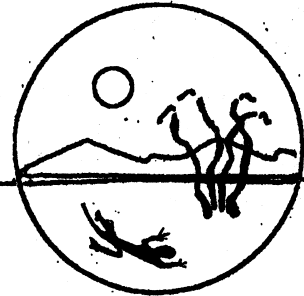


High on the Desert

Cochise County Master Gardener Newsletter



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

Try Tagetes . . . Again

Tagetes is the species name form marigold, a nice, easily grown annual flower which some people hate because of it's "stinky" foliage. There are varieties of marigold which have little or no "marigold" odor, such as *T. erecta* 'Vanilla' or 'White One' (new). *T. erecta* is the name of the common tall or "African marigold."

There are also a couple of wonderful perennial varieties that are perfect for Sierra Vista/Cochise County gardens. The first is *T. lemmoni*, a native to Southeastern Arizona. It is a large shrubby plant, and the leaves have a very strong odor. Depending on whose nose is sniffing, it can remind one of marigolds and lemon, or marigolds and mint. The fragrance (or odor, if you will) is only noticeable when you brush against the plant, so you won't smell it if you leave it alone. It covers itself with golden flowers and so far the deer around here have refused to eat it. The other is *T. lucida*, the common name *Sunset Western Garden Book* says is "Mexican tarragon." This is a very pretty plant with leaves that are about three inches long and only a quarter inch or so wide. When "pinched" the aroma is strong licorice or anise. The clear yellow flowers are small, but the plant covers itself with clusters and clusters of them. It is slow

to come up in the spring, so remember where you planted it and you won't disturb it when you start digging and planting! It blooms in late summer until frost in my garden.

Maggi Crist
Master Gardener

High on the Desert

In just a few weeks, March 1 & 2, the Third Annual High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference will be held at the Wyndemere Hotel and Conference Center (formerly the Ramada Inn) in Sierra Vista, Arizona. A registration form is included in this newsletter. More information may be obtained from the Cooperative Extension Offices (see addresses and numbers below). The conference is open to everyone, especially those with an interest in gardening! Plan to attend!



Cochise County Cooperative Extension

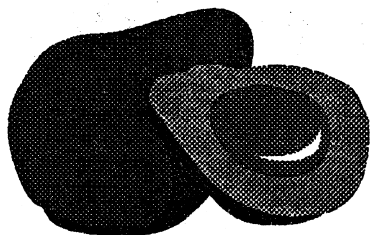
1140 N. Colombo, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 458-1104, Ext. 141

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

Supermarket Gardening

These days you can buy plants, pots and potting soil, plant food and all kinds of garden things, including tools, at the supermarket. But there is another way to garden from the supermarket, too. Have you ever tried raising house plants from the seeds and other parts of the fruits and vegetables you buy? In most cases it is easy to do, and you get a pretty "free" plant to enjoy. Here are a few of the plants I've grown in this manner, and there are plenty more that you can try. All of the plants mentioned here do well if they spend the summer "vacationing" outdoors in a protected area such as a patio or courtyard.

► **AVOCADO** - The method most often used to start roots on an avocado pit is to put toothpicks in it and suspend it with just the bottom touching water in a glass, but that has never worked very well for me. I just half bury the pit in a pot of soil and put the pot and all in a plastic bag until the little plant starts. Pinch out the top when it reaches about 12 inches so it will branch and you'll have a nice indoor tree.

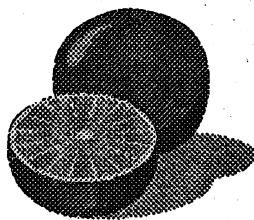


► **DATE PALM** - Plant the pit from a dried (but untreated) date and grow your own palm tree.

► **POMEGRANATE** - Dwarf or regular, these are nice easy plants with pretty orange flowers and large fruits. They can be planted outdoors in Sierra Vista when they get too large for the house.

► **PINEAPPLE** - Cut the whole top with a thin slice of "meat" from a ripe pineapple and let it dry for a day or two. Then, plant it so the crown of leaves is just at soil level in the pot and water as needed. Roots will develop, new leaves will grow, and with luck, some day you may even get a small pineapple on a stalk on your plant . . . but it will take a few years to bear fruit, if at all!

► **CITRUS** - You can plant the seeds from any citrus fruit - lemon, lime, orange, tangerine, grapefruit, etc. All have glossy green leaves and are attractive pot plants. My current one is a calmondin which has tiny, very sour orange fruits in winter. The best part is when a citrus tree blooms because the blossoms are very fragrant. Kumquat is said to be the easiest to grow as a house plant, but I



haven't had problems with the others I've tried.

► **MANGO** - Did you know that it's relatives include cashew and pistachio nuts and poison ivy? A mango has a large pit which is difficult to clean before planting. Scrape it with a knife or brush it with an old toothbrush to get as many of the "hairs" off it as possible. Plant it on the edge with the "eye" pointing up. First new growth is a pretty red color that changes to green as time goes by.

► **SWEET POTATOES AND YAMS** - These can be started in a glass of water using toothpicks stuck into them to support them on the rim of the glass if you wish, or you can pot the bottom half of them in soil in a pot. Roots will form and pretty vines will grow all around a sunny window. You can train them on to a trellis or string attached to the top of the window or to the curtain rod.

*Maggi Crist
Master Gardener*



As we begin the 7th year of this publication we want to thank all of our faithful readers. You make what we do each month worthwhile. Wishing you all a **Happy New Year!**

Newsletter Staff:

Barry R. Bishop
Carolyn Gruenhagen
Elizabeth Riordon
Virginia Westphal

Robert E. Call

Robert E. Call, Extension
Agent-Horticulture

The Agent's Observations

Continued from last month . . .

Myth #5: Wives' tales are information passed down from generation to generation with a grain of truth. There are many wives' tales that at one time might have contained some truth but over time become so distorted that they are pure fiction. I'm sure that everyone can think of a wives' tale. My thought is why are there no husband tales?! I placed a request on the Internet to receive some wives' tales from different parts of the country. Here are three of the better responses that I received:

1. There is an important feature about sowing parsley. It has to be sown by the head of the household or it is very unlikely to grow at all. So, get out and put it in the ground before your husband is up! Not that there could be any dispute on this point, but better be on the safe side.
2. From Virginia, "I recently gave a new neighbor in rural Virginia some camellias, but she said she could not thank me. If thanks is expressed for a gift plant, the plant will die."
3. Not proven or disproved as far as I know, but last summer my aunt told me to be sure to keep my daughter away from

the cucumbers when she is on her menstrual cycle or the cucumbers would not bear fruit. I thanked her and ignored the advice but have not been observant enough to note if it was without merit.

Myth #6: Snake Oils are materials that are supposed to enhance plant growth or control pests. Many products are marketed or are traditional remedies that are said to have value. When placed under scientific scrutiny, little if any response is observed. Granted there are things that can not be measured scientifically, however when products claim to produce growth responses they should be measurable. One product that has been tested is the root stimulator B-1. When tested against other compounds it turned out that the small amount of fertilizer in some B-1 preparations is what produces the growth response. B-1 in and of itself was no better than water in producing growth response. This research has been conducted at the University of Arizona by Dr. Jimmy Tipton and Elizabeth Davidson. Copies of this paper are available. If you would like a copy contact me. Dr. Norm Oebeker, Vegetable Specialist for Arizona, said that when he was a graduate student at Cornell University in the late 1940's they tested B-1

and found no growth response. Ultrasonic flea killers for pets do not kill, repel, affect jumping rates, interfere with reproduction or development of fleas. This work was done by Dr. Michael Dryden of Kansas State University. These are only two of many products that have made claims and then not performed as expected.

Some interesting home remedies were suggested when I inquired on the Internet. Here are some of them. From San Juan Capistrano, CA: Society garlic planted around roses or other aphid susceptible plants will keep aphids away. The reason is that aphids are defended and moved by ants and ants can not stand the smell of garlic. The only problem is that one's rose garden smells like garlic. My question is, can ants smell? From North Carolina: Chewing tobacco plus Ivory dish soap in water will keep insects in check. Boil the chewing tobacco (gross) with water and strain it so your sprayer will not clog. Add Ivory soap. Use as an insecticide. My question is how much soap and tobacco in how much water? Bay leaves in flour bins used to keep roaches out. This was found ineffective by Dr. Mike Rust. I ask, "Why not use a lid?" Mix one clove of garlic, one onion, one tablespoon of cayenne pepper, and one quart of water. Steep for one hour, add a tablespoon of

(Continued on next page)

and 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.

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liquid soap and spray it around the house for ant and roach control. Sugar and yeast mixture for killing houseflies attracted more flies than it killed. Spearmint gum for mole and gopher control were found useless by Bobby Corrigan, Purdue University. Plaster of Paris in rat baits changed the color of rodent droppings to light gray and nothing more, according to Dr. Bill Jackson, Bowling Green University, except it caused sore rectums of the rats!

Myth #7: Gardening Is hard work. It turns out that more work is done in the garden harvesting than all other activities combined. Time harvesting, in relationship to other gardening activities, increases as the size of the garden increases. This from work done by Dr. Michael Stevens and other researchers, Brigham Young University. They timed the various activities of planting, weeding, harvesting, and miscellaneous work in 4 X 4, 10 X 10, 20 X 20 and 50 X 50 foot gardens throughout a growing season. The time spent harvesting is more enjoyable and passes more quickly than the work of preparing for planting, weeding, and other activities. They also found that the 4 X 4, 10 X 10, 20 X 20 and 50 X 50 foot gardens yielded 8.06, 7.22, 10.12, and 22.75 pounds of produce per hour of total time spent in the gardens respectively.

*Robert E. Call
Extension Agent, Horticulture*

A Transplanted Gardener . . .

Would you like to repel insects from the garden organically? In Germany I noticed many of the gardeners would interplant herbs in their vegetable and flower gardens. When asked why, they replied, "To keep the bugs out." So try using herbs to control insects by companion planting.

BASIL - flies and mosquitoes
BORAGE - tomato worm
CASTOR BEAN - moles and plant lice
CATNIP - flea beetles
DATURA - Japanese beetles
DEAD NETTLE - potato bugs
FLAX - potato bugs
GARLIC - aphids, weevils, spider mites, Japanese beetles, fruit tree borers

Garlic and hot peppers make a great spray. Put garlic and crushed fresh red peppers in a small amount of mineral oil and let set for a day. Strain and mix oil with a pint or so of water and spray on your worst insect problems. Add a teaspoon of fish emulsion to repel rabbits from your plants.

HORSERADISH - plant at the corners of the garden plot to repel potato bugs
HYSSOP - cabbage moth
LAVENDER - dry and place in garments or hang up in the closet to repel clothes moths

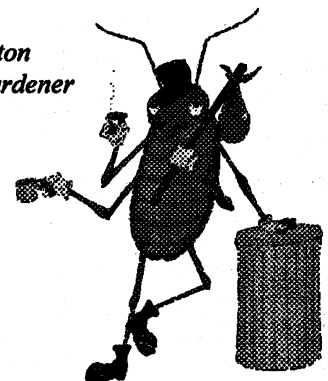
MARIGOLDS - Mexican bean beetles, nematodes and many other insects. Till into the soil after the season is over to get the greatest effect to repel nematodes.

MINT - white cabbage moths
MOLE PLANT - (a species of Euphorbia) repels mice and moles
NASTURTIUM - squash bugs and aphids
PENNYROYAL - ants
PEPPERMINT - ants and white cabbage butterflies
PETUNIA - beetles
POT MARIGOLD - tomato worms and asparagus beetles
ROSEMARY - bean beetles, carrot flies and cabbage moths



RUE - Japanese beetles (do not plant rue with basil - they dislike each other)
SAGE - carrot flies, ticks and cabbage moths
SANTOLINA - moths
SPEARMINT - aphids and ants
SUMMER SAVORY - bean beetles
TANSY - Japanese beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs and ants
THYME - cabbage worms

*Cheri Melton
Master Gardener*



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

Register by February 16, 1996
to avoid late charge:
\$70.00 full - \$45.00 one day

Wyndemere Hotel and Conference
Center
(Formerly Ramada Inn)
2047 S. Hwy 92
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
(520) 459-5900

is offering special room rates for
conference participants.

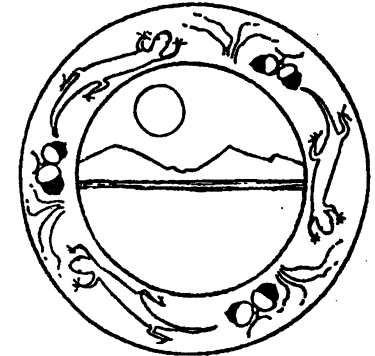
Please make reservations with
Wyndemere Hotel and ask for
special

Master Gardener Conference rate.
1-800-825-4656

High on the Desert

Conference Registration Form

High on the Desert



**Third Annual
High Desert Gardening
&
Landscaping Conference**

**March 1 & 2, 1996
Wyndemere Hotel
and Conference Center
Sierra Vista, AZ**

Sponsored by:
Cochise County Master Gardeners
in association with
The University of Arizona
Cooperative Extension

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:

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 - 10:00 am Welcome

General Session

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

10:15 - 11:30 am General Session

Dr. Mary Olsen, U. of A. Plant Pathologist
Phymatotrichum Root Rot

11:30 - 12:00 pm Exhibits

12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch, Door Prizes & Exhibits

1:30 - 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, *Environmental Weed Control*

2:45 - 4:00 pm Session II

- A. Rita Jo Anthony, *Wildflowers: Fact and Fantasy*
- B. Kent Newland, *The Agave Family: Landscape Uses*
- C. Kim McReynolds, *Native Grass I.D.*

4:00 - 5:15 pm Session III

- A. David Cristiani, *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Landscapes*
- B. Kevin Dahl, *Native Seeds*
- C. Peter Gierlach, *Awakening the Dormant Natives*

Saturday, March 2, 1996

7:30 - 8:45 am Registration and Breakfast

8:45 - 10:00 am Welcome

General Session

Carrie Nimmer, J Landscape Architect
The Landscape of the Landscape

10:15 - 11:30 am General Session

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

11:30 - 12:00 pm Exhibits

12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch, Door Prizes & Exhibits

11:30 - 2:45 pm Session IV

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

2:45 - 4:00 pm Session V

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

4:00 - 5:15 pm Session VI

- A. De Lewis, *Composting: Turning Spoils to Soil*
- B. Dr. Paul Bessey, *Iris In High Desert Landscapes*
- C. Barbara Rose, *Rammed Earth Construction*

5:15 - 6:30 pm Reception

Sunday, March 3, 1996

Self-guided tours to local areas of interest:

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



Robert E. Call, Extension Agent, I. Culture

Cuttings 'N' Clippings

➤ Make soil cylinders for starting seedlings this easy way. These cylinders make inexpensive substitutes for the peat pellets you buy at the store. You will need:

20 pounds soil mixture (you decide what combination you want)

2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
1 quart water

Put soil mix in a 5 gallon bucket. Boil water and stir in gelatin until dissolved. Cool. Add enough gelatin* to soil so it holds together when squeezed. Remove both ends (save one) of an empty tomato paste can. Place on a flat surface and fill 2/3 with soil/gelatin mix. Take saved end and push soil down to pack. Then, gently eject by pushing through. Allow about two hours for cylinders to set.

*The amount of gelatin mixture will vary depending on the type of soil mixture you choose.

Linda Quint
MG Trainee

➤ The Amazing Arizona Mini-Festival is coming up January 18 at the Oscar Yrun Community Center, Sierra Vista. Stop by the Master Gardener table if you have any gardening questions or just stop by and say "Hi!"

➤ Looking for ornamental gourds, decorated gourds, or information on growing them?

Give Gael or Barry Bishop a call (456-2704). I understand they have "thousands" for sale!

➤ *Why Me, God*, a book by Barry R. Bishop, MG Newsletter Staff Writer, is now available at local book stores. In it, Barry tells his own life story on his recovery from a stroke and heart attack. It is truly an inspiring story!

➤ The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Arizona Department of Agriculture, and Arizona Farmers, Growers, & Producers Association will be holding a Direct Farm Marketing and Tourism Conference on February 12 at the Maricopa Ag Center. The one day event is open to any one. For more information contact Russell Tronstad (520 621-2425), Julie Leones (520 621-6255), see **Current events at WWW site:** <http://ag.arizona.edu/AREC> or contact the local Cooperative Extension offices.

➤ Master Gardener, Gary Gruenhagen, will be giving a non-credit lecture at the Sierra Vista Cochise College Campus, May 4, called *Internet-for the Fun of it*. The Internet is a giant



communications system that links millions of computers in over 100 countries. Think of it as a giant international library. Learn how to "surf" the Net and retrieve information from educational organizations, governmental agencies, and commercial organizations. There is lots of gardening information available on the Internet. For more information, contact Cochise College.

➤ Here is a quick, easy, and delicious way to use some of the herbs you planted in your garden to discourage bugs.



dill

Herbed Vinegar

Sterilize a pretty bottle (an empty wine bottle for instance) and place in it a variety of cleaned fresh herbs. I like to use a mixture of rosemary, thyme, garlic, green onions, and cayenne peppers from my garden. Heat white distilled vinegar just until it is warm, and pour into the bottle filling it to the top. Seal, using a non-metallic cover, and store for a week or so. Use the herbed vinegar in your vinaigrette salad dressing or on a boiled cabbage and corned beef dinner. Vary the herbs to suit your taste. Enjoy!

Carolyn Gruenhagen
Master Gardener

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A Psalm For the San Pedro

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Please take me to the San Pedro
Where I have been told
Of one of God's blessings
And a brave little river that flows.

Spirited with good intentions
Meandering from South to North,
Crossing the border from Mexico.
It flows free, the little giant
That is San Pedro.

Under the watchful eyes of San Jose Peak,
Nestled in the cottonwoods of San Rafael Del Valle
Between the Mules and Huachucas,
The river flows toward Phoenix
And the ghostly Gila River.

With only God as my witness
The spirit takes me to the river
On those sublimate moonlit nights,
I kneel at the river's edge
And in my dream,
I shed a tear
For the petite San Pedro.

It's going to take a lot of love
But the saints may save you yet,
My little brother,
The brave river,
That is San Pedro.

*Van Stetler
Master Gardener*