

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Robert E. Call

Robert E. Call
Extension Agent,
Horticulture

the Cochise County Master Gardener

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3, NO. 1

JANUARY 1992

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Peter Whitman
Staff Writer

A dear friend of mine came back from a fall trip to California and mentioned to me that everyone had salvia in their gardens. It was the "in" bedding plant this year for Californians. One just wasn't an "in" gardener unless one had planted salvia! That's the way it appeared anyway. My friend asked why she didn't see it around here.

Well, I didn't have a good answer for her. You may be asking, "What is salvia?" *Salvia officinalis* is commonly known as sage...the kind used in cooking. But, there are many kinds of salvia, mostly grown for the flowers. The variety my friend saw was most likely *Salvia leucantha*. *Salvia leucantha* does very well around here and should appear in landscapes around our county.

The great thing about salvia is that there are so many different varieties. They come in a wide range of colors from white to scarlet to blue. Native plant specialists are bringing in new varieties every year from Mexico and South America. These new varieties are well worth getting ahold of. They are often found at botanical gardens or arboretum plant sales.

Most salvias are drought tolerant and easy to care for. They have very attractive flowers. Some are native to arid areas such as Southern California and Arizona. Then, there is the salvia used in cooking, which has a place in every herb garden. I think it would be fun to set up a garden with as many different varieties of salvia as could be found. It would probably end up as a very sizeable garden. Maybe there is a spot for a salvia in your garden!

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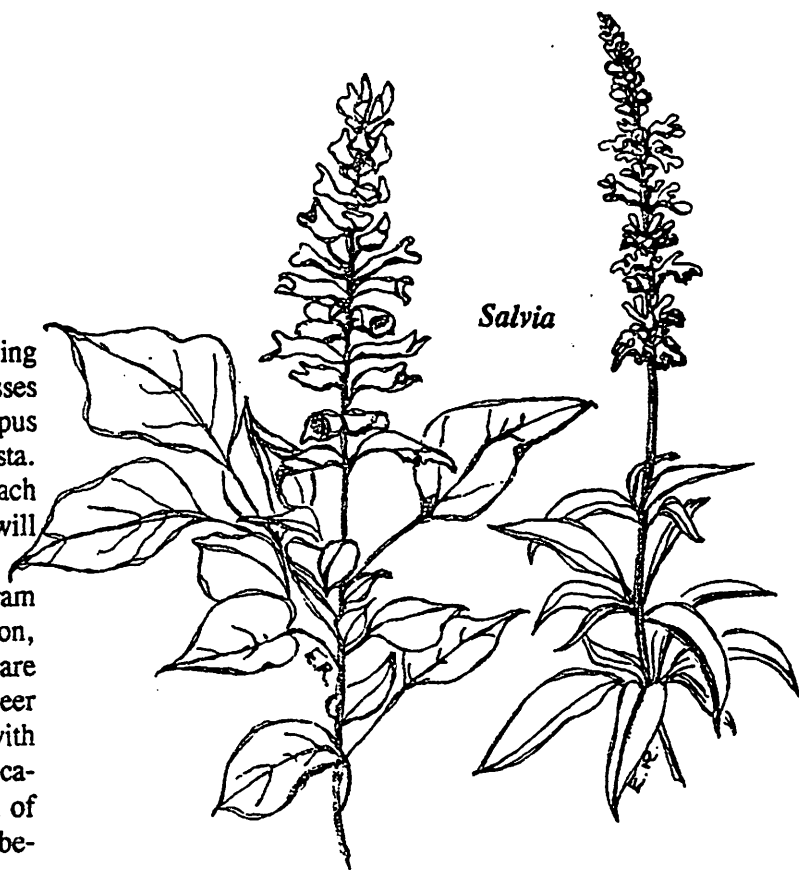
1992 MASTER GARDENERS CLASS TO BEGIN

Rob Call
Extension Agent

The 1992 spring class of Master Gardening will convene on January 22 at 2:30 pm. Classes will meet at the University of Arizona - Off Campus Center located at 2500 East Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista. The three hour class sessions will be held each Wednesday thereafter for 12 weeks. Class size will be limited to 20 people.

Master Gardening is a partnership program where instruction on gardening, soils, irrigation, landscaping, and pest diagnosis and control are taught. Upon course completion students volunteer service to assist communities in the county with gardening, conservation and environmental education, programs, and projects. With completion of the course and volunteer service persons will become Master Gardeners.

Registration will be at 2:30 pm on January 22. The fee for the course will be \$50. After completion of the course and required volunteer service, \$25 will be refunded. Those interested in attending the course or for further information, please call University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Willcox at 384-3594.



GROWING A BETTER GARDEN WITH LESS WATER

Rob Call
Extension Agent

Water is a limiting factor in food production. This is especially true in the high desert where we live. A seminar is planned on **January 25, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm** at the **Oscar Yrun Community Center, 3020 Tacoma, Sierra Vista**, to address this fact. Presentations will include: *Engineering a Drip Irrigation System* and also, *Xeriscaping - Does Anything Grow Without Water?* A Gardeners Panel will discuss their experiences and answer questions regarding: **High Desert Gardening of Vegetables, Fruit Trees, and Native Plants.** Everyone is invited to attend this informative and practical seminar.

A catered lunch will be served and printed material will be provided. A registration fee of \$2.50 will be collected at the door to help defray the cost of lunch. This seminar is sponsored by the San Pedro Water Resources Association and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.



Staff:

Carolyn Gruenhagen
T.J. Martin
Elizabeth Riordon
Barbara Shelor
Peter Whitman



Articles to be published in next month's newsletter must be received at the Sierra Vista Cooperative Extension Office by January 24.

1992 TREE SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Barbara Shelor
Staff Writer

The Arizona State Land Department Forestry Division cooperates with the Soil Conservation Service, the U. S. Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and nursery contractors to supply tree seedlings to landowners in rural areas each year. The stated purpose of this program is "to encourage rural residents to establish tree and shrub stands for conservation purposes." The cost is very low, and there is a wide variety of shrub and tree species available, based upon varied climatic conditions in Arizona, availability of the seedling stock, and consumer preferences. The seedlings may be used for reforestation, wood products, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, erosion control, or for Christmas tree plantations.

There are three types of seedlings available: **small container seedlings**, which are sold in multiples of 30; **bareroot seedlings**, which are sold in multiples of 50; and **large container seedlings**, which are also sold in multiples of 30.

You may obtain the brochure at the U. S. F. S. Sierra Vista Ranger District on S. Highway 92 or at the Willcox Soil Conservation Service at 151 West Wasson. The brochure contains: specifications for all the trees and shrubs available; information about preparation, planting, and care of the seedlings; how to plant for a windbreak; and all that you need to know to order.

There are 13 bare root shipping dates, but please note the first bare root shipping date is January 28, 1992. The only date for containerized pickup in Sierra Vista is March 13, 1992. So if you want to take advantage of this opportunity, now is the time to inquire and order.

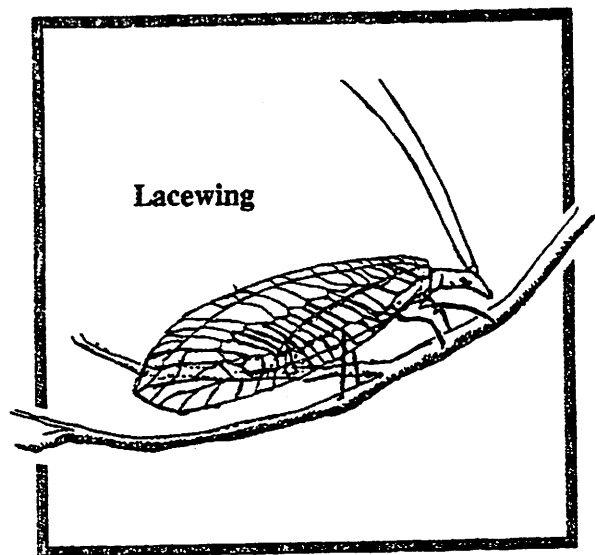
BUDDY BUG

Elizabeth Riordon
Staff Writer

Lacewings are delicate, green insects, 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, with large transparent, veined wings. They are very beneficial in the garden.

Lacewing eggs are laid singly on slender stalks that are out-of-the-way of predators. In five to seven days, the eggs hatch into spiny, spindle-shaped yellow-brown larvae. These larvae are even better at eating destructive insects than ladybugs. They are called "aphid lions". These larvae feed on aphids and other soft-bodies, destructive insects, such as mites, thrips, mealybugs, scales, small caterpillars, and moth eggs. The lacewings then spend about two weeks in a silky, pearl-sized cocoon, on the underside of a leaf.

There are two species of these insects which can be purchased as eggs to be scattered throughout the garden. To attract wild lacewings grow plants which have pollen and nectar, and provide water when the weather is dry.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tucson Botanical Gardens - 2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson. Jan. 11: *Cooking with Ancient Desert Plants*. Jan. 25: *Backyard Composting*. Jan. 29: *Introduction to Bonsai*. Tel. 602-326-9686.

Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum - Superior. Jan. 11: *Landscaping with Cacti and Other Succulents*. Jan. 26: *Choosing Plants for Winter Color in the Drought-Tolerant Garden*. The 2 o'clock lecture series continues Wednesdays through Sundays. Tel. 602-689-2723.

Southeastern Chapter of the Arizona Native Plant Society - Jan. 22: 6:30 pm meeting at the Oscar Yrun Community Center, Sierra Vista. Guest speaker Page Bakarich will present a slide show, *Native Foods of the Chiricahua Apaches*. The public is welcome. For more information call 378-0011.

TOURS, CONFERENCES, AND COURSES:

YUMA TOUR

The Yuma Tour for Master Gardeners set for January 17-18 is still planned. Anyone interested in getting out of the cold and into the sun on this tour will need to notify Rob Call at the Cochise County Extension Office in Willcox by Friday, January 10, so that car pooling arrangements can be made. If you have questions; please call Rob at 384-3594 and refer to your December Master Gardener Newsletter for details of the Tour of Yuma.

Permaculture Drylands, Education and Research Institute - A Permaculture Design Course held over four alternate weekends beginning Friday, January 31. Held on private land near the Tucson Mountains. Includes hands-on design. Instructors are Tim Murphy, Larry Santoyo, and Ben Haggard. For more information write to Permaculture Drylands, P.O. Box 27371, Tucson, AZ 85726-7371 or call 602-824-3465.

Arizona Land & People Conference - Feb. 27-29: *Environmental Stewardship* - Holiday Inn, Tucson. Brochure and details are available at the cooperative extension office.

Conference on Solid Waste Management & Materials Policy - Jan. 29-31: Call 515-455-3711

Think Trees/NMANI (New Mexico Association of Nurseries) Short Course - Jan 16-17: Holiday Inn Pyramid, Journal Center, Albuquerque, NM. For the landscape and greenhouse professional. Choose from 42 different educational presentations. Call 505-275-2576 or 505-345-7799.

Growing Connections - Educational In-Service - Jan. 9-10: This is for all faculty members. Jan. 9 focuses on indoor gardening for grade schools, and anyone in cooperative extension is invited to attend. Jan. 10 focuses on Growing Connections and their Kellogg Funding. Held at Tucson Botanical Gardens. Call 602-3622 for registration information.



HOW TO XERISCAPE

1. Start with a plan
2. Limit turf areas
3. Install efficient irrigation system.
4. Harvest rain water
5. Improve the soil
6. Use low water plants
7. Remember appropriate maintenance

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?®
by T.J. Martin

SPITTLEBUGS

COMMON NAMES: Spittlebugs, Froghoppers

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Cercopidae

DESCRIPTION: **ADULTS** - Small (less than 12mm) insects looking rather like froggy versions of their cousins, the treehoppers and leafhoppers. They are usually green or brown and may have stripes or bands on the wings. **NYMPHS** - Smaller, wingless versions of the adults, they surround themselves with frothy white masses as protection from predators and climate. **EGGS** - Laid in grasses and weeds, between the leaves and stems.

LIFE CYCLE: Nymphs hatch in the spring, form sticky clumps of "spittle" and feed and grow into adults on the host plants. Eggs are laid in weeds or tall grass, overwintering is done in the egg stage.

HOST PLANTS: Evergreens (pines, junipers, etc.), Corn, small fruits and various garden veggies. Grasses and weeds are common breeding grounds.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Small frog-like hopping adults or spittle masses (nymphs).

PROBLEMS AND DAMAGE: The nymphs feed by sucking the plants juices and this can cause yellowing, wilting and general decrease in plant vigor. For most plants this is not considered a real health problem but more of an aesthetic one. Folks just don't like to see this yucky spittle all over their plants. More severe damage has been reported by growers of clover and chrysanthemums.

CULTURAL CONTROLS: Keep your plants healthy, well fed and watered and as free of stress as possible. This will help them overcome most damage. Keep grass mowed short and clean up any weedy areas.

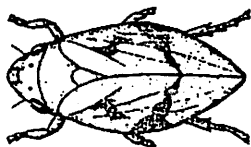
COMPANION PLANTING AND REPELLENTS: Unknown. Try onions/pepper/garlic plantings or sprays and let me know if it helps.

MECHANICAL CONTROLS: Use forceful water sprays to dislodge the nymphal mass. Supposedly it cannot survive once on the ground. Soapy water should work, too.

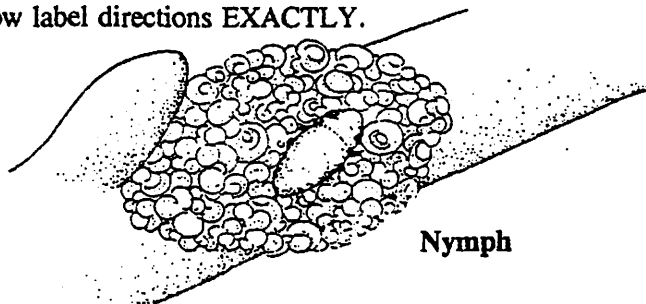
NATURAL CONTROLS: Birds and reptiles will dine on visible adults and nymphs not protected by the spittle mass.

BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDES: Insecticidal Soaps, Pyrethrum and Rotenone.

CHEMICAL CONTROLS: Call the Cooperative Extension Office for current recommendations. Use carefully. Protect yourself and others. Follow label directions EXACTLY.

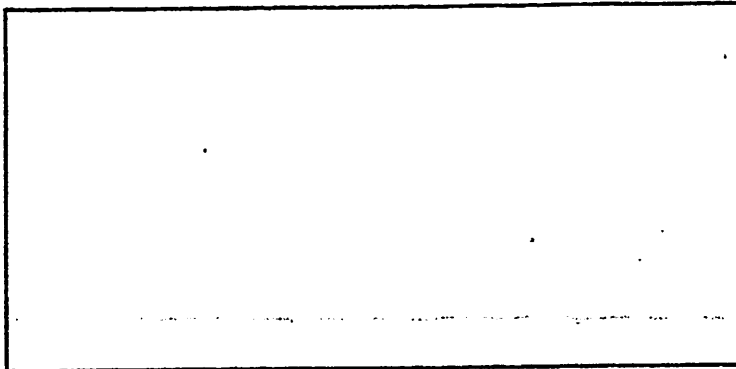


Adult



Nymph

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
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CHEMICAL SAFETY REFERENCES

EPA Hazardous Waste Hotline: 1-800-424-9346
EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
National Pesticides Telecommunications Network: 1-800-858-7378
National Agricultural Chemicals Association: 202-296-1585
Chemicals Referral Center: 1-800-262-8200
Chemtrec Emergency Hotline: 1-800-424-9300

EPA Regional Offices:

Atlanta: 404-347-3004
Boston: 617-565-3400
Chicago: 312-353-2000
Dallas: 214-655-6444
Dencer: 303-293-1692
Kansas City: 913-551-7003
New York: 212-264-2525
Philadelphia: 215-597-9800
San Francisco: 415-744-1500
Seattle: 206-553-5810

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