Growing Sweet Corn in the Low Desert

In the low desert, sweet corn is a warm season crop that is usually planted either in the spring from mid-February through March or late summer from mid-August to early September. The best planting time depends on whether it is an early, mid- or late season variety. Sweet corn needs fertile soil, lots of space, and lots of water. It thrives in hot weather. Most varieties perform well in either spring or fall and will pollinate well if planting is timed so the tassels start to develop when daytime temperatures are below 100°F.

The four types of sweet corn commonly grown are normal hybrids (su), sugar-enhanced hybrids (se/eh and se+), super sweet or shrunken hybrids (sh2), and open pollinated heirlooms. ‘Su’ types are the original hybrids with traditional sweet corn flavor, are tender and sweet when first picked, but lose sweetness soon after harvesting. ‘Su’ varieties include Golden Cross Bantam, Silver Queen, Iochief, and Sunglow. ‘Se’ varieties are hybrids genetically modified from a cross between an ‘su’ parent and an ‘se’ parent whereas ‘se++’ is a second generation cross between two ‘se’ parents. It is not necessary to isolate either ‘se’ or ‘se++’ types from ‘su’ varieties. These types have an increased level of sugar and the flavor is extended by slowing the conversion to starch. Popular ‘se’ varieties include Breeder’s Choice, Kandy Korn, and Bodacious (se+).

The super sweet ‘sh/sh2’ hybrids are very sweet and the conversion of sugar to starch is considerably slower, both on the stalk and after picking. These may not be the best choice for beginning gardeners. Germination is often spotty and it is necessary to pay close attention to planting depth, soil temperature and soil moisture to ensure uniform germination. Fall cropping may be best in the low desert because of the higher soil temperature in August which is needed for ‘sh2’ germination. If planted in the spring, it is best to wait until late March after the soil temperature is higher to plant this type. Isolation from ‘su’ and ‘se’ types is required (250-ft. recommended) to prevent cross pollination, else the kernels will be tough and starchy in both types.

The yield from open pollinated varieties is often lower than the hybrids and most are long season, but one advantage is the ability to save seeds to plant without having to rely on garden centers and mail order companies to supply the seed. Old traditional varieties that are still available include Golden Bantam, Country Gentleman, and Stowell’s Evergreen. There are always an even number of rows of kernels on an ear of corn. Most hybrids will have 12-14, 14-16, or 16-18 for a particular variety. Golden Bantam, which was introduced in 1902, is unique in that it always has exactly 8 rows per ear. The white Country Gentleman is termed a “shoe-peg” variety that has irregular, indiscernible rows. Stowell’s Evergreen is a white ancestor of Silver Queen that has been grown continuously for about 150 years. There are also a number of old open pollinated varieties originally grown by Native Americans. These are available from specialty mail order suppliers like Native Seeds/SEARCH, Plants of the Southwest, and Seeds of Change. Open pollinated varieties need to be isolated.

Planting instructions provided by seed companies usually recommend planting 3 or 4 kernels in hills or rows 2½- to 3-ft. apart with at least 4 rows to ensure pollination. With our hot summer winds, the rows on the windward side (south or north) will dry out faster than the others, become sunburned or windburned, become stunted, and be inadequately pollinated resulting in only ¼ of the plants being productive. Close planting in a square bed will reduce water evaporation and allow more efficient irrigation but can also result in stunting and stubbin production if planted too densely. We have had good results with a minimum 12-ft. square area (144 sq. ft.) and planting on 18- to 24-in. centers.

Prepare the planting bed 1-2 months before planting by rototilling or spading to a depth of 12-in., then mixing in about 4-in. of a clean organic mulch. Sprinkle ammonium phosphate fertilizer (or an equivalent organic fertilizer) and soil sulfur uniformly over the 12-ft. square area, work into the top 2- to 4-in. of soil, and rake the bed to level. Flood irrigate to leach out the salts and activate the microorganisms in the soil. Before planting, loosen the soil again to a 4- to 6-in. depth and level it with a rake. Plant two seeds 1- to 2-in. deep (1-in. the spring) in holes 18-in. apart (24 holes, 18-in. apart, 24 X 24 for tall 7-ft. plus stalks like Kandy Korn) in the 12-ft. square bed. If the soil is lacking in organic matter, cover the seeds with a handful of potting soil to prevent the soil from crustling and inhibiting germination. Keep the seed bed moist, not soaking wet, by hand sprinkling with a fine mist water breaker on a garden hose. When the plants are 3- to 4-in.

Continued on page 13.
Healthy Gardening
Valley Fever

Now that the winter season is here, Valley gardeners are preparing for our busiest gardening season locally. Winter also brings lengthy colds, respiratory allergies, and flu to many of us. You know the common symptoms — fatigue, cough, chest pain, fever, headaches, and joint aches. But did you know that these are also the common symptoms for Valley Fever?

*What is Valley Fever?* Newcomers hear about Valley Fever (VF) from their neighbors who have lived here awhile. But do we really need to be concerned? VF, also called “desert fever,” “desert rheumatism,” or “San Joaquin valley fever” derives its name from its discovery in the San Joaquin valley in California. VF is an airborne fungal disease that attacks the lungs, caused by the fungus *Coccidioides immitis* (its medical name is Coccidiomycosis). This fungus grows in soils in areas of low rainfall, high summer temperatures, and moderate winter temperatures. This is why the fungus is endemic (prevalent) in Arizona. Fungal spores are carried by the wind, inhaled into our lungs and then produce disease.

VF symptoms usually occur within 3 weeks of exposure. It is not contagious person-to-person or animal-to-person, and second infections are rare. VF is most likely to occur in June, July, October, and November in Arizona.

*What are the symptoms?* The most common symptoms are fatigue, cough, chest pain, fever, headache, joint aches, and rash (painful red bumps on the shins or elsewhere that slowly turn brown, called erythema nodosum). Most people in Arizona have a very mild case, with 60% having no symptoms or just mild flu-like symptoms, not needing medical treatment. Thirty percent have mild to moderate cases. Most healthy people completely recover in 6 months. But 5% develop VF pneumonia that leads to the development of nodules in the lungs (which still may produce no symptoms). However on chest X-ray these nodules may resemble lung cancer and diagnosis may require the removal of the nodule by bronchoscopy, needle-aspiration or surgery. Another 5% (usually older adults) develop lung cavities which may cause no symptoms or may rupture causing chest pain, difficulty breathing and may require surgical repair.

Of the VF patients who seek medical care, 1-2% develop spread (dissemination) to other parts of their body. Common sites are the skin, bones and joints — especially the knees, vertebrae and wrists. Bone and joint changes can be seen on X-ray or CT scan. Meningitis is the most lethal complication (fatal to less than 1%), and diagnosis requires a spinal tap with symptoms being headache, vomiting, a stiff neck, and central nervous system disturbances.

*Who gets it?* In the United States, more than 4 million people live in endemic areas, with 80% of these people living in southern Arizona. In the southwestern US there are approximately 100,000 new infections each year. There are a few reasons for recent increases in our Valley: 1) recent climate changes, where prolonged drought makes the fungus more likely to be airborne, 2) the influx of new non-immune elderly people with chronic diseases, and 3) an increase in land development, which puts more spores into the air.

People in certain occupations, such as construction, agricultural work, archeology, and work involving disturbing desert soils (such as gardens) have an increased risk of exposure and disease. Domestic and native animals are also susceptible to disease (dogs, horses, cattle, sheep, burros, coyotes, rodents, bats, and snakes). Dogs are especially susceptible and often need long-term antifungal medicines.

*Who gets disseminated VF disease?* There are no racial or gender differences for susceptibility to primary infections. But disseminated VF disease risk factors are: 1) male gender, 2) African-American and Filipino races are at greatest risk, with Native American, Hispanic, and Asian races having a slightly higher rate of spread than the general population, and 3) immuno-suppressed patients (those with HIV, Hodgkins disease, those who have received organ transplants, diabetics, women in their third trimester of pregnancy, and those on chronic corticosteroid therapy) are also at increased risk.

*How is it diagnosed?* Since many VF symptoms are common to other illnesses, diagnosis may be delayed. VF should be suspected if you live in or have traveled to an endemic area (southern Arizona, southern Nevada, southern Utah, southern New Mexico, western Texas, the San Joaquin and Central Valleys of California, the regions of Sonora and Chihuahua in Mexico, and semiarid and arid regions of Central and South America).

*Continued on page 17.*
Healthy Gardening (Continued from page 16)

Diagnosis includes laboratory tests, skin tests, and X-rays. In the lab, microscopic identification of the fungus (spherules) can be found in infected tissues, sputum or body fluids. Cultures of C. immitis can also be grown from tissue specimens, sputum, or body fluids. Specific VF serology blood and body fluid tests can detect antibodies to VF. A positive blood test almost always means a patient has VF; however, ¼ of all patients with VF are negative on their first test, so serology tests may need to be repeated.

Skin tests (called coccidioidin or spherulin) indicate prior exposure to the VF fungus. Since skin test reactivity is lifelong, the skin test may not be helpful to detect current infection. Occasionally routine X-rays may detect VF lung cavities in a person with no symptoms. But if the disease is mild the chest X-ray will be normal.

What is the treatment? There are no vaccines and antibiotics are not effective against VF. Ninety percent of people with VF will require no treatment. In severe cases, antifungal drug therapy is needed (such as Ketoconazole, Itraconazole, Fluconazole, Amphoteracin B). Occasionally surgical removal of a VF lung cavity is necessary, or surgical drainage of a VF abscess in a bone or joint.

Conclusions. In 1995, the Valley Fever Center for Excellence (VFCE) was established to promote education research, and patient care for VF in the community. This nonprofit Center in Tucson is jointly sponsored by the University of Arizona and the Tucson Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. They maintain a telephone hotline at 520-629-4777. Or you can send e-mail at vf@arlington.arizona.edu for further information.

So, gardeners remember that Valley Fever can be a serious illness to some people. The only way to prevent the disease is to avoid breathing the air in Arizona (which is impossible unless we move away or die). Remember if you experience any of the listed symptoms, especially if they persist into the summer and fall months, ask your health care provider about Valley Fever.

Vicky Burke
Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner & Master Gardener

Information for this article was provided by The Valley Fever Center for Excellence.

Neophyte Nook
How Often Should I Water?

Irrigation frequency is another of those mystical elements that make up the “irrigation enigma,” along with water placement, duration and a few odds and ends. There are no one-sized-fits-all answers here, but we do have some guidelines.

With most of our low desert soils, mature desert-adapted plants generally do well with water every 10 to 14 days in summer, every 2 to 3 weeks in spring and every 4 to 5 weeks in winter. Large natives may need water once a month only through the hot months, and marginally adapted plants such as citrus may prefer an 8 or 9 day schedule in summer and 3 to 4 weeks in winter. Most plants less than 3 years old benefit from water twice a week in summer, and established potted plants maybe once a week.

Experiment with lengthening your intervals. Keep an eye out for leaf drooping, leaf loss and mild wilt, but remember that some “afternoon wilt” on hot days is to be expected as transpiration outstrips root absorption. It’s been my observation that many landscape plants can thrive on a longer interval between watering than one might think.

On the other hand, if you happen to notice afternoon wilt on your shade tree one day, and the next morning the leaves are still wilted, and before you know it the leaves have fallen to the ground and decomposed and turned to mulch, and there’s a dark-hooded figure with a scythe standing next to the tree, then perhaps you waited too long.

Michael W. Mekelburg
Master Gardener

1999 Gardening
“Coming Attractions”

3/13 Master Gardeners’ Spring Garden Fair
3/19-3/21 Desert Botanical Garden Plant Sale
3/27 Valley of the Sun Gardeners Garden Tour
4/25 Mesa-East Valley Rose Society Garden Tour
Compost is King
Trouble-Shooting The Pile... or What Can I Do If The Micro-Workers Seem To Be On Strike?

Is the compost pile you put together so eagerly a month ago just sitting there, apparently twiddling its ‘thumbs’ and doing nothing? Are you scratching your head and wondering what happened to all those micro-workers you were supposed to have under ‘contract’? Did they confer in whispers around the water cooler and conspire to undermine your management by going on an unauthorized labor strike? Did the aerobic bacteria ‘walk out’ on you and leave your compost pile cold, wet, or stinky?

Oh no, the “good guy” micro-workers wouldn’t deliberately sabotage your soil-enriching plans like that, boss. Your micro-workers are quivering and panting eagerly to help you get your wonderful compost! It’s a win-win situation for them as well as for you. By enjoying the personal benefit of a continuous Thanksgiving Feast on the delicious and balanced organic elements you have provided for their dining pleasure, they work hard to produce the compost as quickly as possible for you. So if there’s a problem with your pile, then the problem will find its usual cause in one of the unmet temperatures, air, water, or food needs of the micro-workers. Adjust the factor(s) that’s not working and the assembly line will happily resume operation at full strength.

You’ll need to perform a management analysis of the problem. Of course, Mother Nature will be sure to leave some clues to help you solve the problem. All you have to do is pay attention and she will tell you what’s wrong with the pile. Once you know what’s wrong, a management decision followed by decisive action will take care of it. Fortunately, most of the problems you could encounter have relatively simple solutions!

Problem List
1. The pile has a “rotten” odor. This is the result of the anaerobic bacteria (the “not-as-good guys”) invading the pile. This situation generally happens for one of two reasons. Either there’s too much water or there’s not enough air in the pile. The over-enthusiastic watering of the compost heap or perhaps allowing too much rain to fall on the pile creates conditions which drown the aerobic “good guy” bacteria and allows the anaerobic bacteria to ferment the organic material instead. This results in an aroma which can best be classified as an assault on the nose of anyone within smelling distance. Turn the pile and/or add dry, absorbent materials such as straw or dry leaves. You can also use wood chips and sawdust to absorb the extra moisture, but be aware that using these materials which take longer to break down will also affect the amount of time it will take to have compost.

The rotten odor can also develop if the organic material has compacted down into a mass which prevents free air circulation from occurring. The “good guys” can’t work if they can’t breathe. If the problem is due to compaction, then simply turn the pile and allow air to get into the mass. If you like, you can also decrease the size of the pile. I don’t like that option because I can never seem to get enough compost as it is!

2. There’s an ammonia odor coming from the pile. The cause is simple. There’s too much ‘green’ nitrogen and not enough ‘brown’ carbon in the pile so the excess nitrogen from the ‘green’ materials (in the form of ammonia) is vented to the air instead of being enthusiastically used by the microbes. This problem also ranks pretty high on the ‘Super-Smelly Index.’ Looking at gorgeous flowers while smelling sinuscenealing, ammonia-flavored nose-bombs somehow detracts from the pleasant gardening experience. Too many grass clippings and not enough leaves in the pile can make this a fairly common occurrence.

Add high carbon materials like straw, leaves, sawdust, or wood chips, to the (let’s face it) slimy mess. Mix the ‘browns’ evenly into the compost so they can balance the excess nitrogen-producing ‘greens.’ The compost pile works best at a carbon-nitrogen ratio of 30:1 ‘brown’ to 1:1 ‘green.’ That will take care of the odor and help change the texture of the compost in the pile. Don’t forget to leave a layer of ‘browns’ on top to help contain the aroma until the pile regains its composture!

3. The pile isn’t getting hot. This is the most common problem home composters’ face. Compost will still happen, but it will happen at a snail’s pace. The microbes that work at the lower temperatures are the slowest of your micro-workers. The job will still get done, eventually, despite their frequent “power naps” and 2-hour lunch breaks. This is only a problem if you want your compost to be ready in less than a year or two and if you want to forego the advantage of heat-treating any weed seeds and cooking any potential disease-producing contaminants in your pile.

There are generally 5 factors which can contribute to a low pile temperature: A) the pile is too small to contain the heat, B) there’s not enough moisture, C) there isn’t quite enough air, D) there are not enough ‘greens’ or other nitrogen source, or E) possibly the weather is too cold to allow heat to build up and be retained in the pile. A little detective work will indicate which factor (or combination of factors) is the problem.

If you decide you want a hot pile in the ole backyard tonight, here’s what you can do about it:
A) if the pile is too small, then add more ingredients, maintaining the right carbon-nitrogen ratio until you can bring the Continued on page 19.
Compost is King (Continued from page 18)

D) if there’s not enough moisture, turn the pile and moisten the materials as you go. It’s better to mix the water in as you turn the pile to ensure more even moisture levels throughout than to wait and dump gallons of water on top of the pile and hope every microbe’s neighborhood gets some. The outsides and edges of the pile tend to dry out faster than the interior. Be sure to take the drier materials from the sides and mix them toward the center as you go.

C) if the problem is lack of sufficient air, that’s easily remedied by turning and aerating the materials.

D) if the problem is lack of nitrogen, then mix in some richer nitrogen sources such as grass clippings, coffee grounds, fertilizer, or appropriate animal manures such as that provided by chickens, cows, or rabbits. With the possible exception of rabbit manure, rich raw manures are best composted before being put into the garden soil.

E) it is doubtful that the Valley of the Sun will get cold enough to severely inhibit the micro-workers from producing compost in a normal sized pile, but if it does happen then there are a couple of things you could try. You can simply increase the size of the compost pile to form a bigger mass which will help retain the internally produced heat better. You can also ‘insulate’ the pile by putting a layer of straw or leaves around it. If wind is a factor in cooling your pile, put a wind-break between the pile and the prevailing direction of the wind.

4. The pile is too hot. Normally, high temperatures are good for the pile because they destroy insect eggs, disease microbes, etc., but if the pile is too hot (approximately 170°F and above) for too long then the microbes are inhibited from doing their work and decomposition of the organic material actually slows down. Only a few of the very hardiest thermophilic (heat-lovin’) microbes are happy on the job at that temperature! Whew! Bring on the iced tea and the window fans... This is more likely to be a weather-related condition in the Arizona low desert than cold temperatures. Shading the pile from the intense heat of a desert summer sun will be necessary.

The two usual causes of a too-hot pile are insufficient ventilation or the compost pile is simply too big. Increase ventilation, turn the pile and/or add bulkier materials to improve air flow. If the problem is too big a pile, then either reduce it in size, conserving the materials for later use, or divide the heap into two piles. Creating two piles, of course, follows that general human principle of “More is Better.”

5. There’s critters in the pile. One view of a compost heap is that it is a miniature eco-system. Living things (creatures with too many legs) belong in there; they serve a vital function to the health and well-being of a compost heap and are part of Mother Nature’s Grand Process. So you can expect to see living creatures like worms, sowbugs, ants, beetles, etc. and perhaps the occasional spider or little lizard peeking at you from under a leaf.

There are, however, creatures you don’t need poking around in your compost factory! Rats, mice, dogs, even an occasional snake might decide your compost heap is the upscale place to be. (People who live on the fringes of urban areas frequently play unwilling host to assorted wild desert life.) Rats and mice are drawn to the compost heap if you put meat scraps or fatty foods in there. When rodents move in, snakes sometimes follow, looking for their favorite lunch of Mouse a la Mousse. Dogs are also attracted to meat scraps or the occasional banana peel or tomato. They are not above really digging into the compost situation to see if they can find tidbits they like better, either.

The simplest way to avoid the problem is to avoid putting meaty or fatty scraps in the compost heap. If you have to put them in a compost pile (definitely not recommended) bury the remains deep in the pile and cover the scraps with a layer of soil or sawdust. Redesign your compost bin to be friendly but critter-proof. Fido’s been a member of the family too long to be sent to the county pound and abandoned to the unreliable kindness of strangers. Hardware cloth over and under the bin or a fence surrounding the heap, etc. can help you keep your compost heap from suffering the unwelcome attentions of critters. There are also live traps such as the Hav-a-heart brand which can nab that “wascally wabbit” or the neighbor’s cat without harming them. If the ants try to build a colony in the middle of your Compost Paradise, you can discourage them by turning the heap frequently; they really, really don’t like that. It wouldn’t hurt to turn the pile just to increase the heat. There’s nothing like a four-footed or six-footed hotfoot to help discourage a critter’s personal attentions in so impolitely pilfering your pile. With just a little bit of time and attention, those pesky little compost problems can be easily remedied.

It won’t be long before your “good guy” micro-workers will be back on the job full-strength and working hard to produce one of the best soil amendments around for The Boss. Best of all— they do it for free! Happy Composting!

C. Dawn Earle
Master Gardener & Master Composter

Resources: Master Composter Manual from the Master Composter Program sponsored by the Arizona Recycling Coalition Organic Products Committee, U of A Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. With special thanks to Annette Weaver, Master Composter.

Environmentally Responsible Gardening
http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden
Garden Recycling
Useful Newspaper

Some things are easily recycled outside of the garden. One of these things is regular newspaper. It seems recycling bins are readily available and there is a market for newsprint. For this reason, I hesitate to suggest recycling newspaper in the garden, but it has so many uses and so many of us purchase newspapers, it's a tightwad's dream.

However, before recycling newspaper in your garden, check with your local paper to be sure they use only soy inks. Some ink, particularly colored ink, can contain ingredients you wouldn't want in a vegetable garden.

That said, what could you do with newspaper in the garden? It can be used in thick layers for mulch to suppress weeds and turf. I've seen this suggested in permaculture information. It can be shredded and used for "brown" material in the compost pile. Newspaper can be wrapped around a soup can, and the resulting biodegradable pot used to start seedlings that can be planted pot and all.

My husband, the artistic one in the family, came up with these suggestions: use strips of newspaper to paper-mâché the outside of a worn or cracked plastic pot to reuse both the pot and the newspaper. Or even make paper-mâché figures with newspaper strips, paint them bright colors and place them in the garden! I hope you find some of these suggestions useful and would certainly like to hear from others how you have recycled household items in your garden.

Coral Gallagher
Master Gardener

Calendar of Events (Continued from page 21)

2/19 - 2/21 Annual Show by Central Arizona Cactus & Succulent Society, Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., call Debra at 493-7003.

2/20 & 2/21 Bonsai Display at Matsuri (Japanese Festival) at Heritage Square, 6th St. and Monroe St., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., call Robert at 486-1687.


Computer Corner

It seems that it is difficult to try and find natural and/or organic products/methods for gardening. You go to your local nursery and they haven't quite caught on to stocking more products for the organic gardener. So, here is a website that has it all: organic soil amendments, fertilizers and their most predominant product, Biological Controls. The site is www.biconet.com/ARBICO.html and then scroll down to the title Arizona Biological Controls, Inc. Arbico (Arizona Biological Controls, Inc.) offers fertilizers, soil amendments, natural pet products, cover crops and IPM (integrated pest management) products and is located in Tucson. IPM for those who don’t know and to the best of my knowledge is basically controlling pests, i.e. whiteflies, hornworms and termites, using non-chemical methods.

In addition to the products they offer there are email addresses that you can access with questions you might have regarding their products and pest management. There are oodles of information in this web site. There is an educational materials section that does book reviews and you can order the books through the amazon.com web site. There are great links to other gardening sites. When you click on one of their products there is a good explanation of that product and how it is used. In addition to that there are other references you can click for more information. For example, I clicked on beneficial nematodes and it gave an explanation of the nematodes and at the bottom 4 other references to click on for more information to include pictures. This is just in the Arbico part of this site. The actual Biological Network site has more information regarding IPM.

The Arbico site is very easy to move around in and has an index at the bottom of the page which lists all the other info in the section again so you don’t have to back out. Above the information, it has previous and next buttons on the table of contents. I found it very easy to move and could have spent a lot of time surfing all the info in this site. For those of you who garden organically, big or small, this is the site you need to check out.

Kathy Caudle
Master Gardener
Calendar of Events

January
1/2 Rose pruning demonstration by Phoenix Rose Society at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix at 1 p.m. Call Paul at 937-5713.

1/7 “Garden Design” by Ron Dinchak, Arizona Herb Assn. at Pueblo Grande Museum, Community Room, 4519 E. Washington St., Phoenix, at 7 p.m., call 470-8086 Ext 830

1/8 - 1/10 Phoenix Home & Garden Show at State Fairgrounds, W. McDowell, Phoenix. Open Fri. & Sat. from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission $4, Parking $5. Ticket office 258-6711

1/9 “Plant a Desert Landscape” by Michelle Rauscher at Desert Botanical Garden, Webster Auditorium, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m., cost for members $10, others $12, call 941-1225.

1/9 & 1/16 Rose pruning by Mesa-East Valley Rose Society at Pioneer Park, Mesa, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., call Larry at 706-9667.

1/9, 1/16, 1/23 & 1/30 Rose pruning by Mesa-East Valley Rose Society at Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., call Carol at 895-7793.

1/10 Winter rose pruning by the Rose Society of Glendale, Dr Field’s office at the SE corner of 45th Ave. and Northern Ave., 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., call Bill or Candy at 878-9607.

1/16 Rose pruning demonstration by Phoenix Rose Society from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Harper Nurseries at the following locations: East Thomas, Mesa, Surprise and Scottsdale, and Valley Garden Center starting at 1 p.m. Call Paul at 937-5713.

1/16 Rose pruning demonstrations by West Valley Rose Society starting at 10 a.m. at the following nurseries: Paradise Nursery, Sun City Nursery and Baker Nursery. Call Nelson at 412-1586.

1/16 Fruit Crops Field Day, Greenfield Citrus Nursery, north Mesa, 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., call (602) 470-1556 press 1012. Fruit tasting along with the latest research, pruning techniques, fertilization and irrigation will be featured at two separate Fruit Crops Field Days in January. The cost is $5. For info,visit http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/html/calendar/taste.htm.

1/17 Pruning demonstration by Valley of the Sun Gardeners at Paul Lynch residence, 6810 N. 7th St., Phoenix, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Peaches, apples, grapes, plums and citrus will be pruned, call Paul at 937-5713.

1/21 “Safety Issues Related to the Use of Chemicals in your Garden” by Mike Jepsen at Maricopa Cooperative Extension, Palo Verde Auditorium, Valley of the Sun Heritage Rose Assn., 7 p.m., call John at 380-6840. This talk will be of interest to everyone who gardens and uses chemicals. Members of the Heritage Rose Assn. will be working at the garden on the grounds of the Extension Office every Saturday in January from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. doing pruning and other rose care chores.

1/23 1st Annual Urban Tree Care Clinic, ASU Memorial Union, Tempe, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pre-registration is required because of limited space. Call 965-8467 to register. More info on page 4.

1/23 Fruit Crops Field Day, Citrus Agricultural Center, Waddell, 9 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., call (602) 470-1556 press 1013. See info for 1/16.

1/30 “Hummingbird Gardens for the Desert” by Sylvia Yoder, Desert Botanical Garden, Webster Auditorium, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix, 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Cost for members $15/others $18, call 941-1225.

February

2/11 & 2/12 6th Annual High Desert Gardening & Landscaping Conference, Sierra Vista, AZ. Sponsored by the Cochise County Master Gardeners Association in conjunction with The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. 22 sessions featuring national, state, and local expert speakers. An educational, fun experience for everyone with a love of gardening, food production, landscaping, and environmental stewardship. For more information call (520) 458-8278 ext. 141.

2/12 - 2/14 Phoenix Bonsai Society will participate in the Phoenix Chinese Week at the Chinese Cultural Center at 44th St. north of Van Buren, call Robert at 486-1687.


2/13 Annual Show & Sale, Desert Sun African Violet Society, Chris Town Mall, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., call Susan at 437-2437.

2/13 & 2/14 “The Language of Flowers” Flower Show, a living display of plants and their blossoms designed to interpret the language of flowers, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Superior, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., admission is $5 for adults. Call 520-689-2811.

2/17 Mixed Media Designs by Doris Helvig, Gardeners & Arrangers Guild, Valley Garden Center, 7 p.m., call Betty at 375-9958.

Continued on page 20.
Don’t Miss the
Urban Homeowner Tree Care Clinic
January 23, 1999 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Arizona State University
Free Admission!

See page 4 inside for details.

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