

Upcoming Events

- June 7 Master Gardener Meeting, "Houseplants", Scott Goodwin, 7:00 p.m.,
Master Gardener Business Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Safford City/Graham County
Public Library, PD Room
- June 19 Trails Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Cooperative Extension Office, Solomon
- June 28 Farmers Market begins, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Firth Park
- July No Meeting

Master Gardeners Meeting June 7, 7:00 p.m. "Houseplants"

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

GRAHAM COUNTY GARDENING

June 2001



From The Dirt Clods!!

The 2001 Gardening and Landscaping Class at EAC has finished up. It was a good group of people and we had lot of fun while we were learning. We have a number of graduates who are interested in going on to become Master Gardeners, which we find very exciting. We look forward to seeing more of them at Master Gardener functions.

By the time you read this, the tomatoes and peppers for the summer variety trials will have been planted at the farm. Melons and pumpkins are scheduled to be planted very soon.

We appreciate **Ruth Anne Neff** for educating us on the topic of composting at our last meeting. Recycling yard and kitchen waste makes so much sense, we should all be doing it. We also want to thank **Genice Froehlich** for picking up the pizzas and bringing refreshments for the meeting.

From your Friendly Horticulture Technicians and Master Gardeners,

Ruth Anne Neff & Sue Martin

Squash Vine Borer

Are your squash plants mysteriously wilting suddenly? It could well be the work of squash vine borers. Look for small piles of sawdust-like material under and in the wilted stem, typically near the base. The borer is a small worm, up to 1 inch long, that tunnels into the stem and continues to eat its way through, pushing digested plant material out openings as it goes.

The insect hibernates through the winter in a cocoon and emerges as a small metallic green moth in late spring. The moths lay brownish eggs in clusters of 2-7 on the stems and leaves of the host plant, usually squash, pumpkins, or gourds, but occasionally, cucumbers and muskmelons. The eggs hatch into small worms which enter the stems of the plant. Because insecticides are not effective once the worms are inside it is best to slit the affected stem lengthwise and crush or remove the worm. Immediately mound moist soil over the stem and it may produce new root growth and recover.

If you don't have many plants and are observant, you may be able to spot the eggs and remove them before they cause a problem. To prevent damage to next year's crop, remove vines from the garden as soon as they are through producing and till the garden deeply to prevent the emergence of adults from the cocoons.



E. Randall Norton
Agriculture Agent

June Gardening Meeting

If you like houseplants, join us on Thursday, June 7. Scott Goodwin will be our featured speaker at our monthly meeting. Scott grew up in a house full of houseplants and developed a love for them while he was small. He grows a wide variety of houseplants and is well versed about their care.

In the June Garden:

- C **Plant sunflowers, cantaloupe, honeydew, Armenian cucumbers, and radishes all month.**
- C **Plant watermelon and okra through the 15th of the month.**
- C **Plant summer bedding plants such as celosia, coleus, cosmos, marigolds, salvia, verbena, vinca, and zinnias.**
- C **Start preparing the soil for your big July garden.**
- C **Harvest herbs before they begin to flower. Quality is best in the morning.**
- C **Treat chlorosis in plants with iron chelate. Chlorosis shows up as yellowing between the veins of the new growth.**
- C **Pepper and tomato plants need even soil moisture to prevent blossom end rot.**
- C **Watch for signs of curlytop virus in tomatoes, melons, and cucumbers. The leaves of the affected plant curl upwards and the plant will be stunted. Remove and destroy affected plants.**
- C **Blast off aphids, thrips and mites with a stream of water from your hose or use insecticidal soap.**
- C **Check for squash borers. Look for clusters of small brownish eggs on squash vines. Rub them off before the borers hatch.**
- C **Feed citrus with a high nitrogen fertilize and water thoroughly. Protect young trees from sunburn by painting trunks with white latex paint or wrapping with burlap.**
- C **Feed and water roses after each bloom cycle.**
- C **When pruning hedges, make sure that the bottom of the hedge is wider than the top so that lower foliage is not shaded out.**
- C **Make sure that apricot trees are watered amply to carry them through their fruiting cycle.**
- C **Fertilize indoor plants monthly during the summer. Pinch back tips to maintain fullness.**
- C **Treat grapes and hedges with powdered sulfur or systemic fungicide to prevent mildew.**

Trails Meeting

We have been approached by Cate Bradley, Landscape Architect for the National Park Service, about a cooperative effort on the new trail system being developed in the Gila Valley. You may have noticed the section of trail along Discovery Park Boulevard. The goal is to link the communities of the Gila Valley by a recreational trail. She is looking for individuals to help develop a landscape plan and to help with plant selection. We thought that this would be a good project for Master Gardeners to get involved in. We are going to meet with her on **Tuesday, June 19th, 6:00 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Office** in Solomon. Lee Clark will also fill us in on the progress of the Edu-Venture Trail project at Safford Agriculture Center. We have been awarded a \$75,000 grant to begin this trail. It will require the work and ideas of many people to make this a quality product. Anyone with ideas or an interest in either of these projects is welcome to come.

E-mail address for:

Randy Norton

Lee Clark
leeclark@ag.arizona.edu
rnorton@ag.arizona.edu

Sue

Martin
suzanne@ag.arizona.edu
Ruth
Anne Neff
ruthanne@ag.arizona.edu

Graham County Cooperative Extension phone # 428-2611

Farmers Market

Mark your calendars - June 28 is the reopening of the Farmers Market. It will be held every Thursday evening at Firth Park from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. If you have produce from your garden to spare, talk to Mindy Marks at Good Medicine (428-6528) about renting a space. She is also looking for craft and food vendors. Please have products, crafts in particular, approved by Mindy beforehand. Spread the word to your neighbors and friends. If you don't have anything to sell, come out and buy some of the freshest produce in town.

Reclaimed Water Use in Arizona

At the beginning of the year new regulations regarding the use of residential reclaimed (gray) water as a source for irrigating the landscape were issued. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issued the new regulations that ease the restrictions placed on gray water use. A complete copy of the new regulations can be obtained directly from ADEQ by contacting them at 1.800.234.5677. You are now legally able to use gray water from the clothes washer, bathtubs, showers, and bath sinks (kitchen sinks are not allowed). Residential gray water can be used for irrigation without a permit under the following provisions (Effective January 1, 2001):

- Gray water is used on own private residence.

- Gray water is used directly on own private landscape for irrigation.
- The private residence must produce less than 400 gallons of gray water per day (35 gallons per day X the number of family members = how much gray water you generate).
- Avoid direct contact with gray water and do not allow others to contact it directly.
- All gray water that originates from private residence must be used within property boundaries for household gardening, composting, lawn watering, or landscape irrigation.
- Gray water may not be used for **surface** irrigation of food plants except for citrus and nut trees (it may be used in subsurface irrigation).
- Gray water may not contain hazardous chemicals derived from activities such as cleaning car parts, washing greasy or oily rags, or disposal of waste solutions from home photo labs or home occupational activities.
- Gray water must be applied to landscape in such a way as to minimize the occurrence of standing water on the surface.
- The gray water system must be designed in a way that in case of blockage, plugging, or backup of the system the gray water can be diverted into the normal sewage collection system.
- Any gray water storage tanks must be covered to restrict access and to avoid the creation of a mosquito habitat.
- The gray water system must be located outside of any flood way.

- The gray water system must be operated so as to maintain a minimum vertical distance of at least 5 feet from the point of gray water application to the top of the groundwater table.
- Any pressure piping in a gray water system that might be susceptible to cross connection with a potable water system must be clearly marked.
- The gray water system may not contain water from a washing machine that is used to wash diapers or similarly soiled or infectious garments unless that gray water is disinfected before use.
- Gray water application may only be used for irrigation either by flood or drip. You may not spray irrigate with gray water.

Randy Norton
Agriculture Agent