

**Master Gardeners Meeting**  
**October 4, 7:00 p.m.**  
**'Fall Flower Planting'**

Our presentation this month will offer information on what varieties of annuals and perennials to plant now and suggestions for flower bed design. Giving the presentation will be Coleen Maxwell, who received her Master Gardener Certification through Utah State University. While living in Salt Lake City, Coleen gardened for four years in the flower gardens at Temple Square for the LDS Church. She held a paid position as Head Groundskeeper for a condominium complex. Her duties included the supervision and care of 25 acres of lawns, shrubs, and, of course, flowers.

Since moving to Pima in 1998, Coleen has been known as "The Flower Lady of Pima". She is active in the Graham County Master Gardeners, sharing her expertise in many ways, including planting flowers in the greenhouse at Safford Agricultural Center and providing information at the Master Gardener Booth at the Farmers Market.

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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

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

**Cooperative Extension** The University of Arizona • College of Agriculture & Life Sciences •

**GRAHAM COUNTY GARDENING**

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October 2001

# Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours are due for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year. This will include any volunteer time spent on Cooperative Extension programs from 7-1-01 to 9-30-01. Please log this time in on an hour log sheet and written in pen for easy record keeping. These will be due on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Master Gardener Business meeting.

## Upcoming Events

Saturdays	Farmers Market, 8:00 a.m., Firth Park
Oct. 4	Master Gardener Meeting, Fall Flower Planting, 7:00 p.m., Master Gardener Business Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Safford City/Graham County Public Library, PD Room
Oct. 6-7	Fall Plant Sale, Tucson Botanical Garden
Oct. 11-14	Graham County Fair
Oct. 12-28	Fall Landscaping Festival and Plant Sale, Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Oct. 19-21	Fall Landscape Plant Sale and Festival, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix
Oct. 26-28	Fall Home Show, Phoenix Civic Plaza
Oct. 26	Community Emergency Preparedness Fair, Graham County Fairgrounds
Oct. 27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Festival, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Safford Town Square
Oct. 27-28	La Fiesta de los Chiles, Tucson Botanical Garden
Nov. 1	Master Gardener Meeting, The Mechanics of Using Tools Correctly, 7:00 p.m., Master Gardener Business Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Safford City/Graham County Public Library, PD Room
Nov. 16	Gila Valley Greenhouse Seminar, Safford City/Graham County Public Library, PD Room
Nov. 11	“Butterflies of Arizona” book signing, Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Nov. 24	Fall Color Festival, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Edited by: Sue Martin  
Ruth Anne Neff

E. Randall Norton  
Agriculture Agent

## In the October Garden:

- C Plant beets, carrots, chard, garlic cloves, onion seeds, peas, radishes, and spinach all month.
- 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 now through November.
- C Plant strawberry plants.
- C Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs.
- C Divide crowded perennials (callas, daylilies, iris, yarrow, asters, coreopsis, and daisies when finished blooming). Dig

## Plant of the Month

### Autumn sage

**Salvia greggii** (*Sal'-vee-a greg'-ee-eye*)

Autumn sage is a small attractive shrub. It is a member of the mint family and is closely related to culinary sage (*Salvia officinalis*). It is native to Texas and Mexico so it is well-adapted to our desert environment. Autumn sage is frost hardy to about 5 degrees and usually remains evergreen in our area.

The bush reaches only about 2 ½ to 3 feet in height and has a loose open form. The small leaves are a deep green color. In the spring spikes of tubular flowers begin to open and keep coming until fall. They may take a break during the hottest period. The flowers are usually bright pink or red, although there is a white

variety available. The red and pink blossoms are especially attractive to hummingbirds .

Since it is a native plant, Autumn sage tolerates our alkaline, salty soils well. It is very drought tolerant, but will look better with a bit of supplemental water, especially in our hot dry summers. It does best in well-drained soils. Plant it in either full sun or light shade. It can be pruned into a hedge but will look best and have more flowers if left in its natural form.

Like many sages, it has a nice fragrance when brushed or touched. Plant autumn sage near a

walkway where it can be enjoyed.

## Bug of the Month

### Whitefly

**Description:** Whiteflies are small (1/16 inch) fly-like insects. They have opaque white wings, making them look like small white flecks of paper. Most whiteflies are found on the undersides of leaves where you may not notice them. When disturbed, however, they fly up in a white cloud.

**Damage/Benefits:** Whiteflies weaken plants by sucking sap and spreading diseases. They will feed on a wide variety of plants, especially vegetables. They can be a significant problem in cucumbers, beans, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, pumpkins, okra, and potatoes. They also have an affinity for hibiscus, lantana, herbs, and houseplants. A large population of insects can severely damage plants. Like their relatives, aphids, whiteflies also excrete honeydew. Plants can become totally covered with the shiny, sticky substance. Black sooty mold often grows in this honeydew. As the mold covers the leaves, photosynthesis is inhibited and productivity decreases.

**Life cycle:** Small oval eggs are laid on the lower surface of young leaves. The eggs hatch into transparent scale-like larvae with legs and antennae. The larvae move a short distance and begin feeding. After their first molt, the legs and antennae are lost and the larvae become fixed to the leaf at that point. The final immature stage is a small soft white pupa with legs once again.

**Control:** Row covers applied when planting prevent whiteflies from ever reaching your plants. Insecticidal soap may be used, making sure to thoroughly spray the underside of the leaves.

Frequent applications may be necessary. Yellow sticky traps can be used if populations are not too large. A variety of pesticides can be used against them. The label should state that it is effective against whiteflies. **Always read the label directions.**

## A Greenhouse Vision

Last month we mentioned the Greenhouse committee's desire to start a 'Seed Exchange'. Here is the vision for that exchange. Throughout the year the Master Gardener Organization is called upon to contribute their time, knowledge and physical labor at various local activities and projects. This October alone we will have three opportunities to interact with the public. (See the Events Calendar). Whether we are manning a booth or presenting educational information, we enjoy putting a live plant into the public's hands. We plant seeds in our greenhouse flats, timed to be ready for transplanting corresponding to the scheduled event. Recipients have been very enthusiastic and reported great results (last year harvesting very tasty broccoli!).

This fall we have another opportunity for service that will beautify the City of Safford and thus the community at large. We have been asked by the City of Safford to help design and implement the landscaping of the walking trail along Discovery Park Boulevard and Graveyard Wash. As each phase of the walking trail is realized, the Master Gardener Organization will be helping supply whatever plants and flowers we may have available. Wild flowers, re-seeding annuals, and perennials would be a real delight to see growing along these trails.

Another aspect of the 'Seed Exchange' would be an annual or semi-annual seed exchange event, where Master Gardeners, and hopefully the public, will be able to bring seed and exchange it for seed they don't currently have. The event would also be educational as M.G.'s (Master Gardeners) will be able

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to tell about the plants their seeds will produce.

Gathering seed may not be possible for you, but you may find you are thinning out perennials and don't want to throw them in the trash. The M.G.'s would be grateful to get these contributions as well. You can call Susan Syfert (428-7242) if you need someone to pick them up or you can cart them to the greenhouse at the Safford Agricultural Center (428-2432). Please call Susan or the farm office to let her know if you are dropping off any plants so they will not go unattended.

## **Making a Re-Useable Sticky Trap**

You can make your own sticky trap that can be used over and over again. Take a small pane of glass. Spray paint one side of it yellow. After the paint has dried, spread a thin layer of motor oil on the unpainted side. Set the glass in your garden. Insects are attracted to the color and become stuck in the oil. Every month or so, wipe off the oil and insects and apply a fresh coat. This will attract aphids, bean beetles, flea beetles, fungus gnats, leafhoppers, leafminers, thrips, and whiteflies.