



Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/>



New Mexico State University • Cooperative Extension Service • U.S. Department of Agriculture

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NMSU and the U.S.
Department of
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**SEMG Newsletter
Submissions**
Deadline: 25th each mo.

Please submit news,
articles, events and
photographs to:
**newsletter Sandoval
mastergardeners.org**

Editor:
Kate Shadock



Thank you, Steve!

Steve Lucero has been the County Program Director/4-H Agriculture Agent for the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service in Sandoval County since 2006. He has also shepherded the Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners - often during Master Gardener Advisory Agent vacancies. If you've had the pleasure of working with Steve, you'll know the care and dedication he puts into his work of raising and growing our communities and their knowledge. You'll know his love for science and the wonders of raising cattle and supporting the work of our land grant university, NMSU.

SEMG extends Steve our gratitude for years under his leadership. Steve, you've helped us grow and change and thrive and make a positive impact on our community. Thank you! We also wish you all the best in your retirement.

We've collected a few words of gratitude and "Steve Stories" - please read on...

"Steve has a cool mustache, and he always looks good in his black cowboy hat. He also has a welcoming smile and is easy to talk to." ~Peter Colton, **SEMG 2003**

Steve and I had the opportunity to work together after Lynda Garvin was assigned to another county and before Rachel Zweig arrived. This was also during the time COVID-19 started. He helped me understand the needs of the University for reporting and how we could best fulfill the reporting request. His knowledge of the history of Master Gardeners in our county was impressive. He knows many of the Master Gardeners as he has interacted with many of us over the years. He also helped us work through the curveball that COVID-19 threw at us. We were able to pivot as quickly as possible to online learning from the traditional in-person intern training. His help with that transition was imperative. I also worked with Steve while we were interviewing candidates for Lynda's replacement. Through that process, I appreciated how much the Master Gardener organization meant to him and to Sandoval County. I wish Steve all the best in his retirement.

~Barbara Boyd, **SEMG 2018**

NOTE: It's never too early to start recording your volunteer hours!

Otto Stangel and I always worked at the Waterwise Garden on Thursday mornings. After working, we would always stop at the extension office for a visit. The office had a kitchen and sometimes we would whip up some breakfast. Steve sausage, Nicole scrambled eggs, and Elizabeth toast and coffee. Good company, good visits, and the best breakfast ever. Thanks Steve and staff for the good times.

~Loren Mainz, SEMG 2007

I have known Steve Lucero since I joined Sandoval Master Gardeners in 2008. I became chair of the organization at the time that our long time Extension Agent, Rudy Benavidez, retired and Steve became our agent. Steve was honest with me - his interest did not lie in gardening, so we needed to step up. It wasn't a big ask – he wanted us to write our governing documents and make our organization the best in the state! In many ways, we are what we are today because Steve gave us the opportunity to experiment and grow in ways I don't think we expected. Our members became resourceful, inventive and very dedicated to creating the robust and vibrant organization we are today. Thank you, Steve, for challenging us to create this wonderful organization.

~Sam Thompson, SEMG 2008

I was President of SEMG 2013 -2014 and worked closely with Steve Lucero, who for the most part of my tenure was the MG Advisory Agent along with his other duties of directing the office and being the primary County 4H and Livestock Agent in the County. Steve was diligent about attending our monthly MG Board meetings and advising us on best practices to add to our SEMG policies and procedures. He was proud of what the SEMG volunteer organization did for the County residents, and promoted us well within Sandoval County. Of course Steve got us connected with the other sides of the Sandoval Extension Service, such as supporting 4H and the County Fair with an annual donation and encouraging our garden exhibits. Master Gardeners volunteered with Steve and Nicole (former 4-H Agent) for several years in presenting environmental and water erosion demonstrations to Rio Rancho school students at an environmental expo at the RR Convention Center. Board members under my tenure worked with Steve to sanction the new sandovalmastergardeners.org website development committee. Steve worked with the Master Gardener committee which was tasked in reviewing new SEMG logo artwork submissions. He ended up advising us to wait for a State Extension Master Gardener logo, which NMSU was going to roll out with their process of centralizing the county Master Gardener programs under their Bylaws. Steve and Elizabeth Hackett were an integral part of organizing and participating in the Annual Meeting by honoring several years of new Master Gardeners and Life Members. SEMG volunteers worked with Steve and the County on updating the Master Gardener Casita offices with flood prevention improvements, fresh interior paint, and outdoor landscaping of perennial flowers. Steve had wanted to replace the turf at the back entrance to the Bernalillo Court House and Extension Offices and convert it to a demonstration Xeric landscape with native grasses. That did not happen due to the shift in focus to the SEMG/ Extension office location at the county building property off of Idalia.

I have enjoyed working with Steve and consulting with him on Master Gardener business and many Home Visit issues. Some Master Gardeners may not know this, but Steve is quite knowledgeable about plants. That should not come as a surprise since he has advised farmers and ranchers throughout his Extension career on horticultural issues along with livestock. Steve grew up on a ranch in San Ysidro. Recently, I experienced Steve's compassion for animals. Just last year he was trying to nurse two baby goats to health by using a syringe feeder in his office in Bernalillo. The baby goats had gotten caught in a fence on his father's ranch during a snowstorm. The mother goat was not able to nurse them. Steve has always been proud of our Sandoval Extension Master Gardener accomplishments through our exemplary volunteer projects and outreach. He has boasted about our accomplishments locally through the media and at the County and State levels. Steve has been seriously dedicated to the growth of the County 4-H program and involvement with the State Fair commission during his tenure with the County Extension Service. I will miss seeing Steve Lucero dressed in his western wear and his dog Sli at the Bernalillo Extension Office after April. Steve has provided a down to earth New Mexico presence and local color to the Sandoval Extension Office. I am happy to have experienced that.

~Sandy Liakus, SEMG 2008

Note: For many years, the Master Gardeners were known as SCMG – Sandoval County Master Gardeners until 2000 when NMSU changed County to Extension – and we are now known as SEMG.

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April Garden Checklist

1. Refresh potting soil in pots and containers by replacing 50% with compost or fresh soil
2. Consider adding night blooming and fragrant plants to enjoy after sundown
3. Add lemon lily ([Lilium parryi](#)) to a spot with partial shade
4. Plant cool-season vegetables such as radish, arugula and European spinach from seed
5. Plant fruiting shrubs, trees and roses from containers

Source: *Month-By-Month Gardening: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico* Jacqueline A. Soule

Public Training Opportunities

Ready, Set, Grow *Waiting for 2024 upcoming schedule*

Prior 2024 Sessions:

Top 10 Tree Diseases and Disorders Found in New Mexico - Dr. Phillip Lujan, NMSU Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

- Video Recording 3-20-24 *LINK COMING SOON!*
- Presentation Slides 3-20-24 *LINK COMING SOON!*

Reading a Garden Catalog – Bernalillo County Extension Program Director John Garlisch

- [Video Recording 2-17-24](#)

Chill Hour Requirements & Other Factors Affecting Budbreak in Fruit Trees - NMSU Extension Specialists Dr. Richard Heerema (Pecans and Pistachios) & Marisa Thompson (Urban Horticulture)

- [Video Recording - 1-17-24](#)

Gardening with the Masters - Loma Colorado Library

Fourth Monday of the month. The class runs from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm as the library closes at 8:00 p.m. These classes are not recorded. We encourage you to join us in person, so your individual questions get answered. New Gardening with the Masters classes will be announced here as they are created.

*April 22 – **Round Table Panel** – questions about Spring Gardening in NM*

*May 20 (note **THIRD** Monday due to Memorial Day) Mike Halverson – Propagating Native Plants*

***Pre-recorded Classes** Courtesy of COVID, we adapted some of our in-person classes to Zoom, recorded them and they are available at <https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/gardening-classes/gardening-with-the-masters-online/>*

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Did You Know?

Sage vs. Salvia – Aren't They The Same Thing?

[Aren't Sage and Salvia](#) the same plant? It is not uncommon for people to use the terms interchangeably, even though they are different things.



Sage is a **perennial herb** that is part of the mint family. It has a strong aroma and is commonly used in cooking, especially in Thanksgiving stuffing. Sage is also known for its medicinal properties, such as improving brain function and reducing inflammation.

Salvia is a **genus of plants that includes over 900 species**, including the common sage plant. Salvia plants are known for their beautiful flowers and are often used in landscaping. Some species of salvia also have medicinal properties, such as treating anxiety and depression.



To add to the confusion, the common garden subshrub **Russian Sage** used to be botanically classified as *Petrovskia atriplicifolia*. Since 2017 it has been included in the Salvia genus and is now known botanically, as *Salvia yangii*. It is neither a sage, nor is it from Russia. It is native to southwest and central Asia.

Add Some Variety to Your Garden and Your Meals

<https://pubs.nmsu.edu/h/H221/>

The aromatic, medicinal and flavoring characteristics of **herbs** have been prized by humans for more than 4,500 years. Wormwood, elderberry, hemlock and other herbs were used by the ancient Egyptians as early as 1600 B.C. Although most herbs are used primarily for cooking and as scents to enhance our environment, a resurgent interest has occurred in medicinal uses of herbs and their decorative qualities in an edible ornamental garden.

Herb and Spice Definitions

The term “herb” has many definitions. It is often defined botanically as an annual, biennial or perennial that does not produce persistent woody tissue. This, however, would leave out many aromatic trees and shrubs that are often used as herbs. A broader definition might be any plant or plant part that is used for its culinary, cosmetic, medicinal or aromatic qualities. Spices tend to be more aromatic or fragrant than herbs and have a pungent taste. Spices are generally produced from flowers, fruit, seeds, roots or bark, while herbs are generally made of fresh or dried leaves, although there are some exceptions.

Growing Conditions

Herbs and spices grown in New Mexico are generally limited to those adapted to neutral or alkaline soil growing conditions. A 10 feet by 12 feet area generally supplies ample space for an herb garden for an average-sized family. It's ***wise to devote one side of the garden to perennials and biennials and the other side to annuals, which need to be replaced each year.*** Many herbs, however, are well suited to an edible landscape where their dual natures can be exploited. Good examples include perennial sage with its purple flowers and savory leaves, and Florence fennel, whose long, fern-like aromatic leaves surround stems topped with small yellow flowers in an umbel-shaped head.

Soil for an herb garden should be well prepared. Early in the spring, fertilize the soil with a balanced fertilizer and ample quantities of compost. Bed design varies according to the mature sizes of the selected plants and the watering technique. Best results are generally achieved with drip irrigation and mulch. Wood shavings, straw, pecan hulls, dry bluegrass clippings or other organic mulches help cool the soil, reduce water evaporation and salt buildup, discourage annual weeds and reduce the amount of soil splashing up on leaves.

Planting depth and distance between plants varies with herbs. Some herbs are best propagated vegetatively. Insects and diseases are rarely serious problems on most herbs.

Here are a few ideas of less common herbs for your herb garden *All photos/drawings from Wikipedia*



Anise (*Pimpinella anisum*). Also called aniseed, anise is an annual that grows up to 2 feet tall with small, yellowish-white flowers in an umbel-shaped head. Anise likes relatively dry, well-drained soil and full sun. Seeds germinate in 20 days at a temperature of 70° F. Licorice flavored leaves can be used to make tea and flavor soups, stews and salads. Seed can be ground or used whole to flavor cheese and eggs. Anise enhances the sweetness of cake, cookies and other pastries. Seeds can be crushed and added to sachets.

Borage (*Borago officinalis*). An annual, 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall with hollow stems and numerous grayish-green hairy leaves up to 6 in long. Blooms are star-shaped blue flowers. Prefers rich, moist, sandy loam soils and full sun. Grows easily from seed. Add leaves to tea for a crisp cucumber-like flavor. Young leaves can be finely chopped and added to salads, soft cheeses, sandwiches or cooked as greens. Candied flowers can be used as decorations on pastries. Leaves also have been used by some herbalists as poultices to soothe external inflammations.



Caraway (*Carum carvi*). Annual and biennial types grow to 2 feet tall with small, white flowers in compound umbels. Prefers sandy loam soils with full sun to slight shade. Easily propagated directly from seed. Seeds commonly used to flavor rye breads, salads, waffles, soups, pork, pastries, cheese and sauerkraut. Leaves also are popular in salads, soups and stews. Roots can be steamed, chopped, and used in soups and stews as well.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*). A deciduous shrub that reaches a height of 12 feet. White flowers in clusters produce purple to black juicy berries. Prefers fertile, moist soil and full sun to partial shade. Tart, purplish berries are popular in jams, jellies and wine. Dried flowers can be blended with other teas. Makes an excellent ornamental shrub.



Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*). A perennial plant that reaches a height of 2 to 3 feet. The stems are square-shaped, woolly and bushy. Likes deep, sandy loam soils and full sun. Used in candies and teas to soothe coughs.

Savory (*Satureja spp.*). The most popular species are *S. hortensis* (**summer savory**) and *S. montana* (**winter savory**). Summer savory is an annual with fuzzy stems. Winter savory is a semievergreen perennial with a woody base that forms a compact bush. Both reach a height of 1 1/2 feet and prefer full sun. Winter savory is strongly aromatic, while summer savory has a slightly sweeter aroma. Both are used as potherbs to flavor beans, soups, eggs, cabbage and other vegetables. Summer savory can be used as a tea and to flavor herb butters and vinegars.

Summer Savory



Winter Savory



Stop, Smell, (And Prune) The Roses



On Saturday March 30, twenty three rose enthusiasts from the public and Master Gardeners joined Master Gardener, Kate Shaddock at the Corrales Community Library rose garden for a hands-on rose pruning workshop. This garden provides floribunda, grandiflora, rugosa, and hybrid tea varieties to demonstrate the similarities and differences for pruning each.

Kate provided copies and links to the [NMSU Rose Guide H-165](#) for everyone to take home to their own rose garden.

She also dispelled two common rose myths. First that roses are difficult to grow and that they can get too old to produce flowers. Kate admitted they can be challenging to grown in the SW due to the brilliant sunshine, alkaline soils, lack of precipitation, and winds. She pointed out we are lucky to have much less trouble with powdery mildew than our more humid neighbors.

Kate referred to the [Tombstone Rose](#) that's documented to be planted in 1885 making it 139 years old and is still blooming vigorously. [The Rose of Hildesheim](#) in Germany is believed to be over 1000 years and survived being bombed in the second World War.



The Corrales Community Library gardens are included in the **2024 Corrales Garden Tour on Sunday June 2 from 9:00 to 4:00.**

Thank you to Joan Ellis for the photographs.

Field Trip to Museum of SW Biology

Brandt Magic – SEMG 2021

For the second year in a row, the Museum of Southwestern Biology at UNM (<http://msb.unm.edu/>) welcomed Sandoval Extension Master Gardener interns to view their world-class insect collection. The museum's Arthropod collection is the most extensive in the southwest and includes a large number of the over 20,000 describe species in New Mexico.



Dr. David Lightfoot, collection manager, spoke about the science of entomology (the study of insects). He talked about how he has worked at the museum studying insects and for Fish and Game doing management programs. He also shared his own personal experience as a life-long gardener, and his philosophy of minimizing human impact on insect populations.

Special guest speaker for the day was Kaitlin Haase of the New Mexico Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (<https://www.xerces.org/>). She addressed how gardeners can help pollinators through plant selection and best practices in their gardens. She shared Xerces Society plant lists and other conservation publications. Kaitlin's talk followed her Canvas based lecture on pollinators, a new addition to the NMSU Master Gardener program.



Photos provide by Brandt Magic

History of the Museum

The Museum of Southwestern Biology (MSB) is one of the finest university-based natural history museums nationwide. We have trained students and conducted original research of national and international significance on the systematics, ecology, and life history of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates for more than 50 years. MSB serves the national and international scientific community by providing an extensive informatics resource on biodiversity to an international scientific community.

There are now eight divisions including Arthropods, Amphibians and Reptiles, Birds, Fishes, Genomic Resources, Herbarium, Mammals, and Parasites and one special program, Natural Heritage New Mexico. **Visitors welcome by appointment**

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Time To Start Preparing For The SEMG Annual Plant Sale!

Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale

**Where: Corrales Growers Market
Corner of Jones Road & Corrales Road**

When: April 28th 9am-Noon ← or until we sell out



If you are growing plants that you would like to donate to our cause, we would love to have them.

Food, Flowers, Shrubs, small Trees and Houseplants (including cuttings) are all acceptable donations. please email wittiee@netzero.net for more info



NM STATE Extension Master Gardener Sandoval County

The public is also welcome to donate plants to this sale with the proceeds going to Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners. In years past, we have appreciated donations of mature cacti, as well as young perennials, herbs and houseplants. They are all popular items and sell out quickly.

“Team Fun” Special Event!

It's a Garden Party and
You're Invited!

Saturday, May 18th, 2024, 4-7PM

The first is a Garden Party at Master Gardener (MG) Mary Vesely's beautiful 1-1/2 acre garden in Corrales on Saturday, May 18th, 2024, from 4-7PM. This is an exclusive event for MG's only and available to the first **40** who sign up.



Enjoy beer, wine, soft drinks, and other refreshments while mingling with other MG's. **Guests are asked to bring a folding chair – other drink option or appetizer is optional.**

A SEMG info table with current projects and sign-up sheets will also be available.

Bonus: you earn one volunteer hour for each Team Fun event attended. Sign up for the Garden Party at this link: <https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/sheet/garden-party/>

COMING THIS SUMMER: Ice Cream Social at Heidi's Ice Cream at The Jam Factory.

THIS FALL: International Harvest Farm-to-Table Dinner at Tres Hermanas Farm.

Search “Team Fun” or “Special Events” under “Events/Categories” on SEMG Website for more info.

HELP WANTED #1

SEMG volunteers and Project Manager for the 2024 Placitas Elementary Garden project reboot.

Contact SEMG Outreach Committee co-chairs Penny Lundgren and Sandy Liakus for more information and to express your interest in educating and guiding children in gardening. SEMG volunteers will be working with Placitas PTO on this project.

HELP WANTED #2

Help Line Coverage We still have need of volunteers to cover the Helpline. This is online, from the comfort of your own home. Each week of coverage earns 10 hours of Outreach credit. For more information, contact Sandra Liakus via email or phone number in the member roster.

Reminder to Members & Interns

SEMG provides several opportunities for interns and members to visit public gardens with a guide, labs where garden research is undertaken and commercial locations that are not accessible to the public. Sometimes we even get to tour private gardens with the designer and/or homeowner to see and hear why they made the design decisions. These opportunities are most numerous in the early spring when both gardens and gardeners are resting.

To be current on these openings – keep an eye on our website, in the MEMBERS ONLY section called [PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEERS](#). Some of these sessions are initially available only to Interns; and will be open to members, if there are spaces left towards the end of the sign up period. Some are only available to members as part of their advanced training.

When you sign up to attend a session, we do expect you to be there. Since these sessions are not accessible to others, have limited space, and are customized to SEMG. We want to respect our hosts' time and commitment to our organization by attending the sessions we've signed up for.

On this same link is an ever changing list of volunteer opportunities where we can give hours to in order to both fulfill our requirements for the year and to learn more about SEMG's support of Sandoval County residents.

NOTE: It's never too early to start recording your volunteer/education hours.

