



**December 2012
University of
California
Cooperative
Extension
Riverside County**

21150 Box Springs Rd #202
Moreno Valley
CA 92557-8781

951.683.6491 Ext 228
FAX 951.788.2615
TDD 951.276.9539
Email:
ceriveride@ucdavis.edu

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How many
MGs have this
sign posted in
their yards?



GARDEN VIEWS



Provocative Flowering Tree for the Inland Empire

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Imagine living in an area where you can have colorful flowering trees throughout the year. Imagine no more. We have it all here in Riverside County. Flowering trees abound year round. Here are a few that are fairly common and quite easy to grow and maintain for decades. Some we see as street trees, and, others are lovingly tended to by gardeners in their own yards. In January, just as the winter holidays end, ornamental pear, “Cup and Saucer” magnolias, and vibrant flowering quince sprout. Come February, fragrant blossoms from stone fruit trees like plum, peach, and apricot begin to burst into bloom. Ahh, then March & April bring out the gorgeous pink and yellow Tabebuias. In May & June, we see the voluptuous, if messy, Jacarandas. Summer months bring us brilliant colors with Crape Myrtles and Palo Verdes.

So then in October, just when the Crape Myrtles and the Liquid Ambers and even a Ginkgo or two begin to turn colors, out comes this provocative tree with eye-popping pink flowers our “Silk Floss Tree.” Native to Argentina and Brazil, here are some factoids: **Family:** Bombacaceae; **Genus:** *Ceiba* (SAY-bub) **Species:** *speciosa* (spee-see-OH-suh), AKA *Chorisia speciosa*.

Barbed Spine



Seed Balls



Pink Flowers

Silk Floss is a very mysterious tree - with its barbed trunk spines, mango sized cottony seed balls, and flirtatious dark pink flowers. Fall is the time for deciduous trees to kind of lay back to rest. It's here every fall. Enjoy this beauty.

The Garden Glove Buyer's Guide by Kelley Roberson

Recap by Lynn Bailey, Master Gardener



This is the time of year when we might be buying garden gloves for ourselves or for others as a gift. A new pair of gloves is like a pack of seeds - full of the promise of success. The article below is a summary of all you need to consider about a new pair of gloves. It can be found on the Better Homes and Gardens website. The web address is www.bhg.com.

Garden Glove rack from 'Instructables', fleamarketgardening.org

Working with soil can quickly dry out hands and cause cracking, not to mention it can leave behind ground-in dirt that's hard to remove, especially under fingernails. Gloves protect hands from soil and drying, and they provide a barrier to any questionable organisms contained in manure and compost. Gloves can also prevent blisters that result from using shovels, rakes, and other gardening tools. But with the range of choices, we're here to help in the form of a garden glove buyer's guide. The best garden gloves are the ones that fit your hands and the task. If the gloves are too big, they will limit your dexterity and possibly chafe and cause blisters. Small gloves limit hand movement. No one pair of gloves will be ideally suited to all types of gardening activities. Here are the basic types of gardening gloves and the jobs for which they are best suited.

Cloth Gloves

When and how to use them: These gloves are suitable for light planting chores, mixing soil, digging, and raking. Some styles have palms and fingers reinforced with leather or latex, making them longer lasting, better for gripping, and more impervious to prickles and thorns. They can be tossed into the washing machine.

Garden glove tip: Cloth gloves can soak up water and become cold and clammy. They're neither durable nor expensive, so plan on replacing them regularly.

Sheepskin & Goatskin Gloves

When and how to use them: These gloves are suited for planting and digging. They are ideal for cutting, planting, digging, raking, and shoveling. Both sheepskin and goatskin gloves keep your hands relatively dry and remain supple even after they get wet. Stronger than cloth and very comfortable, goatskin gloves are the top of the line in comfort and dexterity. Some styles can be machine-washed.

Garden glove tip: Sheepskin tears more easily than other leathers, so it's less desirable for pruning trees, shrubs, and brambles. These gloves do not stand up well to constant abrasion, so wear heavier-duty cowhide gloves when building a stone wall or patio.



Rubber & PVC-Coated Gloves

When and how to use them: Nothing beats these gloves for working with mud and prickly plants. What these gloves lack in dexterity they make up for in protection. Some styles reach up to your elbow.

Garden glove tip: If you are allergic to rubber, choose the PVC option.

Cowhide & Pigskin Gloves

When and how to use them: Use these gloves for handling wood and rocks, planting trees and shrubs, and operating power equipment. Traditional work gloves, these are generally more durable than other leather gloves.

Garden glove tip: Some types are lined with fleece or wool for winter.

Neoprene & Nitrile Gloves

When and how to use them: These gloves offer the best protection when working with greases, oils, herbicides, pesticides, and other caustic materials.

Garden glove tip: Make sure your gloves are labeled for use with the chemicals you are using.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.**Guide to Fitting Gloves**

For the best fit, try on leather and cloth gloves before you buy. Make a fist and check for any pinching or bulky seams. If trying on isn't possible, hold your hand flat and measure around your hand knuckles (minus thumb) to determine the right size. Then use this general garden glove guide to fit for sizing.

6-1/2 to 7-1/4 inches: Small

7-1/2 to 7-3/4 inches: Medium

8 to 8-3/4 inches: Large

9 to 9-3/4 inches: X-large

10 to 10-3/4 inches: XX-large

11 to 11-3/4 inches: XXX-large

Caring for Gardening Gloves

Keep your garden gloves in tip-top shape with this garden glove guide to care.

Knock the dirt off your gloves when you're finished for the day.

Bring gloves inside to keep them dry.

Dunk cloth and rubber gloves in a bucket of water to remove caked-on mud.

Wipe mud off leather gloves with a rag to help keep them from stiffening.



Linda Sun, Sheila James, Beatrice Etchison admire the Dutch-made potting machine at the recent Kallisto Garden Tour. The machine does the work of 15 people who would normally hand-pot plants for market.

MG Holiday Social Set for December

Date: Saturday, December 1, 2012

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 2882 Arlington Ave., Riverside, 92506

This is a hors d'oeuvre pot luck

RSVP to Carol Haffter at haffter@verizon.net or 951-924-1095

Please bring an unwrapped toy costing \$10.00

Also join the table centerpiece contest. You can use toys, plants or anything you can imagine.



**UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENERS
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators**

Eta Takele UCCE Riverside County Director
951.683.6491 ext. 221

Stephanie Pocock Volunteer Services Coordinator
951.683.6491 ext. 230

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Garden Views

The *Garden Views* newsletter is published monthly, September through June, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

Editor: Janet K. Hough
janetkhough@hotmail.com

Marco Baldi	Lucy Heyming	Beverly Scray
Lynn Bailey	Yvonne Hemenway	Jonathan Simper
Beatrice Etchison	Pat Robertson	Linda Sun
Susan Harris	Stephanie Pocock	
Frank Heyming		

Moving?

Please let us know when you change your address, phone number or email. Contact Stephanie Pocock, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 951.683.6491 x 230 or sapocock@ucanr.edu. She will make sure the information gets changed on the membership roster so you will not miss out on newsletters and emails. Thanks!

To simplify information, trade names have been used. No endorsements of name products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.



**Stephanie's
Corner**

“Anything you can do needs to be done, so pick up the tool of your choice and get started” ...

Ben Linder

Those words can be applied to all of us, sometimes we need to realize that it is time to pick up and get going. Master Gardener Volunteers are a wonderful example of getting started.

Take a look at the calendars on the VMS, where did all of those activities come from? The office or a volunteer received a call or an email or needed help with a project and you always seem to answer. If you find that you are not answering the call to “pick up the tool of your choice”, be it a gardening trowel, or your talent at speaking, or your knowledge about roses, or just fill in the blank, then please ask your self - why?

I’m not saying that you always need to say yes, life happens to each of us and being a volunteer for any organization can lose its importance. The good news is that we will always be here! So if you have been out of contact for a few months or a few years, send me an email or give me a call, I really do want to hear from you.

We are blossoming throughout the County of Riverside from Corona, to Cherry Valley to Indio and most of the points in between. How cool is that???

Enjoy the cooler weather, reconnect with those you may have lost contact with, ‘pick up the tool of your choice’ and get started.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

*I also want to wish a special
Happy Birthday to Ruth Wilson!!*



Stephanie

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

V = Volunteer Hours

CE = Continuing Education Hours

SE = Social Event

2012—DECEMBER

Date	Event	Time	Type
1	MG Holiday Social + Toy Collection. Hope Lutheran Church, 2882 Arlington Ave., Riv., 92506. Hors d'oeuvre potluck.	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	SE
6	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Room A-114, "Vegetables"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
12	Heritage House Garden Workday	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
13	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Room A-114, "Care of Trees in Coachella Valley"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
13	MG Veterans Meeting. WMWD. "Biological Control in the Garden"	6:30 pm - 8:45 pm	CE
14	Riverside Training Class, WMWD. "Water Use and Management"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
15	Heritage House Garden Workday	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
19	MG Advisory Board Meeting, UCR Extension Office	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	V
20	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Room A-114, "Composting"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
25	HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MG NEWSLETTER STAFF !!!		

2013—JANUARY

Date	Event	Time	Type
3	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Room A-114, "Turf"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
10	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Rm A-114, "Plant Pathology"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
10	MG Veteran's Meeting, WMWD, Topic: Edible Landscapes	6:30 pm - 8:45 pm	CE
11	Riverside Training Class, WMWD, "Weed Control"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
15	Citrus Experimental Station Tour, UCR 1,100+ citrus collection	10:30 am - 12:00	CE
16	MG Advisory Board Meeting, UCR Extension Office	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	V
17	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Rm A-114, "Diagnosing Plant Problems"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
23	Heritage House Workday	9:00 am - 12:00	V
24	Veteran's Lunch 'n Learn Meeting. WMWD, Bring your own lunch. Topic	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	CE

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

V = Volunteer Hours

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SE = Social Event

2013—FEBRUARY			
Date	Event	Time	Type
7	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Rm-A-114, "Insects"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
14	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Rm-A-114, "Woody Landscape/ Garden Design"	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
14	MG Veterans Meeting, WMWD, Topic: TBA	6:30 pm - 8:45 pm	CE
	WMWD Garden Docent Day	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	V
	WMWD Garden Workshop:	11:00 - 12 noon	CE
20	MG Advisory Board Meeting, UCR Extension Office	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	V
21	Palm Desert Training Class, UCR Palm Desert, Rm-A-114, Final Exam Review	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE

That's a Good Question!

By Janet K. Hough, Master Gardener

QUESTION: I have oxalis in my vegetable garden. Is there any reason to remove it during the winter? I heard that it helps the soil.

ANSWER: First, Oxalis is a member of the Oxalidaceae family; it is not a clover and it does not add nitrogen to the soil, but is a big consumer of your applied fertilizer. Feel free to remove it.

Second, it is very hard to eradicate. Pre-emergent sprays inhibit the seeds but do not do that much to the robust bulbs. Solarization may work but you may need a second treatment and / or follow-up pulling plant survivors. Glyphosate seems to kill the leaves it is sprayed on but the spray also kills nearby plants, and the spray can get into the water system and cause more harm.

Third, the best way to remove oxalis is to physically remove it. Dig down to remove all bulbs, repeatedly, every week when it is growing. This works if you have a relatively small area to clear. Please do not compost the plant or bulbs—you will have more plants dispersed and growing than you can imagine. Apparently chickens like to dig up and eat the bulbs. If that is an option, give it a try! No UC Research on chickens is available however.

QUESTION: I want to prune my Meyer Lemon Tree, it is 6' tall and wide; it is located in a small garden area; the tree does not get fertilized. Can I prune it now or do I have to wait? Should the center be opened up to allow sun? It produces fruit year round.

ANSWER: You can prune the tree to any size you would like, and pretty much when you like. Cut the branches that are spreading too far or getting too tall back to where they join another branch. Remove branches that cross over the middle of the tree, and open it enough to allow air to circulate and relieve congestion, but not so much as to let the sun directly in, as this might cause sun burn to the fruit.



Cooking Corner goes Cookies

By Lynn Bailey, Master Gardener
By Janet K. Hough, Master Gardener

To reward those faithful readers who take time out of your busy December schedules to read our MG newsletter, I submit a closely guarded family cookie recipe for your holiday baking. These cookies can make anyone become a cookie fan. I have made these for work where people who claim they don't eat sweets swarm the desert table and shamelessly leave with a handful. Happy Holidays from Lynn.

Cinnamon Sugar Cookies (aka Snickerdoodles)

1 cup butter (softened)	4 1/3 Cups flour
1 cup sugar	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup powdered sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup vegetable oil	1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 eggs	1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon vanilla	1 cup ground nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter, sugars and oil. Add the eggs and vanilla; mix well. Add flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon and cream of tartar. Stir in nuts. Roll dough into balls. Place on greased baking sheet - flatten with the bottom of a buttered glass dipped in sugar. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes.

Unlike Lynn, my family recipe is no secret, everyone who eats these pumpkin cookies asks for the recipe and I gladly share. Although we did not grow pumpkins in our garden when I was growing up, you can 'smoosh' 3.5 cups of fresh pumpkin and substitute for the 29 oz. can of canned pumpkin mentioned in the recipe. Tastes great either way! Happy holidays from Janet.

Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Cookies

1 C. liquid shortening	2 tsp. nutmeg
3 C. sugar	2 tsp. cinnamon
2 eggs	1 large can pumpkin, 29 oz.
5 C. sifted flour	2 C. chocolate chips
2 tsp. baking powder	1 C. walnuts, chopped
2 tsp. baking soda	2 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. salt	

Mix shortening & sugar; add eggs, beat well. Add vanilla. Sift flour mixture alternately with pumpkin then shortening & sugar mix. Beat after each addition. Fold in choc. chips & nuts. Drop onto greased cookie sheet, bake 375 degrees for 10 min. Makes 4-5 dozen cookies.



Playing Smart By Susan K. Perry
[Recap from Chapter 8, "Children in the Garden"]

By Janet K. Hough, Master Gardener

Children who garden grow in many ways themselves:



- They are taught to respect and cooperate with the natural world
- They learn patience
- They learn how to plan
- They learn how to follow directions
- They learn how to observe results
- They develop an awareness of natural cycles
- Their interest in nutrition and their feelings of self-reliance increase when they plant things they can eat and share with their family members and friends

Gardening:

- * Is an art form – combining sizes, shapes, colors into an attractive whole; creativity blossoms as the child discovers that most of the rules of gardening are flexible and open to experimentation
- * Generates psychological benefits including: the joy of nurturing living things and watching them develop and taking responsibility for maintaining these living things over time
- * Creates a life-long passion to be shared and handed down from generation to generation
- * Provides respite from structured, stressful, competitive endeavors



December ***** January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to everyone!



Barbara Lauck
 Beverly Scray
 Beverly Buckley
 Cathleen Konyin
 Cathy Godfrey
 Chad Young
 Cindy Peterson
 Deni Curtis
 Dolores Purther
 Dori Breshers
 Elaine Byrd
 Janet Hough
 Janis Collis
 Jonathan Simper-Turney
 Karen Bradford
 Kathy Miller

Lana Hapeman
 Larry Fechter
 Linda Sun-Kilfeather
 Lou Fawley
 Marcille Christian
 Marie Strom
 Marjorie Robinson
 Rita Skwara
 Ron Routon
 Sandra Norton
 Sheilah Bellew
 William Reid

Andy Cannella
 Angele Fite
 Audry McDonald
 Bruce Wilson
 Carmen Castillo
 Carol Rochlin
 John Ernsberger
 John Kaczmarek
 Jorge Gamboa

Julie Kretz
 Kevin Russell
 Laura Afansev
 Linda Shuler
 Lisa Nagurski
 Ruth Wilson
 Shelley Craig
 Tom Vineski

Garden Views



Veteran MG Classes:

Evenings: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, WMWD

December 13, 2012 Biological Control in the Garden

January 10, 2013 Edible Landscapes

Lunch n' Learn: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, WMWD

December 2012 No Meeting for December

January 24, 2013 Edible Landscapes

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Riverside County
21150 Box Springs Rd. Ste 202
Moreno Valley, CA 92557
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