



Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/>



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

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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 Shaddock

Meg Buerkel Hunn, Advisory Council Chair

Lessons from the garden, continued...

Yes, my garden still considers me a student, and my guess is that my garden would grade me below-average...

Sometimes the lessons my garden wishes to impart to me have to be learned and relearned time and again. Taught and retaught. Told and retold. It must be arduous work to be a garden with such a slow learning student gardener!



Here are a couple of new(er?) lessons from this summer's carrot patch:

Lesson 1: Gardens are forgiving. So often I think I must follow all the directions to be successful. My garden teaches me that sometimes even if I do follow all the directions / suggestions, success is compromised or varied. Then there are other times that my garden is sooooo forgiving. Take these carrots for instance. The back of the packet of carrot seeds DOES say to thin them to about three inches apart. These carrots were (clearly!) not thinned, and they are delicious! Sure, they take a bit more work to clean and prepare, but they also make quite incredible bite sized snacks with just a rinse in the sink!

Lesson 2: Gardens give more than is obvious to the eye. We all know carrots grow underground, but all those carrot tops are also edible and delicious! Take these carrot tops, their leaves made an excellent [Carrot Greens Chimichurri Recipe - Love and Lemons!](#) I'd never had chimichurri before, and I really like it!

Lesson 3: Sometimes the garden just gives you gifts... I did not plant these carrots. They are the result of some carrots that I missed pulling last year that flowered. The flowers graced some of our dinner tables last year... they look a bit like Queen Anne's Lace. The flowers I missed cutting for the table dropped their seeds, and here they grew.

Lesson 4: Gardens (and most growing things) are abundant givers. All of these carrots sprang from one carrot plant - a quick search reveals that each carrot flower can contain thousands of seeds. You all may know by now that one of my favorite quotes is 'You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but can you count the number of apples in a seed?' With carrots, the gift gives with great, exuberant abundance!

Yes, my garden is still teaching me... I hope I can take these lessons to heart - both for my garden and my life.

~ Meg Buerkel Hunn

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September Garden Checklist

1. It's never too late to start, or catch up, on your garden notebook. Sept. is a good time to make notes about the wins and disappointments of this year's garden.
2. Now is the time to divide perennials. Should be done every 3 to 5 years.
3. If digging animals get your bulbs – put a layer of hardware cloth over them before covering them with soil.
4. Now is the time to sow spring blooming wildflowers. Add a layer of chicken wire on top of the soil to deter rodents and birds from eating the seeds.
5. It is neither necessary nor beneficial to level your garden for "fall clean up." Remove spent flowers, old bloom stalks and dead leaves from any plant that needs it. Wait to prune fall-blooming plants until spring and any chance of frost is well past.

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

Public Training Opportunities

Ready, Set, Grow 2024 schedule

October 16, 2024 - "Native Bees & Pollinator Habitat" *interesting! with Elliott Gordon, Ambassador for the Xerces Society AND ABQ Backyard Refuge Program*

November 20, 2024 - "Hydroponics for the Home Gardener: Systems, crops and tips for novice growers" *with the NMSU Plant & Environmental Sciences Department's Rachel Gioannini, Associate Professor, Horticulture*

December 18, 2024 - "Climate-Ready Trees: Planting Smarter for a Warmer and Shadier Future" *with Dr. Marisa Thompson, NMSU Extension Urban Horticulture Specialist.*

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 scheduled.

October 28 – Sustainability in the Garden - Bette Allen

November 25 – TBD - Monica Sherman

December 23 – Propagating Houseplants – Michelle Wittie

January 27 – Fower and Garden Photography: Tips and Techniques – Mike Stoy

February 24 – Butterfly Clustering for the Home Gardener – Teresa Harner

Pre-recorded Classes Courtesy of COVID, we adapted some of our in-person classes to Zoom, recorded them and they are available on <https://YouTube.com/sandovalmastergardeners.org>

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Grasshoppers are the most difficult insect to control because they are highly mobile.

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It might seem odd to talk about grasshoppers in the fall – this is the time of year they are easiest to spot both as adults and egg clusters.

Adult grasshoppers may live for months, interspersing feeding with mating and egg laying. Species that winter in the egg stage die out in late summer and early fall. A few species, perhaps most conspicuously the speckledwinged grasshopper, spend winter as a nymph, remain active during warm periods, and may develop to the adult form by late winter.

Among vegetable crops certain plants are favored, such as lettuce, carrots, beans, sweet corn, and onions. Squash, peas, and tomatoes (leaves, not fruit) are among the plants that tend to be avoided.

Grasshoppers less commonly feed on leaves of trees and shrubs. However, during outbreak years even these may be damaged. Furthermore, grasshoppers may incidentally damage shelterbelt plantings when they rest on twigs and gnaw on bark, sometimes causing small branches to die back.



Figure 1. Differential grasshopper.



Figure 2. Migratory grasshopper.



Figure 3. Twostriped grasshopper.



Figure 4. Redlegged grasshopper

Natural Controls

The most crucial factors are weather related, particularly around the time of egg hatch. For example, cold, wet weather is very destructive to newly hatched grasshoppers. However, very dry winter and spring conditions also can be harmful to survival since required tender new plant growth is not available.

Some insects commonly feed on grasshoppers. Many species of blister beetles develop on grasshopper egg pods and blister beetle abundance cycles along with their grasshopper hosts.



Figure 6. Grasshopper egg bed.

Adult robber flies are common predators of grasshoppers during summer and other flies develop as internal parasites of grasshoppers. Many birds, notably horned larks and kestrels, feed heavily on grasshoppers. Grasshoppers are also frequently eaten by coyotes.

Managing Grasshoppers with Baits and Sprays

During periods when a local outbreak develops, control usually involves using sprays or baits. To be successful these need to be applied to developing stages of grasshoppers and concentrated at sites where egg laying occurs. Ability to control grasshoppers declines as grasshoppers develop and migrate.

Surveys of grasshoppers can be especially useful in anticipating problems and treating appropriately. Numbers of grasshoppers present in late summer and early fall can be a good indicator of problems the subsequent year. Follow-up surveys the following spring to detect young nymphs can determine when eggs have hatched. Area-wide surveys may locate egg beds and other sites where early season activity originates.

Treatments should be directed at the young grasshoppers and nearby vegetation present in these breeding sites. At lower altitudes, this often occurs in May; early June may be the optimal time for grasshoppers at higher elevations. Sprays of insecticides are most effective at this time and several insecticides are effective (Table 2). Insecticide options are greater for larger acreages and unit costs are less expensive. The addition of canola oil to insecticide sprays can improve control by making treated foliage more attractive to feeding grasshoppers.

- For details on sprays and baits, check out the entire article. [Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Colorado counties cooperating.](#)

SEMG Judi Townsend won the Alameda Greenhouse gift basket on August 11th at the SEMG Summer Social at Heidi's Ice Cream Shop



Four others tied with perfect plant id & MG/Intern meet-and-greet quiz scores:
Jae Riebe, Michelle Wittie, Nancy Stermer and Sharon Walsh.
Judi won the blind drawing amongst the five for the prize.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED #1

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

Throughout the year, 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.

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.

