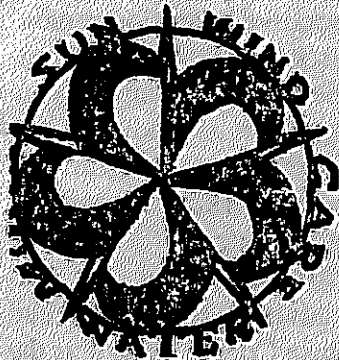


# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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



the Cochise County Master Gardener

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, NO. 8

JULY 1991



### PLANT OF THE MONTH

**Peter Whitman**  
**Staff Writer**

*Vauquelinia californica*

The plant for July is seen frequently in commercial landscapes but rarely in residential ones. *Vauquelinia californica* or Arizona rosewood is so popular with commercial landscapes possibly because of its many applications in the arid landscape. It is an evergreen that works well as a screen or hedge that can be pruned or shaped as needed. Or, it can even be used as a small multi-trunked tree as it grows to a height of 20 feet.

The rosewood has attractive white flowers that grow in flattened clusters at the branch tips. It is in bloom right now around the county. The blooms will be fading towards the end of July.

The rosewood is very adapted to the climate of Southeast Arizona. It takes almost any condition we could give it. Although it is a very low water plant, it does respond well to some water.

In my garden I plan for the Arizona rosewood to be planted around the edges of the yard as a windbreak. It will also soften the view and give a good background for the closer plants.

If you need a very low water, low maintenance screen or hedge, try Arizona rosewood.

Douglas Dunn  
County Director and  
Area Extension Agent  
Community Leadership and  
Resource Development

2500 Fry Blvd \* Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 \* 458-1104

July 91 #1063

## **"CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPRING 1991 MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS!"**

**Jackie Dillon-Fast**  
**Staff Writer**

This June marked the end of a twelve week training program for 25 Master Gardener Volunteers. They entered the program with varying degrees of experience and with a common love of gardening and of learning. Now they are ready to begin the next phase of their training, learning to help other gardeners through answering individual gardening questions, completing community outreach projects, and running information booths.

The Spring 1991 Master Gardeners Volunteers are Donna and Virginia of Willcox; William of J6 ; Tina, Marjorie and Rick of Huachuca City; Corky and Dick of Hereford; Jamie, De, Hank, Louraine, Mike, Elizabeth, Barbara, Judy, Marian, Hank and James of Sierra Vista; Joan of Fort Huachuca; Dick and Helene of Elfrida; Paul and Sydney of Bisbee.

Please give these new volunteers your support and patience over the next few months.

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Staff:

**Jackie Dillon-Fast**  
**Carolyn Gruenhagen**  
**Rose V. Land**  
**T. J. Martin**  
**Peter Whitman**

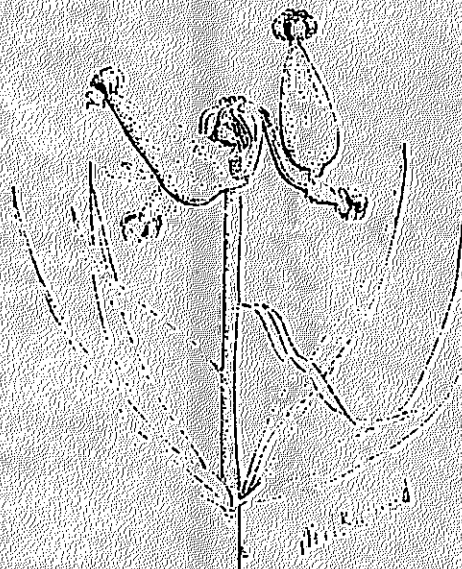
Articles to be published in next month's newsletter must be received at the Sierra Vista office by July 26.

**"Well, it's after July 1st - Where's the new agent?!"**

As this newsletter goes to press, candidates are interviewing with Cooperative Extension personnel in Tucson and the Search and Screening Committee in Willcox. We hope to be welcoming a new agriculture agent, in name if not in body, by the third week of July. Exactly when that person arrives in Cochise County and begins working depends on how quickly he or she can relocate.

When that agent arrives, he or she will assume responsibility for advising the commercial orchards and farms in Cochise County as well as the urban horticulture program (that's us!). The agent's main office will be in Willcox though he or she will be working out of the satellite office in Sierra Vista (the Master Gardener Office) at least once a week.

We will let you know when the good word arrives!



## **FIXING WHAT AILS YOU: The Garden Problem Solver Series**

Rodale Press without a doubt has published some of the most practical and valuable gardening guides available. Rodale Press does, however, have a definite bias towards organic gardening. You will probably never find a Rodale book that recommends using an insecticide to solve a problem. What you will find are books that are well-designed, easy-to-use, and jam-packed with practical information to help you diagnose your plant problem (and no, we don't own stock in Rodale Press). Rodale's Garden Problem Solver series is an excellent example of the Rodale Press commitment to quality gardening guides.

Since diagnosis is the hardest part of plant problem-solving, and the one that gives home gardeners the most trouble, even those of you who are not organically oriented will benefit from the Garden Problem Solver guides. A word of warning: these are not cheap books (they run about \$28.00 a piece) but they are hardback books and printed on acid-free (longer-lasting) recycled paper.

Unfortunately, the major drawback of the Garden Problem Solver series is that it is not region specific. For example, the book on fruits and vegetables includes a description of apple scab, a fungal disease that attacks apple and pears but one that has never been found on apples in Southern Arizona. To get around this problem, when individual diseases are discussed the authors usually list the general areas of the country that are most likely to have a particular problem as well as the environmental conditions under which the disease thrives.

The first book in the three-part Garden Problem Solver series, *Rodale's Landscape Problem Solver: A Plant-by-Plant Guide* (Jeff and Liz Ball, Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1989), has chapters on the common problems affecting trees, shrubs, roses, ground covers, vines, and lawns. The authors cover broad classes of plants (for example discussing problems that affect all willows rather than a specif-

ic kind of willow) and include a general description of the plant, its light, soil, fertilizer, pruning and water requirements, as well as planting and propagation. All information is short and to-the-point but the book covers only 12 trees, half of which are not recommended for Cochise County. It is still valuable for coverage of shrubs, roses, lawns, and ground covers, if not for trees.

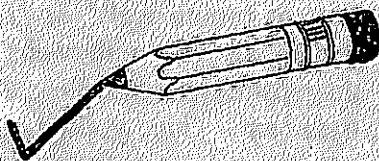
The most useful part of the *Landscape Problem Solver* is the discussion of common insects and diseases that follows each plant description. These are grouped by visual signs such as "plant fails to bloom well" or "dark blotches on leaves, leaves covered with webs" and gives additional diagnostic signs as well as the recommended organic treatment. Once you have diagnosed the problem, you can turn to chapters 6 and 7 for more detailed information on specific insect and animal pests (including when to look for them) and to chapter 8 for ways to prevent disease.

The book closes with a discussion of landscape management including improving soils, watering, nutritional imbalances, mulching, winterizing, and weed control. All of this information is available more completely elsewhere, for example in the *Sunset Western Garden Book* where it is written especially for desert gardeners. Each of the books in the Garden Problem Solver series includes an extensive list of garden suppliers, a recommended reading list, a copy of the U.S.D.A. hardiness zone map, and an excellent index.

The remaining books in the series are *Rodale's Garden Problem Solver: Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs* (Jeff Ball, Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1988) and *Rodale's Flower Garden Problem Solver: Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Roses* (Jeff and Liz Ball, Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1990). Of the three books, the guide to vegetables, fruits and herbs is probably the most useful since it covers many of the edible plants grown in Cochise County. The format is similar - discussion of specific plants followed by their requirements and common insect and disease problems, but the vegetables guide

discusses specific diseases in greater depth and is an excellent general guide to edible gardening.

A second major drawback to the Garden Problem Solver guides is the absence of color photographs. Although it is much easier to match a problem to a photograph than to a written description, all of the depictions of plants and plant problems are line drawings. The decision not to include color photographs was probably an economical one: color photographs would have added substantially to the price which is already high at \$28 each.



## JULY REMINDERS

### PEST MANAGEMENT

(See *What's Bugging You?* columns in 1990 issues of newsletter)

### KEEP WATERING

### YOU CAN STILL PLANT SOMETHING!

A complete packet of *What-to-do* and *What's Bugging You?* columns are available in the Sierra Vista Cooperative Extension Office if you need to consult them.



## STATE FAIR BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

For information on this year's Arizona State Fair (Oct. 17 through Nov. 3) write to The Arizona State Fair, 1826 West McDowell Road, Phoenix AZ 85005 or call the Fair Entry Department at 1-602-252-6771. Over 30,000 entries are expected from all over Arizona in categories such as agriculture, beekeeping, dairy cattle, fine arts, 4-H horse show, homemaking arts, photography, jewelry, student art, and young engineers and scientists. Fair books giving information on the available categories, rules, regulations, and entry forms are available from the Entry Department at the address and phone number listed above.

## AND THE SEEDLING GROWS: WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH COCHISE GLOBAL ReLEAF?

Jackie Dillon-Fast  
Staff Writer

For those of you who missed previous coverage of Cochise Global ReLeaf or missed the Sierra Vista or Bisbee Earth Day events, Cochise Global ReLeaf is a group of community volunteers whose main goal is to help people plant and care for trees in Cochise County. It is part of a national tree-planting and education effort by the American Forestry Association.

This spring Cochise Global ReLeaf applied for and received matching grants from America the Beautiful (via the Arizona State Land Department) for developing tree demonstration gardens in Cochise County. The gardens will be designed to showcase drought-tolerant landscape trees and to make certain public and highly visible areas of the County more attractive.

The first site, the Cochise Tree Walk and Park, has already been planted outside of AERCO in Benson and is open to the public. The second site will be in Huachuca City along the Highway 90 corridor and is just entering the planning and design stage. A third grant was approved for the new Cochise County Complex in Bisbee and will be developed in cooperation with the Bisbee Tree Board and county officials.

All of the grants are matching, meaning that the town or city in which the gardens are located must provide matching support to receive the state dollars. This includes the volunteer support of the citizens living in those communities and in all of Cochise County.

A variety of help is needed, from basic landscape design to actual planting and maintenance. Please volunteer by calling Joanne McEntire at 432-5864. To be placed on the mailing list for the Cochise Global ReLeaf Quarterly Newsletter, call the Master Gardener Office at 458-1104.

## ECOLOGICALLY-SANE PEST CONTROL (Part 6) ©

### c. Physically destroy or remove the pest.

1) Clean the bark - After putting down a ground cloth, scrape the loose bark from the trunk of the tree or use a stiff brush and soapy water to scrub it down. You may be surprised at how many pests you dislodge. Gather up the drop cloth and dispose of the pests immediately.

2) Dormant Oil - This is a fine horticultural oil that is applied to trees in the spring before bud break to suffocate overwintering eggs, pupae, and larvae.

3) Forceful water spray - Using a hard spray of water from the garden hose will dislodge many pests from your trees, shrubs, and plants. Sometimes they will simply go away, but often it is best to go ahead and dispose of them promptly yourself. Just be careful that the force of the water spray is not enough to damage the plant itself.

4) Handpick - This may not work if you have millions of pests, but if you keep a close eye on your crops you can often keep the pest populations low by catching them early. Simply use your thumb and forefinger to squash the pest or any eggs that you may find. If this is a bit much, carry a container of water with a thin layer of kerosene or oil on top to drop the insect into instead.

5) Hot water - Boiling hot water is not recommended for spraying your veggies with, but can be fairly effective when poured on hills of Carpenter or Fire Ants.

6) Mineral oil - Place a few drops of oil into the tips of corn ears after the tassels wilt to smother corn earworms.

7) Probe holes - Use a stiff piece of wire to probe into any holes you may find in your trees or squash vines. Often you will kill the borer that made the hole in the first place.

8) Soap and water - Mix pure soap (NOT detergent!) and water and spray on your plants in the early morning or evening. It will wash off many pests and kill outright many more. Let it stay for a few hours or overnight but wash off with pure water before the hot sun hits it since it may cause damage to the plant then.

9) Salt - Sprinkle salt on any snails or slugs you find and they will die without you having to touch them.

To be continued . . .

## THE GREAT CATERPILLAR CONTEST!

Mulberry caterpillar season is almost upon us and we have had an article on what to do about it almost ready for press for over a month. The problem? Positive identification of the specific caterpillar (scientific name) that defoliates mulberry trees in Sierra Vista July through September. Without knowing exactly what kind of caterpillar we are dealing with, we can only guess at its life cycle and can't guarantee the effectiveness of the organic control *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.).

The caterpillar that defoliates mulberry trees in Tucson at the same time of year is one of the Tossuck Moth Caterpillars, but it is not the same caterpillar that we have in the higher desert. The caterpillar we are looking for has a dark brown head, yellow to tan hairs uniformly covering its body, with a stripe of dark brown hairs down its back.

We have attempted to identify it from decomposed caterpillar parts (yes, it was disgusting!) but did not have enough parts to make a whole. So we are offering our subscribers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: the first person to either positively identify the Sierra Vista Mulberry Caterpillar, by its scientific name, or to bring us a live version will receive a yellow pear tomato plant guaranteed to take over any garden.

Live caterpillars should be kept in a jar or container with air holes and some mulberry leaves to keep them healthy and happy until we can take it up to the Tucson taxonomists for identification. This offer expires at midnight on August 31st.

