



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



Words from the Horticulture Team

The end of 2011 has arrived and it's time to plan our 2012; a year for which as gardeners and as Master Gardeners we have great plans! Below you'll find the tentative 2012 Advanced Master Gardener Training Program schedule. In the solitude of winter as you all are planning your 2012 gardens and your schedules, please make note of these educational opportunities which will occur each month, mid-month. Keep an eye on your email box for the complete 2012 schedule, including dates, times and class descriptions.

Advanced Master Gardener Training— 2012 Tentative Schedule

Month	Location	Topic
Jan	Reno	Volunteer Management System
Feb	Reno	Using the Office Computers (and Associated Software)
Mar	Reno	Hands-on Pruning
Apr	Reno	Spring Weed Identification
May	Reno	The Caughlin Fire and Bark Beetle infestations
Jun	Reno, Carson City, Douglas	Microscopy/C.L.U.E.
Jul	Reno	Summer Weed Identification
Aug	Reno	How to Talk to Clients About Pesticides
Sept	Reno	Fall Park Walk-about
Oct	Reno	Building and Maintaining Greenhouses and Hoop Houses
Nov	Reno	Organic Pest Control: What Does it Really Mean?
Dec	Reno	Water Harvesting

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Master Gardener Newsletter

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Potlucks:

- ◇ Reno:
Feb.
13th,
noon
- ◇ Douglas:
Feb 1st,
1 p.m.

Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire

By: Extension Educator JoAnne Skelly

Introduction: Wildfire can affect trees in residential landscapes in a variety of ways. They can be completely or partially consumed, scorched and dried out, or merely singed. Many trees can recover after fire, depending on the intensity and duration of the burn and extent of dehydration. After a fire, it is important to determine which trees might recuperate and which will need to be removed.

How Fire Damages Trees: Fire directly damages trees in a number of ways:

- ◇ Leaf or needle scorch
- ◇ Root damage
- ◇ Trunk or branch damage
- ◇ Inner tissue (cambium) injury
- ◇ Bud death

Other less direct impacts include soil desiccation or water-repellant (hydrophobic) soils. Trees unable to obtain adequate soil moisture after a fire are less likely to survive. Fire-damaged and water-stressed trees are also more susceptible to bark beetle attacks.

Factors Affecting Tree Survivability after a Fire: Trees vary in how readily they burn and whether they can survive a fire. Fire intensity and length of exposure are important factors in tree response. The growth stage of the tree can influence whether or not it can survive. Trees starting to grow in the spring are more susceptible to fire damage than dormant trees. Young Jeffrey or Ponderosa pine can burn readily under moderate to high fire severity, but as they mature they develop a thicker bark that is more fire-resistant.

Physical spacing can be critical to tree survival. Closely spaced trees are continuous fuels and can conduct flames more readily and with a greater intensity than trees with greater distance between them.

The chemical and physical characteristics of trees influence how they burn and their survival potential. Many evergreen trees are high in oils and waxes and have a greater burn potential than most deciduous trees, which have lower oil and wax content. In summer, deciduous trees usually have a higher moisture content than evergreens. Chemical components vary in a plant depending on the time of year and the species. Trees that are more likely to survive a wildfire have an open, loose branching pattern with less total vegetation overall. They also accumulate less plant litter within or underneath them.

Trees that are stressed due to drought, injury, disease, insects or mistletoe are weak prior to a fire and unlikely to survive after a fire.

Determining Tree Mortality: If the bark has not been completely burned off the trunk, exposing and damaging the cambium, the tree may survive. Cut a quarter-sized or smaller piece of bark off the trunk one-quarter to one-half inch through the bark. If there is a green or white moist cambial layer immediately below the bark, the tree has a good chance of recuperating.

If the trunk is severely burned for more than 50% around the circumference, the tree will probably die, although some thick-barked trees may survive. Where fire burned deeply into part of the trunk, the tree will be unstable and survival is unlikely. These are hazard trees and should be removed.

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Read carefully! There is a quiz on this article at the end of this newsletter. Turn in your completed quiz to receive 1 hour of continuing education credit!

Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)



Severely burned trees will not survive.

species and degree of the fire damage.

Healthy, deciduous trees can be resilient after being partially burned and may produce new leaves and stems, as well as sprouts at the base of the tree. Evergreen trees may also survive if more than 10 percent of their foliage is still green.



Evergreen trees with less than 10 percent green foliage or less than 50 percent live buds remaining are unlikely to survive.

To check if burned branches are alive, peel back a bit of bark on twigs. If there is a thin layer underneath the bark that is green or white and moist, the twigs may still be alive. Wait to see if they have spring growth before pruning these branches.

Look for burned roots around the base of the tree and several feet away. Roots are generally 6 inches to 8 inches below the soil surface. Gently unearth the roots at a few locations. Check to make sure they are supple, rather than brittle and dried out. If 50% of roots have been burned, the tree is unstable, may be toppled by wind, and will probably die.

A tree that has lost part or all of its leaves or needles because of heat from a fire may or may not recuperate depending on the



Deciduous tree affected by fire likely to survive.

Buds that are still green and moist rather than dry and brittle, or twigs that bend easily rather than break, indicate a tree that will probably live. If the buds are dry and break easily, they are dead. An evergreen tree with less than 50 percent live buds remaining after a fire will probably not survive, but it is difficult to determine what percentage of buds are still viable.

An evergreen tree that has been damaged by fire may live, but it will be stressed and attract bark beetles. Bark- and wood-boring beetles can cause trees to produce balls of pink to red pitch on the trunk or branches. A tree with boring dust from beetles feeding around one-third or more of the trunk will probably die within a year or two.

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Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)



A tree with evident boring dust.

An immediate post-fire inspection will not give an absolute answer about whether a tree will live. The definitive answer will occur when, or if, the buds and shoots develop and grow in the spring following the fire. Many trees may recover and grow, so do not hurry to prune every burned limb. Wait and see what recovers. New growth on some trees may be ugly and need corrective pruning. Unsightly growth that can not be corrected with pruning may warrant tree removal.

Care for Fire Damaged Trees: After a fire, it is necessary to water trees as soon as possible. First, determine if the soil will absorb water. Sometimes after a fire, soils can become water-repellant (hydrophobic). To test for hydrophobic soils, pour a cup of water on the soil. If the soil does not absorb it and the

water beads up on the surface, scrape off the top inch or two of soil and try again.

If the water still will not penetrate the top couple of inches of soil, rake the ground to loosen the impermeable layer. Mulch the area with a thin layer of weed-free straw after raking to help it absorb water. Twenty percent of the soil should show through the straw when finished. It may be necessary to lightly push the straw into the soil (crimp) every few feet with a shovel so that it will not blow or wash away.

Severely burned soils, especially those high in organic matter, may take months or over a year to absorb water without corrective measures.

When water will soak into the soil, start irrigating. The goal is to soak the entire area under the dripline of the tree (from the trunk to the branch tips) and a few feet past the dripline, to a depth of 12 to 15 inches. Water-absorbing roots are in the top 12 to 15 inches of soil. It is not necessary to water more deeply. A soaker hose that slowly oozes water into the soil works well. Place the hose in a circle a few feet away from the tree trunk. After watering for an hour, check the depth of water penetration by digging a small hole in the soil. After it has soaked the necessary 12 to 15 inches, move the hose out another two to three feet and water that area. Continue to move the hose until the dripline and two to three feet outside the dripline have been watered.

If the trees are irrigated by a drip system, it may have to be expanded to wet a larger area. A few emitters will not be enough to water the entire area under a big tree. Where sprinklers are used, make sure they provide full coverage under the tree and out past the dripline a few feet. Manage the sprinklers with an on/off/on schedule to prevent runoff and soil erosion and to wet the soil slowly but thoroughly.

Check trees weekly, and water when the soil dries to six inches deep, not only in the summer but also through the fall and winter unless there is sufficient rain or snow to maintain adequate soil moisture. It is critical to water slowly to allow water to soak in and avoid runoff.

Protect the trunks and large limbs of trees from sunburn until the leaf or needle area (canopy) regrows.

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Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Wrap them with a permeable substance such as light-colored cloth, cardboard, or tree wrap, or paint them with a water-based white paint. Do not use oil- or petroleum-based products because they damage plant tissue. Loosen the wrap every few months, so the tree can grow without being strangled (girdled).

Prune off dead, broken, or severely damaged limbs. Wait until fall to prune limbs on damaged pines to avoid attracting bark beetles. Ideally, trees that must be cut down should be removed from the property immediately to avoid beetle infestation.

However, the wood can be left on site, if it is cut into 12-inch lengths and exposed to the drying sun. Split pieces larger than 8 inches in diameter to speed the drying.

Pile the wood in direct sun and cover it with four- to six-mil clear plastic. The smaller the pile, the more effective this is. Avoid tearing the plastic and be sure all edges of the plastic are buried. Leave the pile covered for three months during hot weather, and longer during the cooler times of the year. Heat trapped under the plastic will make the wood unsuitable for beetles. Do not place the pile or firewood under surviving pines. Chipping and pile burning are also satisfactory methods of disposal. Chip all small pruned material or remove it from the property immediately.

Trees Survival Mechanisms: One mechanism trees have to survive after a fire is the ability to resprout. If a tree is top-killed in a fire, it can grow back from roots or stems. These trees provide excellent soil stabilization for fire-affected soils. If irrigated, they may also quickly restore a landscape to its pre-fire appearance. Here are commonly used ornamental and native trees that resprout after fire: aspen, black locust, crabapple, birch, boxelder, cottonwood, Gambel oak, giant sequoia, green ash, hackberry, honey locust, Idaho locust, poplar, maple, swamp white oak, sweetgum, and willow. Not all of these resprouting trees are recommended for use in an urban landscape, but may occur in the natural environment around residences in the wildland interface.



Native deciduous trees resprout after fire.

Native deciduous trees resprout after fire. Other fire survival mechanisms include thick bark, shielded buds, or seed stored in the soil or in cones, which open after exposure to fire.

Additional Considerations

During the clean-up process after a fire, avoid injuring trees undamaged by the fire. Protect trees from potential construction injury by establishing protective zones around individual trees and groups of trees. Do not drive or park equipment or vehicles over root systems. This seriously damages tree roots and stresses trees. Stressed trees are less likely to survive and thrive. At a minimum, keep construction-related activity outside the dripline of trees.

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Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire (Continued)

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Conclusion: After a fire, when evaluating what steps to take, think about safety first. Check for unstable trees or tree limbs that may fall. Then, take care of remaining trees and be patient. Many trees can survive a fire. Some plants can be very resilient when irrigated properly and stress factors are reduced.

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Take the "Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire" quiz at the end of this newsletter to see how much you learned. Completed quizzes are worth 1 hour of continuing education!

New Grant Received to Assist Public in Using IPM

By: Area Specialist Susan Donaldson

In November, we received a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to launch an Urban/Consumer IPM program. There are a number of elements to the grant, including surveys of the general public, green industry and Master Gardeners to better understand their use of and beliefs about IPM; developing publications to be placed in cooperating nurseries and garden centers; developing PSAs to be shown on major network TV during the growing season; and

increasing the amount of IPM training we provide. You'll all be invited to complete the survey online sometime in January. Then, we're looking for a few Master Gardeners to help us recruit and work with nurseries and garden centers to provide information to their clientele. Watch for more information on this opportunity, or let Sue know about your interest in the program. You can reach her at 336-0242 or email donaldsons@unce.unr.edu.

Special thanks to Master Gardeners Gregory White and Christy Chamberlain for contributing articles and photographs for this edition of the Master Gardener Newsletter!

Read their articles on pages 10-14.

Volunteer Opportunities

Potlucks:

Douglas: Douglas County Cooperative Extension office, Feb. 1st, 1 p.m.

Reno: Reno Cooperative Extension office, Feb. 13th, noon.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Master Gardener Native Plants Club Meeting: January 23rd, 2-3:30 p.m. in the Reno and Carson City offices. For more information, contact Heidi Kratsch at kratschh@unce.unr.edu or 775-336-0251.

Phones: Office volunteers are needed in the Reno office from 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.

Mapping and Monitoring Weeds: Money is tight in the County, but we're trying to continue our annual weed monitoring and treatment despite reduced staff numbers. So...we're looking for a few Master Gardeners who would like to work with Eric Hasty of Washoe County to learn to identify and map weeds, and monitor our success on treated areas. We've been working on public properties including

parks and trails. The information will be used to direct the crews who will be treating the weeds this season. Training and equipment will be provided. If you're interested, let Sue know by calling 336-0242 or emailing her at donaldsons@unce.unr.edu. This project will begin next spring.

Nevada Landscape Association's Annual Conference: On February 15th, 2012, the Nevada Landscape Association will be holding its annual conference. The event will be held from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. This year, the conference has six educational tracks participants can choose to attend. The NLA would like to have one Master Gardener volunteer helping out with each track, as well as additional volunteers to help in the morning with conference registration and at noon for box lunch distribution. To volunteer, please contact Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu or 775-336-0231. To learn more about the NLA, visit their website: www.nevadanla.com.

Educational Opportunities

Reno:

- ⇒ Write an article for the Master Gardener Newsletter! The time you spend researching and writing the article counts as hours of continuing education. Email your article, any photographs and their captions to Ashley at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu
- ⇒ Read the "Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire" article at the beginning of this newsletter and then take the quiz at the end of this newsletter! Submit your completed quiz to Ashley via email (andrewsa@unce.unr.edu), fax (775-784-4881) or snail mail (UNCE, 4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502) to receive credit for one hour of continuing education.

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Educational Opportunities

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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.

January:

- ⇒ Green Industry Training: Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 17th-February 9th, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Preregistration is required and due by January 17th. Cost: \$15 per class or \$80 for all eight classes, payable in exact cash or check/money order.

2012 Sneak Peek:

- ⇒ Advanced Master Gardener Training Program: in 2012, we will present one educational class each month ~midmonth. The tentative schedule is on the first page of the newsletter. Keep an eye on your email box for the complete 2012 schedule, including dates, times and topics.
- ⇒ Green Industry Continuing Education Series: in 2012, we will hold one educational noon meeting each month on the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month. We will send email announcements out as each class approaches.
- ⇒ Gardening in Nevada: Bartley Ranch: Tuesdays, February 7th-March 27th, 6-8 p.m.. No preregistration is needed. Cost: FREE!
- ⇒ Grow Your Own! Wednesdays, February 8th-March 28th, 6-8 p.m.. Preregistration is requested. Cost: \$15 per class or \$60 for all 8 classes.
- ⇒ Nevada Landscape Association's Annual Conference: Wednesday, February 15th, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Reno-Sparks Convention Center. www.nevadanla.com.
- ⇒ Master Gardener Class: Mondays and Tuesdays, March 5th- May 1st. Preregistration is required. Cost for new Master Gardeners: \$185, payable in exact cash or check/money order. Cost for current Master Gardeners: FREE to attend, some labor required (ie setting up the room, making coffee, laying out refreshments, etc.). Contact Wendy at hansonw@unce.unr.edu or 775-336-0246. to arrange to attend.
- ⇒ Weed Warriors: Wednesday, May 16th, 1-5 p.m. and Thursday, May 17th, 8 a.m.- 12 noon. Preregistration is required. Cost: \$35, payable in exact cash or check/money order. Participants must attend both days to complete the training.

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

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Educational Opportunities (Continued)

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Carson/Douglas:

- ⇒ Write an article for the *Master Gardener Newsletter*! The time you spend researching and writing the article counts as hours of continuing education. Email your article, any photographs and their captions to Ashley at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu
- ⇒ Read the "Taking care of Residential Trees after Wildfire" article at the beginning of this newsletter and then take the quiz at the end of this newsletter! Submit your completed quiz to Ashley via email (andrewsa@unce.unr.edu), fax (775-784-4881) or snail mail (UNCE, 4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502) to receive credit for one hour of continuing education.

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.

2012 Sneak Peek:

- ⇒ **Green Industry Continuing Education Series:** in 2012, we will hold one educational noon meeting each month on the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month. We will send email announcements out as each class approaches. The classes will be presented live in Reno and via videoconference to the Carson office.
- ⇒ **Weed Warriors:** Wednesday, May 16th, 1-5 p.m. and Thursday, May 17th, 8 a.m.- 12 noon. Preregistration is required. Cost: \$35, payable in exact cash or check/money order. Participants must attend both days to complete the training. The class will be presented live in Reno and via videoconference to Carson and Douglas.

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

Outlying Offices:

- ⇒ Write an article for the *Master Gardener Newsletter*! The time you spend researching and writing the article counts as hours of continuing education. Email your article, any photographs and their captions to Ashley at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu
- ⇒ Read the "Taking care of Residential Trees after Wildfire" article at the beginning of this newsletter and then take the quiz at the end of this newsletter! Submit your completed quiz to Ashley via email (andrewsa@unce.unr.edu), fax (775-784-4881) or snail mail (UNCE, 4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502) to receive credit for one hour of continuing education.

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

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Educational Opportunities (Continued)

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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.

Winter Tomatoes?

By: Master Gardener Gregory White

Last fall I realized I could leave my swiss chard, beets and other root crops in my garden, to enjoy them well after fall's first hard frost and into winter's cold, rain and snow. This year I expanded on that idea after a Master Gardener related to me how he had hung green tomatoes, vines and all in his garage, which allowed him to harvest and enjoy ripe tomatoes well into fall. As was the case last year, this year's frosty wet spring and early summer delayed much of my garden planting. As such, my tomatoes developed late into the season, resulting in a nice late October bumper crop of green tomatoes. At first, I wasn't convinced that the tomato vine hanging technique would really work, but tried it anyway in the interest of curiosity and since I had little to lose if it failed except the extra work to clean up the vines.

During the third week of October, the night before our first hard frost in the Virginia Foothills area near Geiger Grade, I snipped off two tomato vines at their bases, one three feet long and the other almost six feet long. I then strung up both vines from their vine bases from an unused garage door track in my garage. In total, these vines contained more than 50 tomatoes of various sizes and stages of ripeness.

To my surprise over the next two weeks, I began to see them slowly ripen on their vines, yielding 2-4 medium to large sized tomatoes every 3-4 days. I carefully snipped them off as they turned light to medium red, finishing their ripening in my kitchen pantry. Even though the growth of these tomatoes was halted the night I cut their vines from my garden, I expect to be able to enjoy these vine ripened tomatoes throughout November and into December. In order to accomplish this, I needed to ensure the tomatoes were not



Hang green tomato-laden plants in the garage "to harvest and enjoy ripe tomatoes well into fall."

Photos courtesy of Gregory White.

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Winter Tomatoes? (Continued)

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exposed to freezing temperatures for very long. My garage is insulated and rarely freezes, even during the coldest winter nights and my garage doors remain closed most of the time. I also needed to ensure the space below the vines was clear since even slight touches to the plant resulted in quite a mess of dried, crinkly leaves on my garage floor. I am now very happy I tried this technique and look forward to enjoying its bounty through Thanksgiving Day and beyond.

Harvest 2-4 medium to large sized tomatoes every 3-4 days!

Photo courtesy of Gregory White



Kohlrabi: the space alien of vegetables

By: Master Gardener Gregory White

I planted my garden so densely this year and with so many new varieties of vegetables, I actually found that I could not identify everything that was coming up. My cucumbers got lost inside massive tomato vines. Beets, broccoli, cabbage and winter squash intertwined and mixed in a kaleidoscope of color, texture and jungle plant growth. One row of plants with green leaves over two feet tall, hid from me well into October between winter squash, swiss chard and carrots. Even when I cleared away some of the surrounding crops I didn't realize what lied beneath the large leaves closer to the ground. Once I looked at them closer, I still couldn't figure out what they were. This plant appeared to have been dropped from space onto this planet, like little sputnik shaped growths. They looked like nothing I had ever seen before. One or two inches above the ground protruding from large root structures were bulbous tumors with stems wrapping around and moving upward toward green leaves. It looked like a mistake of nature, a laboratory cross breed gone wrong, a "space alien" among vegetables.

After perusing my spent seed packets from the prior spring, I finally found the packet with the picture on it that resembled my alien veggie species: Kohlrabi. Then I remembered, my father had grown them in his garden several decades before when I was young, a fond childhood memory which was probably the only reason I bought the seeds in the first place. I planted them in June and simply forgot them for the next four months.

In October I dug several of them up from near freezing ground, cleaned and boiled them just like potatoes. I still have them in my garden and plan to leave the rest there to use as I need them over the next several weeks. I cut the stems off one or two inches from their bulbs and boiled them as well as the leaves. Since I hadn't thinned them out after planting, their sizes varied greatly, from 1 to 4 inches across. I found them



Photo by Gregory White.

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Kohlrabi: the space alien of vegetables (Continued)

(Continued from page 11)

to be delightful, a unique and fun vegetable full of nutrition, one that appears very adaptable to our climate in northern Nevada.

Kohlrabi is from the cruciferae family, so it's related to cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts and cauliflower, among many others. Kohlrabi is low in calories and high in vitamin c and potassium. Although not very common or popular in America, they are apparently common and widely distributed in many parts of the world. They originated in northern Europe, with "kohl" meaning cabbage and "rabi" referring to turnip in German. I enjoyed the smaller, 1 to 2" kohlrabi bulbs more than the larger bulbs, since larger bulbs become woody and stringy on the outsides of their bulbs. An added bonus are the leaves; they don't boil down to nothing like swiss chard or spinach, but stay firm, robust and a bit more chewy, but with good flavor. Kohlrabi look like a cross between a cabbage and a turnip, are pungent smelling like brussels sprouts, appear firm and white like potatoes, but need to be peeled like an artichoke. With so many unique and wonderful attributes, I plan to plant Kohlrabi again in the spring.



This space alien veggie is low in calories and high in vitamin C and potassium! Photo by Gregory White.

Gertrude's Garden Growing Strong Thanks to Douglas MGs By: Master Gardener Christy Chamberlain



Violas planted from seed bloom along the south side of the stone cellar in May 2011. Photo courtesy of Christy Chamberlain.

Four years ago, Gertrude Dangberg's once-prizewinning flower garden was an indistinguishable weed patch. This year, it was a showcase of bulbs, annuals and perennials that lasted through the first hard freezes of fall.

The garden is located at the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park, just west of Minden. The park, owned by Douglas County and operated by Friends of Dangberg Home Ranch, a nonprofit organization, features eight historic structures, including the home of the founder, H.F. Dangberg Sr.

The house was occupied by Dangberg and his descendants from 1857 until 1995, and is now a museum. Tours of the 5.5-acre site have been offered since 2007, but until this year, the house was the primary focus.

That has changed thanks in part to the park volunteers and Master Gardeners who have put hundreds of hours into tending Gertrude's Garden and the areas around the buildings.

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Gertrude's Garden Growing Strong Thanks to Douglas MGs (Continued)

(Continued from page 12)

Gertrude Dangberg lived in the house from 1898 until 1968, and she maintained a beautiful flower garden. The park's artifact collection includes pictures of her in the garden, with blooming flowers that reached shoulder height, ribbons awarded for the flowers at local fairs, and seed catalogs dating back to the 1930s.

Two of her daughters, Ruth and Margaret, shared her gardening enthusiasm, but as they grew older the garden was left on its own.

By the time the site opened as an historic park, the garden was overrun with weeds and grass, and no one thought any of the original plants had survived.

Park Curator Mark Jensen helped form a gardening committee and has coordinated the ongoing work, which Master Gardeners can claim for community service hours. Plant It Nursery in Gardnerville has also helped, supplying materials and advice as the garden's official sponsor.

"I couldn't be more pleased with what the volunteers have accomplished with Gertrude's Garden," said Jensen. "A few years ago, it was just a patch of pasture grass with a few peonies struggling to survive. But this year it actually looked like a garden."

The reclamation started with sheet composting to smother the weeds. As the gardeners worked, they found a few plants had persevered -

peonies and roses that may have been planted by Gertrude or her daughters. They were marked or moved as necessary.

The gardeners also planted irises, tulips, gladiolas, hyacinths and other plants that would have been popular during Gertrude's lifetime.

The gardeners are now confident that the worst of the weeding is behind them, if they can keep ahead of it next spring.

And their work wasn't limited to Gertrude's Garden. Hens and chicks, sedum, violas, columbine, hollyhocks, delphinium, day lilies and other selections have been added to the areas around the buildings, and have nearly filled in the empty spaces. Park docents make a point of showing the gardens to visitors, and the improvements are a key part of a plan to market the site for weddings and special events.



Tulips flourished in the main garden bed, peaking in May 2011. Photo courtesy of Christy Chamberlain.



Thanks in part to Master Gardeners, Gertrude Dangberg's peonies are again thriving. Photo courtesy of Christy Chamberlain.



The red brick of the garage building provides a striking contrast to one of several delphinium plants. Photo courtesy of Christy Chamberlain.

(Continued on page 14)

Gertrude's Garden Growing Strong Thanks to Douglas MGs (Continued)

(Continued from page 13)

"I'm very excited that the park will have a nice backdrop for wedding photographs next year," said Jensen. "Like everything else at the Dangberg Home Ranch, the garden just keeps improving with time."

For information on volunteering at the park, or to make tour reservations, call (775) 783-9417 or visit dangberghomeranch.org.

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, their family and community.

The newsletter is delivered electronically via our website and an email distribution list. To subscribe to our email list, contact Ashley Andrews at andrewsa@unce.unr.edu. To view our newsletter online, visit our website www.unce.unr.edu/areas/western/newsletters/.

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-tos 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: UNCE Master Gardeners help people improve their lives through education.

Christy Chamberlain put 75 hours into Gertrude's Garden and other gardening projects at the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park this year.

To view her beautiful photographs online, visit growyourownnevada.com.

NEW Newsletter Production Policy: Beginning with the Spring 2012 edition of the Master Gardener Newsletter, all newsletters will be created by Master Gardener volunteers Carol F., Leslie E. and Kathy G. with support from the horticulture staff in the Washoe County office.

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.

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UNCE 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.

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Interact with us Online!

- Our website: www.unce.unr.edu
- Our Grow Your Own! website: growyourownnevada.com
- Our Email Address: mastergardeners@unce.unr.edu
- Twitter: twitter.com/garden_chat
- Facebook: facebook.com/UNCEMasterGardeners

Answer key:

1. True
2. F, All of the above
3. True
4. E, All of the above
5. 50%
6. Peel back a bit of bark on twigs. If there is a thin layer underneath the bark that is green or white and moist, the twigs may still be alive.
7. False
8. False
9. It is water-repellant. The soil does not absorb water and the water beads up on the surface.
10. F, A, B and C only

Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire Quiz!

By: Ashley Andrews

Answer the following questions based on the "Taking Care of Residential Trees after Wildfire" article by JoAnne Skelly and published at the beginning of this newsletter to receive 1 hour of continuing education credit!

Check your answers; they are on page 15, and then submit your completed quiz to Ashley via email (andrewsa@unce.unr.edu), fax (775-784-4881) or snail mail (UNCE, 4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502) to receive credit for one hour of continuing education.

Name: _____

Master Gardener number (if known): _____

1. **True or False:** Many trees can recover after a fire, depending on the intensity and duration of the burn and extent of dehydration.

2. Fire directly damages trees in the following ways:

- a. Inner tissue (cambium) injury
- b. Root damage
- c. Bud death
- d. Trunk or branch damage
- e. Leaf or needle scorch
- f. All of the above

3. **True or False:** The chemical and physical characteristics of trees influence how they burn and their survival potential.

4. Trees stressed by the following conditions are less likely to survive after a fire:

- a. Injury
- b. Disease/Insects
- c. Mistletoe
- d. All of the above

5. If the trunk is severely burned more than _____% around the circumference, the tree will probably die.

- a. 10%
- b. 50%
- c. 25%

6. How does one check to see if burned branches are alive?

7. **True or False:** An immediate post-fire inspection will give an absolute answer about whether a tree will live.

8. **True or False:** After a fire,

it is important not to water affected trees to avoid overwatering. The water sprayed to fight the fire is more than enough.

9. A soil that is hydrophobic does what when exposed to water?

10. Tree survival mechanisms include:

- a. Resprouting
- b. Thick bark
- c. Shielded buds or seeds
- d. Drip irrigation systems
- e. All of the above
- f. A,B and C only