



Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/>

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

Sandoval County Extension
PO Box 400
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Ph: 505-867-2582
Email: Sandoval@NMSU.edu

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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

Meg Buerkel Hunn, Advisory Council Chair

Autumn has just arrived, blessing us with cooler mornings, colors, harvests from the garden, and events, activities, fiestas and more. This is one of my favorite times of the year, although it inevitably becomes one of the busiest as well (mostly due to a slew of family birthdays to be celebrated).

I've been thinking a lot about the seasons lately. As gardeners, we are probably fairly well tuned into the changing of the seasons - here it means the tomatoes that wouldn't ripen because it was too hot are finally ripe and red or orange, the apples are dropping from the trees, the chickens have slowed down their egg-laying, and nearly all the hummingbirds have left town. Pretty soon, the annuals will die, and the leaves will fall - and, before we know it, perhaps it'll snow!

I love living close to nature like this - it's a privilege to see and experience this firsthand. It is also a reminder that we, too, are a part of nature - we too experience seasons changing. Aches and pains arise, children chart their own paths, friends move away, work changes, death visits. The seasons come and go. It's like the Byrd's song, *Turn! Turn! Turn!* - based on Ecclesiastes 3: "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted..."



On my forays into the Bosque along the river, sunflowers nod to the sunshine across the Rio Grande. They've sprouted from the debris and death of other organisms. Their cheerful 'faces' feed the bees and birds, and their time comes (...all too soon, in my opinion. I would have sunflowers year round if it were up to me!).

At the State Master Gardener Conference this past month, we were reminded that 'our yards are universes,' and to utilize sustainable practices that benefit the creatures with whom we live - including to 'leave the leaves.' This practice not only provides habitat and food for other organisms, but it also saves us time and effort - a win-win in my book!

What do the changing seasons of your garden look like? And how do they inform and influence the changing seasons of your life and living?

~ Meg Buerkel Hunn

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October Garden Checklist

1. Check out clearance sales at in the garden sections. Wonderful time to buy trellises, benches, decorative containers, and garden tools
2. October is a good time to install an irrigation system.
3. Note, in your garden journal, the first day of frost.
4. Consider planting a cover crop. Or at least spread 2" layer of steer manure to age into the soil over the winter.
5. Direct sow cool-season annual herbs in pots full of rich, composted soil by the kitchen door for easy access. (Cilantro, Chervil, Chives, Dill and Parsley)

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

Public Training Opportunities

Ready, Set, Grow 2024 schedule

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 – Flower 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 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUzZfueVHWY>

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Resources At Your Fingertips

Kate Shadock – Editor – SEMG 2018

Late fall and winter is a perfect time to read seed catalogs, make plans to update/change the garden and to research innovative ideas to enhance your gardening knowledge. The vast majority of garden publications stocked near the registers at our local big box stores are full of lush photos of gardens – where growing conditions are quite different than here in the desert.

Learning to “bloom where we are planted” is much easier when local science based experts are available to help offer advice and suggestions about which cultivar of a popular plant will thrive in our growing conditions and answer a myriad of other gardening questions. Even better is when this wealth of knowledge is easily accessible, from your home and free!

Photo: Pexels

In New Mexico that source is <https://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/>

It's well worth bookmarking that link. It will take you to **PLANT ADVISOR** – to help find the perfect plant for your landscape. You can select for full shade or full sun, light water requirements or heavy water needs. You can select from trees, bushes, vines and grasses.

Also through this link you can access **Southwest Yard & Garden How-To Videos** about gardening in the Southwest.

When you are researching a particular garden challenge you might want to use the **Southwest Yard & Garden** file with 25 years of collected Q & A



Photo: NMSU

My personal favorite resource is the **Extension How-To Publications**. Here you can find what tomato species does best in our climate, how to plant them, how to grow them and how to preserve them. You can find expert advice on growing roses in the desert as well as dozens of other topics.

The Melon Patch is a six-year collection of information on gardening in our climate.

Congratulations to Placitas Garden Tour for 8th annual event

Enjoy a [slide show](#) of the 2024 Placitas Garden Tour

For more information of the Placitas 2024 Garden Tour go to: <https://placitasgardentour.com/>

For photos and more information please check out the website details. For the 2025 tour you may submit nominations or your interest in being on next year's garden tour by contacting plactiasgardentour@gmail.com

The garden tour board thanks Sandoval Master Gardeners for their support as guides at individual gardens.

Best Botanical Gardens in the Four Corner States

Excerpted from: [Andrew Gaumond's](#) article, [51 Best Botanical Gardens and Arboretums in the USA](#) published by Petal Republic

[Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#) uses [several criteria](#) to define botanical gardens. Sites must be relatively permanent and open to the public while also performing scientific research on their collections. Most botanical gardens employ botanists for this. Plants must also be clearly labeled for visitors.

Most botanical gardens cultivate a large variety of species. Some botanical gardens specialize in certain groups of plants, especially rare varieties. These horticultural institutions often have several gardens themed around specific plant groups or ecosystems.

Arboretums have similar functions to botanical gardens but focus on trees and shrubs instead of other plants. Arboretums are effectively living museums, especially as some trees can be hundreds or even thousands of years old. These sites cultivate trees for display, conservation, and scientific study.



Credit: Desert Botanical Garden

Arizona – Desert Botanical Garden

Phoenix's stunning Desert Botanical Garden opened in 1939 and now contains a whopping 50,000 plants. The collection includes 380 native Sonoran species, over 4,000 agave plants, and almost 14,000 cacti species.

This collection illustrates the fantastic [variety of plants from desert ecosystems](#) in Arizona, Australia, Baja, [California](#), and South America. A network of themed trails snakes through the 140-acre site, allowing you to experience these diverse habitats. We recommend the Sonoran Desert Nature Loop Trail.

The Desert Botanical Garden also highlights art exhibitions and hosts educational events for all the family.

Colorado – Denver Botanic Gardens

First opened in 1951, the Denver Botanic Gardens is the green heart of the city. The site is famed for having the largest collection of cold climate plants in the US.

Spread across 18 "Gardens of the West", this arid collection includes several species native to the Rocky Mountains.

The 23-acre site has several ornamental gardens as well. Alongside another formal Japanese garden, the Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion and Tea Garden is a beautiful, tranquil space. There's also an Iris and Daylily Garden, a Fragrance Garden, four shady gardens, and two water gardens. Expect a brilliant variety of [native Colorado flowers](#) to feature throughout the gardens.



Credit: Denver Botanic Gardens



Credit: ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden

New Mexico – ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden

Anchored by a 10,000 ft conservatory, the ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden cultivates a collection of plants native to the Southwest. Opened in 1996, the 36-acre garden is part of the wider BioPark site in Albuquerque.

The conservatory encompasses two main zones. The first showcases plants that grow in Mediterranean climates worldwide, including olive trees and myrtles. The second zone displays a xeriscape featuring plants from the deserts of North America.

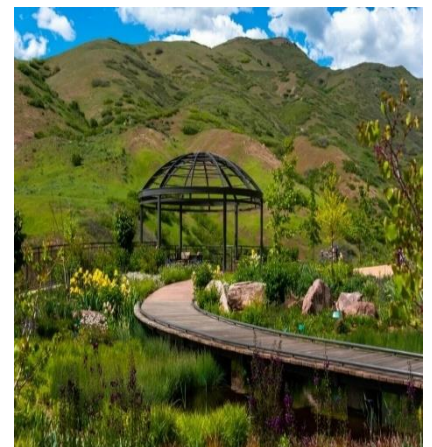
The site also includes several themed Old World Walled Gardens, such as the Spanish-Moorish Garden. Other outdoor gardens include the Sasebo Japanese Garden and the Curandera Garden.

Utah – Red Butte Garden & Arboretum

Covering 100 acres, the University of Utah runs the Red Butte Garden and Arboretum. While the university's botanists conserve and research the collection, visitors can enjoy over 20 acres of themed gardens.

The stunning Four Seasons Garden creates a colorful display throughout the year. This plot also frames Red Butte peak, the backdrop to the gardens. Other themed gardens include the Fragrance Garden, the Medicinal Garden, and the Rose Garden.

The gardens lead into a larger natural area that's laced with walking trails. This area conserves and displays flora native to Utah such as asters, milkweed, maple trees, and cacti.



Credit: Red Butte Garden & Arboretum

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SEMG Members & Interns: It's That Time Again!

Meg Buerkel Hunn, Advisory Council Chair

SEMGs and 2024 Interns: Please be on the lookout for an email survey designed to collect the hours you have given to SEMG in 2024. Each MG needs to complete annually a minimum of

- 10 hours of Continuing Education (earned either by attending the SEMG Intern Training classes or approved continuing education classes)
- 20 hours of Volunteer work - this can be in project gardens, at information tables, on the email helpline, on committees, doing administrative tasks for the organization, etc.
- 10 hours of Outreach - this is volunteer work that occurs directly with the public: helpline, information tables at Growers Markets and other public events, as well as answering questions during Placitas / Corrales Garden Tours.

These hours are reported through our Extension County Director to our funding sources (the USDA, to NMSU, and to Sandoval County) - and show the impact of Master Gardeners in our county and across the state.

In 2023, SEMG had 195 Master Gardeners who volunteered over 9,000 hours in our communities (a value of more than \$300,000). We helped educate our neighbors about the most up-to-date methods of sustainable gardening in the high desert through classes and demonstration gardens, and we raised more than 58,000 pounds of produce for our neighbors who experience food insecurity!

A reminder that all SEMGs (except Life Members) are required to submit their hours and dues on an annual basis. Life Members are encouraged to submit their hours, and may submit dues as a donation. A SEMG who neglects to pay the annual \$25 dues will be moved to Inactive Status, and will not be eligible to vote that calendar year or receive the website password.

A SEMG who is unable to complete their **necessary** volunteer hours (due to illness, caregiving, education, military service, etc) will automatically be placed in Leave of Absence status. If they have paid their dues, they will remain in Active Status and may still vote and receive the website password. All years spent on Leave of Absence and/or Inactive do not count towards the 15 years needed to obtain Life Membership.

For more information, please see our [Membership Policy Document](#) posted at:

<https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/SEMG-Membership-Policies-August-2023.pdf>

Your \$25 annual dues for 2025 may be paid via the [PayPal link](#) on the website and/or mail a check to SEMG Sandoval County Extension P.O.Box 400, Bernalillo, NM 87004 By December 31.

The 2024 Intern training fee INCLUDES your 2025 dues; **2024 Interns do NOT pay 2025 dues.**

Voting for 2025 SEMG leadership (Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer) will take place in late 2024.

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Survey to collect volunteer hours: [2024 SEMG Volunteer Hours](#)

Example:

2024 hours

From Jan 1, 2024, until Dec 31, 2024, I have completed (and anticipate completing)

____ hours Continuing Education

____ hours Outreach

____ hours Volunteer

Come One, Come ALL! You are invited to our 2024 SEMG Intern Graduation and Celebration!

We will gather on **Saturday, November 16, at 10 am**, at **St Francis Episcopal Church** in Rio Rancho to celebrate all 30+ of our newest 2024 Master Gardeners, along with a new Life Member (15 years of SEMG!), and more. This will be followed by a potluck lunch. You and your loved ones are invited.

Please note there are TWO sign-up sheets below:

1. The first sign-up sheet below to RSVP, so we have a head count. This sign-up will ask how many guests will be attending with you.
2. The second sign-up sheet is to let us know if you can help with the set-up and/or clean-up or by contributing food / drink to share.

Please note that you do not have to bring food to come.

*****We do ask for everyone to bring their own plate, cup, and cutlery in an effort to support our mission of sustainability and to decrease the amount of landfill waste we generate.*****

Here are the sign-up sheets:

Graduation Attendance sign-up sheet: <https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/sheet/2024-intern-graduation-life-member-initiation-ceremony-sign-up/>

Help / Food sign-up sheet: <https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/sheet/potluck-labor-sign-up-for-2024-graduation-initiation/>

HELP WANTED #1 – Help Line

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.