



Master Gardener Newsletter

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October Honey Do's By Dixie La Rock

We have about one more month of frost free gardening. Our average first freeze date is November 6. Get busy!

Ornamentals

- Continue planting spring blooming bulbs such as crocus, anemone, and oxalis.
- As a general rule, plant bulbs to a depth of 3 times their diameter.
- Plant cool season annuals such as pansies, sweet pea, and flowering kale.
- Sow seeds of wildflowers including California poppy, toadflax, and larkspur. Keep seedbed moist through germination to the five true leaf stage. Then reduce watering as tolerated.
- Cool season perennials and hardy natives such as gaura, penstemon, and salvia may be planted now.
- Begin seeding Iceland and Shirley poppies.
- For Christmas bloom, give poinsettias and Christmas cactus 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness per day. The Christmas cactus requires cool nights between 55 and 65°F.
- Groom, repot, and prepare to bring patio plants in for the winter.
- If you are leaving tender plants in the ground for winter, then mulch them heavily.
- For large tender container plants, get blankets or other coverings ready.
- Reduce irrigation frequency and discontinue fertilization to roses.
- If cochineal scale is still a problem on cactus, hose them off with a strong jet of water.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Plant onions, garlic, and rapidly maturing crops such as radishes now.
- Plant seeds of coriander, parsley, and dill now.
- Chives, Mexican tarragon, oregano, oregano, rosemary, thyme, and winter savory may go in now.
- A good way to propagate woody perennial herbs such as rosemary and oregano is by layering. Take a low growing stem, press it gently to the soil surface, and secure it to the ground with a hairpin. Cover the hairpin with soil; keep it moist and undisturbed for about a month. After a month, check gently for root growth. After roots develop, sever new plant from parent stem (MI).
- Reduce irrigation frequency to grapes in preparation for winter.

Trees and Shrubs

- Plant low growing junipers.
- Continue planting winter hardy trees and shrubs but wait to plant species such as red bird of paradise, true palo verde, eucalyptus, and oleander.
- Reduce irrigation frequency to established non fruit bearing trees and shrubs.
- Continue to irrigate pecans.
- Continue root pruning proposed transplants.
- Spray fruit trees with a dormant oil containing a copper fungicide after 75% of the leaves have fallen.
- Continue with good orchard sanitation practices.

Lawns

- Finish preemergent application to established turf
- Finish seeding cool season grasses.
- Fertilize cool season grasses and continue irrigation and mowing.
- Stop fertilizing warm season species and reduce irrigation frequency as winter dormancy nears.
- If you are through mowing for the year, winterize the lawn mower but wait until after spring “scalping” to tune it up.

Master Gardener Matters

A miracle happened during our meeting! We finished the business part of the meeting before 10 am and were able to give our speaker, Pat Beckett, an entire hour even after snack time. Pat is a local archeologist, ethnobiologist, and former owner of Coas bookstore who has written a book on Las Cruces in 1881, a significant year as the railroad arrived in town. You'll have to read his book (available at Coas) to get all the information, but we learned many great tidbits: The newspaper was called “34” because the Democrats had won the local elections by 34 votes; Las Cruces had 18 saloons, 5 dance halls, and no police force; A. J. Sleaze was the public school teacher; the NM Militia couldn't raise enough money even during the time of Apache raids to pay the COD on their rifles; adobe buildings were built narrow because long pieces of wood for roof support were unavailable before the railroad could bring them in; the Fountain Theater was built because Judge Fountain liked to act; and Dona Ana County won many awards at the first territorial fair for our apples, grapes, and onions.

We are having trouble filling the hotline hours, so if you can volunteer it would be a big help. Please call Barbara Arispe at 525-6649 or go by the office to write your name in. It's been very busy with calls lately so your help is definitely needed.

We are having another garage sale for Myles at Colette's house on Oct. 11. If you have items to donate, please drop them off at Colette's house as soon as possible so she can get things organized

and priced. She'd also appreciate any help you could offer in advance and on the day of the sale. Contact her at 720 Roadrunner Circle, 522-2159.

Barbara Arispe is making a quilt to raffle off to benefit Myles also. The drawing will be held at our October 15 meeting. Dixie was volunteered to collect money. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the start of our next meeting on October 15 or you can send a check made out to Dixie to 1035 Marilissa, L.C. 88005 and she'll make sure that your ticket is entered in the raffle.

A \$50 donation was made by the master gardeners in memory of Sharon Poindexter to Girls State, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 10. Their address is PO Box 2576, Las Cruces, NM 88004 if you wish to make a personal contribution also. Sharon's cheerful disposition will be missed by all. Another long-time master gardener, Jim Brady, out of the Deming office, also died recently. Information on where to donate will be available later.

Our plant sale will be October 4 at the Farmer's Market. Some of the plants available are NM privet, Arizona cypress, balloon flower, coreopsis, yarrow, columbine, mint, sideoats grama, firecracker penstemon, desert willow, palo verde, Mexican feather grass, and daylilies. If you'd like to pick plants up before the sale, contact Barb at 521-8288 or bsallach@nmsu.edu.

Bonnie Eisenberg has been helping East Picacho Elementary design a courtyard meditation area and they are now ready to find volunteer labor such as a scout troop to start implementation. Sunrise Elementary has a volunteer ready to help with a greenhouse project as soon as the grant is received and Conlee Elementary's "healthy kids' garden" will be cultivated as soon as the security fence and cameras are in place to prevent a repeat of the vandalism that destroyed their previous garden.

The budget/finance committee has bought a locking storage cabinet for the master gardener office, a new banner for the event table (usually used at the Farmer's Market), and a shade canopy to use at outdoor events. They are also looking into a movie camera to tape demonstrations or talks on gardening topics, a projector for use with our donated laptop, and a digital camera. If you have other suggestions on items needed by the master gardeners, please let the committee members, Joan Lane, Mary Vee Cammack, Dee Davis, or Mary Thompson know. We spent some time cleaning and reorganizing the office after the meeting to make room for the cabinet so items may be in different locations.

Our table at the Hatch Chile Festival over Labor Day weekend was a resounding success and a great time was had by all volunteers. Everyone is looking forward to returning next year. Our Garden Expo on Sept. 20 & 21 was also a great success. We answered many gardening questions and our seed packets were very popular. There will be more information on the numbers attending, etc. at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is October 15. Our speaker will be from the Mesilla Bosque State Park. Hope to see you there.

Barb and Juliet

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Oct.			1	2	3	4
					Hotline Albert Morgan Pat Anderson OPEN	Plant Sale 8 – 12:30 Downtown Mall
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Hotline Katrin Sumpter Ann Palormo OPEN			Hotline OPEN OPEN OPEN	Garage Sale for Myles 720 Roadrunner Circle
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Hotline Carla Clouser Larry Dickson OPEN	MG Meeting 9 – 11 am Hoop House Community of Hope, 8 am		Hotline Pam Crane OPEN OPEN	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Hotline Bonnie Eisenburg OPEN OPEN	Turfgrass Conference, Ruidoso		Hotline Pat Anderson Ina Goldberg OPEN	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		Hotline OPEN OPEN OPEN	Pecan Field Day Leyendecker Farm		Hotline Ann Shine- Ring OPEN OPEN	

