



Master Gardener Newsletter

New Mexico State University
Cooperative Extension Service
US Department of Agriculture
College of Agriculture & Home Economics

Dona Ana County Office
530 North Church Street
Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone: (505) 525-6649 Fax: (505) 525-6652

Scientists Turn Cheap Beet Pulp into Value-Added Plastics Ingredient

By [Jan Suszkiw](#)
March 12, 2008

Sugar beet pulp may help cut the costs of making biodegradable plastic, Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#)) studies suggest.

The pulp is a fiber-rich byproduct of sucrose extraction procedures used by sugar beet processors. Most of the 40 million tons of U.S. sugar beet pulp generated each year is used as an inexpensive livestock feed or pet-food ingredient. But ARS chemists [Victoria Finkenstadt](#) and [LinShu Liu](#) aim to breathe new economic life into the pulp.

Finkenstadt is with the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research ([NCAUR](#)) in Peoria, Ill. Liu is with the ARS [Eastern Regional Research Center](#) in Wyndmoor, Pa. Since 2004, they've collaborated on a project to convert sugar beet pulp into a specialized filler material for polylactic-acid-based plastics.

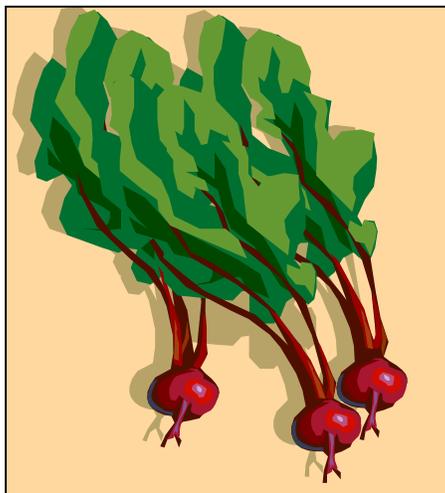
Polylactic acid (PLA) is considered a promising natural alternative to petroleum-based thermoplastics like polypropylene because PLA has comparable tensile strength and other mechanical properties, but is biodegradable. But PLA is costlier because of the complex processes required to derive it from fermented corn sugars, according to Finkenstadt, in NCAUR's [Plant Polymer Research Unit](#).

Working with Liu's team at Wyndmoor, Finkenstadt and her Peoria col-

leagues showed that glycerol can be used to plasticize the pulp and reshape its particulate matter into tendrils. Early tests have been promising, but showed that the PLA's tensile strength decreased in relation to the amount of sugar beet pulp or plasticizer that was added. To get around the problem, Liu's group plans on chemically modifying the pulp so that its tendrils and the PLA matrix form a stronger bond.

Potential uses for pulp-based PLA composites range from nondurable goods such as water bottles, cups and packaging, to lightweight indoor-construction materials such as wall-board, tabletops and pressed furniture.

[Read more](#) about the research in the March 2008 issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine.



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Master Gardener

Meetings

Wednesday, April 16,

Wednesday, May 21

See you there !!!

In My Garden Blog

March 27, 2008

Southwestern Deserts

By [Cathy Cromell](#),

Phoenix, AZ

Spring Cleaning

There seems to be a small window of opportunity to spruce up scraggly plants before rampant spring growth begins. I've had my eye on frost-damaged lantana and a sprawling trumpet vine, waiting for the first signs of new growth before trimming. I wait and wait, and then the week that I turn my back, they beserk.

White lantana in my front courtyard has looked ragged since a winter freeze, but it's best to leave dead foliage on the plant to act as insulation for another freeze. Damage usually looks worse than it is, so pruning too early increases the risk of cutting away more than is necessary. When the sun finally started lingering on this patch of ground last week, the lantana sprouted like crazy, filling entire dead-looking branches with tiny shoots. All I had to do was tidy a few broken and shattered tips.

Pink trumpet vine is a slightly different clean-up story. It is semi evergreen, meaning it might drop some leaves if temperatures get cold enough. Located on a warm wall, my vine typically retains considerable greenery through the winter. It always produces a "grow-like-crazy" phase in the early fall when it overpowers its trellis and sends 15-foot branches rudely sprawling across other plants. During this phase, it is filled with pink flowers that attract hummingbirds and other pollinators, so I let it misbehave. During winter I like the greenery it offers; sometimes it continues to bloom quite late, so I still don't corral its long, whip-like vines. But it means spring-cleanup is lengthy.

When the vine started leafing out a week ago, it was obvious that some of the old growth was dead and needed to be removed. The way vines intertwine can make it tricky to decide where to cut. Let's see, which branch is truly a goner and which is attached to green growth 10 feet away? As I was poking through the branches, I came

across a branch that had been plundered by female leafcutter bees.

Female leafcutter bees neatly cut half-moon shapes from leaf or petal edges to line their nests. Thin, smooth surfaces such as rose petals, bougainvillea, and trumpet vine leaves seem to be preferred. Who doesn't like a soft bed? A bee finds a hole slightly larger than herself, often in the ground or wood. She inserts several curled pieces of plant material to form a protective "cell." Then she fills the cell with a mixture of pollen and nectar to nourish the hatching larva. Finally, she lays one egg, seals the cell with more plant material, and is ready to repeat the process. Leafcutters are 1/4- to 1/2-inch long, black or grey, and they resemble honeybees. They are solitary creatures and ignore humans. The bits of foliage they remove do not harm healthy plants so no control is needed. I have to admire their handiwork: the cuts they make are so precise!

Miniature Butterfly Bush

Butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidii*) are the darlings of the midsummer perennial border. Their flowers form on new growth and become more numerous as the summer goes on. It's a great delight to watch many different butterfly species alighting on the blossoms. However, one of the drawbacks of many butterfly bush varieties is their size. Some varieties reach 6 to 8 feet tall and have a very rangy appearance.

The new Lo & Behold miniature butterfly bush series developed at the Raulston Arboretum in North Carolina is the first to feature dwarf varieties, and the first variety to be introduced is 'Blue Chip'. 'Blue Chip' grows only 2 feet wide and tall and stays in a compact, mounded shape all summer. The blue flowers are produced continuously from midsummer to frost. It rarely produces volunteer suckers, and the flowers don't need dead-heading. You can plant 'Blue Chip' in a container or in the front of a perennial border. It's hardy in zones 5 to 9.

For more information about 'Blue Chip' miniature butterfly bush, go to: [Wayside Gardens](#).

APRIL HONEY DO'S

By Dixie La Rock

Spring is here. Plant, plant, plant, feed, feed, feed, water, water, water - you know the drill. Enjoy!

Ornamentals

The list of varieties to plant now is endless. Peruse the nurseries, home stores, and our plant sale on April 12th at the downtown mall.



- Plant warm season succulents such as cactus, ocotillo, and agaves now.
- Water newly planted succulents weekly and established ones every 2 - 3 weeks.
- Deadhead flowering plants to promote rebloom. Remove roses at a 5-leaflet leaf.
- Fertilize bedding plants monthly after establishment.

Move houseplants outside. Put them in a sheltered area at first to harden off.

Vegetables

- Bush, pole, lima, and pinto beans, cow peas, cantaloupe, cucumbers, squash, okra, eggplant, corn, tomatoes, and peppers may be planted now. Plant a salsa or lasagna garden.



- If possible, orient vegetable garden on an east-west axis and plant taller crops on the north side of the garden and shorter ones on the south.

As with bedding plants, fertilize vegetables monthly after establishment using a product with a 1-2-1 ratio.

Shrubs

- Prune climbing roses and other spring flowering shrubs after spring bloom, then fertilize with a high nitrogen product to induce vigorous vegetative growth.

Plant landscape sages, salvias, dahlias, and other container grown shrubs and trees.

Fruit and Nut Trees



- Prune peach trees.
- Thin fruit (apples, pears, peaches, apricots) when they are the size of walnuts. Keep fruits about 4 - 6 inches apart; pomegranates 6 inches apart, and plums at least 2 inches apart.
- At 75% petal fall, begin cover sprays on apples and pears to prevent codling moth damage. John recommends Spinosad which is available at local nurseries.

- Be prepared to net trees if birds damage young fruit.
- Pecans leaf out in early April. Watch for yellow pecan aphids. Hose them off if possible but don't panic; their

damage is largely cosmetic.

- Begin zinc sprays as pecan leaves open. See Guide H-602 for timing of sprays.

Remove fallen fruit and nuts promptly.

Lawns

- Fertilize both cool and warm season turf species, then water well.
- Increase irrigation frequency to once a week depending on winds and temperatures.
- Check the depth of soil moisture using a soil probe and keep 6 - 8 inches of water in the soil profile.
- Mow as needed but remove no more than 1/3 of the leaf at any one time.

Seed, sprig, or sod warm season species now. See Circular 481 for details.



Miscellaneous

- Cut back frost damaged cactus. To maintain size and shape of prickly pear, remove young pads.
- If you don't have an irrigation system, build up basins that extend to the drip line around trees. Fill basins with water regularly.
- Water roses and other plants that are susceptible to powdery mildew early in the day.



- Mulch plantings to reduce both water loss and weed competition.

Plant List for a Moonlight Garden

by Jackye Meinecke with some additional notes by Barb Sallach

White and silver leaved and flowered plants glow in moonlight. To create a garden to enjoy after dusk, light colored plants have the most impact. Remember to group plants by water, soil, and sunlight requirements.

Trees:

White Vitex Tree

White Crepe Myrtle – scented

White orchid tree (*Bauhinia*) – cold tender

Silver Texas Mountain Laurel (native) – silver leaf, blue flower

‘Blue Ice’ juniper

Vines:

Asiatic Jasmine (evergreen) – scented, partial shade, also used as groundcover, cold tender

Moonflower (annual) – blooms after dark, partial shade

White black-eyed susan vine (annual) – highly recommended

Shrubs:

Texas Ranger Sage (native)

White lady banks rose or other white roses

White *Salvia greggii*

Sand sage (*Artemisia*, native)

Perennials and annuals:

Powis castle *Artemisia* (perennial)

Silver mound *Artemisia* (perennial)

Silver brocade *Artemisia* (perennial) – runner that can take over

White dianthus (perennial) – scented

White Valerian or Jupiter’s beard (perennial) – invasive

White plumbago (tender perennial) – native, needs shelter here

White Mexican Petunia (tender perennial)

White profusion zinnia (perennial)

White portulaca or purslane (annual)

White calibracoa – million bells (annual) – looks like petunia

White Geranium (annual)

White native zinnia (perennial)

Dusty miller or lace miller (biennial)

White cosmos (annual)

White larkspur (annual)

White petunia (annual)

White tufted evening primrose (native, perennial)

Greek yarrow (perennial)

White yarrow (perennial)

White lantana (annual)

Daisies and marguerites (annual)

White sage (many silver leaved *salvias*, mostly perennial)

White pansies (for winter, annual)

White ornamental kale (for winter, annual)

Snow in summer

Datura

Candytuft

Blackfoot daisy (*Melampodium*, native, perennial)

Desert prickly poppy (*Argemone*)

White California poppy

Yerba mansa – near water, 6 – 8” tall

Variegated ivy, vinca, etc.

White iris



INSECT &

By Dee Davis, Master Gardener

Much to my surprise, today I spotted a tiny Lady Beetle (a.k.a. Lady Bug) perched on a lettuce leaf. Good, I thought, because this means a “beneficial” species has arrived that will fatten up and flourish on those pesky Aphids residing in the kale. Yes, I’ve hosed off the Aphids a couple of times but, like teenage zits, just when you think you’re done with them more show up. Seeing just one Lady Beetle was a glorious affirmation that global warming hasn’t totally skewed Nature’s perfect plan to have one insect species arrive ahead of time to feed a “beneficial” species.

I bring a magnifying glass to the garden for a closer look at what I call *Nature’s Greatest Magic Show*. This is a fascinating way to discover what minute insects may have found a cozy home underneath leaves and on stems. The insects I’ve seen have required several trips to the library for identification; but once known, whether it be “beneficial” or pest, I could then concentrate on finding a natural way to either encourage its population or eliminate it. *Spraying anything indiscriminately on one’s garden should be the last resort.* If the insect is a pest, traps and/or a couple of “old-timey” remedies can take care of almost anything.

One of the “old-timey” remedies I learned from my German grandmother years ago addresses cutworms, the nemesis of my garden. She taught me to “plant” a nail against the tender stem of a seedling as it emerges. Another remedy I discovered recently is to cut the bottoms out of styrofoam cups and push them into the ground before planting the seed. This year, I’ve used both (as you can see in the picture) because I want to know which method will be most effective.

You may wonder how insects find your garden in the first place. Well, they have a powerful sense of taste and smell located in sensory hairs and other structures scattered

all over their body surfaces. In fact, an insect can recognize a *single molecule* of an odor wafting in the air! Their chemical receptors guide them to find the type of plant that will satisfy their appetite. They also respond to color, mostly yellow, green, blue, and ultraviolet wavelengths, which makes a visual trap a very effective way to deal with whiteflies, fungus, gnats, aphids, and some thrips.

Visual Traps:

Here’s one I like. Purchase a poster board of day-glow yellow and cut a couple of pieces to fit inside a gallon size zip-lock plastic bag. Attach a dowel or stick to the bag and paint the plastic surface with Tangle-Trap (available from a nursery). Place the visual trap at an average plant height, among or close to the foliage. Two traps will easily take care of a 4’ x 12’ garden. (This visual trap also works for Cherry Fruit flies, as well.) Usually the captured insects will eventually dissolve in the glue. Even so, it’s best to reapply the Tangle-Trap to the plastic cover every couple of weeks, or replace the plastic bag with a new one.

For Apple Maggots, coat any apple-sized red ball (rubber, plastic or Styrofoam) with 1-part Tangle-Trap diluted with 2 parts paint thinner. Hang several of these in your apple tree.

A Water Trap:

Brightly painted yellow pans filled with water and a little liquid soap will attract winged aphids and cabbage root flies. Set the trap anywhere in the garden, but make sure it can be seen and not covered by leaves of a plant. One disadvantage to a water trap is that it can also catch tiny parasitic wasps, which are *extremely valuable* “beneficials.” Learn to identify this “beneficial” and if you see one or two floating on the surface, you’re better off not using a water trap.



Master Gardener Matters

Our Education Program committee (Colette Bullock, Janie Elliot, and Susan Blank) had another great program for us at the March meeting. Jackye Meinecke from Enchanted Gardens gave us ideas for a Moonlit Garden using a variety of white and silver plants. Next month will be Bill Lindemann on composting.

Karim Martinez introduced a new program called Ciclovía that the extension service and the City are starting on the last Sunday of every month at Meerscheidt. Ciclovía means bicycle path and the program encourages everyone to make physical activity a part of every day by offering different activities for people to try.

In mid-April our plant sale is on April 12th at the Farmer's Market in front of Coas. Susan Blank and Carol Standridge are handling the publicity this year, Barb Sallach is coordinating, and several others are preparing plants for sale. If you need help getting the plants to the Market or preparing them for the sale, please let Barb know, bsallach@nmsu.edu. Jackye Meinecke has agreed to take our leftovers again as she did at our fall sale and she has also agreed to host our local garden expo next fall so be sure to thank her when you see her. If you are interested in helping with the Expo, please contact Dee Davis (deedavis2114@gmail.com). The Iris Show at the Mesilla Valley Mall is going on the same weekend as our plant sale. Come pick out your favorite varieties so you'll know what to buy at their annual sale in September.

Near the end of April, the Chihuahuan Desert Garden plant sale will take place April 26th & 27th at the Centennial Museum on UTEP's campus. On April 25th the Garden will sponsor a lecture on "Yard Art and Handmade Places: Extraordinary Expressions of Home" at 7 pm. If you are interested in volunteering at the sale, please call or email Kaye Mullins (915-747-8994, kmullins@utep.edu) as soon as possible.

Future projects for the Master Gardeners include helping with the Garden Club Tour on June 7, making presentations at the Hatch Chile Festival over the Labor Day weekend, assisting with 4-H horticulture contests, and having a booth at the New Mexico Native Plant Society Conference here in Las Cruces in September.

Master Gardeners have also been busy volunteering over the past month, giving several presentations at local churches and helping with the Pecan Conference. At the end of March and the beginning of April we volunteered for various activities such as Tree Planting with the City, a Robledo Mountain field trip, Ciclovía, and Kids, Kows, and More at the Farm and Ranch Museum.

Speaking of volunteering, our hotline still has openings for April and May so if you are interested in earning hotline hours, please go by the office and sign up. If you're unavailable on Tuesdays or Fridays, please remember that Farmer's Market hours also count as hotline hours. Another place to volunteer is with the School Garden Committee. If you are interested, please contact Doug Brown (drphysic@juno.com) or Juliet Williams (jwx2@earthlink.net).

Our web page committee (Jeanine Castillo, rjeanine@nmsu.edu, and Sam Resch, samsandi@q.com) would like more design help so if you are interested in helping update our web page, please let them know. They will be meeting with NMSU personnel to find out the rules and regulations for updating our web page. If you are interested in attending that meeting also, please let them know.

Jeanine Castillo was able to track down our finances over the past two years and she reports that we have over \$12,000 in our account. She and the rest of the budget/finance committee (Mary Thompson, Doug Brown, and Joan Lane) are looking for input on how best to invest the money in our program. If you have ideas, let any one of them know.

Whew, looks like we'll be busy in the community and in our gardens! Hope to see you at the next meeting on April 16.

Barb and Juliet



If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate in an Extension activity, please call 575-525-6649 at least two weeks prior to the event.

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How-To Project: Training a Climbing Rose

by National Gardening Association Editors

Climbing roses produce two kinds of shoots: the main structural canes and the flowering shoots, which grow from the canes. The long structural canes must be tied or woven into a support to keep the flowers off the ground. If possible, install the support before planting your roses. Roses require at least 6 hours of sunlight during the growing season and fertile, well-drained soil.

Tools and Materials

- shovel
- trellis
- pruners
- compost/fertilizer
- plant ties

Choose a support. Roses produce more flowers when the structural canes grow horizontally, such as along a fence, than when grown vertically, as on a rose tower. When selecting a trellis, also consider ease of access for pruning and the trellis' ability to hold the weight of a full grown rose in wet and windy weather.

Install the trellis. Be sure the support is firmly anchored in the ground and strong enough for the mature weight of the plants. If growing against a building, position the trellis a few feet from the wall to allow for air circulation and maintenance. Place it at right angles to the prevailing wind or in a sheltered spot in very windy areas.

Plant your roses. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root spread and about 2 feet deep with the center about 18 to 30 inches from the support. If planting a bare-root rose, make a cone of soil in the center of the hole on which to drape the roots. Plant the graft union, the bulge where the top joins the bottom, 2 to 6 inches below the soil line in cold-winter

climates, slightly above the soil level in warmer regions. Adjust the soil level under the plant accordingly.

Water deeply, then spread compost or well-rotted manure and a handful of bonemeal other phosphorus-rich fertilizer around the plant, and water again. Spread a mulch of wood chips, cocoa bean hulls, or the like around the plant, taking care not to heap the material around the rose's trunk.

Attach the canes. Select the sturdiest structural canes and tie them loosely to the support with strips of stretchy cloth, such as pantyhose. Space the canes evenly and as close to horizontal as possible.

Maintain and enjoy. Allow climbers to grow unpruned (except to remove dead or broken branches) for two or three years. On established plants, prune dead, damaged, and overcrowded canes to the base. Tie in new canes to replace them. Prune the flowering side shoots to two to three buds above the structural canes during the dormant season.

Tips

Provide winter protection in USDA Zones 7 and colder by untying canes and laying them gently on the ground. Pin them down with U-shaped wire staples and cover with soil or mulch.

Plant a clematis vine 2 to 3 feet away from your climbing rose and train them to grow together for an extended flowering display.



Edible of the Month: Eggplant

Eggplants are the world travelers among vegetables. Although native to India, eggplant varieties from Japan, Thailand, Italy, and Turkey are now available. It's easy to understand their popularity. These tomato relatives are easy to grow, love the heat, and produce an abundance of fruits. Depending on the variety the fruits can be as large as a small football or as tiny as a cherry tomato. Eggplants are not only tasty, they're also one of the most beautiful plants to grow in any garden. The fruits' skin colors include deep purple, green, orange, white, and even lavender.

Eggplant bushes grow 1 to 4 feet tall and wide, depending on the variety. They produce attractive pink, star-shaped flowers followed by the equally attractive fruits. Since the plants are so ornamental, they fit well in flower gardens and containers. The fruits are always eaten cooked and often used in ethnic dishes, such as Italian eggplant parmesan, Indian bengan bartha, Middle Eastern Baba Ganoush Greek moussaka, and French ratatouille. Sweet African Orange' eggplant fruits start out white and mature to a bright orange-red color. The white stage has a milder flavor. This specialty variety tastes good in ethnic dishes and is attractive as an ornamental.

Planning

Like their cousins tomatoes and peppers, eggplants like it hot. There's no need to rush them into the soil in spring, since they grow best when soil temperatures are above 60 degrees F. and air temperatures are around 80 degrees F. If you're planning on growing your own transplants from seed, start seeds indoors under grow lights 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost date in your area. Transplants are also available from local garden centers or online. In warm areas with long growing seasons, you can sow seeds directly in the soil. There are many eggplant varieties to choose from. The slender Japanese and Italian varieties are more productive and begin producing earlier than the traditional oval, large-fruited varieties. If you're mostly grilling or sautéing the eggplants, choose the slender varieties. If you're making casseroles and baking with your fruits, choose the large-fruited varieties. Or just plant some of each!

Here are some of my favorite eggplant varieties. The days to maturity after the name are from

transplant to first harvest. All bushes grow to about 3 feet tall unless otherwise noted.

- 'Black Beauty' (80) — This classic dark purple, large oval fruit grows 6 to 7 inches long. Great for slicing.
- 'Easter Egg' (52) — This highly ornamental bush grows only 1 to 2 feet tall, producing egg-shaped white fruits.
- 'Fairy Tale Hybrid' (65) — This 2-foot-tall bush produces clusters of purple and white striped fruits that are only 2 to 4 inches long. Great for grilling.
- 'Green Goddess Hybrid' (68) — This highly productive slender variety features 8-inch fruits with green skin.
- 'Kermit Hybrid' (60) — This small bush is a Thai favorite, producing 2-inch-diameter green fruits for soups and stews.
- 'Ping Tung Long' (65) — A Taiwanese variety that features 12-inch-long, slender fruits with dark violet skin. Thrives in high heat and humidity.
- 'Purple Rain Hybrid' (66) — These 6- to 7-inch-long fruits have wine-purple skin streaked with white and have a mild taste.
- 'Rosa Bianca' (73) — The 4- to 5-inch-long fruits of this Italian heirloom have white- and violet-streaked skin and creamy white flesh.
- 'Sweet African Orange' (90) — This Turkish heirloom produces 4-inch-diameter sweet fruits that start out white, but mature to orange.
- 'Tango Hybrid' (60) — This white-skinned hybrid matures early and produces 7-inch-long slender fruits.

Planting Site Preparation

Choose a sunny, well-drained site with slightly acidic soil. Consider building raised beds on all but sandiest soils to help the soil warm up and dry out faster in spring. In regions with cool summers, lay dark green or black plastic

MASTER GARDENER PROFILE:

Jan Brydon

By Ann Palermo

Jan Brydon has been gardening for 20 years in various parts of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County. Before that she and her husband Terry Canup lived in Michigan and southwest Virginia. They now live in Mesilla Park and have a quarter acre garden.

A few years ago Jan worked with John White and the crew of *Southwest Yard and Garden* which was produced by New Mexico State University Agricultural Extension Services for PBS. "I realized then how much I didn't know about gardening in this state," she points out.

When the opportunity presented itself, she signed up for the Master Gardener program to broaden her skills. She especially enjoys growing vegetables and perennials.

Jan is still working part time as a freelance writer and editor. She also enjoys hand spinning.

mulch over the bed before planting, to preheat the soil and keep it warm all summer.



Award-winning 'Hansel' eggplant features long, thin, dark purple fruits that can be harvested when 2 to 3 inches long or allowed to mature to 9 inches long. At either size the fruits are not bitter.

Planting

Plant outdoors 2 weeks after all danger of frost has passed and soil temperatures are at least 60 degrees F. If using plastic mulch, poke holes in the mulch and transplant your eggplant seedlings through the holes. Space plants 18 to 24 inches apart in rows 30 inches apart. For container growing, choose a pot that's at least 12 inches in diameter and fill it with sterilized potting soil. Adding a few cascading flowers or vegetables, such as nasturtiums, cucumbers, or thyme, makes it even more ornamental.

Care

After transplanting, protect young eggplants on cool nights by placing a floating row cover over the bed. Eggplants won't consistently set fruit when air temperatures are below 65 degrees F. Eggplants are heavy feeders. Fertilize as you would tomatoes. Side-dress plants monthly with a balanced fertilizer. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers. Too much nitrogen can produce plants with lots of foliage, but few fruits. In warm areas, mulch around plants with a 1- to 2-inch-deep layer of an organic mulch to keep the soil moist and weed-free.

Stake or cage the plants as you would tomatoes. Eggplants set more fruits and the fruits stay cleaner if they're kept off the ground. In cool-summer areas prune off suckers that won't have time to form fruit due to the short growing season. You may get fewer overall fruits, but the size of the remaining eggplants will be larger.

Eggplants are attacked by the same insects and diseases often found on tomatoes and potatoes. Check plants for signs of the Colorado potato beetle by looking for orange eggs on the underside of leaves. Crush the eggs, handpick potato beetle adults, and spray *Bacillus thuringiensis* 'San Diego' on the young red larvae.

Wash off aphids and cover young seedlings with a floating row cover to prevent flea beetle damage on new leaves. Eggplants are susceptible to verticillium wilt. To prevent this disease, don't plant eggplant in an area that's had tomatoes, potatoes, or peppers planted in the last 3 years. Another option is to plant in containers with sterilized potting soil.



<p>April 1 Deiree Simon Steenbeeke</p>	<p>May 6 Annette Froehlich</p>
<p>April 2 Delfi Mondragon</p>	<p>May 13 Katrin Sumpter</p>
<p>April 5 Ina Goldberg</p>	<p>May 13 Dixie LaRock</p>
<p>April 9 Terri Gutierrez</p>	<p>May 14 Sandra Resch</p>
<p>April 16 Anne Shine-Ring</p>	<p>May 20 Ann Palormo</p>
<p>April 19 Sharon Poindexter</p>	<p>May 28 Alice Doss</p>
<p>April 20 Carla Clouser</p>	
<p>April 29 John Taylor</p>	



April 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Karen Gray (I) Dixie LaRock Fran Connor Kids Kows & More	2 Kids, Kows & Mor-	3	4 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm John Blackman (I) Pat Anderson OPEN	5
6	7	8 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Sam Resch (I) Dixie La Rock Frank Connor	9	10	11 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Dee Mondragon(I) Anne Shine-Ring Native Landscaping Workshop	12 Master Gardener Plant Sale IRIS SHOW
13 IRIS SHOW	14 	15 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Sandi Resch (I) Marti Taylor OPEN	16 Master Gardener Monthly Meeting 9 am to 11am Extension Office	17	18 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Paul Hutchins Dee Davis Margaret Shutt	19 Farmer's Market
20	21	22 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Ina Goldberg (I) Bonnie Eisenberg OPEN	23	24	25 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Dee Mondragon (I) Mary Thompson OPEN Native Plant Sale UTEP Campus Flora Fest Lecture 7 pm UTEP	26 Native Plant Sale UTEP Campus 9 am to 4 pm Both Days Farmer's Market
27	28	29 MG Telephone Hotline Extension Office 9 am to 1 pm Paul Hutchins (I) Janie Elliott OPEN "Living in the Desert" Program	30 "Living in the Desert Program" El Paso, TX John M. White \$45.00			



May 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Dee Mondragon(I) Alberta Morgan Pat Anderson	3
4	5	6 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Katrin Sumpter(I) Ann Palormo Larry Dickson	7	8	9 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Dee Mondragon(I) Ann Shine-Ring OPEN	10 Arboretum Tome Los Lunas 9:30am to 4 pm MG Plant Sale Farmers Market
11	12	13 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Karen Gray(I) Larry Dickson OPEN	14	15	16 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Pam Crane(I) Tom Packard OPEN	17
	19	20 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Paul Hutchins(I) Bonnie Eisenberg OPEN	21 MG MONTHLY MEETING 9 am to 11 am Extension Office	22	23 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Jan Brydon(I) OPEN OPEN	24
25	26	27 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Lauren Bishop(I) Marti Taylor OPEN	28 	29	30 MG Telephone Hotline 9 am to 1 pm Extension Office Paul Hutchins(I) OPEN OPEN	31 Coming up JUNE 7 GARDEN TOUR