

## **Upcoming Events**

- Jan. 2            Master Gardener Meeting, "Propagating Roses", Mike Fernandez, 7:00pm,  
                         Safford City/Graham County Public Library, PD Room  
                         **Certified Master Gardeners meet at 5:30-6:30pm**
- Jan. 16 Gardening and Landscape class begins at EAC
- Jan. 18 February newsletter deadline
- Jan. 27 Pruning and Care of Woody Plants Demonstration
- Feb. 1            Master Gardener Meeting, "Preparing Your Soil for Spring Gardens", Ruth Anne  
                         Neff, 7:00 p.m., Safford City/Graham County Public Library, PD Room
- Feb. 15-16      High on the Desert Garden and Landscaping Conference, Sierra Vista

### **Master Gardeners Meeting January 2, 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  
EXTENSION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

# GRAHAM COUNTY GARDENING

January 2001



## From The Dirt Clods!!

A new year has begun. Time to start thinking about and planning this year's garden. Our winter vegetables are doing fine and we are thinking about our summer vegetables. (This year has to be a better year than last!) Tomato and pepper seeds will be started in the greenhouse this month. If anyone would like to help, we plan on doing this on Monday, January 22. We would love to have company. Harvesting of winter vegetables will also be occurring periodically. Call the Extension Office if you are interested in this.

We are looking forward to working with the new students in the Gardening Landscaping Class starting January 16<sup>th</sup>. There are some exceptional guest speakers already lined up.

Remember to submit your volunteer hours to Ruth Anne or Sue by January 2, 2001. We are asking for all volunteer hours from anyone who has worked with us in any capacity during the last calendar year. If you are in the Master Gardener Program, the policy states that Associate Master Gardeners must complete 50 hours of approved volunteer service within one calendar year of completion of the Master Gardener Class. If you were in the Spring 2000 class, you have until May, 2001 to finish your hours. Every year thereafter, you must complete 25 hours of approved volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education. Even if you are not in the Master Gardener Program but put in time on one of our "causes", we still want your hours to include in our Annual Report to the University. We want to show them what the Master Gardener Program is accomplishing in our County!

Thank you **Jack and Karen Cooper** for a very informative presentation on live Christmas trees and other assorted seasonal plants. We learned all kinds of new facts and enjoyed visiting afterwards. We also appreciate the pine tree seedlings that the Coopers generously gave to everyone who attended. **Marilyn Weaver** provided wonderful refreshments. Thank you to all.

From your Friendly Horticulture Technicians and Master Gardeners,  
**Ruth Anne Neff & Sue Martin**

## Jumpstarting Peas

Peas can be slow to germinate in cool soil. To speed the process, start them indoors. An easy method involves placing the peas between two thick paper towels. Scatter the seeds evenly. Moisten the towels thoroughly and roll up. Place in a plastic bag and keep in a warm room. The seeds should germinate in 3 or 4 days. Plant in the garden as soon as they sprout. If they are left longer, the roots can penetrate the soil. When this happens simply tear the towel around the sprout and plant as is. The roots will grow in the soil.

This same method can be used later on for sweet corn.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee J. Clark".

Lee J. Clark  
Safford Agricultural Center

## **January Gardening Meeting**

**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.**

### **Pruning Demonstration Safford Agricultural Center January 27, at 9:30 am.**

*Rob Call*, Horticulture Agent, *Ursula Schuch*, Associate Extension Specialist, will show the correct way to prune our trees and shrubs, with in door presentations and hands on activities. *Randy Norton*, our new Agricultural Agent, *Lee Clark*, Safford Ag Center and Graham County *Master Gardeners* will also be there to answer questions.

Refreshments will be served.

### **In the January Garden:**

- C **Continue to add compost and manure to garden beds as they become vacant**
- C **Plant head lettuce through the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**
- C **Plant carrots, beets, cabbage (plants), asparagus, leaf lettuce, green bunching onions, peas, and spinach all month.**
- C **Tomato seeds may be started indoors after January 10th.**
- C **Set out perennials and cool season annuals, such as, calendula, chrysanthemums, dianthus, daisies, larkspur, pansies, snapdragons, stocks, and violas.**
- C **Start to plant bare rooted trees, roses, grapes and cane berries later in the month.**
- C **Fertilize citrus now. Cover when temperatures are predicted to be in the mid 20's or lower.**
- C **Begin pruning deciduous trees and shrubs. Come to the Pruning Demonstration at the Safford Agricultural Center on January 27.**
- C **Between rains, irrigate deep rooted plants occasionally, but thoroughly. Shallow-rooted plants require water more often. Check Cooperative Extension Winter Irrigation Schedules for frequency.**

**\*\*\*\* Survey \*\*\*\*** Are you enjoying this newsletter? We are excited about how many people have signed up to receive this mailing. Our newsletter now goes out to about 300 people in Graham County and even a few individuals from across the State. With the start of a new year we are updating our mailing list. If you want to continue receiving the Master Gardener Newsletter after please do one of the following by **JANUARY 18, 2001:**

- A. Call our office, 428-2611
- B. E-mail Sue at: [suzanne@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:suzanne@ag.arizona.edu)
- C. E-mail Ruth Anne at: [ruthanne@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:ruthanne@ag.arizona.edu)

Please check your name and address and let us know of any corrections at this time.

*Don't miss the 2001 newsletters, let us know!*

**E-mail address for:**

Lee Clark  
[leeclark@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:leeclark@ag.arizona.edu)

Sue

Martin  
suzanne@ag.arizona.edu

Ruth

Anne Neff  
ruthanne@ag.arizona.edu

**Graham County Cooperative Extension phone # 428-2611**

### **Gardening and Landscaping Class**

The Gardening and Landscaping class will be taught again Spring Semester 2001 at EAC. You may register for it at any time now. The course number is 1727. It will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This class meets the requirements of the U of A Master Gardener Program and also provides novice or advanced gardeners and landscape designers with up-to-date techniques and ideas. Randy Norton, our new Extension Agent, will be the instructor. We will also bring in local and university specialists to cover individual topics. Some of the topics to be covered include pruning, insects, diseases, vegetables, landscaping, lawns, houseplants and xeriscaping.

### **Planting Bare-root Plants**

**Bare-root plants are dormant and have had the soil removed from their roots after digging. Most mail-order trees and shrubs are shipped this way to minimize shipping costs. Local nurseries also make these available during the winter months. The roots must never be allowed to dry out. They should be planted as soon as possible. If you cannot plant them immediately, check the packing material to make sure it is still moist. Keep the plants in a cool environment. A refrigerator would be excellent but they may also be heeled in. Heeling in is accomplished by covering the roots with moist soil in a cool environment, usually outdoors.**

**To plant, put the plant's roots in a bucket of water. Dig a hole slightly deeper and wider than the spread and length of the root system. Spread the roots out naturally in the hole. Bare-root stock should be planted at the same depth at which it was growing. If it is a fruit tree or rose which has been grafted, keep the bud union about 2-3 inches above the soil line. Fill in with the soil from the original hole. Do not add soil amendments or fertilizer. Water thoroughly, tamping the soil to remove any air pockets.**

**Do not allow the roots to totally dry out while the plant is adjusting to its new environment, but do allow the soil to dry out slightly between watering. It will require more frequent watering for at least the first year. Mulch applied at this time will help to retain moisture. After a year's time, it should be established and the frequency of watering can be slowly decreased. Refer to the irrigation schedules for established plants in the March, May, and November 2000 newsletters. Or call the Extension Office to receive a set of irrigation schedules (winter, spring/fall, and summer).**

### **Pruning Roses**

Unpruned roses can become an overgrown tangle of branches, producing small blooms of poor quality. Pruning is done to improve appearance, maintain the appropriate size and control the size and quality of the blooms. The best time to prune roses is just before they break dormancy, when the buds are starting to swell.

First, remove dead and diseased wood, suckers (stems that grow from below the bud union), and weak and crossing canes. Make cuts to a cane or outward facing bud. Cuts should be on a 45 degree angle to prevent moisture (and disease) from collecting. On old bushes remove one or two of the oldest canes each year. For a light pruning, remove about one third of

the bush. This method is good for floribunda, shrub and hedge roses and will produce an abundance of smaller blooms.

For most roses, use a moderate pruning method. Leave 6-10 healthy canes. Trim back the remaining canes to about one half their height. This will produce large, healthy bushes and moderately large blooms.

Heavy pruning can be done on vigorous, established hybrid teas or modern roses. It is done in the same manner as above but leave only 3 or 4 canes and cut them back to one third of their height. This produces compact growth and few but very large, show quality blooms. Pruning too severely can weaken bushes and shorten their lifespan.