COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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



the Cochise County Master Gardener

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5, NO. 1

JANUARY 1994

POINSETTIA (Euphorbia pulcherrima)

Barbara Kishbaugh Staff Writer

A native of southern Mexico, poinsettias have become traditional for winter color on this side of the border at Christmas time. The bright red foliage (variations of pink and white are also now available) decorates homes and businesses during the holidays.

To maintain the lovely colors of your poinsettia plants during the season, keep them under a light or near a window. Placing the pot on a bed of marbles in water will keep the plant moist and discourage leaf drop. Do not allow the plant to stand in water. Try to maintain a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees with no drafts.

The plant will drop its leaves and go dormant in late winter or early spring. At this time it may be placed out of doors in a warm protected area. Create a micro-climate against the southern wall of the house and protect it if a freeze is expected.

Poinsettias get "leggy" and will require pruning to promote a bushy appearance. These plants grow successfully in San Clemente and the warmer climes, but here in the high desert the needs of the plant demand special attention. If you are determined to try and reproduce the commercial quality of the poinsettia, prepare to expend much effort with small chance of great achievement. None of the requirements of even temperature, moisture, acidic soil, or the period of absolute darkness exist in the desert—they will have to be created.

(Continued on next page)

U A R R I I V OF Z E O R N A I T T

Robert & Call

Robert E. Call Extension Agent, Horticulture

450 Haskeli • Willcox, AZ • 384-3594 1140 N. Colombo • Sierra Vista, AZ • 458-1104 When the leaves of your holiday plant have dropped and the plant is dormant, withhold watering it and allow it to be in a dry state through the spring. Begin watering again in June or when you notice mesquite trees beginning to leaf.

Take a cutting from the tips of the new growth which has 4 or 5 bracts or eyes. Plant these stems in acidic potting solution in a 4 inch container which will drain well. Encourage propagation by covering the entire plant with a plastic "envelope." This will assure an even moisture balance. In October move the plant to an area of complete darkness-no light at all!-for 14 hours each night. When leaves begin to turn red, start feeding the plant every two weeks with a nitrogen fertilizer.

The plants should have green undergrowth, bright red color at the top of the plant, and tiny yellow blossoms when it is mature.



Buying a new poinsettia plant each season is recommended. They are available at many local stores. Poinsettias make wonderful gifts for the hostess you may visit during the holiday time of year. They contribute to peaceful feelings when viewed in arrangements of multiple plants.

NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASS TO BEGIN SOON!

On February 23, 1994 and lasting for 13 weeks, a new Master Gardener class will begin. It will be held at the University of Arizona, Sierra Vista Campus (1140 N. Colombo) from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. The fee for the class is \$50. For more information please call the Cooperative Extension office in Willcox or Sierra Vista.

AMAZING ARIZONA MINI-FESTIVAL

Look for the Master Gardeners at the Amazing Arizona Mini-Festival at the Oscar Yrun Community Center January 20!!!



THE AGENT'S CORNER

Robert E. Call Horticulture Agent

QUESTION: My Christmas Cactus did not bloom this year. What happened?

ANSWER: There are several "holiday" cacti. They are Christmas Cactus (Schlumbergera bridgesii), with smooth

leaf margins or edges; Thanks-giving Cactus (S. truncata), which blooms earlier and has saw-tooth leaf margins and two oppositely pointed tips at the end of each leaf; and the Easter Cactus (S. gaertneri), which blooms naturally in the spring and has smooth leaf margins. These cacti species originated from the Brazilian jungle and grow naturally as epiphytes (in the air), in the branches and bark of trees.

These plants are short-day plants like poinsettias. Flowering is initiated by cool temperatures (45 to 55°), drier soil and the naturally shorter days of spring or fall. The Christmas Cactus in question did not bloom because one or more of these conditions were not met.

To induce flowering determine what type of cactus species you have. Ten weeks before blooms are desired place the plant in a cool closet or dark cupboard from sundown to sunup, never letting any light reach the plant during seclusion. Keep the soil drier than normal. Once flower buds are set you can cease this practice and increase watering.

Source: Houseplants. The American Horticultural Society, 1980. pp. 81-85

Staff:

Carolyn Gruenhagen Barbara Kishbaugh T.J. Martin Elizabeth Riordon Virginia Westphal Full Conference:
\$60.00
Includes both day sessions,
2 breakfasts, 2 lunches,
& closing reception

One Day:
\$40.00
Includes one day sessions,
1 breakfast, 1 lunch,
& closing reception, if Friday

Register by February 11, 1994 to avoid late charge: \$70.00 full - \$45.00 one day



The Ramada Inn
2047 S. Hwy 92
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(602) 459-5900
is offering special room rates for conference participants.
Please make reservations with Ramada Inn and ask for special
Master Gardener Conference rate.
1-800-825-4656

High on the Desert



First Annual
High Desert Gardening
&
Landscaping Conference

February 17 & 18, 1994 Ramada Inn Sierra Vista, AZ

Sponsored by:
Cochise County Cooperative
Extension Master Gardeners
in association with
The Arizona Native Plant Society
Cochise Global ReLeaf
Sierra Vista Garden Club

	High on the Desert Conference Registration	Registra	tion		Make Mail	check to: U	Make check payable to: High Desert MG Conference Mail to: U of A Cooperative Extension Office	to: Hi operati	gh Dese ve Exte	ert MG nsion O	Confe	rence
ame							ATTN: Rob Call	Cal	2	V E	7050	7
ddress						-	1140 N. Colombo, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 (602) 458-1104 Ext 141	olombo 02) 458	(602) 458-1104 Ext 141	Vista, Ext 14	AZ 856	33
ty	S	State	Zip		Please	indic	Please indicate your preference for each session:	prefere	nce for	each se	ssion:	
lephone						a s						
						>	^	>	^	Α	Α	>
ull Conference	ence \$60 00		After Feb 11 \$70 00	\$70 00	Ż.	В	В	В	в	8	В	В
na Dav			After Each 11 \$45.00	\$15.00 0.00		C	. C	С	င	С	С	င
IIG Day	\$ 1 0.00		F60. 11	\$ 1 0.00		ם		ם	ם			ם
>	Dint England	9	9 j. 1	a t	,)	
Am	Amount Enclosed &	<u>~</u>					I ander	and of	I and cooper of Cierra Vieta Tour			

PROGRAM

Thursday, February 17, 1994

7:30 - 8:30 Registration and Breakfast 8:30 - 9:30 Welcome and Keynote Address Judith Phillips*, Diversity, Fitness, and Balance of High Desert

Landscapes

Session I 9:45 - 11:00

A. Dr. Jimmy Tipton, Desert Willows

B. Ron Bemis, Native Grasses

C. Tim Udall, Fruit Trees for the High Desert

D. Cathy Wertz, Establishing a Flower Meadow

11:15 - 12:30 Visit Exhibits

12:30 - 1:45 Lunch

Dr. Tom Doerge, Desert Soils

Session II 2:00 - 3:15

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

A. Beth Anderson, High Desert Landscaping

B. Lynn Tilton, Feeding Your Family From Your Garden

C. Greg Freeman, High Desert Evergreens

Session III - Workshops 3:30 - 5:00

A. Jim Koweek, Side Boxing Techniques. B. Paige Bakarich, What the Indians Ate

C. Rob Call, Pruning & Training Fruit Trees

D. Emily Vardaman and Cathé Fish, Passive Solar Greenhouses

Friday, February 18, 1994

7:30 - 8:30 Registration and Breakfast 8:30 - 9:15 Nancy Stallcup, Wild Flower Slide Show

Cathy Wertz, AZ Native Plant Law

Session IV 9:30 - 10:45

A. David Eppele, Cactus and Succulents

B. Richard Pecoraro, Bio-diversity

C. Tom DeGomez, Small Fruits for the High Desert

D. Joanne Camron-Hild, Selecting the Right Tree, Place, and Time

Session V 11:00 - 12:15

A. Ted Hodoba, Chihuahuan Desert Plants

B. Dr. Deborah Young, Plant Diseases

C. Susan Comal, Everlasting Flower Wreaths

12:30 - 1:45 Lunch

Dr. Dave Langston, African Bees Door Prizes and Raffles

Session VI 2:00 - 3:15

A. Dr. Mike Kilby, Nut Trees

B. Matt Johnson, Adapted Desert Legumes

C. Mimi Camp, Medicinal Plants Session VII - Workshops 3:30 - 5:00

A. Dr. Mike Kilby, Tree Grafting

B. Bill Free, Drip Irrigation Design

C. Dr. Dave Langston, IPM For the Backvard

D. Sandy Anderson, Snakes in Your Garden

5:15 - 7:00 Conference Summary and Reception

Saturday, February 19 - Optional Field Trips

A. Growing Vegetables in Worm Castings Mary Diamond - Tierra Y Sol

B. Arizona Cactus & Succulent, Inc. David Eppele - Bisbee, AZ

C. Landscapes of Sierra Vista Henry Haros

D. San Pedro River Tour Carline Burrus

All tours are included in the registration fee. Transportation is on your own with carpooling suggested. Maps will be provided. The number of participants is limited to the first 20 to register for the Landscapes of Sierra Vista tour. Please indicate on the registration form.



* Judith Phillips, author of Southwestern Landscaping With Native Plants, has worked in ornamental horticulture since 1970 as a professional plant grower and landscape designer. For the past few years she has worked almost exclusively with arid-land native plants, which she considers the most interesting area of horticulture. She is the owner/grower of a native plant farm in Veguita, New Mexico.

Robert E. Call, Extension Agent, Horticulture

SOLAR GREENHOUSES — PART VII: Evergreen Trees and Winter Sun

Cathé Fish

Nothing feels better in the winter than being able to garden indoors in the warm sun of a south facing greenhouse. Trees planted along the south wall of a greenhouse or sun room can give unwanted shade in the winter.

For that reason, large evergreen trees (for example: Arizona Cypress, Italian Stone Pine, Eldarica Pine or oak trees), are not usually planted close to a greenhouse on the The distance to south side. plant a large evergreen tree from a south facing window can be found using this formula: tree height multiplied by 1.65 = distance. For example, an Arizona Cypress expected to grow 40 feet tall can be planted 66 feet from the south facing window $(40 \times 1.65 = 66 \text{ feet})$.

If we already have evergreen trees growing close to the south side of a sun room, we can selectively prune certain branches to allow winter sun in while maintaining the branches that provide summer shade. To do this we need to take advantage of the fact that the relative height of the sun above the horizon at noon on any day changes from winter to summer.

In Cochise County (and all locations 32 degrees north latitude), the sun is almost overhead at noon on June 21 (the longest day of the year), being 82 degrees above the

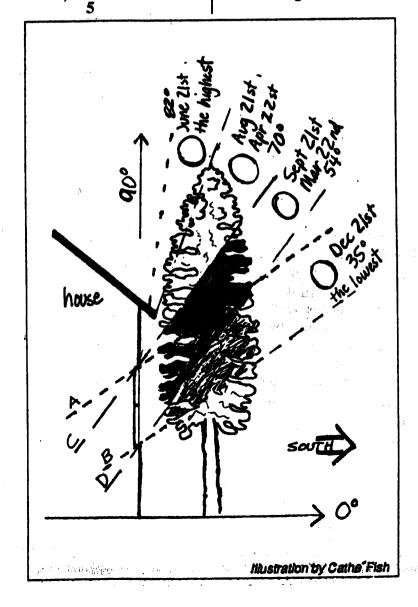
horizon. This is the sun's highest position all year. The lowest sun of the year is on the shortest day—December 21 when the sun is 35 degrees above the horizon.

To use this knowledge to modify a tree too close to a south facing room, draw out the south wall and the tree. We don't have to be good artists to do this as we are only concerned with size of the window and distance from the tree. From a point at the top of the south facing window draw a line through the tree 35 degrees above the horizon (line A in the illustration).

Now draw a line from the bottom of the window 35 degrees above the horizon (line B).

Any tree branches that lie between lines A and B will be blocking the sun at noon on December 21 and can be lightly marked with spray paint. Prune most of the branches in this area back to the trunk, maintaining the overall symmetry of the tree.

Repeat this process using 54 degrees above the horizon. Label the upper line C and lower line D. Any branches that lie between C and D will be blocking the sun at noon on



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

Address correction requested

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT No. G266

September 21 and March 22. Remove fewer branches from this area.

When finished, we will have selectively pruned the branches back to the trunk between C and B (the light and dark shading in the illustration), allowing winter sun into the south facing window from September 21 through the middle of winter until March 22.

Leave all branches above line C to provide summer shade for the window from March 22 until September 21. (A roof overhang can provide the same function.)

Branches below line B will not provide shade for the window but will shade outdoor sitting areas, and should not be removed.

Dead branches and suckers can be pruned at any time. Evergreens are normally pruned in the spring and summer. When pruning, remove a few branches at a time. Don't scalp the tree. Remember, branches don't re-grow. If you need help pruning large branches, contact a professional.

•

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture, The University of Arizona and Arizona Counties cooperating. The University of Arizona College of Agriculture is an equal opportunity employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, age, Vietnam Era Veteran's status, or disability. 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.