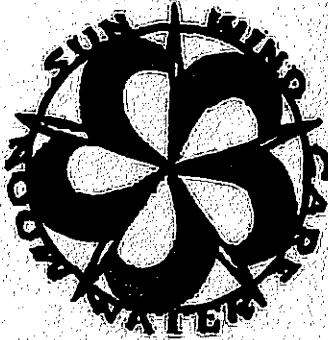


COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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



UNIVERSITY
OF
ARIZONA

the Cochise County Master Gardener

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, NO. 11

NOVEMBER 1991

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Peter Whitman
Staff Writer

I was at the Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum for their fall plant sale a few years back when I decided to walk the trail. I think I walked it just for the exercise. When I got down near the stone house I spied this large beautiful canopy of red leaves. It gave the entire area an autumnal feel. That was the first time I had seen a Chinese Pistache in full fall color. The one at the arboretum is such a beautiful large specimen because it taps into the creek that runs through the area.

Here in Cochise County, The Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) can make a wonderful shade tree. It brings to your garden those fall colors that give autumn its distinctiveness. It's the only tree that can bring the red colors of autumn to the desert. We are familiar with the yellows and browns of fall, but with the Pistache you can have the red colors more common in Northern climates.

The Pistache not only adds color to the fall garden, it also is an excellent shade tree. It can offer 50 feet of shade once full grown. It does well in a lawn, street, or patio...actually, it's a good choice for any setting.



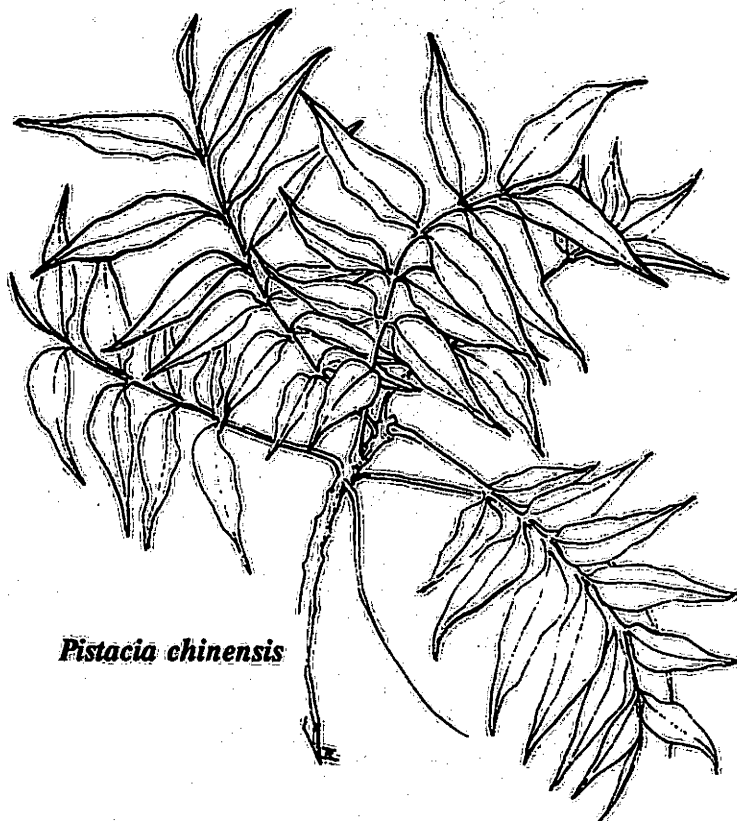
NOVEMBER REMINDERS

GOOD TIME TO INSTALL A DRIP SYSTEM
REPLACE SUMMER MULCH WITH FRESH
START A WINTER HERB GARDEN

Robert E. Call

Robert E. Call
Extension Agent,
Horticulture

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



Pistacia chinensis

VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE

The following video tapes are available at the Cochise County Extension Office for Master Gardeners. These video tapes can be viewed by individuals at the Cooperative Extension offices or arrangements can be made for groups to use them.

Blister Beetles

- *Budding: *New Life for Fruit and Nut Trees*
- *Casa Del Agua: *Arizona's Resource for Tomorrow*
- *Concepts in Pruning - *Volumes I and II*
- *Drip Irrigation for the Home Garden and Landscape
- How to Grow Healthy Houseplants*
- Identification of Common Arthropods*
- *Plant Propagation - *Volumes I and II*
- *Planting and Staking Landscape Trees
- *Green Side Up: *Professional Sod Laying*
- Pruning Apple Trees (Spanish/English)*
- *Success with Bedding Plants
- Success with Roses*
- *Water: *An Endangered Natural Resource*
- Water Conservation*
- Water Measurement Devices*
- *What is Extension?
- *Working Safely with Pesticides (Spanish/English)

*Available at the Sierra Vista Office

SIERRA VISTA CHAPTER OF ANPS FORMS

The first meeting of those interested in forming a Sierra Vista chapter of the Arizona Native Plant Society is meeting on Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Barbara Tellman, past president of the Tucson chapter. Please call the coop office during office hours (M-F, 9am-12pm) or 378-0011 for more information.

Staff:

Jackie Dillon-Fast
 Carolyn Gruenhagen
 Rose V. Land
 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 office by November 22.

MORE VIDEO TAPES AVAILABLE

Cochise Environmental Education Resource Center has a lending library of books and video tapes on environmental education, gardening, and agriculture related subjects that are available to the public. A list of materials will be on file at the Cooperative Extension offices in Sierra Vista and Willcox. For more information you can contact Donna Long, C.E.E.R.C. Director at 366-5650.



COMMON POISONOUS PLANTS

Barbara Shelor
Staff Writer

There are many common roadside, household, and garden plants that are poisonous, if ingested in whole or in part. Many may be fatal. So it's a good idea, especially if small children are around, to identify the potential problems in or near your yard and living space. The scope of this article is to help you identify some of these plants, their toxic part(s), and some of the poisoning symptoms. For a more comprehensive listing and in-depth explanation, there is a good reference in the coop office: Plants That Poison, the reference for this article, by Ervin M. Schmutz, Ph.D., and Lucretia Breazeale Hamilton. Dr. Schmutz has also authored Livestock-Poisoning Plants of Arizona.

Apples: *seeds*; eaten in quantity result in cyanide poisoning. **Asparagus:** *berries* may poison humans; young plants may cause dermatitis. **Bird-of-Paradise Bush:** *Pods and seeds*; diarrhea, nausea, vomiting. **Broad Bean (fava bean):** *seeds or pollen*; in people of Greek, Italian, or Negro descent, may cause severe, possibly fatal, hemolytic anemia in those with inherited deficiency in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (an essential enzyme). **Buttercups:** *entire plant*; most toxic when flowering; digestive upset, skin ulcerations; may be fatal. **Caladium:** *all parts*; burning of tissue; severe swelling; may cause fatality if breathing impaired. **Candelabra-Cactus (*Euphorbia lactea*):** *leaves, stems, and sap*; highly toxic; temporary blindness; diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain; irritation of mouth parts, throat, and skin. **Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*):** *entire plant*; sweating, convulsions, paralysis, muscular weakness, double vision. **Cestrum (jessamines):** *berries and leaves*; salivation, fever, dilation of pupils, paralysis; *Cestrum nocturnum*, a nightblooming variety, can cause headaches, dizziness, and nausea.

Dumbcanes (*Dieffenbachia* sp.): *entire plant*; choking, nausea, salivation. **Eggplant:** *leaves, stems, and fruit* are possibly poisonous; no documented symptoms; eat only cooked, ripe, healthy fruit. **Elderberries:** *roots, leaves, bark, stems, unripe berries*; nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea; ripe fruit is harmless. **Hopbush:** *leaves and bark*; contains saponins; used as a fish poison; no reported symptoms. **Mescal Bean:** *entire plant*; nausea, vomiting, hallucinations, coma, death. **Mexican Gold Poppy:** *juice of fruit*; a narcotic. **Mistletoe:** *all parts, especially berries*; digestive upset, slow pulse, collapse, death. **Mushrooms (*Amanitas*):** *entire plant*; some cause death or permanent organ damage; wild mushroom identification requires expert knowledge. **Oleander:** *entire plant and honey made from*; nausea, vomiting, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, convulsions, coma, death. **Onions:** *bulbs*; large amounts ingested in a short time may cause death; general use in human diet is o.k. **Peas:** *entire plant, especially seeds*; when eaten in large amounts, possible skeletal deformities, tremors, weakness, and convulsions. **Peach:** *seeds*; cyanide poisoning. **Philodendron:** *entire plant*; nausea, swelling of mouth and throat; cats have been fatally poisoned by them. **Poinsettia:** *stems, leaves, sap*; gastric distress. **Potato:** *sprouts, unripe berries, green or spoiled fruit*; digestive upset, dilated pupils, shock, paralysis, and death. **Pyracantha:** *berries suspect*; symptoms unknown; jelly from is o.k. **Spinach:** *leaves* contain salts of oxalic acid; large, regular amounts and low calcium diet can result in calcium deficiency. **Sacred Datura:** *all parts*; thirst, red skin, nausea, vomiting, headache, delirium, coma. **Tomato:** *all parts but fruit*; digestive upset. **Violet (pansy):** *seeds*; large quantity could be serious for a child. **BULBS** **Belladonna Lily (*Amaryllis belladonna*):** *bulbs*; contain dangerous, poisonous alkaloids which cause respiratory paralysis. **Daffodil, Hyacinth, Jonquil, Narcissus:** *bulbs*; nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; may be fatal. **Iris (flags and fleur-de-lis):** *leaves and rootstock*; digestive upset.

BUDDY BUG

Elizabeth Riordon
Staff Writer

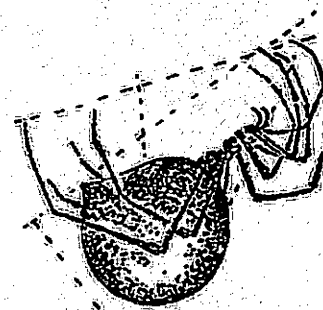
Most spiders can be considered to be "buddy bugs", beneficial insects that should not be killed indiscriminately.

All spiders are venomous. That is, they all use poison to kill their prey, but very few are dangerous to people or pets. Spiders are shy, and will always try to escape rather than bite.

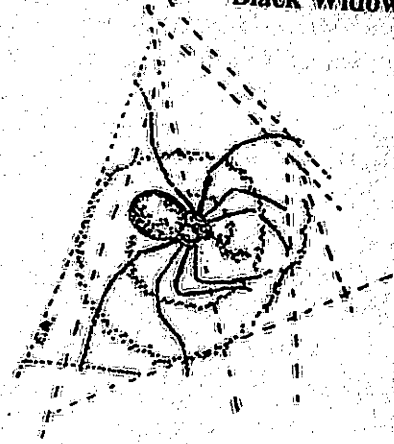
Outside, most spiders should be left unbothered to rid our yards of problem insects, and to decorate our gardens with beautiful webs. And, there are a lot of spiders out there to do the job. An average acre of meadow can be expected to contain over 64,000 spiders and 14,000 are probably in an acre of forest. Don't expect to be able to recognize many of those thousands, though, because there are at least 30,000 different species just in the United States.

Some people have an allergic reaction to spider venom, so it is best to use a broom or a piece of paper to shoo or carry a spider out of the house or away from a garden path. There are some spiders which should be removed from households and yards. These are the brown recluse and black widow. Spiders usually stay in the same area for long periods of time. If someone has been bitten by a spider, capture any which may be in the area (smashed ones as well). These will be helpful in determining the appropriate treatment for the patient. Black widow bites can be life-threatening. Neglected brown spider bites can result in scarring and possible kidney failure.

Rather than using insecticides, which are usually ineffective with brown spiders and black widows, squash the spider with a fly swatter or a stick. Housecleaning and yard clean-up with attention paid to dark corners, dead wood, and flowerpots should help keep those few undesirable species under control.



Black Widow Spider



COCHISE GLOBAL RELIEF

Volunteers are needed for a fulfilling day of hands on, pickless transplanting at Paul Brick's Pomerene Pine Tree Bank, just outside of Benson.

We need to transplant a variety of tree seedlings from growth tubes to root bags and into established trenches on site. Our effort will promote continued growth of these trees until solicited for permanent relocation at public parks and/or other sites in Cochise County.

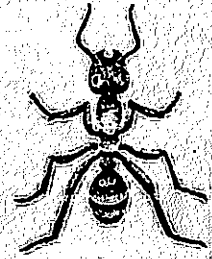
So bring your shovels to Paul's on Old Pomerene Road, Saturday, November 23, 1991 at 9:00 am, and enjoy a morning with some little giants. Carpooling is encouraged. Refreshments will be provided, but you might like to bring snacks or a picnic lunch. Make this a family event!

For more information, contact Paul Brick (586-5247), De Lewis (458-4170), or Joanne McEntire (432-5864).



WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?
by T.J. Martin

ANTS IN YOUR PLANTS



Cornfield (red) ant

COMMON NAMES: Cornfield Ant, Red Ant, Sugar Ant, Carpenter Ant, etc...

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Formicidae

DESCRIPTION: ADULTS - 1/8" to over an inch long, these slender insects are usually black, brown, or red in color. Unlike the termites, ants have tiny "wasp" waists and the hind wing of the reproductives are smaller than the front ones. They have powerful jaws and elbowed antennae. The PUPAE, grub-like LARVAE and EGGS are usually not seen since they are safely cared for deep under the ground in the maze-like colony.

LIFE CYCLE: Newly hatched reproductives fly from an established colony, mate and start their own nest in an acceptable location. The solitary queen lays thousands of eggs which hatch into sterile workers and soldiers. The workers forage for food which they bring back to feed the hive and take care of the eggs, larvae, and pupae of the next generation. The soldiers protect the colony from invasion by other ants and any other intruders. They store food in special underground rooms in the colony for use when it is too cold to go outside.

HOST PLANTS: With the exception of leafcutter ants, these insects normally do not bother plants. Most species feed on organic matter. They will, however, "harvest" seeds and grains to carry back to the colony. Most ants are in fact beneficial insects for the garden. They prey on the eggs of almost all pest insects, many larvae and many small pests such as mealybugs, scales, fleas, and even small roaches. They are natural scavengers and have even been known to attack termites looking for a place to establish a colony. Many species do eat the honeydew from aphids and become "pests" by protecting these creatures as the aphids feed on the crops.

TIME OF YEAR: ALL! Less active in winter but will emerge on warm days.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Aphids - if you have lots of these, chances are you will find ant "herdsmen" taking care of them. Hills of soil at the entrance(s) to the ant colony. Lines of worker ants following an established "trail" to a food source or back to the nest.

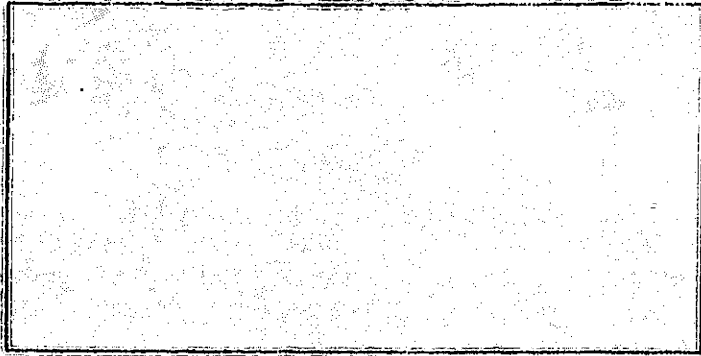
PROBLEMS AND DAMAGE: Leafcutter ants cut chunks out of foliage to take to their nests. Others "herd" and protect aphid populations. Ant bites HURT (especially small children) and the sting may cause allergic reactions in some people. Many times they will come inside dwellings and invade kitchen cabinets and pet food.

CULTURAL CONTROLS: Clean up garden litter. Keep your compost pile hot so they won't nest there. Control aphids. Put "moats" around your trees. Trim away branches so that they don't provide bridges for the ants to cross. Keep a clean house, wipe up sugary spills, and don't leave pet food lying around.

COMPANION PLANTING AND REPELLENTS: Mints and anise are said to repel ants, as is red pepper, Pennyroyal, tansy, and borax. They are supposedly reluctant to cross lines of bone meal, powdered charcoal or citrus juice/peels.

MECHANICAL CONTROLS: Pour boiling hot water on the nest (approx. 8 gals), repeat in a few days if necessary. Put a sticky band around each tree near the base. Use a forceful water spray on plants to knock them off on a regular basis. Use soapy water. Patch cracks to keep them out.

CHEMICAL CONTROLS: Call the Cooperative Extension office for current recommendations. Use products CAREFULLY. Take safety precautions. Follow directions EXACTLY.

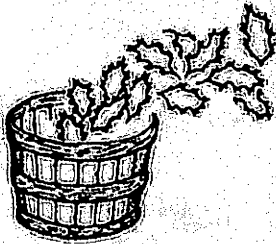


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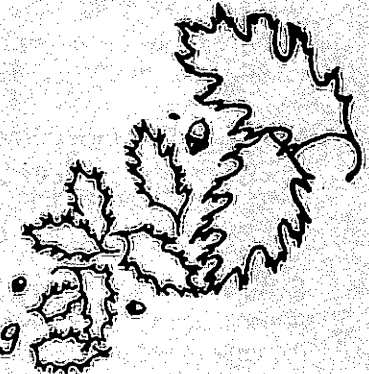
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**

BROWN BAG SEMINAR

Autumn Planting & Gardening



**Wednesday, November 13, 1991
12 Noon until 1:00 pm
Oscar Yrun Community Center
3020 Tacoma, Sierra Vista, AZ**



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