



The Virtual Gardener—*You Tube* U for Gardeners

A little over eight years ago three guys in San Francisco, frustrated with the difficulty of finding and sharing video files on the internet, came up with a concept for a video-sharing service. Within a few months they managed to borrow enough seed money to bring their concept to life as a business they called *YouTube*. It was an instant success, and a year later Google acquired the company for \$1.65 billion!

YouTube allows users to upload short videos to the internet and make them available for the world to view for free. Since most digital cameras and many computers have the capability to produce video files, this has become a very popular pastime. According to a Wikipedia [article](#) about *YouTube*, roughly 60 hours of video are uploaded to the service every minute of the day, and the site has over 800 million unique users each month.

So . . . what does all this have to do with gardening?

As it turns out, many of the videos on *YouTube* are instructional in nature and gardening is a popular subject for thousands of videos. The videos are

made by many different types of people. Some are enthusiastic amateur gardeners who simply want to share their gardening experiences. Others are made by academic or green industry professionals. And, of course, some are made by hams who simply enjoy performing to a world-wide audience. Choosing gardening videos that contain trustworthy content is like choosing any other web content. Look first to the source. Videos produced by universities, government agencies, and well-known businesses generally provide authoritative information. Those produced by individuals may or may not contain reliable information so must be evaluated on a case by case basis. Also, be aware that some information may be regionally specific so make sure it is relevant to your location.

YouTube videos have become a first stop for me when I want to learn about something new or simply troll for new gardening ideas. For me it's easier to learn something by watching someone demonstrate it than by reading about it.

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The ability to start and stop a video, back it up and view it again, and even move through it frame by frame if necessary, makes it easy to learn a new skill or technique. I often watch a video this way and take notes in a word processor as I watch. I save the link to the video in my notes, so I will always be able to go back and watch it again.

The simple way to find gardening videos to watch on *YouTube* is simply to go to <http://www.youtube.com>, type “gardening” into the search box at the top of the page, and click on the button with the magnifying glass icon. But you can do more if you are a registered user.

If you have a gmail account or are a registered user for another Google service, you already have a *YouTube* account. If you do not have an existing account, all you need to do to create one is to furnish an e-mail address, your date of birth (some material on *YouTube* is not appropriate for viewers under the age of 13), and supply a password.

Unregistered users can search for and watch videos for free, save videos to the favorites list in their browser, and share links to their favorite videos with friends. However, if you set up a free account, you can create subscriptions to video series you would like to follow, create playlists of videos you would like to view in sequence automatically, make comments on videos, and much more, including uploading your own video creations to *YouTube*. Playlists you create can be *private* (only you can view them), *unlisted* (only people having their link can view them), or *public* (anyone can view them).

The best way to see what’s available is to go to the *YouTube* website and search for a gardening topic of interest. To get you started, here are some links to playlists you might enjoy:

[Playlist for the Mittleider Gardening Method](#). This playlist contains 60 videos (8 hours total viewing time) of videos emphasizing the Mittleider method of vegetable gardening which is a semi-organic method of gardening that permits the use of chemical fertilizers but not chemical pesticides. Regardless of your preferences for fertilizers, these videos offer many useful tips and techniques you can apply.

[Playlists for Growing Your Greens](#). This series of videos by John Kohler—touted as the most popular gardening show on *YouTube*—focuses on organic gardening, but also contains many useful tips for gardeners of all stripes. Topics discussed cover the full gamut of gardening subjects, including composting, container gardening, raised beds, vertical gardening, soil amendments and much, much more.

[Mel Bartholomew on Square Foot Gardening](#). If you’re interested in square foot gardening techniques, here’s Mel himself giving a half-hour class on the subject. You will learn where to locate your garden, the basic concepts of the Square Foot Gardening, how to create a Square Foot Garden, and how to care for your garden once it’s planted.

The videos I have listed above are only a tiny taste of what you can find on *YouTube* so be sure and check it out for yourself.

Until next time, happy surfing!

Gary Gruenhagen, Master Gardener
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Cuttings ‘N’ Clippings

✿ The next CCMGA meeting will be held **Thursday, October 3 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Public Meeting Room located in Groth Hall at UASV. The public is invited to a presentation by Henry Haros on *Bonsai Gardening*.

✿ Water Wise will hold a talk on *Graywater and Rainwater Harvesting* at Ecoasis, 54 Brewery Ave., in old Bisbee on **Wednesday, October 2** at 5:30 p.m. Cyndi Wilkins, UA water Wise Program, will discuss how to use recycled water and rainwater to water landscape plants.

✿ The Water Wise *Well Owners Workshop* will be held **Saturday, October 19** from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Palominas Fire District Training Room, 9222 S. Kings Ranch Rd. For information call (520) 458-8278, Ext 2141, or contact Joyce at: jwilliam@ag.arizona.edu
You can visit Water Wise at: waterwise.arizona.edu

✿ The 14th Annual Highlands Garden Conference will be held **Saturday, October 12** in Miami, AZ. To access the registration brochure visit the website at: <http://extension.arizona.edu/events/arizona-highlands-garden-conference>

Did You Know . . .

There is a column written by Cochise County Master Gardener Bill Schulze in the Sierra Vista Herald the first Sunday of every month? Past articles can be found in our web site at:

<http://ag.arizona.edu/cochise/mg/HeraldArticles.htm>

Are Chiggers Repelled By Polish Sausage?

One of the great banes of my existence is the chigger, that nasty, little, nearly invisible pest that causes so much misery. Every year come the monsoon, these foul creatures make every trip to the garden into a game of Russian roulette. I wonder about the next morning; will I or will I not awake to the relentless itching of chigger bites? Fortunately, it has been to my unbounded happiness that, so far this year, I have yet to receive a single chigger bite (knock on wood)! Unfortunately, I have no idea why that is.

I was telling my sister about my good luck and she asked me if I had ever tried to use a DEET-based repellent to deter chiggers. In retrospect, it seems silly that I haven't ever tried DEET, but I haven't. Anyway, thinking about this conversation later in the day, I was struck with the thought that, if I had elected to use DEET this summer, I would surely now believe that DEET was an effective chigger repellent. DEET may well be effective, I really don't know, but if I had used it this summer, it's clear that I would not have proven its efficacy since my yard evidently had no chiggers this summer.

A lot of garden lore is like the above chigger situation. We do some thing once—plant a new variety of vegetable, use a new “super fertilizer,” plant according to the phase of the moon, do whatever—it either works or it doesn't, and we all too often draw a firm conclusion that becomes a “fact” for us. In talking with people at the Master Gardener booth at the Farmers Market, I often hear “facts” like this. One gentleman told me that watermelons won't grow in our area. How did

he know this? Well, because he was unsuccessful at growing them the previous year. Another fellow told me not to plant tomatillos because little bugs infested the closed husks and ate the fruit before it was picked. Again, he “knew” this because that was his experience several years prior. I've even managed to pass on a few “truths” of my own over the years. I'm learning to be more careful.

A quick side trip into the world of statistics will be helpful at this point. Statisticians speak of “reliability” and “confidence level” and they never speak of one without the other. If a device or a result is described as having 99% reliability, the statement will also be accompanied by a phrase such as “with a 95% confidence level.” In order to demonstrate reliability and an associated high confidence level, a number of tests must be conducted. For high reliabilities and confidence levels, the number of tests required can get quite large. For instance, in order to “prove” something has a 99% reliability at a 95% confidence level, one must conduct 230 tests WITHOUT A SINGLE FAILURE! On the other hand, to demonstrate 99% reliability with only a 50% confidence level requires just 69 consecutive successes. To show 90% reliability with 80% confidence requires only 16 successful tests. The confidence level can be thought of like this: for a device with a 99% reliability at 90% confidence, if the test series was repeated 100 times, the reliability demonstrated would be at least 99% in 90 of the 100 test series. It could still be less than 99% in 10 of the test series.

Now, there are some further complications and restrictions that apply to the use of the method just described, but the basic point should be clear. We can't put much faith

(confidence) into the reliability of a statement based on one or two tests, especially with a field like gardening that involves so many variables and so many unknowns. This is one reason why real scientific studies often involve hundreds or thousands of samples or tests. In fact, a single test that gives a particular result actually demonstrates just a 50% reliability with only 50% confidence. If you'd like to see the table from which the numbers above were taken, check out the following link: <http://thequalityportal.com/glossary/rc.pdf>.

So what about Polish sausages and chiggers? Basically, that's just my lousy sense of humor, but I did imagine a situation where I was informed by a fellow gardener that consumption of Polish sausages would deter chiggers (perhaps due to their high garlic content?). Had I started eating a Polish sausage each day this summer (heck, I love Polish sausages anyway), I just might have been able to convince myself that Polish sausages do indeed deter chiggers.

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On Tuesday, September 17, following a planning session, a group of Cochise County Master Gardeners spent several hours preparing a demonstration/teaching garden on the UASV campus west of the front door of Groth Hall. Check it out! See Page 6 for more pictures.

In a Desert Garden

The *Nepeta* family

Catnip, *Nepeta cataria* and Catmint *N. x faassenii* are members of the *Nepeta* family which are related to the mints and considered herbs. Most gardeners are familiar with catnip and have grown it. Catnip comes to us from the Mediterranean and is found in cat toys. Cats love the smell of this plant. It is a plant that grows to 2—3 feet high and wide. Truthfully, I think it is not a very attractive plant, but it definitely has a place in the herb garden. Small pink to white flowers appear on spikes in late spring and early summer. The foliage is heart-shaped, gray-green and tooth-edged. It is an easy plant to grow if you can give it a light soil, good drainage, and it also self-seeds. Because cats love the scent, they like to roll in it, and finally do it in. This happened to my plants. I tried to grow it several times, but it attracted all the cats in my neighborhood, and they tore the poor plant up. I finally removed it.

That is not the case with catmint, *N. x faassenii*, a much more attractive plant. I grow catmint in two completely different locations in my yard. One of the plants is exposed to the elements and in full sun. In winter this is the coldest part of my yard. The other one is growing under a tree, has light shade, and is very sheltered. Both plants have been there for many years and came through the deep freeze we had. Catmint is a sterile hybrid of *N. racemosa*, a plant native to the Caucasus, Asia, and the European plant *N. mussinii*. Cats also like catmint, but they do not go as wild over it as they do with catnip. Catmint is a short plant

with lavender-blue flower spikes in summer. There are also white flowering plants available, but they are not as hardy. I lost one in the deep freeze.

Several years ago I grew *N. clarkei*, a plant native to the Himalayans. This plant has the truest blue flowers of the *Nepeta*, I love blue flowers, but I have to admit, although they are lovely, they are very tiny, so they are not very showy. I lost this plant years ago in one very hot and dry June.

The monsoon season we had this year, with its abundant rain, has brought up plants I didn't know I had. Every seed that has ever fallen in my yard must have come up. I noticed a plant that was coming up next to my garden bench, but because I do not pull anything that doesn't look like a known weed to me, I left it growing there. It almost looked like a start of the *Salvia* 'Lady in Red' that self-seeds itself all through my garden, but the color of the leaves was just a little off. A few days ago, when I walked through the yard I noticed the small blue flower stalks on the plant. It is *N. clarkei*. It was like meeting an old friend. I got a glass of water and sat down on the bench. These are the moments I really appreciate nature and how amazing it really is.



Angel Rutherford. Master Gardener
Photographer

October Reminders

- ◆ Be ready for the first frost
- ◆ Thin seedlings
- ◆ Over seed lawns
- ◆ Plant spring bulbs
- ◆ Divide perennials
- ◆ Don't let weeds go to seeds

Ask a Master Gardener

Cochise County Master Gardeners are available to answer your gardening questions either by telephone call to the Cooperative Extension Office or on-line on our web site at:

www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/mg

The following comes from our web site's Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: Are there any garden vegetables that can be planted for a fall harvest in Cochise County?

Answer: Yes! Many of the cool season crops, those that can withstand freezing temperatures, do very well in Cochise County in the fall. In fact, the fall in Cochise County is better generally than the spring to raise cool season crops. These vegetables include the [brassica] family—broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and cabbage among others. Also, spinach, beets, peas, radishes, lettuces, mustard greens, and other greens may be planted. The onion family, which includes garlic, does well when planted in the fall and then over-wintered and harvested in early spring.



Cochise County Master
Gardener Newsletter Editor
Carolyn Gruenhagen

At a Glance Box

It's a Bloomin' Cochise County Native Plant of the Month

Plant: Turpentine Bush, *Ericameria laricifolia*

Description: A woody, evergreen shrub

Blooms: Fall

Use: Brilliant yellow blooms and small, evergreen stature make this plant a great Xeriscape choice

Culture: Little to no water. Hardy.

Learn more: Cochise County Herbarium,

<http://www.cochisecountyherbarium.org>; *Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes*, Judy Mielke.

For an in-depth article on Turpentine Bush, see below

Cado Daily

Water Resources Coordinator, Water Wise Program

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Turpentine Bush

Ericameria laricifolia

“Well, I’ve called it Haplopappus all my dang life and I ain’t agonna change to Aplopappus now” said the crusty old rancher in a discussion on rangeland plants. Good thing for him that he didn’t learn Aplopappus, because now it is called “Ericameria.” Not only did the genus name change AGAIN, but the species name went from laricifolius to laricifolia. Geez, can’t the great namers in the sky settle on ONE name and stick with it?

Whether it is called Haplopappus, Aplopappus, Aguirre (the Spanish common name) or Ericameria, the Turpentine bush, *Ericameria laricifolia* is a wonderful Cochise County native plant for any landscape.

Found from grasslands to mountain slopes, the turpentine bush isn’t picky about its habitat. Hardy to 0°F, *Ericameria laricifolia* grows at elevations from 3,000 to 6,000 ft. in (but not exclusively

to) the Mohave Desert, Death Valley, the mountains and valleys just north of the Mexican border in Arizona, the Trans-Pecos region in Texas, western California, Chihuahuan regions of Mexico, and in the Sonoran desert.

Mesas, slopes, and canyons with well-drained soil seem to be this plant’s location of choice. Full sun will keep it full while partial shade will elongate the woody stems giving the turpentine bush a Japanese garden form.

Besides being native to the southwest region, a big plus is that it is evergreen. Not only does it keep its leaves year-round, the green is a deep, rich evergreen. The second big plus is that it is a shrub or subshrub (however you want to categorize it) reaching a moderate height and width of 2-3 feet, making it another great plant to add when you need a medium sized shrub to make a strong statement.

The leaves are almost needle-like, but soft. Linear in form, they are small, from 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch in length, and less than 1/16 inch wide.

Looking with a hand-lens, you can see resin glands covering the plump leaves like polka-dots. These resin glands add another dimension to *Ericameria laricifolia*. When rubbed between your fingers, the plant smells like (three guesses and the first two don’t count)—you guessed it—turpentine! It is always fun to excite more senses when placing landscape plants. Visual is usually the first sense to satisfy, but when you add smell and touch, the landscape takes on many layers. Squeeze the leaves and the smell lingers on your fingers as the resin is very slightly sticky. The resin is flammable, so plant the turpentine bush away from wooden structures (decks, under overhangs, etc.)

In form, the evergreen leaves cover the smaller woody stems turning the plant into a fuzzy bush. It is fun to see what kind of a shape the older woody stems create. If growing in a more shady location, the stems reach for the sun and the plant takes on an elongated form. If nestled amongst tall grasses, the turpentine bush can pop up with a green fuzzy head. If overwatered (heaven forbid), it can turn into a monster and overwhelm a small space.

If the plant gets too woody for its application in a landscape, *Ericameria laricifolia* can be severely pruned and then grows out beautifully. However, in any well-designed landscape, plants shouldn’t need to be pruned as they should be placed to fit at maturity.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffrey C. Silvertooth, Associate Dean & Director, Economic Development & Extension, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities. The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Cooperative Extension is implied. Any products, services, or organizations that are mentioned, shown, or indirectly implied in this publication do not imply endorsement by the University of Arizona.

Cochise County Master Gardener Association demonstration/teaching garden project at UASV

Watch it grow!



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Now for the flowers. Ok, they are yellow composites, but are they **YELLOW!** This incredible bush just explodes in color from September to November. The canyon

slopes in Bisbee Arizona, where the turpentine bush is a dominant subshrub, are covered in brilliant electric yellow balls heralding in the fall. Between the sun's lowered angle in the sky taking the edge off of the summer sun, the cooling of the breezes, and the turpentine bush blooming, the fall season is a favorite time to invite friends unfamiliar with dry climates. They always seem to remark on the lushness of this semi-arid land.

After flowering, *Ericameria laricifolia*'s flowers fade with nature's inevitable progression and the plant puts on a lovely straw hat of seeding flowers for winter. But the seeds can spread and if not eaten by hungry finches, can contribute to a cluster of nicely spaced evergreen plants.

Knowing where the turpentine bush naturally occurs, tells you

something about its water needs. Low. However, like a good desert plant, it will gobble up as much water as it gets. When placed on a regular (weekly or biweekly) watering schedule, it looks like it ate too many donuts. Bottom line, give it water (if you must) only when it needs it. Try the lean and mean method. Don't forget to create berms on the down or upslope of the drip line to catch precious rain-water when it rolls across the landscape.

This plant shouldn't be hard to find in the nursery trade, but it hasn't caught on with commercial growers. Ask for it locally and if you aren't successful, try a nursery in Tucson that specializes in native plants (Desert Survivors and Civano Nurseries are some choices.)

Ms. Cado Daily, M.A.
Water Resources Coordinator