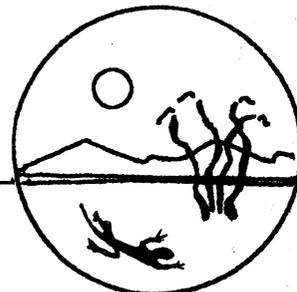


High on the Desert

Cochise County Master Gardener

Newsletter



University of Arizona and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Gardening Help...

Conference to the Rescue!

Even experts need help! One may know a lot about gardening in Tucson, Phoenix, or for that matter almost any other area of the country,

but Cochise County is different. The things we learn from low desert gardeners do not always

work in our area. We live in an area that is 2,000 feet higher than Tucson and 3,500 feet higher than Phoenix and that is why we have two Master Gardener sponsored gardening and landscaping conferences in Arizona each year—a low desert conference for those who live in Tucson and Phoenix and a high desert conference for those who live at higher elevations. That is also why it is impor-

tant for Cochise County gardeners, especially newcomers, to attend the High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference to be held in Si-

erra Vista on March 1 & 2, 1996.

Living in Sierra Vista since 1969 should make

me a gardening expert, but I am still learning. The more I learn, the more I realize how very little I know. Thank goodness there is a "High on the Desert" conference because gardeners from Tucson and Phoenix can't help me—only people who live and garden in the high desert can.

*Barry R. Bishop
Master Gardener/Staff Writer*

High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference

March 1 & 2 – Sierra Vista, Arizona
For information: (520) 458-1104, Ext. 141



Cochise County Cooperative Extension

1140 N. Colombo, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 458-1104, Ext. 141

450 Haskell, Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-3594

Cuttings 'N' Clippings

➤ Styrene "peanuts," those nuggets of ecologically disastrous packing foam, may soon be a thing of the past. A new packaging product made from 100 percent cornstarch will dissolve within seconds after contact with water. You can compost it, rinse it away, or leave it out in the rain to dissolve. Sony, Amway, and Kodak are among the companies already using it.

—*Woman's Day*, November 1, 1995

➤ If you want proof that environmental protection policies can be effective, witness the resurgence of the American peregrine falcon. Twenty years ago these magnificent birds were on the brink of extinction, with only 39 known pairs in the U.S. and Canada. Today there are about 1,200 pairs and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed that they be removed from the endangered species list. The decline in the falcon population was blamed on widespread use of the now-banned pesticide DDT.

—*Woman's Day*, November 1, 1995

➤ The Garden Clubbers will be packaging and labeling seeds on February 8 and 15th at 2:00 pm in the Mona Bishop room of the Sierra Vista Library. These seeds will be offered free or for trade at the High Desert

Recipe For Curing Skunk-Stink

By Deborah Young*

On behalf of County Extension offices throughout Arizona, I recently conducted experiments in how to decrease the thiol odor from a 100-lb. Rottweiler. As many of you are aware, thiols are chemicals produced by many things, including decomposing flesh, fecal matter, and skunks. The striped skunk (one of which lives in my neighborhood) produces trans-2-butene-1-thiol, 3-methyl-1butanethiol, and 2-quinolinemethanethiol.

The trick to decreasing the smell of thiols is to change them into other compounds. A chemist named Paul Krebaum has figured out a way to get oxygen molecules to bond with thiols—and change them into things that don't smell bad. The recipe is 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda, and 1 teaspoon of liquid soap. Wash while it is bubbling and rinse with tap water.

Other treatments in my experiment included 3 quarts of tomato juice, Massengil douche powder (a favorite Prescott remedy), Nature's Miracle (available in pet stores), and every soap and shampoo I had in the house.

My conclusion is to use the hydrogen peroxide/baking soda recipe.

And keep the dog outside.

—*Mohave Master Gardeners' Talk Newsletter*, Jan. 1996

(*Dr. Young is the former Horticulture Agent for Cochise County. She is presently the Mohave County Horticulture Agent.)

Gardening & Landscaping Conference. Anyone wishing to donate seeds toward this effort can drop them off at the Cooperative Extension office or bring them to the Mona Bishop room at the meeting times. Along with the seeds, please bring identification, short description, and planting instructions.

➤ From Yvonne Jingle, Master Gardener and President of the Sierra Vista Garden Club, we get this hint. If you have a

problem with cats around the bird feeders or bird bath, try planting cactus under or around them. It works for the Jingles!

~~~~~

### Newsletter Staff:

Barry R. Bishop  
Carolyn Gruenhagen  
Elizabeth Riordon  
Virginia Westphal

*Robert E. Call*

Robert E. Call, Extension  
Agent—Horticulture

## A Transplanted Gardener . . .

Companion planting continued from last month.

**ALOE VERA** - Aloe is a vegetable in the lily and allium family. Because of the bitter taste of the aloe gel it is virtually free of pests and diseases. The gel can be used for burns, as a laxative, for stomach ulcers, and can be used as a tree wound dressing when pruning trees. Aloe powder sprinkled over plants will repel rabbits and when the plants are thrown into chicken drinking water improves their health.

**CATNIP** - Fresh catnip steeped in water can be used as a spray to repel flea beetles as it contains an insect repellent oil. Fresh catnip will also repel black ants.

**CHERRY** - Potatoes are less resistant to blight when grown near cherries. Wheat also dislikes cherries.

**CITRUS** - Guava and live oak seem to have a protective influence on citrus trees.

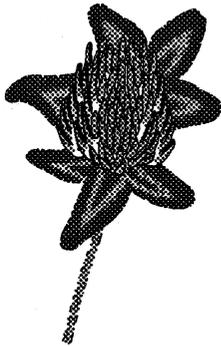
### **CLOVER**

- Clover is a great way to add nitrogen to the soil and is drought resistant.

Consider planting clover with your lawn,

in the orchard, the paths in your garden, and between rows of grapes. Clover dislikes henbane and the buttercup family.

**DUSTY MILLER** - Said to repel rabbits when planted around flowers and veggies.



**FRUIT TREES** - Benefit from plantings of mustard and clovers as ground cover. Also likes the allium family, horseradish, and stinging nettle.

**GERANIUM** - Geraniums are not only pretty but come in a large scented assortment that can be made into jellies and potpourris. They repel cabbage worms and when planted around grapes, corn, and roses repel Japanese beetles.

**HYSSOP** - Plant with grapes to increase their yield. Bees love hyssop blossoms but some insects, like the cabbage butterfly, find it a repellent. Radishes dislike hyssop.

**MARIGOLD** - Probably best known for its stinky foliage, it's perhaps the best control for nematodes. Marigolds control nematodes by producing chemicals through their roots which slowly kills them. Studies have found that the African marigold which has the strongest odor works best. At the end of the gardening season let the marigolds go to seed and till them in. They self-seed readily and next season you'll have plenty of "golds" growing everywhere.

**RASPBERRY** - Raspberries and blackberries dislike each other. It is also best to grow red and black raspberries apart as the reds can carry a disease that will harm the blacks. Potatoes dislike raspberries.

**ROSE** - The allium family planted around roses is said to repel aphids and protect them from mildew and black spot. Alliums are used in Bulgaria to induce roses to produce a stronger perfume. Parsley helps repel rose beetles and lupines improve the nitrogen content of the soil and attract earthworms



(please call me if this happens!).

**SYCAMORE** - Sycamore roots inhibit the growth of any plants underneath it. The good news is that if you boil

the bark and make it into a poultice it is good to use for poison ivy.

**WALNUT** - Black walnut trees produce a substance in their roots and leaves which, like the sycamore, inhibits the growth of many plants therefore mulching or composting the leaves may not be wise. But on the other hand the leaves are said to repel fleas so try scattering them around the dog kennel. Plants that dislike walnut trees include apples, potatoes, tomatoes, and blackberries. English walnut trees do not have any root/leave inhibitors.

**WILD MORNING GLORY** - You have probably noticed that catalogs will often state that they cannot ship morning glory seed or plants to Arizona. It is rampant in some parts of the state although the Indians often grew it with corn.

Morning glory can be killed by spraying a little white vinegar into the center of each vine.

**WORMWOOD** - Also commonly known as Artemisia, wormwood is an excellent repellent for moths, flea beetles and cabbage worm butterfly. A wormwood tea bath will rid cats

-Continued on next page

## The Agent's Observations

**QUESTION:** What is the white material on my 'Golden Delicious' apple tree? It is on the young twigs. Also why are the buds swelling?

**ANSWER:** The white fuzzy material on the twigs are hairs that are naturally occurring. As the twigs mature the fuzz falls off. Bud swell on your tree is a response to warm temperature. With the warm winter that we have experienced, fruit buds that have accumulated adequate chill hours, will begin to push toward flowering after enough growing degree hours have been accumulated. In general, fruit trees need from 800 to 1,600 growing degree hours of temperatures above 45 degrees.

The only practical way to cause the flower buds to delay their bloom is PRAY FOR COLD WEATHER! If flowering occurs too early spring freezes will kill the flowers. No flowers, no fruit.

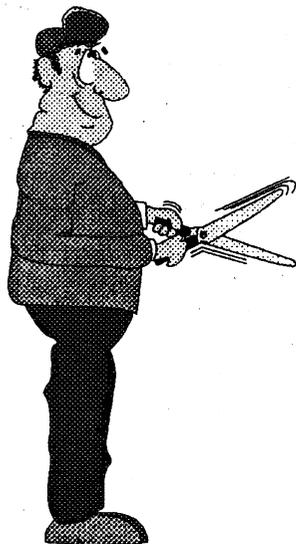
**QUESTION:** How can I get rid of gophers?



**ANSWER:** There are several ways but they involve killing the creatures. If you are not up to it then they will continue to expand their territory. One way is trapping which takes some skill and patience. I have had the best luck with poison baits. The best bait that I have used is "Walk Gopher Getter," which is available at Home Depot and

several other nurseries. If not, ask for it by name. This gopher bait is milo or grain sorghum and has been treated with the poison and an anise type attractant. Gophers just love it. By placing it underground in their runs it is out of sight and not attractive to other non-target animals, *i.e.* birds, rodents or mammals. If gophers are allowed to breed in late winter or early spring their populations explode. With bait placed in runs, when one gopher succumbs to the bait other gopher who will occupy vacant runs will also be attracted to the bait and die. I know that for some this sounds harsh, but if you have better solutions there are a lot of people who would like to know about them.

*Robert E. Call  
Extension Agent, Horticulture*



## Pruning Demonstration to be Held

Do you want to know how to train and prune fruit and nut trees properly? Sharpen up those pruners and your knowledge by attending a demonstration that Horticulture Agent, Rob Call, will give February 28th in the Sierra Vista area. The trees to be "manicured" are apple, pear, cherry, plum, peach, nectarine, pecan, walnut and pistachio. The location is 1534 Apache Point in Hereford and we will meet there at 10:00 am. Directions to the site are: Take Highway 92 S. and turn right on to Ramsey Canyon Road. Turn left at Richard Road, which heads to Ramsey Canyon Ranch Steakhouse. Turn right on to Apache Point Road at the Restaurant. Travel 1/2 mile on Apache Point Road to 1534. If you have questions call the Master Gardener office.

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# High on the Desert

Conference Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Full Conference \$60.00  
(After Feb. 16 \$70.00)

One Day \$40.00  
(After Feb. 16 \$45.00)

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
**High Desert MG Conference**

Mail to:  
U. of A. Cooperative Extension Office  
1140 N. Colombo  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

To help with our planning, please indicate preference for each session:

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI |
|---|----|-----|----|---|----|
| A | A  | A   | A  | A | A  |
| B | B  | B   | B  | B | B  |
| C | C  | C   | C  | C | C  |

For information please call:  
U. of A. Cooperative Extension Office,  
Sierra Vista, AZ (520) 458-1104, Ext. 141

## 1996 Conference Program

### Friday, March 1, 1996

7:30 - 8:45 am Registration and Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00 am Welcome

9:00 - 10:15 am General Session

Dr. Bill Rogers, KGUN 9 TV Meteorologist  
*Weather in the Southwest*

10:30 - 11:45 am General Session

Dr. Mary Olsen, U. of A. Plant Pathologist  
*Phymatotrichum Root Rot—Alive and Well in the High Desert*

11:45 - 12:00 pm Exhibits

12:00 - 1:45 pm Lunch, Door Prizes & Exhibits

1:45 - 2:45 pm Session I

- A. Tom De Gomez, *The Black Locust Tree: Weed or Marvel?*
- B. Dr. Dave Langston, *Scorpions and Other Desert Fauna*
- C. Terry Mikel, *Weed Control in an Age of Environmentalism*

3:00 - 4:00 pm Session II

- A. Rita Jo Anthony, *Wildflowers: Fact and Fantasy*
- B. Kent Newland, *The Agave Family For Landscape Use in Upper Elevations of the SW*
- C. Kim McReynolds, *Native Grass I.D.*

4:15 - 5:15 pm Session III

- A. David Cristiani, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Landscapes*
- B. Kevin Dahl, *Singing Up the Corn: The Native Seeds/SEARCH Story*
- C. Barbara Rose, *Earthbuilding in the Drylands*

### Saturday, March 2, 1996

7:30 - 8:45 am Registration and Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00 am Welcome

9:00 - 10:15 am General Session

Carrie Nimmer, Landscape Architect  
*Xeriscape: Make it Personal*

10:30 - 11:45 am General Session

Dr. Tom Doerge, U. of A. Soil Specialist  
*Soil Microbiology 101*

11:45 - 12:00 pm Exhibits

12:00 - 1:45 pm Lunch, Door Prizes & Exhibits

1:45 - 2:45 pm Session IV

- A. Elizabeth Davidson, *Tricks to Vegetative Propagation*
- B. Lucy Bradley, *Trees for Life*
- C. Russ Buhrow, *Underutilized Plants for the High Desert*

3:00 - 4:00 pm Session V

- A. Kate Tieman, *Gardening the Impossible Places*
- B. Patsy Waterfall, *Creating a Waterwise Landscape*
- C. Dr. Norman Oebker, *Vegetable Gardening on the High Desert*

4:15 - 5:15 pm Session VI

- A. De Lewis, *Garden Magic, Your Home Compost*
- B. Dr. Paul Bessey, *Iris In High Desert Landscapes*
- C. Peter Gierlach, *Awakening the Dormant Natives*

5:30 - 7:00 pm Reception

### Sunday, March 3, 1996

Self-guided tours to local areas of interest:

- A. Ramsey Canyon Preserve
- B. San Pedro Riparian Area
- C. Coronado National Monument
- D. Ft. Huachuca Historical Museum

Robert E. Call, Extension Agent, Horticulture

and dogs of fleas. Sage, fennel, and most herbs dislike artemisia.

If you have enjoyed this series about companion planting and would like to learn more, Louise Riotte has two paperbacks that are worth reading. *Carrots love Tomatoes*, 226 pages, and *Roses love Garlic*, 236 pages, both published by Storey Communications, Inc. are considered by many to be the essential companion planting guides. Happy planting!

Cheri Melton  
Master Gardener

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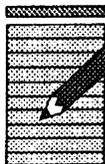
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Remember . . .



February 14 - Valentine's Day!

February 16 - send in registration for High Desert Conference  
(to avoid late fee!)



February 28 - Pruning demo  
(see related article)

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