



Sandoval County Master Gardener Newsletter

Steve M. Lucero,
County Program Director

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

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September 2013

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Master Gardener's,

The smell of roasting chili peppers is in the air, which means it is fall in New Mexico. This is a great time of the year for Master Gardeners to reach the public to spread our horticulture messages and promote the SCMG organization. Opportunities at the local growers markets, fairs, and public events are in abundance in August – September.

There is much interest in the local Grower Markets by both the public and the local growers. The Corrales Growers Market is the grand-daddy of them all, with a regular Sandoval County Master Gardener presence for the past several years. It is the benchmark for Master Gardener participation at other local farmers markets. The Idalia Road Marketplace (IRM) in Rio Rancho is growing in popularity with the public. The IRM Master Garden-

er project group is partnered with the Master Composters and will be meeting at the Marketplace again in October. On August 24- 25 we had a combined Extension Service and Master Gardener participation at the Stinking Garlic Festival at the Marketplace. The Bernalillo Farmers Market, now owned by the Zia Pueblo, is open on both Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Master Gardeners have manned a table a couple of times already and plan to continue through September. This market is open to other Master Gardener demonstrations and talks. Master Gardeners were invited and participated in the Santa Ana Pueblo Environmental Fair on August 17. Don't forget the State Fair, which runs September 11 - 21. This will be an opportunity for Master Gardeners to work with the Extension Service in their booth.

I want to thank all Master Gardeners who participated in the public August Drought Gardening Workshop, and volunteered to help host and sign-in guests. This Workshop was a marketing success with over 75 people in attendance. It could not have happened without the support of the Extension Service Office. If you could not attend this Workshop, Master Gardener John Zarola will give an encore presentation "Gardening in Drought Conditions" at the Meadowlark Senior Center location on Tuesday evening October 22nd.

Sandy Liakus,
SCMG Coordinator

SCMG Newsletter Submissions

Deadline:
20th of each month

Please submit news, articles, events and photographs to:
Kathy Rogols at

Baskethound58@gmail.com

FROM STEVE'S DESK

Dying Piñon and Juniper trees in county are due to climate stress. Continue on page 2



Con't from Page 1

Juniper and Piñon trees are dying in Sandoval County at a rapid rate and there seems to be no sign of reprieve.

The hard freeze, followed by the drought, then the monsoon rains has stressed the evergreens which has made these trees more susceptible to disease or pest infestation. Bark beetles are taking a toll on the Piñon trees. Additionally, a number of Junipers are being affected by phomopsis blight, one of two common blight (fungus) diseases on Junipers which may be a major cause of the die-off.

The blight disease is a common landscape problem where higher humidity and/or top watering create an environment favorable for the blight. The humidity from the recent monsoon storms may have created a perfect combination to promote the spore growth of Juniper fungal disease.

Symptoms of the disease are a dieback of the new growth. Infected shoot tips first turn light green or yellow. As the disease progresses, the tissue turns reddish brown. Over time, the disease may kill young plants and may leave mature plants unsightly with large areas of dead or dying needles.

There is no treatment for this fungal disease other than good landscape practices for watering and planting around the home. As fall approaches, climatic changes will help nature protect our native landscape.

Do not assume all Juniper tree loss is due to the fungal disease. Much of the loss may be primarily due to the severe drought. We recommend home owners contact the Sandoval County Cooperative Extension Office for help with the diagnosis causing tree loss.

For more information, contact:

Steve M. Lucero, Program Director / Agriculture Agent
Sandoval County Cooperative Extension
sandoval@nmsu.edu
(505) 867-2582 Toll Free (800) 678-1802

ROSE NOTES FROM MARYELLEN SHERMAN, MG



Hello Master Gardeners.

Rain! To think it's now into August and we are still getting some showers. Such a wonderful start to the Fall season—I'm sure our plants will continue to thrive from it into the cool weather.

Continue to deadhead until mid-month and cut the water to twice a week as it cools off. This will encourage the plants to stop producing new growth that would be killed by an early frost.

Continue to control the mildew with fungicide. Keep the leaves with black-spot picked off and pick them off the ground discarding them in the garbage.

Did you enter your roses in the Sandoval County Fair—if not you can still enter them in the State Fair. Cut roses in the early morning and put them in water up to the neck of the flower. Put a drop of bleach in

the water. Leave for several hours or overnight. This will harden the flower to help it last longer.

Enter the Rose Exhibition at the Botanic Garden, September 28 and 29. The theme is Scentsational Roses. If you have questions, check with the Botanic Garden.

Enjoy your garden as the weather slowly turns cooler.



Join Our Team of Rio Rancho Tree Stewards

Our mission is to
engage, inspire and train community volunteers
to help care for city trees
and improve our neighborhood parks.

Fall Training Session:

Saturday, October 19, 2013

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

UNM-West

(next to City Hall)

2600 College Blvd.

Rio Rancho, NM 87144



This fun and interactive
workshop with urban
forestry experts includes a morning classroom session and
hands-on training in the afternoon at a local park.

A one-year volunteer commitment is requested.

For more information or to register for our fall workshop,
please call (505) 896-8389 *or* send an e-mail to
Jennifer Scacco (jscacco@ci.rio-rancho.nm.us)
by October 14, 2013.

Sandoval County Master Gardeners and La Buena Vida's 'New Beginnings' Gardening Project a success!

In 2011, a joint project of Sandoval County Master Gardeners was initiated with the La Buena Vida program 'New Beginnings' located in the Town of Bernalillo. The program has been a helpful and enjoyable endeavor. Volunteer Master Gardeners provide assistance and advice to 'new beginning' clientele on how to grow vegetables in raised beds.

'New Beginnings' clientele sow seeds in small pots in early spring and nurture them until the sprouts are ready to transplant into raised bed gardening plots. During the summer, the plants are watered and fertilized. As fall approaches, the fruits of their labor are harvested and they are used to prepare daily lunch at the center.

This year's crop includes tomato, pepper, beets, beans, cantaloupe, and watermelon. The New Beginning clients also plant and maintain several pots of colorful flowers used for decoration outside the La Buena Vida building.

La Buena Vida, Inc. is a non-profit outpatient family oriented mental and behavioral health care organization located at 872 Camino del Pueblo in Bernalillo, NM.

New Beginnings participants share a common goal of making positive life changes with the help and support of others. Marilyn Lande is the psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR) team leader of the New Beginnings program and has been with the program since the spring of 2012.

Marilyn is very pleased with the success of the joint garden project. She has seen her clients open up to the Master Gardener volunteers in a special way during the past two growing seasons. She also noted that several of her clients have taken their knowledge of gardening back to their homes and have planted their own gardens.

Additionally, Steve Molnar, manager of the La Buena Vida organization has been a proponent of the joint gardening project since its inception. Because of the project he has seen PSR clients develop into peer leaders.

Master Gardener volunteers have found the joint project very rewarding. The volunteers have earned their respect as horticulture advisors and trusted teammates of the clientele.

The New Beginnings participants have found the garden project to be a popular team activity with the common goal of growing healthy plants and producing fresh vegetables. The clients take their turn in the daily maintenance of the garden based on their abilities.

The Sandoval County Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization sponsored by the NMSU Sandoval County Cooperative Extension.

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By Jack Bresenham and Sandra Liakus, Sandoval County Master Gardeners



For More Information Contact:

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Sandoval County



SEED LIBRARY UPDATE

Sandoval County Seed Library to Host Seed Saving Workshop

The Sandoval County Seed Library, a SCMG project, will be hosting a Seed Saving workshop with Dr. Stephanie Walker, NMSU Extension Vegetable Specialist on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 from 6-8 p.m.

The workshop will be held in the Conference Room at the Extension Office, 711 S. Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo, NM 87004 and is open to up to 50 SCMGs and their guests.

Sandoval County Seed Library will have information about the library and how to use it, and will be accepting seed donations. If you are a seed saver and will be donating seed, please read our Seed Protocol and use the Seed Donation Forms. Link to website: <http://aces.nmsu.edu/county/sandoval/mastergardener/seed-library.html>

Registration: Registration for this workshop is by **EMAIL ONLY** – sandoval@nmsu.edu. Please include the name and date of the workshop along with your name. There will be no email replies to your registration. Maximum class size: 50.

Fall Tree Care

Fall is an important time for trees, the season when they prepare themselves for the assaults of winter. Trees do this by hardening themselves off, thereby rendering them less vulnerable to icy winds, cold temperatures, and potential snow and ice loads. You can help your trees achieve their fall transition. Significantly, your part involves mostly “*Don’t do’s*” with just one “*Yes, do it, if you can*”.

Fall, in this context, is usually thought of as ‘after Labor Day’.

First, the “*Don’t do’s*”:

Watering (as Much) – Tapering off on your watering is an important signal to your trees that fall is here, winter will soon follow. After Labor Day, start cutting back your watering frequency by half. For instance, if you are watering once a week, start watering every other week. By the time you get into October, you should be watering your trees approximately every third week. After the first good frost – and certainly by November – you should shift over to your winter watering schedule of once a month.

Regardless of the season, trees should always be watered at the dripline where the tiny water-absorbing roots should be, and to a depth of two to three feet.

Pruning – With the one exception of dead wood – which may be removed in any season - fall pruning is discouraged for the following reasons. First, pruning of live tissue stimulates a tree to grow replacement tissue. This kind of green, succulent growth in fall is extremely vulnerable to winter dieback, resulting in injury to the tree. Secondly, despite the fact that regular pruning is one of the best things you can do for your tree’s overall health, pruning is also wounding. A tree possesses natural defenses which go to wound sites to wall off decay and start the growth of wound wood. However, the most recent research has shown that these defenses are quiescent in the fall, coming back to life sometime in January. For the health of your tree, leave any pruning until then, with late winter being best. Prune fruit trees just before bud break, if possible.



Fall Tree Care Continued:



Fertilizing – Trees, in general, need little in the way of fertilizing and only a very light application of nitrogen after leafing out in spring. Fall fertilizing can stimulate a tree just at the time it needs to cut back on production. Avoid sending your tree this mixed signal by foregoing any fertilizing in fall.

Finally, “Yes, do it, if you can”:

Yes, Plant Trees in Fall – Fall is a great time to plant trees. With the cooler fall temperatures, the establishment period for fall planted trees is much less harsh. Furthermore, roots do continue to grow during the winter, albeit more slowly. The result is, your tree gets a good start and by spring is already pretty well established.

Only container (or containerized) trees will be available for fall planting so you need to exercise due caution when selecting a tree. Be certain to get a healthy tree, free of disease, insects, or injury, and one whose container size is proportional to the above ground tree size. In other words, skip the big tree in the too small container.

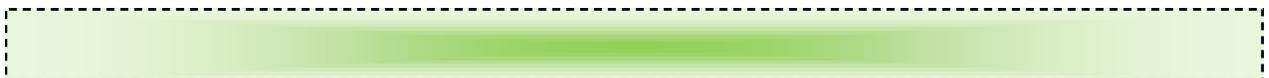
In removing the tree from its container, if you observe major roots which are circling, you have two options; either take the tree back and get a replacement OR, if the circling roots are proportionally few, cut them all the way back to the stem (trunk). The most recent research has shown that once major roots have begun to circle, they will continue to circle even if you cut them at a portion of the root which appears straight. Circling roots become girdling roots, often a few to several years after the tree has been in the ground. Girdling roots is one of the top three causes of tree failure (decline and death).

Follow all good planting practices, such as: the root flair (where the structural roots come out of the trunk) should be at or slightly above the soil line; no soil amendments -put back the same soil as came out of the hole; if staked, stake loosely with a soft fabric tie so that the tree can sway in the breezes and for not longer than one year; mulch the tree area with 2 but not more than 4 inches of organic mulch, keeping the mulch well away from the trunk where it may harbor gnawing insects. Do not put down weed cloth, woven or plastic.

If you are planting a new tree in fall, the watering schedule as stated above needs to be adjusted. Water newly planted trees approximately twice a week for the first two (or three) weeks, cutting back to once a week sometime in October, then once a month by November.

With the reduced chores, fall can be a relaxing time for the homeowner-arborist. Enjoy this wonderful time of year with the knowledge that your trees are gracefully winding this year down and preparing themselves for winter.

Elizabeth A. Gardner
Sandoval County Master Gardener
ISA Certified Arborist #RM-7252A





1st Place County Fair Winnings!

- **Mike Maurer** won the **Best of Show** category for his Tomatillos; and 1st place for his onions and peppers. High Point AG



SCMG Linda Grady and Sandoval County Extension Executive Assistant **Elizabeth Hackett**, won High Point Overall in the Baking category, and 1st place Ribbons for Croatian Povitica and Krostule.



Way to go **Mike, Linda and Liz!**

Horticulture Agent will join Sandoval County CES soon!

Please stop by the Extension Office to welcome her.

Lynda Powell-Garvin has accepted the position as Agriculture Agent for Sandoval County.

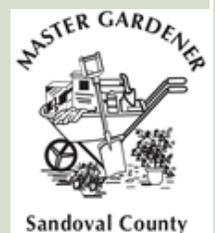
Lynda will join the staff on September 16th.

2014 Sandoval County Master Gardener Board Nominees:

COORDINATOR Sandra Liakus

I am pleased to be running for position of SCMG Coordinator, second term. I would like to continue to affect an efficient and cooperative organization in fiscal year 2014 that is responsive to our members needs for both resources and education, and to promote our many community education and service projects to the public.

- Sandoval County Master Gardener since 2008.
- SCMG Coordinator 2013
- SCMG Board Member- at- Large 2012
- SCMG Bylaw Committee Chair 2012
- SCMG Home Visits Project Chair/ Co-Chair since 2010
- SCMG La Buena Vida Garden Project Chair since 2011
- Resident of Placitas with my husband James Pilcher since 2007.
- Mother to one adult son residing in Florida, and grandmother to Aria and Carter in Ames, IA.
- Retired Project Engineer.



ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

Gretchen Nieman



I spent the first 57 years of my life growing up and living on the South Shore of Massachusetts with the last 25 years spent living on a beach on Cape Cod. I worked for 35 years as a PACU (post-anesthesia care unit) and CTIC (cardiothoracic intensive care unit) nurse in Boston. After one too many N'oreasters and as a preretirement move, I packed up and moved to beautiful Corrales where my childhood friend had settled. I met Tom here and we married five years ago. I always had a garden at my beach house but we had moisture and loamy soil. Recently, I managed to find a part time job at a local quilt shop and I keep busy working for \$, making quilts for family and friends, donating quilts to www.QuiltsforKids.org

and constantly learning new skills and information about how to successfully garden in the desert. If I'm not at home look for me at the Seed2Need garden on Tuesday morning, at Quilts Ole on Monday and Wednesday, with Tom at music events at the Bio Park on Thursday and Friday evenings, music in Corrales on Saturday evenings, Corrales Growers Market once a month on Sunday, and various activities at the Sandoval County Extension Office on Tuesdays.

nois after working and living there for 30 years.

SECRETARY

Mickie Frazier-Koontz

My husband Peter and I moved to Rio Rancho a year ago from Lincoln, NE where we lived in the same large old house for 31 years. We downsized considerably and are still finding places for all our stuff.

Peter is a retired Presbyterian Church-USA minister and I am a retired middle school teacher and counselor. I taught English as a new language to refugee and immigrant kids who were both amazing and humbling and who made it easy to go to school every day. My summers away from school were spent in our yard gardening, mostly hardy perennial flowers suited to the High Plains.

I didn't know how easy I had it until moving here--fortunately we bought a house with a cultivated back yard that was blessed with black dirt that was brought in when the house was built. Now I spend my time amending the soil in the rest of the (large) yard and experimenting to find which plants I grew in Nebraska can survive here.

I also care for our 3 Siamese cats and 2 African gray parrots (who are rude beyond belief). We have grown daughters in Omaha and Seattle (both great places to visit) and are acquainting them with Albuquerque's unique sights and culture.



Member-At-Large

Keith Lewis

Keith is a 2nd generation farmer's son with his parents. Born in Newhall, West Virginia and lived in Plantsville, Ohio, his memory is full of summer days eating concord grapes from his Grandfather's grapevine till his belly ached.



Meeting Master Gardeners at the Wick's art show was one of the best things that has happened to him. In the words of his daughter, "oh good you found other old people to play in the dirt with".

Combining his skill as a journeyman carpenter with what he has learned as a master gardener his best projects to date are his 2 story chicken coop and Zen garden. In addition, he has made planter boxes for the La Paloma Greenhouse so the clients who cannot stand for long periods or kneel on the ground can work in the dirt.

In addition to gardening, he is helping build the Haunted Scarecrow Haunted house with the teen service organization 508 Warehouse in Albuquerque.

His goal for being on the SCMG board is to keep the folks mindful about keeping what we got from our forefathers,.

Applications now being accepted for NMSU Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program for Sandoval County

The New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service of Sandoval County is offering a Volunteer Master Gardeners' Training Program for 2014. The training is for residents who enjoy and have been gardening for a few years. The Master Gardener volunteer program is designed to educate and assist the residents of Sandoval County in all aspect of gardening.

Now is the time to apply for the 14-week course which will begin on January 7, 2014 and ends April 15, 2014. Classes will be held every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Sandoval County Cooperative Extension office, located in the old Sandoval Courthouse, 711 Camino del

Pueblo, Bernalillo, New Mexico.

To become certified as a Sandoval County Master Gardener, you are required to complete 40 hours of classes which includes testing, 30 hours of volunteer work, and 10 hours at the Master Gardner telephone hotline at the Extension Office in Bernalillo.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program is limited to 35 students. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2013. The cost is \$125. The class fills quickly and there is usually a waiting list, so early applications are advised. Applicants will be interviewed between September and December.

For more information and to obtain a Master Gardener application, please contact the Sandoval County Cooperative Extension Service at (505) 867-2582 or toll free 1 (800) 678-1802 or you can go online to:

<http://aces.nmsu.edu.county/sandoval/master/gardener/index.html>

The program is sponsored by the New Mexico State University, Sandoval County Cooperative Extension Service and the Sandoval County Master Gardeners.

NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the classes, please call (505) 867-2582 during the application process.

For More Information Contact:
Steve Lucero, Program Director
 Sandoval County Cooperative Extension
 P. O. Box 400
 Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004
 (505) 867-2582
 FAX (505) 867-6918
 ► sandoval@nmsu.edu

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Gardening Questions?

The Sandoval County Master gardeners Program is a Volunteer Program under the direction of the Sandoval County Cooperative Extension. We have knowledge of what grows in New Mexico, when to grow it, what insects and diseases may be a problem and much more... Give us a call on our "HOTLINE" if you have a gardening question.



Sandoval County Master Gardeners Hotline

9 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Call Us - 505-867-2582

Email Us - scmghotline@gmail.com

**See Us - 711 Camino Del Pueblo
PO Box 400**

In Bernalillo, NM 87004

**Back of the Old Courthouse in the "Casita"
www.sandovalmastergardeners.com**



Sandoval County



SCMG September 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Seed2Need Weekly Hours (weather permitting and subject to change)  *Tue morn 7--9 am *Thur eve 6-8 pm *Sat morn 7-9am	2	3 	4 DeLavy House Clean-up – Bernalillo 9:00 a.m.	5 	6 4:30p-7p Bernalillo Farmer's Market	7 10a-2p Home Depot Plant Clinic
8 Corrales Growers Mkt 9-12	9	10 	11	12 	13 4:30p-7p Bernalillo Farmer's Market	14
15 Corrales Growers Mkt 9-12	16	17  SCMG Bd Mtg 2p to 4p @ Extension office	18	19 	20 4:30p-7p Bernalillo Farmer's Market Newsletter Articles DUE!	21 10a-2p Santa Ana Garden Center Plant Clinic
22 Corrales Growers Mkt 9-12	23	24  Gardening with Masters 7:15p Meadowlark Senior Center: " Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening " presented by master gardener Loren Meinz.	25	26 	27 4:30p-7p Bernalillo Farmer's Market	28 Annual Meeting 11am-1pm At: San Ysidro Hendren Hall 5015 Corrales Rd Corrales
29 Corrales Growers Mkt 9-12	30	Hotline Weekly Hours- Mon-Fri 9-12 & 1-4 In the Casita				

