

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 7            Master Gardener Meeting, "Propagating Roses", Mike Fernandez  
7:00pm, **Lexington Pines Recreational Hall, 1535 W. Thatcher Blvd., Safford,**  
**this meeting only**  
**Certified Master Gardeners only meet at 5:30-6:30pm**
- Nov. 21            December newsletter deadline
- Dec. 5            Master Gardener Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Safford City/Graham County Public  
Library, PD Room

### **Master Gardeners Meeting November 7, 2000 7:00 p.m. "Propagating Roses"**

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting U of A Graham County Cooperative Extension at 520-428-2611. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

ARIZONA COOPERATIVE  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
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# GRAHAM COUNTY GARDENING

November 2000

## From The Dirt Clods!!

Our fall garden is looking good. Our first planting is growing well and we are beginning to see signs of the second planting emerging. For once the weather has been with us. The tomatoes are in a bit of a holding pattern, it seems, and the peppers have been all but wiped out by a soil fungus. After such a disappointing summer season we are encouraged by the progress of our winter garden.



**Ruth Anne** attended a seminar for educators at Discovery Park a couple of weeks ago. She gained a lot of information about their educational programs that will help us in the development of our educational trail at the Safford Agricultural Center. We want to develop an educational experience that will be complimentary to the programs at Discovery Park. If anyone has any ideas of what they would like to see included in this educational project, which will be available to all, please fill us in. Lee Clark, Ruth Anne and Sue welcome all ideas. We got excellent feedback at last month's meeting and are incorporating some of those ideas into our plan. Thank you to all who attended or phoned us with their comments. We want this project to be a quality experience for all age levels.

**Perri Larson, Marilyn Weaver, and Sue** attended the Western Region Master Gardeners Conference in Mesa two weeks ago. We met with about 500 gardeners and Master Gardeners from all over the western U.S. We talked about nothing but gardening for 3 days and wanted to stay longer. Our days and evenings were filled with seminars and gardening events. Commercial exhibits lined the hallways between meeting rooms. We gathered as much information and as many ideas as we could stuff into our suitcases. We came home full of projects we would like to try here.

The last week of October was Cotton Field Day week at the Farm. We successfully hosted about 600 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from all over the Gila Valley and even beyond. We gave them a taste of many facets of agriculture that most children don't get today.

By the time you read this we will have been to Safford's Harvest Festival (barring rain). We set up a Master Gardener booth to dispense gardening wisdom and provide a some water education. Little by little we are getting the word out about Master Gardeners.

We have begun groundwork for the Gardening and Landscaping class to be offered next spring at EAC. It is in the Spring 2001 course catalog as Course #1727 and will be meeting on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 starting in January. Anyone interested in becoming a Master Gardener should check it out.

**Please note the change of location for the November meeting. Due to the elections, the library was not available. So get out and vote and then come to our meeting at the Recreational Hall at Lexington Pines.**

Don't forget - Certified Master Gardeners are meeting before the public meeting at 5:30pm.

See you at the harvests -

From your Friendly Horticulture Technicians  
**Ruth Anne Neff & Sue Martin**

and Master Gardeners



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Lee J. Clark  
Safford Agricultural Center

fff **November Gardening Meeting** fff  
**Location Change: Lexington Pines Recreational Hall**

**This month's topic will be "Propagating Roses". The guest speaker will be Mike Fernandez, Park Ranger at Roper Lake State Park. Mike was born and raised in California's agricultural heartland and has been an active gardener all his life. Mike is now an Associate Master Gardener working to achieve Master Gardener certification. He has put in many volunteer hours at Boyce Thompson Arboretum working with roses, particularly heritage roses. He will share what he has learned about growing and propagating roses.**

**In the November Garden:**

- C **Prune to remove dead or diseased limbs but save heavy pruning until plants are dormant**
- C **Plant beets, carrots, chard, garlic cloves, leaf lettuce, green bunching onions, radishes, and spinach.**
- C **Transplant asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and Brussel sprouts. Fertilize 2 weeks after setting out with a gentle liquid fertilizer.**
- C **Direct seed Alyssum, sweet peas, and spring wildflowers in the garden.**
- C **Set out perennials and cool season annuals, such as, calendula, chrysanthemums, dianthus, daisies, larkspur, pansies, primroses, snapdragons, stocks, and violas.**
- C **Plant spring bulbs such as iris, tulips, daffodils, crocus, and hyacinth.**
- C **Plant strawberries.**
- C **This is the best time to plant trees and shrubs.**
- C **Divide crowded perennials (callas, daylilies, iris, and yarrow and asters, coreopsis, and daisies when finished blooming).**
- C **Cool weather causes aphids and whiteflies to multiply. Control them by hosing them off of your plants or spraying with insecticidal soap.**
- C **Slowly decrease the frequency of watering for established trees and shrubs.**

**Safford Care Center Update**

Now that the heat of summer has finally passed and the colorful annuals so generously donated by Safford Builders Garden Center have faded, we are turning our attention towards the next growing season. A more workable xeriscape plan is beginning to emerge. Our first priority is to install an automatic drip line and soaker hose system. We have found it to be difficult to water daily by hand, and if it weren't for all the willing volunteers this summer, well, you can imagine how short-lived our initial color splash would have been. Annie and Connie from Plants Plus Nursery out of Willcox donated many beautiful and colorful xeriscape specimens, and along with Brenda Walker's xeriscape donations, expertise and hard work, our plan has begun! We have used the cash donations from the "jar" at Safford Builders to begin purchasing the watering system hardware, but we have a long way to go. Perri Larson is exploring fund raising ideas to help insure this system is in place as soon as possible.

A wealth of information was gained at the Western Regional Master Gardener Conference and 10<sup>th</sup> annual Low Desert Gardening and Landscaping Conference held in Mesa Oct 14-16. Solutions to virtually any landscaping problem were offered, incorporating low water use methods, native and other xeriscape plants without sacrificing color, texture and the "lush" effect we are looking for at the Care Center. We are now more confident than ever in the direction we are taking towards constructing a pleasant, serene courtyard for the residents.

Once again we want to thank our fellow Master Gardeners, Master Gardeners-To-Be and all the volunteers (you know who you are!). Keep those ideas and donations coming, we can't do it without you. As the saying goes...."We may not have it all together (yet), but together we can have it all!"

Marilyn Weaver and Ralph McClellan

**Winter Irrigation Schedule  
for established plants  
(November through Mid-February)**

As we approach our first frost, we should gradually increase the days between watering established plants (those that have been in their present location for at least a year). As you can see, plants can go much longer now before they need water. If you look at the difference between the frequency and amount of water required by regular landscape plants and by low water use, desert adapted plants you can see where "xeriscaping" can save you both time and water.

As a general rule, 2 inches of water penetrates 1 foot in average desert soil. For each additional foot into the soil, penetration is slower. Fill the water basin around a tree or shrub two or three times if necessary to get the desired amount of water to the plant. For small shrubs the basin should be the same size as the plant canopy. For large trees make the basin at least half the spread of the tree, larger if possible.

Take into consideration any rain that has fallen.

<b>Type of Plant</b>	<b>Water Every</b>	<b>Amount of Water</b>
Green winter lawns	5 to 10 days	1 inch
Trees - Evergreen	30 days	4 to 5 inches
Trees- Leafless	45 days	4 to 5 inches
Shrubs, hedges, and vines	21 to 30 days	2 to 3 inches
<b>Desert trees and shrubs</b>	<b>60 days</b>	<b>2 to 3 inches</b>
Cactus	none	
Perennial flowers	14 to 21 days	2 inches
Annual flowers	5 to 10 days	1 to 2 inches
Vegetable gardens	5 to 10 days	2 to 3 inches
Brown dormant lawns	30 days	1 inch

from information in the files of Ron Cluff, former Graham County Extension Agent

In the January/February issue of "Southwest Horticulture" there was an article titled "Xeriscaping in the Real World" by Chris A. Martin, Linda B. Stabler and Kathleen A. Peterson of ASU. The authors began long-term monitoring in 1998 of irrigation practices in residential yards in Phoenix and Tempe. Amazingly, they found that the average monthly volume of water applied to xeriscaped yards is consistently higher than in yards of equal size landscaped with plants that have higher water needs. A survey of these homeowners revealed that many people don't realize how much water they are actually using and also many do not know how much water they should be applying. We hope that information such as the table above will help you to water correctly. A set of three irrigation schedules (winter, spring/fall, and summer) are available at the Cooperative Extension Office.

**Light pruning can be done now to remove dead and diseased limbs but wait to do any heavy pruning. The best time to prune trees, shrubs, and roses is after we've had a good hard frost and the plants are dormant. January and February are good times to prune. Pruning now may stimulate tender new growth which will freeze.**

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