. I have always been labeled as a "weather geek!" I think it runs in my blood; my son always gets excited when Mike Alger of News 2 streams his weather music over the airways. Between Trenten's love of weather, bugs and tomatoes, I think we can say he is a budding gardener.

Speaking of tomatoes, I would love to hear from you all about your tomato-growing experiences. We have a very old fact sheet list of suitable tomato varieties for this area and I would like to replace it with a list of your favorite tomato varieties! I would especially love to hear from you if you purchased a new variety at the 2011 MG plant sale. Tell me what you thought of it— tell me the good and the bad. I personally was thrilled with the production of my Ildi yellow cherry and my Azoychka. I was also thrilled to have a beautiful orange Persimmon— thanks Sue Hug!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful vegetable and flower gardening year. Compared to 2010, 2011 was a winner. If you would like to share your garden success stories (and photos) or wonderful plant finds, let me know! I would love to highlight your successes with flowers, trees, shrubs, fruits, berries and

(of course) vegetables in the winter newsletter. It is always nice to have words of other gardeners inspiring us for next spring when the weather outside is snowy and bitterly cold.

Until next time, enjoy the beautiful fall color.

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Potlucks:

- ◇ Reno: Nov. 7 and Dec. 5, 12 noon
- ◇ Douglas: Dec. 7, 1 p.m.

2011 Master Gardener Survey

By: Heidi Kratsch

On behalf of the entire Western Area Horticulture Team, we would like to thank all of you who completed the 2011 Master Gardener Survey this summer. The results are in, and we would like to share them with you.

Overall, more than half of you indicated that the Master Gardener program is operating very well, training for Master Gardeners is very effective, Master Gardeners are adequately recognized for their contributions to Cooperative Extension and the volunteering experience is meeting your expectations. Some general areas we could improve are: better utilizing the skills of our current volunteers, providing Master Gardeners with a greater voice in how the program is managed and more timely communication of upcoming classes and volunteer opportunities.

Your detailed, comprehensive and constructive comments in this regard were much appreciated. We are taking all of your suggestions to heart. I would like to share some of the early decisions we have made based on your ideas:

One thing that came up repeatedly was the need to provide more volunteer opportunities, both in Washoe County and in the outlying areas. Many of you have untapped talents and passions -strengths that can help support and enhance our UNCE programs. We are developing a searchable Master Gardener Interest Database that can be updated annually as your needs change and new Master Gardeners are trained. Within the next few months, you will be receiving a flyer that will provide you with an opportunity to provide input into what kinds of activities you enjoy. Please watch for this, fill it in and return it to us. Hopefully by focusing on your interests, we can better match you with activities that are fulfilling for you and helpful to our program and to your community.

“Many of you have untapped talents and passions— strengths that can help support and enhance our UNCE programs.”

“...[B]y focusing on your interests, we can better match you with activities that are fulfilling for you and helpful to our program and to your community.”

Several concrete needs emerged through the survey process. First, to help your Coordinator better focus her time where it is needed, we would like to turn the Master Gardener newsletter over to you, our volunteers. Our idea is to develop a **Master Gardener Newsletter Team**, who will be responsible for writing the content. The newsletter will be distributed quarterly following predetermined deadlines, and there will be a section for Carson City and Douglas County items. A template will be available for the team to use, and final editing will be done by our staff. If writing/editing is your passion, please consider volunteering.

Another pressing need is for a **MG Intern Mentoring Team**. This team

“Your detailed, comprehensive and constructive comments... were very much appreciated.”

“We are taking all of your suggestions to heart.”

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2011 Master Gardener Survey (Continued)

By: Heidi Kratsch

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will be comprised of Master Gardeners who have experience volunteering on phones. Training will be provided to team members to enhance their skills in training/coaching others. If you are a regular phone volunteer and feel you have skills to offer, please let us know.

At one time, we had developed a Master Gardener Advisory Committee, and they had many great thoughts and ideas about the program. We would like to establish a more formal **Master Gardener Advisory Council** that could provide us with continuous feedback about our program, forward/implement ideas for funding some aspects of the program and act as an independent entity that can "go to bat" for us in times of need. Those of you with leadership skills and an interest in the inner workings of the Master Gardener Program, please consider volunteering to serve in this important role.

Finally, many of you expressed a need not only for more timely notice of advanced Master Gardener trainings, but also to have input into what kind of classes are provided. We are currently working to put together a schedule of advanced trainings for 2012 and need your input. Please let us know **by October 31, 2011** what trainings interest you. We will publish the schedule and distribute it to you in November. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Hands-on pruning
- Seasonal weeds
- Growing roses
- Organic gardening
- Gardening for pollinators
- Vermicomposting
- Caring for houseplants
- Plant problems, park walk-through
- Microscopy (mostly for Reno)
- Companion gardening
- Advanced landscape design
- Insects and their predators
- Growing cacti and succulents
- Other: _____

To volunteer for any of the above "teams" or to suggest topics for advanced trainings, please contact Ashley Andrews at 775-336-0231 or email andrewsa@unce.unr.edu.

And this is just the beginning! Be looking for more updates on enhancements to the Master Gardener program in the coming months. We want to be responsive to your needs, and we thank you again for your input, patience and support.

— Heidi Kratsch, Area Horticulture Specialist and Wendy Hanson Mazet, Master Gardener Coordinator

Volunteer Opportunities

Potlucks:

Douglas: Douglas County Cooperative Extension office, December 7th, at 1 p.m.

Reno: Reno Cooperative Extension office, November 7 and December 5th, at 12 noon.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Phones: Calls at the Reno office have slowed down with the arrival of cooler temperatures. For autumn, we have switched over to our winter hours. Shifts are still flexible, but we try to schedule volunteers 10 a.m.—2 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you need a mentor, we will team you up with someone. We would greatly appreciate any time you can volunteer. To sign up, contact Ashley at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 336-0231.

Want to be a movie star? We are looking for Master Gardeners who are interested in participating in simple, short videos that we will post on our website. No experience necessary! Jim Sloan, UNCE's marketing specialist, and his student interns make the process fun and painless. We can video anything you have a passion for. If you are interested, but a little shy, our staff is here to help. Please contact Wendy at 336-0246 to sign up.

Fall Home and Lifestyle Show: We need MGs to staff our booth Oct. 22 and 23. Come enjoy the Fall Home and Lifestyles Show. Get ideas for your home-sweet-home and earn more volunteer hours. The shifts available on Saturday are: 2—4:30 p.m. and 4:30—7 p.m. On Sunday, the shifts are 11 a.m.—2 pm. If you are interested in helping, call Wendy at 336-0246 to signup.

Office projects: Do you like organizing? We are looking for a few people to tackle the factsheet collections in each of our Carson City and Douglas County offices. We need to update our files with new fact sheets, eliminate old, out-dated items from our inventory and organize the drawers. If you are interested please call Wendy at 336-0246.

Community Needs: Thank you so very much to all of the Master Gardeners who answered the request for help and food donations for Silver Springs! If you do have extra produce or non-perishables in the pantry, there are many nonprofits in your area that are in need of donations. Many groups have numerous drop-off containers in very convenient locations. The Carson City office has a food donation barrel in the lobby for the Ron Woods Center and at the Fall Home and Garden show on Oct. 22 - 23 there will be barrels for the Evelyn Mount "Reno's Good Will Ambassador." With the donation of two non-perishable items, you will receive \$2.00 off general admission to the show. Master Gardeners will be at the show helping educate our community about everything Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners offer.

Native Plants Club: If native plants are your passion, read on! We are starting a Master Gardener Native Plants Club. Activities will include locating and mapping sites of local native plant populations, seed collecting, establishing native plant community gardens and more! Interested? Contact Heidi Kratsch at 336-0251 to sign up. I hope to organize our first meeting in November.

Educational Opportunities

Reno:

UNCE Classes: Classes are held at the Reno Cooperative Extension office (4955 Energy Way) unless otherwise specified. For more information about these classes, contact Ashley via email at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or call 775-336-0231.

October

- ⇒ **Grow Your Own! Season Extension** October 18, 6-8 p.m. No preregistration is necessary. Cost: \$15, payable in exact cash or check/money order.
- ⇒ **Green Industry Continuing Education Series Tree Coffins** October 19, noon-1 p.m. No preregistration is necessary; you may RSVP to Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 336-0231. Cost: FREE. We have applied for ISA CEUs for this class!
- ⇒ **Grow Your Own! Growing and Composting in Small Places** October 25, 6-8 p.m. No preregistration is necessary. Cost: \$15, payable in exact cash or check/money order. This class is offered via videoconference.

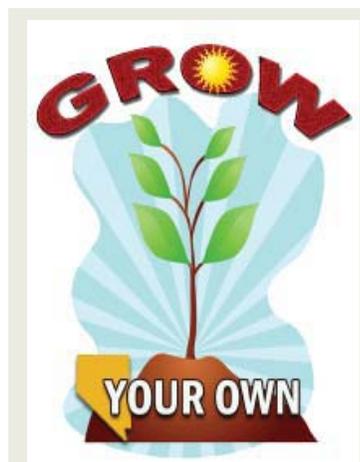
November:

- ⇒ **Grow Your Own! Growing Fruits and Berries** November 1, 6-8 p.m. No preregistration is necessary. Cost: \$15, payable in exact cash or check/money order. ISA CEUs are available for this class!
- ⇒ **Grow Your Own! Harvesting, Preserving, Winterizing** November 8, 6-8 p.m. No preregistration is necessary. Cost: FREE. ISA CEUs are available for this class!
- ⇒ **Green Industry Continuing Education Series Boron- and Salt-tolerant Trees** November 9, noon-1 p.m. No preregistration is necessary; you may RSVP to Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 336-0231. Cost: FREE. We have applied for ISA CEUs for this class!

Non-UNCE Classes/Events: Many local nurseries host weekly lectures. These classes count towards your Master Gardener certification/recertification continuing education hours requirement.

October

- ⇒ **Moana Nursery Class Green Walls** October 22, 10-11 a.m. No preregistration is necessary; participants are requested to arrive early (1190 W. Moana Ln.) as seating is limited to 60. Cost: FREE. Questions? Visit www.moananursery.com or call 826-0600 for more information.



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

Save the Dates! 2012 Schedule:

- ◇ Spring: Wednesdays, Feb. 8 through Mar. 28, 6-8 p.m.
- ◇ Summer: Mondays, Jul. 9 through Aug. 27, 2-4 p.m.

www.growyourownnevada.com

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Educational Opportunities (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

November:

- ⇒ Moana Nursery Class **Autumn Gardening Tips** November 5, 10-11 a.m. No preregistration is necessary; participants are requested to arrive early (1190 W. Moana Ln.) as seating is limited to 60. Cost: FREE. Questions? Visit www.moananursery.com or call 826-0600 for more information.
- ⇒ Moana Nursery Class **Winter Landscape Care and Pest Control** November 12, 10-11 a.m. No preregistration is necessary; participants are requested to arrive early (1190 W. Moana Ln.) as seating is limited to 60. Cost: FREE. Questions? Visit www.moananursery.com or call 826-0600 for more information.

Carson/Douglas:

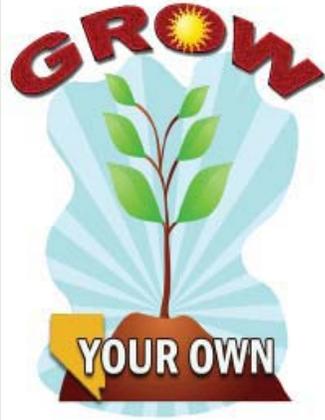
UNCE Classes: Classes are held at the Carson City Cooperative Extension office (2621 Northgate Ln., Ste. 15) unless otherwise specified. For more information about these classes, contact Ashley via email at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or call 775-336-0231.

October

- ⇒ Grow Your Own! **Season Extension** October 18, 6-8 p.m. No preregistration is necessary. Cost: FREE. This class is offered via videoconference.
- ⇒ Green Industry Continuing Education Series **Tree Coffins** October 19, noon-1 p.m. No preregistration is necessary; you may RSVP to Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 336-0231. Cost: FREE. We have applied for ISA CEUs for this class!
- ⇒ Grow Your Own! **Growing and Composting in Small Places** October 25, 6-8 p.m. No preregistration is necessary. Cost: FREE. This class is offered via videoconference.

November

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- ⇒ Grow Your Own! **Harvesting, Preserving, Winterizing** November 8, 6-8



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Educational Opportunities (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

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- ⇒ Green Industry Continuing Education Series **Boron- and Salt-tolerant Trees** November 9, noon-1 p.m. No preregistration is necessary; RSVP to Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 336-0231. Cost: FREE. We have applied for ISA CEUs for this class!

Non-UNCE Classes: Many local nurseries host weekly lectures. These classes count towards your Master Gardener certification/recertification continuing education hours requirement.

October

- ⇒ Greenhouse Garden Center class **Preparing Your Yard for Winter** October 22, 10-11 a.m.

No preregistration is necessary. 2450 S. Curry St., Carson City. Questions? Visit greenhousegardencenter.com or call 882-8600.

Outlying Offices:

UNCE Classes: Your local Cooperative Extension office is invited to connect to all **Green Industry Continuing Education Series** classes and all **Grow Your Own!** classes. To make videoconference arrangements or request a class be offered via videoconference, contact Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 336-0231.

Non-UNCE Classes: Many local nurseries host weekly lectures. These classes count towards your Master Gardener certification/ recertification continuing education hours requirement.

Be the Change for Local Food

By Ashley Andrews

Address the question "What is the most important next step to increasing the availability, affordability, and desirability of local food in Northern Nevada?" at the Local Food Networking potluck on Monday, October 24th at 5:30 p.m. (sharp!) at the River School, 7777 White Fir St.

A \$5 dollar donation is suggested and participants should bring a local dish to share. The hope is to have you determine the next tangible, most important steps in our local food endeavor. The goal: to have 20% of food

consumed in our community come from local sources by 2020.

Spread the word and bring along others who you think might contribute to this important discussion, but please RSVP so we can be sure to set up enough eating spaces for everyone!

Event hosted by: Tom Stille, Leeza Balmin, Philip Moore, Kevin Porter, Alli Harvey, and Jana Vanderhaar

-Local Food System Network

School Gardens Need Master Gardeners!

By Wendy Hanson Mazet

The season may be winding down for vegetable gardening, but school gardens are growing by leaps and bounds! These gardens are in desperate need of your Master Gardener expertise. A vast number of school garden volunteer opportunities are available throughout our area. Some garden sites are able to compensate their garden-helpers.

Have you thought of expanding your UNCE volunteering experience? 4-H leaders are needed to shape and develop the experience of gardening for our youth.

If you would like more information on schools in need of your expertise, please call Michael Ismari at 336-0256. Michael is UNCE's seasonal School Garden Coordinator and he looks forward to working with you!

Freemont School, Carson City

By Charleen Belshaw, Master Gardener

Fremont Elementary School in Carson City has a large vegetable and flower garden maintained by the students as part of their school curriculum. Additionally, many students also belong to the school's garden club. Each Friday, the students hold a farmers market and sell their goods to fund plants for the garden. There is also a Nevada-native habitat that needs constant work such as weeding, pruning and planting. What

a wonderful way to get our young people interested in our love of gardening!

What the school needs are volunteers to help maintain the garden and habitat as well as to instruct the students in proper soil, planting, etc. If anyone is interested in this volunteer opportunity, please call Charleen Belshaw at 775-841-2630.

IPM Update

By Sue Donaldson

I think you know by now that I have a strong interest in pest management and water quality protection. It seems like many of the questions we get in the office are related to plant problems, weeds and pest management. I'm excited to report that for the first time, we'll be able to launch an urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) support program, thanks to a grant we're receiving from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In addition to broadening our IPM education for Master Gardeners, we'd like to reach out to landscapers, garden centers and the public with information

and publications. We'll start by surveying the public and the green industry about their understanding and use of IPM strategies. We'll also ask you to weigh in on your use of IPM using an online survey. The results will help us craft a targeted approach that will include PSAs on TV in addition to written materials. Watch for more news on this two-year grant. We'll be looking for a few of you who are passionate about IPM and would like help us contact and supply garden centers with information. We can also use help from those of you with experience in successful marketing approaches. Stay tuned for more info...

Spectacular Tulips Add Vibrancy to the Yard

By Wendy Hanson Mazet

Don't put away those trowels yet! It's time to start digging in. The fall bulbs have arrived, particularly, the grand jewel of spring-flowering bulbs; the tulip.

Do you want to liven up your flowerbeds? Fall is the time to purchase a wide array of spring-blooming bulbs, but nothing says spring is here like a tulip.

For years, tulips have been a foundation flower of spring gardens. When most people think of tulips today, they think of the grandeur of Holland with its Old Dutch windmills surrounded by vibrant tulips. The true "wild tulip" was found in an arid area of Central Asia and the Turks began cultivating tulips around 1,000 AD. In 1600, Holland took center stage in cultivating many of the exotic beauties we plant today.

To find the tulip that is right for you, a little background information will help. Tulips are divided into categories by blooming time and specific bloom characteristics. Whether you plant early, mid-season or late-season tulips, you can have flowers blooming for months. The categories are what make each tulip stand out from other flowers. Here is just a sampling:

Triumph tulips have the traditional tapered vase shape and are appreciated for their long-lived color. Plants vary in height from 12 inches to 20 inches with large 5-inch blooms. Their delicate petals are smooth and shimmer with a silky appearance. Fringed tulips are in a class of their own. A mid-season bloomer with a unique bloom, each petal is frayed creating a fuzzy appearance. The 'Cummins' tulip is a stunning flower with lavender petals frosted by white fringe.

Double late tulips give an almost artificial appearance. If you have always loved peonies, but have been aggravated by the lack of blooms, this is the tulip for you. Try 'Angelique' for that traditional peony look or plant 'Abigail' if you love rosebuds. With 'Abigail,' each bloom is distinctive with a rosebud shape and layers of petals. The colors are rich and perfectly contrasted by the dark green base. This tulip is also known for its sweet fragrance.

"When choosing a tulip, take into consideration your favorite colors and which style of tulip fits your yard's style."

"Triumph tulips have the traditional tapered vase shape and are appreciated for their long-lived color."

Double late tulips are the tulips for you if you love peonies but are frustrated by the lack of blooms!



'Monsella,' an early double tulip takes more than a second to appreciate all the beauty it holds. Vibrant yellow with red splashes of color extend out to the tips of each petal. The hidden treasure is inside, where petals curl and twist, adding to the flower's vibrancy.

When choosing a tulip, take into consideration your favorite colors and which style of tulip fits your yard's style. Tulips are well-suited to our area and do not require additional refrigeration to achieve late-winter to spring blooms. They prefer full sun with sandy or well-drained soils. Tulip bulb sizes vary and prices

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Spectacular Tulips Add Vibrancy to the Yard (Continued)

By Wendy Hanson Mazet

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will reflect the size, quality, uniqueness and rarity. Healthy bulbs are well-hydrated and have no appearance of shriveling or mold. Larger bulbs will produce stronger plants and larger flowers due to the high amount of nutrients stored.

Remember, squirrels find tulips a delicacy, and if you live in an area with rodent problems, you will need to plant your tulips in cages or find other ways to protect them. For all the hard work you put into selecting, planting and protecting these wonderful jewels, you will be thrilled with the results in spring.

Pruning Safely

West Virginia University, Environmental Health and Safety

Pre-Pruning Activities: Pruning involves the use of shears and saws, loppers, and manual and electric hedge trimmers. Pruning tools have sharp edges and pinch points and in some cases an additional electrical hazard. Review and understand information from the pruning tool brochure or booklet provided by the manufacturer, with particular attention given to safety procedures.

Inspect pruning tools to determine if they are functioning properly, assure all moveable joints are lubricated and blades are sharpened adequately. For electric equipment, inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.

Pruning Precautions:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses with side shields, hard hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and steel-toed boots.
- Never prune trees or branches within 10 feet of power lines. Contact your local utility company to secure appropriately qualified tree trimming services.
- Do not carry pruning tools in your hands while climbing ladders and maintain a safe working distance from other workers when using hand pruning tools.
- Inspect the work area to locate any signs of bees, wasps, or other potential animal hazards.
- Do not cut branches bigger than the pruning tool was designed to cut.
- Before making a cut, know the location of your hands and fingers.
- Do not drop pruning tools from ladders.
- Carry pruning tools with the sharp end pointed down.
- Prior to dropping a branch, an audible warning such as "timber" shall be given.
- Take frequent breaks when performing repetitive tasks. Do not overtire yourself.
- Be aware of the weather conditions and drink adequate fluids to prevent heat exhaustion and dehydration.



Reno Gleaning Project

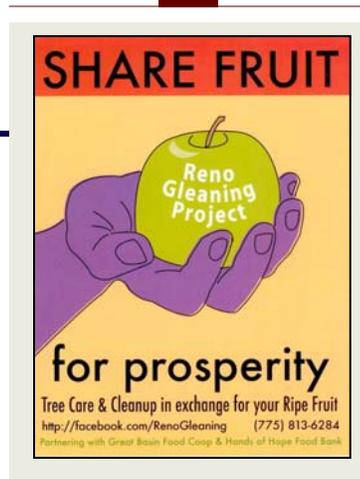
By Ashley Andrews

The Reno Gleaning Project (RGP) is a group of volunteers who pick fruit not used by its growers (an action called "gleaning") to reduce food waste. Growers sometimes request RGP gleaning. Fruit is also gleaned as a result of RGP spotter-picker volunteers (who spot, gain permission to pick and then glean produce).

RGP'ers donate much of their gleaned produce to

Hands of Hope, a local food bank.

To volunteer for RGP or to request a gleaning of your excess fruit, contact Pamela Mayne at 775-813-6284.



About the Master Gardener Newsletter

Newsletter Production:

This newsletter is created by the horticulture staff in the Washoe County office with support from our Master Gardener Volunteers. It is published bi-monthly for the benefit of Master Gardeners and their family and community. The newsletter is delivered electronically via our website and an email distribution list to conserve our limited resources. To subscribe to our email list, contact Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu. To view our newsletter online, visit our website unce.unr.edu/areas/western/newsletters/ and scroll down to the section for Master Gardeners. We are sensitive to the needs of our Master Gardeners. If you are unable to access this newsletter electronically due to a disability, we will provide you with a printed copy. Enlarged copies are also available. To request an accessible newsletter, contact Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 775-336-0231.

Submission Policy:

The Master Gardener Newsletter is incomplete without submissions from you, our Master Gardeners! Please submit photos, event announcements, book reviews, garden visits, how-

to's or other garden-related material to Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu. We accept previously published articles with consent from the prior publisher.

Your written submissions may be edited for grammar, spelling and readability. By submitting your work to us, you authorize us to republish it in the newsletter and elsewhere. Examples of where we might feature your work include our Facebook page or a UNCE fact sheet.

Our Mission:

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners help people improve their lives through education. They are committed to improving themselves, their community and their environment by participating in horticultural education and activities. Master Gardeners are leaders in environmental stewardship through education.

Legal Notices:

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About the Master Gardener Newsletter (Continued)

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University of Nevada Cooperative Extension encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Wendy Hanson Mazet, hansonw@unce.unr.edu or 775-784-4848, in advance of your participation or visit.

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Carson City/Storey County:

2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 15
Carson City, NV 89706
775-887-2252

Douglas County:

1329 Waterloo Lane
Gardnerville, NV 89410
P.O. Box 338
Minden, NV 89423
775-782-9960

Incline Village:

855 Alder • P.O. Box
3192
Incline Village, NV
89452
775-832-4150

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe:

208 Capital Hill Road
P.O. Box 256
Nixon, NV 89424
775-574-0101, ext. 28

Interact with us online!

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mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu
- Twitter:
twitter.com/garden_chat
- Facebook:
facebook.com/UNCCEMasterGardeners