



# Master Gardener Newsletter

- Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

Doña Ana County Extension Office  
 530 North Church Street  
 Las Cruces, NM 88001  
 Phone: (575) 525-6649 Fax: (575) 525-6652  
 Editor: Ann Shine-Ring, Certified Master Gardener

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◀ November 2010 ▶

Volume 11, Issue #11

## Plant-of-the-Month

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### RAINLILIES

Article Suggested by Mona Nelson, Certified MG

Rainlilies (*Zephyranthes*) are a genus of 71 species, of which, there are numerous hybrids and cultivars. Although many of their common names include "lily," these plants are actually in the *Amaryllis* family. Common names include fairy lily, rainflower, zephyr lily, magic lily, Atamasco lily, and rain lily. The name *Zephyranthes* comes from Zephyrus (the west wind) and *anthos* (flower), and is a reference to the erect slender stalks these plants have which support a flower that may be upward facing or slightly nodding. The funnel-shaped, flowers with six petals can be crocus-shaped, but may also open flat such as in *Z. jonesii* or even reflex slightly.

Rainlilies take their name from their habit of blooming several times a season, usually following a rain. Judith Phillips states that, "They store sufficient food and moisture to push up leaves and flowers as soon as enough rain falls to nudge them awake".

Rainlilies make an excellent addition to rock gardens and dry perennial borders and may be grown in containers. Plants grow to a height of 8-12 inches. In Zones 7-10, rainlilies can be planted in the fall and left in the garden over winter. Plant the bulbs and 3" apart and 1" to 2" deep in full sun. Keep the soil moist and feed monthly with a slow-release fertilizer throughout the summer. When the leaves wither, withhold water and food then store in a dry cool place for winter.

*Article Continued on Page 2*

#### August 2010 Hotline Client Data

<u># Total Contacts</u>	31	<u>Subject of Inquiry</u>	
# Telephone Calls	31	Animals	0
# Issues Addressed	65	Disease	5
		House Plants	0
<u>Geographic Area</u>		Insects	12
Anthony	1	Lawns	5
Chaparral	1	Shrubs	9
Deming	3	Soil	0
Doña Ana	1	Trees	12
El Paso	0	Vegetables	0
La Mesa	1	Water	10
Las Cruces	24	Weeds	5
Mesilla Park	0	Misc.	7

#### Sept. 2010 Hotline Client Data

<u># Total Contacts</u>	49	<u>Subject of Inquiry</u>	
# Telephone Calls	49	Animals	0
# Issues Addressed	63	Disease	3
		House Plants	0
<u>Geographic Area</u>		Insects	7
Anthony	0	Lawns	5
Chaparral	0	Shrubs	16
Deming	0	Soil	0
Doña Ana	0	Trees	22
El Paso	1	Vegetables	0
La Mesa	0	Water	2
Las Cruces	47	Weeds	5
Mesquite	1	Misc.	3

Thank you to MGs Janie Elliott, Joan Lane & Valice Raffi for compiling the above data.

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Rainlilies—Continued from Front Page

These perennial bulbs are remarkable for the many ecological niches they tolerate (periodically wet soil to desert conditions), and they have many ornamental characteristics worth preserving. Care should be taken with the plants since many of their parts, leaves, bulbs etc. are currently considered toxic. In 1997, *Zephyranthes* was evaluated for possible medicinal properties, and the biochemically toxic compounds were classed as alkaloids.

Characteristics: Flower color in the rainlily species ranges from white to yellow (various tints of this color from lemon to sulfur) and pink. *Zephyranthes* are available year round in most nurseries in USDA Zones 7-10. While the pink species is best known, coral, white, and yellow species are gaining popularity as folks discover this is a true "no care" plant.

The flowers of some species have a sweet, pleasant fragrance. Fragrance appears to be recessive in crosses, but there are a few species or hybrids, *Z. drummondii* (white), *Z. morrisclintae* (pink) and *Z. jonesii* (light yellow), that all carry the trait. At least two of these open their flowers at night and are attractive to nocturnal insects. The flowers typically last only for a day or two; but new flowers may appear in a succession of blooms, especially during humid or rainy weather.

Other species, according to Judith Phillips, are: *Z. candida* (white), *Z. citrina* (yellow), and *Z. rosea* (pink). "Apricot Queen" and "Prairie Sunset" are yellow immersed with pink and coral and *Z. longiflora* is a yellow-flowered southwestern native with blue-green leaves.

Various members of the genus may bloom in spring only or repeat and continue into autumn, often a few days after rainstorms. Periods of synchronous bloom, which breeders have dubbed 'blitzes', are part of their ornamental value, but also breeders may exploit these periods for the purpose of producing new hybrids.

Species in *Zephyranthes* vary in morphology. Along with floral morphology, characteristics such as bulb size, bulb tunic color, and leaf morphology help identify individual species.

Most species under cultivation will bloom without the naturally imposed drought and wet that occurs in nature. Greenhouse grown plants bloom very freely but cycle through periods of bloom. One of the longest blooming of all the species is *Z. primulina* which blooms from April until October. Although it is apomictic (asexual seed formation), it is a choice parent for crosses because of its rapid repeat.

Suggested Companion Plants: Rainlilies work well when clustered between sage, rosemary, lavender, fairy duster, woolly butterfly bush and other blooming or evergreen arid-adapted shrubs. (J. Phillips)



Article Continued on Page 3



*Z. Candida*

## RAINLILY FACTS

Family:	Amaryllidaceae
Genus:	<i>Zephyranthes</i>
Species:	Many
Category:	Bulbs
Height:	12-18 inches
Spacing:	3 inches apart
Hardiness:	USDA Zones 7-10
Sun Exposure:	Sun to partial shade
Danger:	Parts of plant may be toxic
Bloom Color:	White, coral, yellow and pink
Bloom Time:	Spring; some species bloom into October
Foliage:	Herbaceous
Watering:	Do not overwater—once per week at lower elevations and every two weeks at higher elevations
Soil pH Requirements:	6.1 to 6.5 (mildly acidic) 6.6 to 7.5 (neutral)
Propagation:	By dividing rhizomes, tubers, corms or bulbs (including offsets); from seed; directly sow outdoors in fall
Seed Collecting:	Allow seedheads to dry on plants; remove and collect seeds

Pests or Disease: None

### SOURCES:

PlantFiles: Rain Lily, Rainlily, Fairy Lily, Zephyr Lily *Zephyranthes candida* on <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/2536/>

Rain Lily on <http://www.gardenguides.com/275-rain-lily-garden-basics-flower-bulb-zephyranthes.html>

Rainlily in "New Mexico Gardener's Guide, Revised Edition", Judith Phillips, 2005

*Zephyranthes* in <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zephyranthes>

(Research and compilation of information for this article provided by Ann Shine-Ring, Certified Master Gardener)

Rainlilies—Continued from Page 2*Z. grandiflora*

Cultivation—How To Plant: J. Phillips recommends that you sow seeds or plant dormant bulbs in spring when soil temperatures have reached 70°F. Transplant potted plants when foliage is actively growing. Rain-lilies do best in well-drained sandy or gravelly soil. Loosen the soil well so that new roots can expand easily; organic amendments are not necessary but do work some slow-release fertilizer into the soils so that plants will get off to a strong start.

Set bulbs 2 inches deep, clustered 2-3 inches apart in groups of at least five for immediate impact. Seed germinates in 4-7 days at 70°F but roots develop below ground shortly before the first leaves appear. Rainlilies flower well in either full or partial or filtered shade.

Currently rainlilies are commonly cultivated in USDA hardiness zones 7-10. Since they are so lovely, some attention from current rainlily breeders may develop cultivars with greater cold hardness. Generally rainlilies are sold in nurseries already potted up. This is a great benefit since the growth cycle is not interrupted. Rarely (and not ideally), dried bulbs are marketed. Such dried bulbs usually become established after one to two growing seasons and will regain bloom vigor.

Rainlilies are bulbs, but you don't have to fuss over them like tulips. They usually come in one-gallon pots with ample soil around them. They come out of the pot in a big clump of 30 or so bulbs and you can simply plant the entire clump intact or separate them and spread them out.

Growing Tips: Water once a week while blooming in low elevation gardens and every two weeks at higher elevations. If the plants get too dry, they will go dormant until added moisture stimulates them to rebound. Every 4 to 5 years, work some slow-release fertilizer into the soil while thinning or resettling plants that have become too crowded.

When planting rainlilies do it when it is cool and give them some water as they get established, then you never need to mess with them again. Just enjoy them. No watering, no pruning, no muss, no fuss.

While rainlilies can stand dry periods, if you want the graceful green leaves to remain showing all year, you may need to add some water in drier periods or more arid climates. This can be a good thing if you let them dry a week or so between watering. The cycle of drying then watering encourages them to send forth flowers.

In the Southwest, all rainlilies do best with a little shade and a great place to plant them is around the base of trees or shrubs. You get a ground cover that shades the ground so your trees lose less water to evaporation, and rainlilies get some shade. The cover of rainlilies hides fallen leaves, which turn into nutrient rich compost for continued plant health, and you have less raking. It's a perfect situation.

Elizabeth Lawrence in her classic "A Southern Garden" (1942) writes with enthusiasm about the pink rain lily, *Z. grandiflora*:

"It is one of the hardiest species and is said to winter safely in Philadelphia. As a child I thought of the little rose-colored lilies as the sign and seal of summer. My grandmother in Georgia grew them in her garden, and my grandmother in West Virginia grew them in little pots on the front porch. Those in my garden [in Raleigh] came from Georgia. They have been with me so long and have increased so much that their bloom makes a sea of pink. The season is in June but there is scattered bloom in the late summer and even to the end of September. The flowers are large, to over three inches long, on ten-inch stems. They open out flat at midday and close in the afternoon; this is a characteristic of the genus. The shimmering leaves are grass green."

Pests or Disease:

Rainlilies are not bothered by pests or diseases.

Taxonomy: According to Meerow et al., *Zephyranthes* may be native to the Americas. This is important to mention since several species have become naturalized (sometimes unintentionally) in distant places like Hawaii, Indonesia, and Thailand. The species that are native to the higher altitudes in Mexico (e.g. *Z. lindleyana*) and parts of North America (e.g. *Z. longifolia*) or Argentina (e.g. *Z. candida*) represent the species that have the greatest potential for cold hardness. ■



"Apricot Queen" Rainlily



### —Mulches For Gardens & Landscape—

Revised by George W. Dickerson,  
Extension Horticulture Specialist  
NMSU Guide H-121

Dickerson states that, "Mulch is any natural or synthetic material used to cover topsoil in the garden or home landscape." Further, he states that mulches serve many purposes:

- Reducing soil moisture evaporation
- Ensuring a more even soil moisture supply
- Reducing or preventing weed growth
- Insulating soil from extreme temperature changes
- Preventing mud from splashing on crop surfaces
- Reducing fruit rots in melons, strawberries and tomatoes
- Reducing crop crusting
- Reducing soil compaction
- Protecting perennial plants from freezing
- Improving neatness of the garden or landscape

Dickerson states that organic mulches like grass clippings or compost also may serve as slow-release sources of nutrients for plant growth. Earthworms feeding on organic mulches not only will enrich the soil with their castings, but also will help aerate the soil. Organic mulches may, however, encourage some pests like sow bugs, snails, and slugs. Around fruit trees, avoid thick layers of organic mulches, which may shelter rodents.

This Resource Guide is available in the MG Hotline Library and can also be downloaded at

Link: [http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_h/h-121.html](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/h-121.html)



### Choosing Organic Matter For the Home Garden

By Esteban Herrera, Extension Horticulturist  
NMSU Guide H-108

Herrera states that, "Organic matter is an important soil material. It consists of raw and partially decayed plant and animal residues."

"Organic matter binds soil particles, granules and aggregates together. It aids water penetration and aeration of plant roots in clayey soils and increases moisture-holding capacity of sandy soils. It also adds some nutrients for plants and microorganisms."

"Organic matter in soil can be depleted. Continued soil productivity depends on replenishing and maintaining of organic matter. Homeowners who know about the importance of organic matter in their soil try to replace it whenever possible."

"Two primary sources of organic matter for homeowners are peat moss and animal manures. Each of these materials is useful, and if used properly, reduces soil problems."

Herrera covers the following topics in this Guide:

- Use of peat moss
- Animal manure
- Bark and sawdust as mulch
- Plant residue, leaves and grass clippings
- Processed sewage products

Two Tables are included in this Guide:

- 1) Average Plant Nutrient Composition of Fresh Animal Manure
- 2) Visual Estimation of Moisture Content of Animal Manures.

This Resource Guide is available in the MG Hotline Library and can also be downloaded at

Link: [http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_h/H-108.pdf](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H-108.pdf)





### —HOLIDAY CACTI—

By Pamela M. Geisel, Extension Farm Advisor &  
Carolyn L. Unruh, Staff Writer, Fresno County UCCE  
UC Davis Publication 8114

The authors state that, "Almost everyone is familiar with the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter cacti that bloom from late fall through spring, providing cheerful color at a time of year when few other houseplants look their best. They bear exquisite blossoms in white (often edged with pink or rose), shades of red, pink, purple, orange, salmon, and even yellow. It's no wonder that these plants are popular, enduring favorites."

"Although Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti are similar in appearance, they are actually different species. Countless hybrids and named cultivars are available, providing a dazzling array of colors from plants that bloom throughout the winter months and at the same time creating considerable confusion about each plant's true identity. *Schlumbergera truncata* (also known as the Crab Claw Cactus) tends to bloom earlier, around Thanksgiving. Its flat segments are prominently toothed, often with two large teeth at the tip of the last joint on each branch. Plants that bloom closer to Christmas are likely to be *Schlumbergera buckleyi*, characterized by smoother, scallop-edged segments on somewhat drooping branches."

"The Easter Cactus, *Hatiora gaertneri* (frequently sold as *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*), blooms in spring and in many cases rewards its owner with a second floral display in the fall. Its segments are rounded and may be flat or 3- to 5-angled, with small golden bristles at the ends. Many varieties are available, most bearing flowers in shades of pink or red."

Geisel and Unruh also provide the following information in this publication:

- Plant origins
- Best temperatures for Holiday cacti
- Fertilization of cacti
- Inducing blooms
- Propagation of Holiday cacti
- Regular watering practice

This publication is available in the MG Hotline Library and can also be downloaded at

Link: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8114.pdf>



### Reblooming Christmas & Thanksgiving Cacti

By Ward Upham (11/23/09)

Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) and Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) are popular flowering holiday plants. Both are epiphytes native to the jungles of South America. Epiphytic plants grow on other plants and use them for support but not for nutrients. Though these cacti are different species, they will hybridize and produce varying stem shapes.

Christmas cactus normally has smooth stem segments. Thanksgiving Cactus has hook-like appendages on each segment. Flowering will not occur unless induced by temperature and/or light treatment. If the temperature is held at 50° to 55°F, flowering will occur regardless of day length. But flowering usually is not uniform. Temperatures below 50°F prevent flowering. Nights greater than 12 hours long and temperatures between 59 and 69 degrees also can generate flowers. Twenty-five consecutive long nights is enough for flower initiation. It takes an additional 9 to 10 weeks for flowers to complete development and bloom.

Both of these cacti like bright indirect light. Too much sun may cause leaves to turn yellow. Common household temperatures are fine. Soil should be kept constantly moist but not water-logged. These plants seem to flower best if kept a little pot-bound. If you need to repot, try waiting until spring.

Source: Gardening123.com

Link:

[http://www.gardening123.com/articles/display\\_article.asp?MS=6&SS=60&ID=103147&Page=1&](http://www.gardening123.com/articles/display_article.asp?MS=6&SS=60&ID=103147&Page=1&)

(Article Contributed by Dale Petzold, Certified MG)



## —Caring For Plants in the Home—

By Lynn Ellen Doxon, Extension Horticulture Specialist  
NMSU Publication 400H-6, 1998

Doxon states that, "...all plants grown indoors in containers are native to some outdoor location. Plants known as houseplants are simply those that will grow under conditions inside a house."

Most houseplants grow naturally in the shade. Many are tropical plants because the artificially heated air of the home more closely resembles the tropics than the local outdoor temperatures.

Further, she discusses the four basic light categories for indoor plants grown in natural light:

- Sunny areas that receive at least five hours of sunlight daily in the winter. A window facing south, southeast or southwest usually allows this much light to enter.
- Semi-sunny areas that receive 2 to 5 hours of direct sunlight a day. East and west windows will allow this much light to enter.
- Semi-shady places that have bright, open light, but little or no direct sunlight.
- Shady areas that receive no direct sunlight, but get enough light to cast a shadow.

Doxon discusses additional issues such as:

- 1) Temperature and humidity
- 2) Watering
- 3) Soils and fertilizers
- 4) Potting
- 5) Pest control

Finally, this publication also includes an 8 page Mini-Encyclopedia of Houseplants that features a) the botanical name, b) type of light required, c) water needs, d) temperature and humidity needs, e) and propagation method.

Copies of this publication are available in the MG Hotline Library but unfortunately it is no longer available for download on the Internet.



## Interior Plants: Selection & Care

By Elizabeth Davison, Lecturer on Plant Sciences  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Pub. AZ 1025

Davison states that, "Almost any indoor environment is more pleasant and attractive when living plants are a part of the setting. In apartments, condominiums and single-family residences, plants add warmth, personality and year-round beauty. Shopping centers, hotels and resorts take full advantage of the colorful, relaxed atmosphere created by green growing things. Offices, banks and other commercial buildings rely on interior plants to humanize the work environment and increase productivity."

"There are other important, often overlooked functions performed by indoor plants. These include directing or controlling pedestrian traffic, subdividing or enclosing space into separate areas, reducing glare and reflection from strong lights and screening to block out undesirable views or to create privacy."

"Real enjoyment and consistent success with indoor plants depends on selecting the right plant for a given environmental situation. *Light, temperature and humidity* are key considerations. Often one or more of these will be less than ideal. However, by being aware of the shortcomings of an indoor location one can usually alter them or match plants with growing conditions. In addition, a good *soil mix* and proper *watering* and *fertilization* are important for healthy plants."

Davison discusses the following issues for caring for indoor plants:

- High, Medium, and Low Light
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Soil Types
- Water
- Fertilizer
- Containers
- Grooming
- Moving plants indoors or outdoors
- Cultural and environmental problems

In addition, Davison provides 1) a list of indoor plants according to their light requirements as well as a 2) Guide to Diagnosing Symptoms of Common Indoor Plant Problems according to foliage, growth and flowering issues.

This publication is available in the MG Hotline Library and can also be downloaded at

Link: <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1025.pdf>

**BRANIGAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
"LUNCH & LEARN" PRESENTATION**

Date: Thursday, November 18  
 Time: 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
 Place: Branigan Memorial Library  
 Location: Roadrunner Meeting Room  
 Speaker: Karim A. Martinez, Home Economist  
 Doña Ana Co. Cooperative Extension Service



Topic: PUMPKINS: IT'S AS EASY AS PIE  
 Synopsis: Pick up recipes and tips about growing and preparing pumpkin and other winter squash.

This presentation has been approved for one-hour of education credit for all MGs attending.

*Information provided by  
 Sylvia Hacker, Certified Master Gardener*



NOVEMBER EVENTS:

**MESILLA VALLEY BOSQUE STATE PARK**

Guided bird walks on Saturdays Nov 6th, 13th, and 20th. Walks begin at 8:15 am at the Exhibit Hall. Bring binoculars, closed toe shoes, and hat.

Saturday, November 6

Basic Animal Tracking. 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Program Description: All animals that live in and around the Rio Grande Bosque leave signs of their presence. Come learn the fundamentals of reading animal sign in the outdoors. Join presenter Kevin Hansen as he demonstrates how, where and when to find and understand animal tracks, scat and scrapes. Meet at the MVBSP Visitor Center. Program will be conducted outdoors, so dress appropriately with good hiking shoes, a warm jacket and hat. Program is not suitable for children under ten.

Saturday, November 12

Star Party. 7 pm to 9 pm. Join the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces and learn about the night sky! Telescopes will be provided and astronomers will be available to answer questions.

Winter Hours (Sept. 1 – March 31): Mon-Sun 8 AM – 5 PM

ADDRESS: 5000 Calle De Norte (physical address)

Phone: 575-523-4398 Fax: 575-523-0742

**All Events are Free with a Valid Park Pass**

*Information provided by Sylvia Hacker, Certified Master Gardener*



**NOVEMBER MG BIRTHDAYS**

Joann Embury	November 6
Lauren Bishop	November 9
Valice Raffi	November 12
Colette Bullock	November 18
Lori Petro	November 18
Bonnie Eisenberg	November 21
Janie Elliot	November 23
Frank Collins	November 30

Deadline for submitting articles and information for the December 2010 MG newsletter will be Wednesday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>

Contact Info:  
 Ann Shine-Ring, Editor  
[asring@hughes.net](mailto:asring@hughes.net)  
 (575) 640-7177

**MANY THANKS FOR THE GOODIES**

We appreciate your thoughtfulness

<u>November Goodies</u>	<u>December Goodies</u>
Linden Ranel	Jeanene Cathey
Ann Shine-Ring	Linda Morgan
Mary Thompson	Beth Paris

**TO ALL DOÑA ANA COUNTY COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION SERVICE SUPPORTERS**

The Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Service would like to send out a big THANK YOU to all of our supporters. This year was marked by some significant challenges, but thanks to the large outpouring of support, we were able to overcome them.

For almost 100 years, the Cooperative Extension Service has served the people of New Mexico by providing them with research-based education and programs to improve their quality of life. Through a variety of programs in Agriculture, Home Economics, Community and Youth Development and with much community collaboration, we work towards healthy community development every day.

It was very heartwarming to hear all the testimonials of how the Cooperative Extension Service has impacted individuals and families from every walk of life; whether it was a grower or producer who valued our support of Agriculture in this community, a homeowner who appreciated water saving strategies given to them by a Master Gardener, a home childcare provider who relied on our nutrition education to make healthy food choices for the children in her care, as well as, for her own family or a parent who attributed their child's success to their involvement in 4-H. Everyone seems to have an Extension story!

Once again, we sincerely thank all of our supporters for allowing us to continue to serve the community by bringing science to your lives, as we all work together towards a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Karim A. Martinez  
Doña Ana County Extension Program Director





## Community & School Gardens Report

—October 2010—

By Darrol Shillingburg, Certified MG, and Christine Chavez, MG Intern

The Las Cruces Master Gardener group is interesting for a variety of reasons. The community may perceive the group as a volunteer source for community events but as I meet and work with more of you on a one to one basis I find that the group holds a tremendous amount of ability, knowledge and talent. Being a part of community events in the way of volunteering has its own set of benefits but I would like to tap more into the individual talents that all of you hold. There are teachers, Scientists, writers, organizers in our midst and I can't help but emphasize that the school garden committee could use your help. Working with children and teachers involves great patience and commitment but without our help they may face an unsuccessful attempt at gardening which may lead to reduced funding and more importantly interest. I encourage more of you to get involved so that we can share with others the love of gardening that all of us possess. There will be more to come in way of specific involvement and committee development but please feel free to offer comments or communicate interest at [chrchavez@las-cruces.org](mailto:chrchavez@las-cruces.org).

### COMMUNITY GARDENING:

Fairlight Community Gardens – As you know from last month, the garden no longer has a paid coordinator but is planning to continue the garden with volunteer assistance. A small group met at the garden on the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss future directions and options.

Because of a serious weed overgrowth of the entire garden site, we recommended establishing a new smaller garden on the Community of Hope Campus just to the west of the current garden. A new site will enable volunteers to continue an active growing program while figuring out how to kill out the over run of Bermuda grass in the current site.

### SCHOOL GARDENING:

The School Garden Partnership Group had a two-hour meeting at City Hall on October 20th, with LC Public Schools, City of Las Cruces, NMSU, NM Health Dept, Extension, Master Gardeners and participating citizens attending.

The group is creating a wiki website for communications and sharing of documents and links that are useful to school garden planning and management. The site is not functional and open to the public yet, but I will send out the URL when it's ready.

The first draft of the "Garden Toolkit" was distributed to group members for review and additions. Eventually, the published guidebook will contain information pertinent to establishing and maintaining local school gardens. Eventually the "Garden Toolkit" should be available on the wikisite for your review and comment.

The School Garden Partnership Program in collaboration with La Semilla is applying for a grant to provide two FoodCorp volunteers to assist both organizations with school garden and food/health related projects in schools and communities.

School Garden Partnership Program decided not to pursue funding from the "People's School Garden Pilot Project USDA grant." The focus of the one million dollar grant is to establish a national model for school garden programs through extensive collaborative evaluation processes that seemed not to fit into our local school garden efforts. The School Garden Partnership will continue to pursue other sources of garden funding along with developing a supportive community organization and knowledge base.

The School Garden Partnership Program Group will continue meeting monthly with additional projects carried out by subcommittees. This is an open community group that would welcome and appreciate your participation. Meeting times vary so let us know if you wish to participate in the group or in any of the committee work.

Respectfully,

Christine Chavez, MG Intern  
School Garden Project Coordinator  
[chrchavez@las-cruces.org](mailto:chrchavez@las-cruces.org)

Darrol Shillingburg, Certified Master Gardener  
Community Garden Project Coordinator  
[darrols@earthlink.net](mailto:darrols@earthlink.net)

## Dixie's Honey-Do List for November



Many of our suggested garden tasks is information coming directly from Month-by-Month Gardening in the Desert Southwest by Mary Irish (2002). We wanted you to know that this is an outstanding gardening resource book.

**GENERAL:** Begin to check weather forecasts for freeze warnings. Also be prepared to cover and protect sensitive plants when temperatures dip below 28°F. Also, remember, "Do not prune in November!"

### ORNAMENTALS

- Finish planting spring-flowering bulbs. If you plant tulips, give them a northern exposure and light shade, if possible.
- Fertilize bulbs and cool season annuals lightly with a 1-2-1 ratio fertilizer.
- Continue planting winter-hardy shrubs, flowers, and wildflower seeds.
- Protect tender plants from freezing temperatures with frost cloth, blankets, boxes, or other lightweight materials.
- After our first killing freeze, cut back stems of cannas and dahlias to the ground and discard the leaves.
- Water cool-season succulents every 2 to 3 weeks while temperatures are cool; water warm-season succulents every 5 to 6 weeks
- Sow winter annual wildflower seeds and water them in.



### FRUITS, NUTS, CITRUS & SHADE TREES



- Plan pruning activities. Flag limbs for major winter pruning, but prune dead, diseased, or damaged limbs anytime.
- Wait until late winter to prune cold tender plants.
- Begin harvesting pecans as shucks split with freezing temperatures.
- Water established trees once a month after hard freezes begin. Water newly planted material weekly or as needed.
- If you didn't apply dormant oil late last month, then do so now to control insects that overwinter in crevices of bark.
- Harvest Mexican limes.

### VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND HERBS

- Plant head lettuce after mid-month.
- Continue planting garlic.
- It's time to plant rhubarb.
- Finish pruning Mediterranean herbs.



### LAWNS / TURF / ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

- Warm-season grasses are going dormant. Do not fertilize and reduce irrigation frequency to once or twice a month after first hard freeze. When irrigating, water deeply (to a depth of 6-8 inches).
- Wait until spring to 'scalp' warm-season grasses. After this task, tune up lawn mower.
- Continue fall management schedule for cool season turf. Fertilize at a rate of    lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Water regularly to a depth of 6–8 inches and raise mower height to provide extra frost protection for crown.

## Dixie's Honey-Do List for November—Continued

### ROSES

- Do not prune roses until late January or early February.
- Continue deadheading roses regularly. Remove any dead or diseased canes.
- Be sure to keep the area around rose plants clean of debris and fallen leaves, particularly if powdery mildew has been a problem.
- In mild winter conditions, extend watering roses to every ten days depending on the weather.
- Begin to plan which new roses you'd like to plant in your garden in late March or early April after the danger of freezing has passed.



### CACTI & SUCCULENTS



- Bring potted succulents indoors when in doubt about their cold-sensitivity.
- Continue to plant cool-season succulents like aloes, gastera, and dudleya. Native succulents can be planted this month, but be careful that they are not overwatered through the winter. Do not plant cold-tender succulents this month.
- Water cool season succulents every 2 to 3 weeks while temperatures are cool; water warm-season succulents every 5 to 6 weeks.
- Late this month, Christmas cactus should be showing flower buds. Once buds are set and are about 1/2 inches long, gradually move the plant into more light over a week or two. Plants will grow best in a spot with bright, indirect light that is cool and away from drafts and hot spots like a fireplace, heater vent, the top of a television or refrigerator, or in a west-facing window. Remember, sudden changes in temperature or light will cause the buds to fall off.
- Do not prune this month as it could promote tender new growth that will die with very cold temperatures over the winter.
- Fertilize any winter-growing succulents growing in a pot once a month with a water-soluble fertilizer at half the strength recommended for houseplants. Use a fertilizer that has a low-nitrogen content.
- Mites can invade aloes and cause a distorted, ruined-looking central bud. There is virtually no cure for this infrequent problem other than to destroy the plant before it can infect other aloes.

### PESTS

It is always important to correctly identify any insect you suspect may have caused damage to your plants. If you do not know what the insect is, collect one in a plastic bag or small jar and take it to the Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Office located at 530 N. Church in Las Cruces (located just north of the Main Post Office downtown.)

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Renew mulch especially around tender plants.
- Collect and/or mow up fallen leaves and add them to your compost pile.
- Clean and store garden tools using steel wool on shovels, hoes, and spading forks, then oil lightly to prevent rust. Use linseed oil on wooden handles.
- Insulate hose bibs as well as exposed PVC water pipes.
- Drain unused hoses.
- Winterize drip irrigation systems. Install flush valves that keep water out of irrigation tubing when system is not in use.



## —FROST PROTECTION—

By Lucy Bradley, Urban Horticulture Agent  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service  
Publication AZ1002

Bradley states that, "To adequately protect your plants from frost damage we need to understand cold weather; how plants respond to cold; how heat is transferred; how to prevent frost damage; symptoms of frost damage and how to care for plants that have been damaged by frost."

Bradley covers the following important topics in her publication:

- Understanding Cold Weather
- Understanding Plant Response to Cold
- Understanding Heat Transfer
- Preventing Frost Damage
  - Plant Selection
  - Plant Placement
  - Plant Care
  - Reducing Heat Loss
  - Using Heat from Immediate Surroundings
  - Adding Heat
  - Common Symptoms of Frost Damage
  - Proper Treatment for Frost-Damaged Plants
  - What Does Not Work

### Important Tips to Remember:

- Select frost-tolerant plants
- Place frost-sensitive plants in protected locations
- Protect plants by covering, applying water or heat or increasing air circulation.
- Do not prune frost-damaged plants until they begin growing in the spring.

This publication is available in the MG Hotline Library and can also be downloaded at

Link: <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/az1002.pdf>



## Cold, Hard Facts on Helping Your Potted Plants Survive Winter

By Susan Morgan on HGTV.com Website

Winter container gardening is tough—you have to protect plants from wind, harsh sunlight and drying out. The biggest challenge, though, is guarding against root damage caused by rapidly fluctuating temperatures.

Even plants that are hardy to your zone can be hit hard when planted in a container in the winter. Although the top part of a plant has the ability to go dormant, the roots don't.

"Essentially any type of container exposes the roots to ambient temperatures," says Dr. Hannah Mathers, assistant professor in nursery and landscape extension at Ohio State University in Columbus. Mature roots can gradually get used to the cold, but young, immature roots can't. In containers, young roots grow on the outer part of the rootball. When exposed to the cold, young roots are unable to acclimate and die back.

And, young or old, the roots are usually not as hardy as the plant's top. American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is hardy to USDA Zone 5. The top part (stems and foliage) of the plant will survive to a temperature of about -20 F, but immature roots die at 23 degrees above zero, and mature roots at nine degrees. In the ground and insulated by the earth, that's usually no problem for the roots of hollies in Zone 5 where the average minimum temperature is -10 to -20 F. But in a container, root damage in American holly would begin to occur at 23 degrees if left unprotected—a drastic difference from -20 degrees.

To protect delicate root systems, consider these tips from the experts:

- ❖ Avoid exposing plants to the freeze/thaw cycle. Rapidly fluctuating temperatures (from cold to hot and back) can cause significant injury to roots and, as a result, may even heave the plant out of the pot. To avoid this, place pots on soil instead of pavement. For plants in the ground, the main source of heat for roots is the heat of the earth. For containers on pavement, the sun can warm the pavement considerably, elevating the temperature of the rootball. This is followed by a drop in temperatures at night. The fluctuation exposes containers on pavement to freezing and thawing.

Article Continued on Page 13

Protect Potted Plants—Continued from Page 12EXPERT TIPS, Continued:

- ❖ When choosing a pot, bigger is better. "The larger the volume of the container, the better off the plant will be," Hannah says. The soil in a 15-gallon container will insulate the roots better than that in a one-gallon pot. The smaller container will freeze faster. A good rule of thumb: select a larger-sized pot that also has a thickness of one inch or more. Also, smaller pots dry out more quickly than large pots.
- ❖ Plant the container as early as possible in order to allow plants to harden off. If plants are healthy and go into winter with mature roots, they have a much better chance to harden off and, as a result, will tolerate winter stress much better.
- ❖ Select container plants that are hardy to two zones, cooler than your hardiness zone.

Choose The Right Pot:

Your climate determines which types of pots will do best in winter. Untreated porous containers, such as terra cotta and ceramic, tend to crack and break with freezing and thawing. In his USDA Zone 4 garden, Ray Mims, director of horticulture at the Denver Botanic Gardens, likes the look of his large terra-cotta pots and wants to use them all year long. So he treats the interior of his pots with pool paint. The coat of pool paint helps to prevent moisture from entering the porous surface and causing cracks from freezing and thawing.

Wood containers can be very durable, depending on wood type and exposure to the elements. Non-porous containers, like concrete, plastic and metal containers, are great for their ability to withstand the elements. However, concrete and metal containers can be heavy and awkward to move once set in place. Plastic pots have the potential to crack over a period of time. Foam or resin pots come in a variety of looks and can be a lightweight alternative to concrete and metal. When using lightweight plastic, foam or resin pots, top-heavy plants can topple over when hit with strong wind, so be careful to avoid causing winter injury to plants.

Be wary of using thin-walled pots and hanging baskets. The insulation in these containers may not be enough to protect the root zone. Plus, hanging baskets tend to dry out faster than their ground-level counterparts.

If possible, avoid using saucers; collected water can freeze. Raise your pots on feet to provide good drainage.

Find the Right Place:

- 1) A pot's location also determines how well plants are protected. Place containers on the north or east sides of the house where conditions are typically shadier. Southern exposures tend to have the greatest temperature swing.
- 2) Hardy dwarf conifers, evergreens, ornamental grasses and trees or shrubs with interesting habits or bark colors are great for adding winter interest. If possible, place pots with these plants near a window or front door where they'll be easily seen.

How to Water During the Winter:

Because there's typically less rainfall in winter, adequately water your pots. Broadleaf and needled evergreens are particularly sensitive to desiccation. The ideal time to water is during the day when temperatures have warmed above freezing. If the forecast predicts windy or freezing conditions, try to water before these conditions occur.

"When water freezes, it gives off heat. There's a latent heat release," Hannah says. Water provides some warmth to the root zone. Frost penetrates deeper into the air spaces of dry soil than moist soil because, in moist soil, water has filled the air pockets. Hannah suggests that even if temperatures are at freezing and the pot is dry, it's important to water because it will help to better protect the plants' roots.

"When plants aren't properly overwintered, they'll have problems come spring," she says. For example, a plant may not break out of dormancy or it will have delayed bud break. Or, it may begin new growth at the start of the growing season, but if the roots can't support this growth, the plant dies. Even if container plants are able to make it through winter, they may have slowed growth, developing very little by following fall.

*Article Continues on Page 14*

*Protect Potted Plants—Continued from Page 13***Overwintering Options, Continued:**

Depending on where you live, it may be necessary to provide added protection for your pots.

Here are some options for overwintering containers:

- 1) Group several pots together on soil and close to the house or wall. Place the cold-hardest plants on the outskirts of the grouping with the less hardy plants in the center. Put straw bales on the periphery. Putting them together increases the mass and volume of insulation and protects them from cold, harsh winds that cause desiccation and freezing.
- 2) For added insulation, mulch pots with straw, mulch or shredded leaves. An interesting idea for insulating containers would be group pots together in a preformed pond liner and fill the liner with mulch and replot into the same or a larger container.
- 3) Because a majority of roots tend to be on the outside of the rootball, the only insulation for roots is the wall of the pot itself. Prior to planting, insert foam at least one inch thick around the walls of square pots to insulate roots. For rounded pots, line the container's interior walls with foam peanuts.
- 4) Bury pots in soil to the top of the container.
- 5) Remove the rootball from the container and plant in the ground. Clean the container and store indoors. Dig up the root ball next season and replot into the same or a larger container.
- 6) For extra insulation, add a generous layer of mulch around the base of the pot when you question the durability of the pot itself or the root hardiness of the plant inside.
- 7) Wrap pots in burlap, bubble wrap, old blankets or geotextile blankets. It isn't necessary to wrap the entire plant because it's the roots that need shielding. These protective coverings will help to trap heat and keep it at the root zone.
- 8) If low temperatures loom, cover plants with cloth, burlap or plastic at night. If you use plastic, be sure to remove the covering during the day since temperatures can heat up, causing premature bud growth. Also, when covering, avoid damaging the top part of the plants. Injury sets up the plant for cold and pest damage.
- 9) Insert your pot into a larger pot for added protection. This will work best if the larger pot has thick walls or added insulation.

For USDA Zones 7 through 11, hard freezes may be infrequent to nonexistent, so adding insulation or bringing pots in for the winter may not be necessary. However, there are some chores that you should still be aware of. Due to cooler temperatures in the winter, plant growth will slow and watering may become infrequent. However, salt can build up in the soil, raising levels to toxicity. Water well to leach out the salts. Also, fertilize plants as needed. ■



*Article Recommended by Dale Petzold, Certified Master Gardener*

## VEGGIES: A To Z



### FAVA BEANS (*Vicia faba* L.)

Nearly as old as sin and twice as nutritious, the fava bean has traveled the globe with explorers, settlers and traders. As a food crop, it is more versatile than pinto beans and as cold hardy as peas. And yet you can only find them as dried or canned beans in specialty stores and rarely as snap beans at farmers markets. At east and west coast farmer's markets, the plants are sold as gourmet greens and make an excellent addition to salads. They also excel as a green manure crop and thrive here at all seasons except summer. In spite of all those virtues they remain little known and poorly appreciated. Other names for them are Horse, Broad, Windsor, English Dwarf Bean, Tick, Pigeon, Bell, Haba, Feve (French) and Silkworm beans.

#### HISTORY:

Fava beans were developed as an agricultural crop from wild ancestors in the Mediterranean Basin and North Africa more than nine thousand years ago. They are one of the plants cultivated in early gardens and fields along with peas, lentils and garbanzo beans and have been found in kitchen middens (def. dump of domestic waste) from prehistoric Swiss lake sites in Europe. The Mediterranean Basin was the center of production until the 1950s when China began producing that region and exporting to the world. Juan Oñate brought fava beans into the northern frontier of New Spain, (New Mexico) in 1598 and during subsequent settlements.

#### GROWING IN WINTER:

You can still plant fava beans in October and get some growth before nighttime chill stalls out the plants. Root growth will continue through winter so the plants are ready for rapid growth with warmer spring nights. In winter, you can pick some terminal leaves for salads and steamed vegetables without stunting spring growth.

#### GROWING IN SPRING:

Spring will bring on rapid plant growth and blossoms. The young green bean pods are delicious raw, steamed or in stir-fried dishes. Once the pods are filled out, you can shell the beans and cook them like green lima beans, while leaving some to ripen for drying. If you are sowing seeds in spring, do it early as fava beans have little heat tolerance while blooming and setting pods – a late spring planting will be disappointing.

#### GREEN MANURE:

The deep vigorous root system of fava beans opens up the soil and fixes nitrogen – two to four tons per acre. About half of that is available to the following crop. If you are practicing no-till, you can cut out some fava beans and set in transplants of early spring crops. I have even used that strategy for setting out tomato transplants in April, using the partial shade and windbreak of the fava beans to shelter the tomatoes. However, beware of the dangers of sheltering leafhoppers in the bean patch. As the season warms up, cut off the fava beans and use them as mulch – eventually returning the organic matter and nitrogen to the soil. Besides fixing nitrogen and growing great mulch there is also the acidifying effects of fava bean root exudates in the soil and the benefit that has on mineral uptake for other plants. For more on the results of this Chinese research and its implications for companion planting in our alkali soils read the article, *Getting to the Root of Productivity* from the August 2007 MG newsletter.

#### CULTURING:

When planting as a food crop, space them on a six to seven inch grid – a slightly wider spacing is recommended for green manure cropping. For best results here, sow seeds one to 2 inches deep in September-October and begin harvesting in early spring. Once the seed have germinated and the plants are established they are reasonably drought tolerant, but require additional watering through winter.

#### VARIETIES:

I have found that the small seeded varieties produce better than the large seeded Windsor types. My preferred varieties are Guatemalan Purple and Sweet Loraine. Both grow about three feet tall, tolerate cold temperatures down to 10°F and tolerate heat better than Windsor types. The greens, young pods and shelly beans also have excellent flavor. Sweet Loraine was developed for green manure cropping, but lost no flavor in the process – so you get the best of both characteristics.

Good Gardening and Good Eating,

Darrol Shillingburg, Doña Ana Extension Master Gardener  
November 2010

# MASTER GARDENER MATTERS

—Monthly Meeting, October 13, 2010—

- ▣ **WELCOME**—Juliet Williams was not at the meeting today because of the death, yesterday, of her adult son. A card was circulated and signed by all to be sent to the Juliet and her family.
- ▣ **COMMITTEE/PROJECT REPORTS**

  - MG Hotline**—(Sylvia Hacker) We need people to sign up for October and November. Sylvia will be sending out a hotline update via email with issues that have come up.
  - MG Volunteer Hours**—(Pam Crane) If you have September hours that you have not turned in, you must do so this month or they will not be counted.
  - Newsletter**—(Ann Shine-Ring) No report was given as Ann was on vacation in Hawaii.
  - Farmer's Market**—(Dixie LaRock) We need people to sign up for November and December dates (Nov 20 and Dec 11).
  - Fall Garden Expo**—(Ann Palormo) Having a one-day event turned out to be a great idea, lots of people came, Frank and Larry held their audience for two whole hours talking about trees and shrubs. We will use the same format in the spring; one day only. Jackye was thrilled with the turnout.
  - Lunch & Learn Presentation**—(Sylvia Hacker) The October speaker will be Jeff Anderson speaking about trees on Oct. 21 from 12 to 1, brown bag in the Roadrunner Room at Branigan Library. Next month, Karim Martinez will be speaking about pumpkins and winter squash.
  - Mentoring Program**—(Sylvia Hacker) All Mentors are encouraged to stay in touch with their students as some are having trouble with the tests and could use some encouragement.
  - 2012 State MG Conference**—(Dale Petzold) We are looking for people to sign up to become involved with the planning. Some committees require a longer time commitment than others. We are penciled in for Thursday June 7–June 9, 2012 with NMSU.
  - Graduation and Awards**—(Valice Raffi) We will use the Trails West Clubhouse again on Jan 15, 2011 for lunch. Catering will be by Lorenzos de Mesilla. The Committee met briefly after this meeting. If anyone wants to do some kind of skit or entertainment please let Valice know ([valice@gmail.com](mailto:valice@gmail.com)).
  - SNMSF**—(Val Fernandez) The Fair went well. Our booth was beautiful and we received many compliments. Unfortunately, the entries were way down for the entire fair. This was happening all over. Jeff reported that the Sierra County fair was very busy and had some weird entries.
  - Quarterly Coordinators Meeting**—(Bonnie) In addition to talking about the MG conference planning we had a report from Sylvia Hacker about a new issue that has come up around selling plants at the Farmers Market:
    1. The Farmers Market has a new policy and now each vendor must own a nursery license. Sylvia went to NMDA to find out what is necessary to get a license. This is statewide issue mandated by the NM Dept. of Agriculture. We can apply for an exemption, but would need a letter from the University, and the license would be limited to one sale per year. The license would cost \$75/year, however, you need to have a grower location that can, theoretically be inspected. However, there is no inspector in this part of the state. You can either be a grower or a seller, but we would not be able to use plants from Sunland Park Nursery, we would only be able to sell our own home grown plants. An exemption could be obtained, but we would have to reapply each year. Another issue is that we would be competing with non-profit groups that are trying to make a living at the Farmers Markets. The main issue for the state is reducing the transmission of diseases and insects by the sale of home grown plants.
    2. At our Quarterly Coordinators meeting we discussed whether we really need to continue having this fundraising event and the consensus was that while we would like to provide a way to redistribute excess plants from Sunland Park Nursery and from our own gardens, but we really do not need to raise money. Joan suggested we work with local groups to develop an outlet for excess plants, such as Habitat for Humanity, school gardens, community gardens, etc. We could still receive donated plants from Sunland Park but rather than sell them after rehabilitating them, we would distribute them to various local groups that can use them as listed above. Sylvia reported that her MG group in Virginia did this, they developed an entire garden for a Habitat for Humanity home each year. Many Master Gardeners at the meeting offered comments about this plan, various ways we might deal with the licensing requirement, and continue selling at the Farmers Market. More discussion will, no doubt, happen at our next meeting.
  - Master Gardener Program Finances**—(Sylvia) Mary Thompson and Dick Hiss met with Karim and Mr. Nesbitt from NMSU about our finances. Mr. Nesbitt has offered to give us a quarterly report. The University is working on a handbook that will explain how it all works. Currently we have over \$14,000 in our account, but it is surprising how fast we could use that money, so we do need to generate an ongoing source of income, if we stop having the plant sales.
  - Education Program Committee**—(Joan Lane) Our November Program will be on School and Community Programs. Our December Program will be on our favorite garden things. **All MGs are asked to bring in their favorite tools, websites, resources, etc. to share.**
  - Other**—(Ann Palormo) Ann was looking for people to help bake muffins for artists at the Renaissance Faire, Friday afternoon, Nov 5. A sign up sheet was available.



## MASTER GARDENER MATTERS-Continued

—Monthly Meeting, October 13, 2010 Continued —

### NEW / CONTINUING BUSINESS

- A. Pecan Field Day coming up on November 4. No MG help will be needed, but we can attend if we want.
- B. A Greenhouse Workshop was originally scheduled for Oct 20, then moved to Nov 4-5, but then the date won't work for everyone involved, so it is now on hold.
- C. The Chihuahuan Desert Botanical Gardens Plant Sale in El Paso will be held on April 16 and 17 next year.
- D. New Business: The Home and Garden show will be held at the new Convention Center. We don't know yet if we will have a booth as we can't afford to pay the high fees, but the Planning Committee is looking at ways to allow non-profits to participate, so it may happen.
- E. Next year's Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 14. They would like MGs to bring handouts as well as being there to answer questions. Bonnie will contact the garden clubs to find out what they need.
- F. Sylvia reported on the Conference on Meadow Lands and Native Grasses that was held last month by the Santa Fe Master Gardeners. It was very interesting and will be held again next year.

- EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION: Desert Eclectic: Landscape Architect, David Cristiani, demonstrated the landscape design process he used for Extension Agent Jeff Anderson's new home.

Next MG Business Meeting—Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Bonnie and Juliet



### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GRADUATION PARTY

Our Graduation Party will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011, at the Trails West Clubhouse. Check-in and registration will begin promptly at 12 noon and the event will end at approximately 3:00pm

The new MG Class Graduates will be our guests, and all other tickets will be \$12 each. The Planning Committee has ordered an exciting menu with salads and entrees to please every one. Parking will be limited, so please carpool if possible.

Reservations accompanied by checks will guarantee you a seat, however, checks must be received by Debbie Romig in the MG Front Office by Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Graduation Party Luncheon has always been fun and the food will be good, so please plan to join us!

We would like to get a ballpark figure of the number of attendees to expect, so please email Valice at [valice@gmail.com](mailto:valice@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are planning to attend and/or can help with transportation.

### HOTLINE NEWS

There's been a recent change in Hotline Coordinators. Former Hotline Coordinator, Pamela Crane, has taken over the task of logging in our volunteer hours from George Rushing and she has handed over the Hotline reins to Sylvia Hacker. Along with a change in coordinators there are some changes in the Hotline Office organization with more changes planned for the future. In an effort to consolidate information and eliminate the numerous Post-it notes and pieces of paper tacked and taped all over:

- Those of you who work the Hotline have probably noticed the tall, spinning tower file, hereafter referred to as "the Tower". It is a permanent addition and is in the process of being organized.
- There is now a notebook labeled "Phone Numbers" on the shelf over the desk. It contains not only our MG phone & email list but includes other numbers that may prove useful. Extra copies of the MG list are in the tower file, the list will no longer be tacked up to the wall or bulletin boards.
- The numerous passwords, pass codes, etc. are listed on neon green paper and are posted on both bulletin boards.
- The Insect ID submission form color has changed. It's no longer yellow, it's now a color called "orchid". Speaking of insects, take a moment to look over the new insect ID poster on the Hotline wall.

The recently announced Hotline email update is still in process. The first one will be sent out later this month after the Intern Hotline orientation. This Email Update will be emailed only to those who request it and it will only be concerned with Hotline issues. If you're interested in getting on the email list please either email Sylvia [slh303@yahoo.com](mailto:slh303@yahoo.com) with your request or sign up at our monthly meetings.

(Hotline assignments listed were current as of 11/5/10)

MGs & Interns please notice that there are plenty of open spots in November & December

Remember that in December, the Hotline hours change to 9am-noon. Also, please remember to be present on your assigned date for the Hotline. If another Master Gardener forgets, please give him or her a "reminder" call. Thank you.

MG Hotline Assignments for November

Tuesday, November 2     **Doug Brown**  
Beth Paris (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, November 5     **Ina Goldberg**  
Jodi Richardson (I)  
Linda Schukei (I)

Tuesday, November 9     **Dick Hiss**  
Russ Boor (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, November 12     **Mike Lee**  
Linda Schukei (I)  
Jesus Jimenez (I)

Tuesday, November 16     **Sylvia Hacker**  
Beth Paris (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, November 19     **Tom Packard**  
**Mike Lee**  
Linda Schukei (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Tuesday, November 23     **Joan Woodard**  
**Mona Nelson**  
**Darrol Shillingburg**  
Jesus Jimenez (I)

Friday, November 26     Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, November 30     **Sylvia Hacker**  
Beth Paris (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

MG Hotline Assignments for December

Friday, Dec. 3     **Alberta Morgan**  
Jodi Richardson (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Tuesday, Dec. 7     \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG  
Beth Paris (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, Dec. 10     \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Tuesday, Dec. 14     **Ina Goldberg**  
Beth Paris (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, Dec. 17     \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Tuesday, Dec. 21     \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, Dec. 24     Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, Dec. 28     \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Friday, Dec. 31     \_\_\_\_\_ Certified MG  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (I)

Next Monthly Meeting of the  
Doña Ana County Master Gardeners  
(We are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month)

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Wednesday, November 10 @ Branigan Library  
Roadrunner Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
9am-11am