

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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

the Cochise County Master Gardener

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5, NO. 3

MARCH 1994

### *Rosa arizonica*

Barbara Kishbaugh  
Staff Writer

*Rosa arizonica* is native to our area and useful when informal garden areas are desired. It grows naturally near the stream beds in the hills where water is usually available.

It is a short bushy rose with small pink blossoms. Several rose cuttings placed in one site could produce a light mounded appearance. If flowers are snipped and growth cut back, a fuller appearance can be achieved. The flowers will also continue to bloom longer when given the attention as would be given a purchased plant.

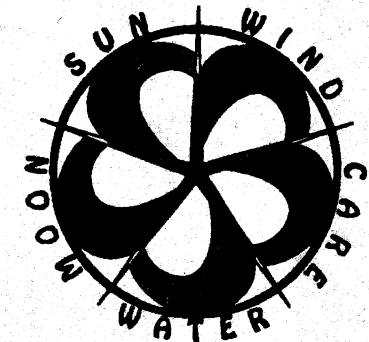
If a large area requires a native landscaping, *Rosa arizonica* is a good choice. It is tolerant of poor soil conditions, heat, and arid conditions.

Small creatures and birds will use the bushes as a protected area and nesting place. It can form a casual fence or border and compliments other plantings.

An edible plant, the rose petals can be used in salads. Rose hips are the flower-heads which remain on the stem and form fruit pods. The hips contain multiple vitamins and are used in brewing a medicinal tea.

Spring is the time for transplanting roses. Preparing a bed, feeding the stock, and mulching will get the plants off to a good start. Later, this rose can be somewhat ignored and still thrive here in the high desert.

*Rosa arizonica* has a gentle aspect, almost a miniature-like quality. It does have small thorns and a pair of gloves will protect from scratches when transplanting. This small plant can also be used on the patio as a containerized plant.



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*Robert E. Call*

Robert E. Call  
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## CONFERENCE HUGH SUCCESS!!!

We did it! After five months of worrying, planning, and hard work, a dedicated group of Cochise County Master Gardeners produced the First Annual High on the Desert Landscaping and Gardening Conference which was held at the Ramada Inn in Sierra Vista on February 17-18. The conference drew over 115 attendees and 27 presenters from places as far away as California, New Mexico, and Texas, as well as from Coconino, Graham, Maricopa, Pima, and Yavapai counties in Arizona. Of course, our own county was also well represented.

Presentations included something for everyone. Topics ranged from high desert soils to how to protect yourself from Africanized bees to woody legumes for high desert landscapes to treating high cholesterol with medicinal plants grown in the SW high desert. In fact, one of the few complaints received was that there were too many interesting things happening at the same time!

Otherwise, comments were generally effusive.

- "Excellent conference!"
- "The most exciting and satisfying aspect of this conference was all the wonderful people I met."
- "Overall **EXTREMELY** well organized—you are to be commended."
- Someone from out of the county reported, "I heard one attendee exclaim, 'Cochise county is the center of the universe!' " and then continued, "I believe she may be right."

Thanks to Planning Committee members Rob Call, Jerry Ambrose, Alice and Frank Christ, Jean Clauss, Cathé Fish, Carolyn and Gary Gruenhagen, Marshall Huebner, Barbara Kishbaugh, DeForest Lewis, Valerie McCaffrey, and Elizabeth Riordon who gave so much of their time, energy, and talents for a job well done. Also thanks to ...

Sponsor: D & O Development Inc.

Door Prizes: Ace Hardware, Chamber of Commerce of Sierra Vista, Chiricahua Foothills B & B, Computer Corner, Diamond JK Landscape, High Country Gardens, Kelly Green Trees, Livingston's Books, Mesquite Tree Restaurant, Misty's Gift Gallery, Stouts Cider Mill, Mountain View Computer Users Group, Tanque Verde Guest Ranch, TCBY Yogurt, Timberline Trees, Tres Amigos Restaurant

Exhibitors: AZ Cactus & Succulent, Inc., Back Yard Greenhouses, Diamond JK Landscape, Ewing Irrigation, Huachuca Landscaping & Irrigation, Presidio Gardens, U of A Bookstore, Global ReLeaf, Master Gardeners of Cochise County, Master Gardeners of Maricopa County, Sierra Vista Garden Club, and Warp Seed

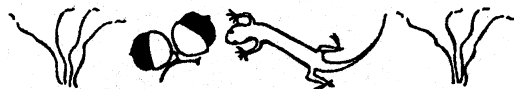
Table Decorations: Marge Phillips and Virginia Dennison

Special thanks to Maria Church, Sierra Vista Parks & Leisure

Stay tuned for detailed descriptions of the presentations in future issues of the newsletter!

### MARCH REMINDERS

- Winter prune trees
- Water periodically
- Cold-moist stratify seeds
- Order from seed catalogs
- Prune rose bushes
- Plant bare root trees
- Prepare spring planting beds
- Clean & repair drip irrigation system
- Plant seeds indoors for transplanting after last frost date



Staff: Carolyn Gruenhagen  
Barbara Kishbaugh  
T.J. Martin  
Elizabeth Riordon  
Virginia Westphal

## MASTER GARDENER 1993 NEWSLETTER ABRIDGED INDEX

- Africanized Bees, Aug/p.3  
Agent's Corner: Jan/p.3;Feb/p.3;Mar/pp.3-4;  
Apr/p.3;May/p.6; Jun/pp.4-5;Jul/p.4; Aug/p.5;  
Sept/p.3;Oct/p.2;Dec/p.3  
Aloe, May/pp.1-2  
April Reminders, Apr/p.5  
Arizona Master Gardener Conference, Jun/p.5  
Arizona Master Gardener Conference Report,  
Sept/p.4  
*Asparagus officinalis*, Mar/pp.1-2  
August Reminders, Aug/p.3
- Bamboo Palm, Aug/p.6  
Bats, Jun/p.3  
Bats, correction notice, July/p.2  
Bearded Iris in Landscape, May/p.4  
Blackberries. See Brambles  
Black Widow Spiders in Home & Garden,  
Oct/pp.4-5-6  
Bloom Continuance, Jul/p.4  
Book Review: *Gardening Success With Difficult  
Soils: Limestone, Alkaline, Clay, and Caliche*,  
Nov/p.3  
Boysenberries. See Brambles  
Brambles, Jul/pp. 1-2  
Bur Clover & Field Sandbur Weed Control, Feb/p.3  
Butterfly Attracting Plants, Mar/p.6  
Butterfly Garden, Mar/p.5
- Cactus. See Christmas Cactus  
Candied Peanut Recipe, Feb/p.2  
*Capsicum frutescens* l., Nov/pp.1-2  
Chlorosis. See Leaf Yellowing  
Christmas Cactus, Jan/p.3  
Chrysanthemum, Aug/p.6  
Cochise County Fair, Sept/pp.2-3  
Cooperative Extension Advisory Board Tombstone  
Meeting, Dec/p.3  
Cooperative Extension Summer Programs, Jun/p.2  
Cool Weather Vegetables, Sept/pp.1-2  
Curcubits. See Squash & Melon Virus  
Cuttings 'N' Clippings, May/p.5
- Dracena marginata*, Aug/p.6
- English Ivy, Aug/p.6  
False Cinch Bugs, Jul/pp.7-8  
Farm Produce Available Fresh, Sept/p.6  
County Agent Rob Call. See Agent's Corner  
February Reminders, Feb/p.6  
Flies in Winter, Jan/p.2  
Fruits. See melon
- Gardening Success With Difficult Soils: Lime-  
stone, Alkaline, Clay, and Caliche*. See Book  
Review  
Garlic, Aug/p.1  
Gerbera Daisy, Aug/p.6  
Golden Pothos, Aug/p.6  
Grasses. See Native Warm Season Grasses  
Grasshopper Control, Oct/p.2
- High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference  
Nov/p.3  
High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference  
Dec/p.6  
House Plants for Better Air Quality, Aug/p.6  
Hummingbird Feeders, Feb/pp.4-5  
Hummingbird Garden, Jan/p.4
- Index to 1992 MG Newsletter, Jul/pp.5-6  
International MG Conference & Trade Show,  
May/p.5  
International MG Conference Report, Sept/pp.3-4  
Iris Garden Tour, Apr/p.6
- June Reminders, Jun/p.2  
July Reminders, Jul/p.2
- Leaf Yellowing, Jun/p.4  
Linum. See Flax  
Loganberries. See Brambles
- March Reminders, Mar/p.4  
Master Gardener Fall Class, Sept/p.5  
Master Gardener Spring Class, Jan/p.6  
May Reminders, May/p.2  
Melons, Determining Ripeness, Aug/p.5  
Mesquite Tree Mistletoe, Jun/pp.4-5

Mexican Food Production, Mar/p.3  
Mistletoe. See Mesquite Tree Mistletoe

Native Plant Society, Sept/p.4  
Native Plant Society News, Dec/p.4  
Native Plants in Tucson & Cochise County,  
Aug/pp.4-5  
Native Warm Season Grasses Planting Time,  
Jul/p.4

October Reminders, Oct/p.3

Peanut Growing, Feb/pp.1-2  
Pest-wise Preparation for Fall & Winter,  
Nov/pp.5-6  
Planting, U of A Improved Standards, Jan/p.5  
Planting/Transplanting Trees, Shrubs, Bushes,  
Mar/pp.3-4  
Plants. See Bearded Iris; Cactus, Christmas; Flax;  
House Plants; Iris, Bearded; Poinsettias; Pome-  
granate; Purple Verbena  
Pomegranate, Jun/pp.1-2  
Pomegranate Jelly Recipe, Jun/p.6  
Poinsettia, Jan/p.3  
Pruning Demonstration, Feb/p.2  
Pruning Fruit Trees, Ornamentals, and Rose  
Bushes, Apr/p.3  
Punica Pomegranate. See Pomegranate  
Purple Verbena, Jan/p.1

Raspberries. See Brambles  
Recipes. See Candied Peanut; Pomegranate Jelly  
Recycling Phonebooks Campaign, Nov/p.2  
*Rosa banksia*. See Tombstone Rose  
Rose Problems, May/p.6  
Rose Pruning Demonstration, Mar/p.4  
Rubus. See Brambles  
Russian Thistle. See Tumbleweed

September Reminders, Sept/p.2  
Scott's Oriole, May/p.3  
Soil. See Book Review  
Solar Greenhouses, Part I, Jul/p.3  
Solar Greenhouses, Part II, Aug/pp.2-3  
Solar Greenhouses, Part III, Sept/p.5  
Solar Greenhouses, Part IV, Oct/p.3  
Solar Greenhouses, Part V, Nov/p.4  
Solar Greenhouses, Part VI, Dec/p.5  
Spider Plant, Aug/p.6  
Spring Bug Prevention Activities, May/pp.7-8  
Spring Flower Bulb Planting Time, Dec/p.3  
Squash & Melon Virus, Sept/p.3

Tombstone Rose, Apr/pp.1-2  
Trees, Planting & Living With, Dec/p.2  
Tree Planting at University of Arizona, SV Cam-  
pus, Sept/p.2  
Tree Seedlings For Sale, Dec/p.4  
Trees See Mesquite; Pomegranate  
Tumbleweed, Dec/pp.1-2  
Turf lawn Planting Time, Apr/p.3  
Turkey Hotline, Nov/p.3

Upcoming Garden Events, Oct/p.2

Vegetable Problems, Sept/p.3  
Vegetables: Asparagus; Chili; Peanut  
Verbenaceae. See Purple verbena

Walls and Fences, Apr/p.4  
Weeds: Tumbleweed  
Wildflower Alert, Apr/p.5  
Winter Pruning of Shade Trees & Evergreen  
Shrubs, Dec/p.3  
Winter Watering of Roses, Shrubs, Trees, Dec/p.3  
Xeriscape, How to, Jan/p.2

## THE AGENT'S CORNER

Robert E. Call  
Horticulture Agent

**QUESTION:** I see some bees coming around my hummingbird feeder. Is it possible these are the "killer" bees that have killed dogs and attacked people?

**ANSWER:** There is no way of knowing if the bees you see are the Africanized Honeybee (AHB). Visually EHB and AHB are identical to each other. Experts can not tell them apart without laboratory analysis.

They are not killer bees even though the media makes it sound as if these insects require human flesh to complete their life cycle! Honeybees are not native to the Americas. There are six species of honeybees in the world and over 20,000 known species of bees. European Honeybees (EHB) were brought to America by immigrants and known by Native Americans as white man's lice. In the mid 1950's bee researchers imported some AHB into Brazil to breed with EHB to hopefully increase the EHB's honey production in tropical environments. Some AHB escaped and began moving north. They arrived in south Texas, 1992.

Honeybees defend their colonies or home vigorously because this is where their young are reared and food is stored. In nature, bears, skunks, and other animals try to steal their stored food. Honeybees are aggravated by motions of larger dark objects, animal smells like leather and perfumes, shampoos, and perspiration. Both bee species sting in the same way, going for the head and eyes, with a barbed stinger that remains in the victim. AHB venom is just as potent as EHB venom. Venom is pumped from a bulb on the top end of the stinger through it into flesh. Stingers should be scraped out with a knife, finger nail, or credit card. Trying to pull out a stinger will squeeze more venom into the victim's flesh.

A lone foraging bee, whether an EHB or AHB, will not bother you if you do not bother it. Swarms of honeybees are seen during the spring and summer and AHB swarm even in the

fall and warm winters. About half of the bees from the old colony accompany the queen. This is the way that honeybees divide and establish new colonies. They are not defensive because they are looking for a home and have nothing to defend. Once a place is located by scout bees the swarm then sets up house-keeping. When the new colony is established with young and food stores the bees will defend it.

AHB will defend their colony more vigorously than EHB. EHB have been selected and bred for centuries to be docile and productive. AHB are just like EHB but just have a bad aggressive attitude. More people die in the United States from lightning than from bee stings. The numbers perhaps will increase with the AHB but will not likely surpass lightning deaths.

It is advised to close holes and cracks in homes, barns, and out-buildings that are larger than a pencil eraser. Use caulk, boards, or other suitable materials. Make weekly inspections of wood piles, abandoned cars, old tires, and junk piles which could make suitable place for swarming bees to establish new colonies. If new colonies are found call certified bee removal personnel such as a beekeeper, pest control operators, or the Arizona Department of Agriculture so action can be initiated.

If you or someone else is stung, run into a house or vehicle to get away from other bees. A sting pheromone alerts other bees to sting also. Do not swat at the bees with your hands and arms, just run to safety. If you are out in the open you may have to run for a quarter or half mile to distance yourself from the bees. We will have to learn to live with AHB but there is little difference from EHB.



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

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## COMING EVENTS

**Tucson Botanical Gardens** (2150 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ - Tel: 602-326-9686): Annual Spring Plant Sale will take place Saturday, March 26 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm) and Sunday, March 27 (Noon - 4:00 pm). Plenty of good advice and help will be available from TBG staff and docents.

"About the Gardens . . . It is a non-profit organization dedicated to demonstrating to the community, through a collection of gardens, a variety of horticultural possibilities for the Tucson area; and to provide educational programs relating to plants for children, adults, and disabled persons. There is something of interest year-round on the five acre site of beautifully landscaped grounds, including specialty gardens of herbs, iris, cactus, native Southwestern crops, a tropical greenhouse, and a xeriscape demonstration garden. The Gardens is also the home of Native Seeds/SEARCH, and heirloom crop seed saver organization."

**Pruning Demos:** It's that time of the year again - time to get your fruit trees pruned. On March 16th at 10:00 am a pruning demonstration will be conducted at a Master Gardener's house located at 5778 Mt. View Road (Highway 92 South, the next right after Ash Canyon Road), **Sierra Vista**. For further directions call 378-0191. Rob Call, Cochise County Extension Agent, will prune apples, peach, and apricot trees. A second pruning demonstration will be held in **Willcox** on March 17th at 9:00 am. The location is 1/4 mile past Margarett Road on Ft. Grant Road, second house on the left. The house is off the road 100 yards with a white garage topped by a weather vane. For further directions call 384-3334. Come with your questions and ideas on pruning.

# Cooperative Extension

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## MASTER GARDENER MAILING UPDATE 1994

(We must receive this update by April 22, 1994 or you will be dropped from current list)

- To hold down postage costs and insure that our mailing list is accurate, we are required by the Federal Government to have a yearly signed individual request for our mailing list.
- Our mailing lists are confidential and names are not given out for any reason.
- Please complete the form below and return it by April 22, 1994 if you desire to continue receiving the *Master Gardener Newsletter*.
- Refold this form so that the Extension address is on the outside and staple or tape it shut.
- Place a postage stamp on this form and mail it back to 450 S. Haskell, Willcox, AZ 85643.

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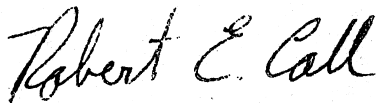
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER:  Male  Female

ETHNIC:  White  Black  Hispanic  American Indian or Alaskan Native  Asian or Pacific Islander

RESIDENCE:  Farm  Town Under 10,000 and open country  Town/City 10,000-50,000  Suburbs Over 50,000  Central City over 50,000

Thank you for your cooperation.



Robert E. Call  
Extension Agent, Horticulture

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