

# Santa Fe Master Gardener Newsletter

## The Fragrant Garden

By Chris Durlak

*“It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves.”  
Robert Louis Stevenson*

When thinking of plants, and especially flowering ones to plant for the garden, what better choices than those that provide scents that are pleasing not only to our noses, but also to those of other creatures who may “smell” them, such as pollinators? The plants described here, native to our region, are some of those that most certainly will enhance the “fragrant garden.”



**Chocolate Flower** (*Berlandiera lyrata*)—a member of the Aster family. This perennial is long-lived and its aroma of chocolate is not to be missed. It has clumps of lemon-yellow flowers with brown centers, blooms in spring and summer, and requires little water.

**Mojave Sage** (*Salvia poachyphylla*)—actually a member of the mint family, this plant’s blooms are larger than most other sages, and its lovely bluish-purple flowers last all summer long. A California native, it thrives in the Southwest and requires little water. Touching the silver-gray foliage elicits the pleasant sage aroma; burning sage was used in Native American ceremonies to cleanse or purify. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds are also attracted to this showy plant’s blooms.



**Purple Hyssop** (*Agastache Purple Haze*)—a hybrid Hyssop, also known as Hummingbird Mint. Tall purple and blue flower spikes adorn this sun-loving plant that has aromatic foliage and flowers that attract bees and butterflies. Fairly drought-resistant, its blooms are attractive in flower arrangements.

*cont. on page 2*



### Western Wallflower

(*Erysimum asperum*)—grows in low elevation scrublands, mountain brush, and pinyon-juniper communities in a variety of soils. Its name may come from a relative that grows against stone walls in Europe. It is a biennial or short-lived perennial with tall stems and dense clusters of yellow flowers at the top. The flowers have an aroma that is slightly sweet with a touch of ammonia, and is attractive to some species of bees.



Using fragrant plants in our gardens is a pleasant aromatic experience for us as gardeners as well an attractive landscape feature that will definitely encourage other visitors such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to “smell” and pollinate.

References: [npsnm.unm.edu](http://npsnm.unm.edu); [plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov); [santafebotanicalgarden.org](http://santafebotanicalgarden.org); [www.desertusa.com](http://www.desertusa.com).

Photos: [www.desertusa.com](http://www.desertusa.com) (Wildflower Field Guide); High Country Gardens catalogue (Purple Haze Hyssop); Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Linda Churchill (Mojave Sage).

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Editor-Cherry Payne  
Art Director-Jannine Cabossel



# Message from the Board

By Pamela Wolfe

Spring is just around the corner, 2017 interns are working hard and have settled in to their classes, and plans for the annual Garden Fair and Plant Sale are well underway; mark your calendar for the first Saturday in May (May 6, 9 am to 1 pm). The demonstration gardens on campus will be staffed and volunteer opportunities will be offered on Sign Up Genius (SUG). Here are some highlights from the March calendar:



**3rd Annual Project Expo & Ice Cream Social:** On March 18, we will have our 3rd Annual Project Expo & Ice Cream Social from 1 - 3 pm. Keep an eye out for an eBlast announcing location details. This gives all of us a chance to explore the projects' goals, activities, and Continuing Education events this year. There will also be a seed exchange: bring some, take some. Just make sure that what you bring is carefully labeled. This will also be an opportunity for veteran Master Gardeners to ask questions about Sign Up Genius (SUG) and Track It Forward (TIF) — folks will be on hand to help you out. This event is limited to Master Gardeners and interns only.

**Project sign ups** go “live” on Sign Up Genius (SUG) the evening of March 18th at 6 pm. (Master Gardeners and interns only.)

**Gardening 101:** This year, we are once again offering our Vegetable Gardening 101 series. These classes are specifically for the public, not Master Gardeners or interns. Encourage friends and family to come learn the basics about vegetable gardening in our challenging Santa Fe environment. This introductory course was developed by Master Gardener Jannine Cabossel, the “Tomato Lady” from the Farmers Market, and will be assisted by Master Gardeners. Classes are March 12 and March 19, \$25 for both Sundays; registration is at [www.sfmga.org](http://www.sfmga.org).

**Compost clinic:** March 12 from 11-1 focused on harvesting and uses of compost. We'll meet at the County Fairgrounds composting area. Open to all.

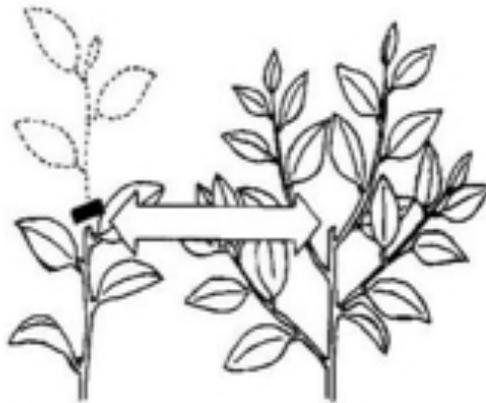
**Extension Office Hot Line Assistant training** will be March 17 from 10 am to noon in the classroom (large annex) at the county fairgrounds. For Master Gardeners and interns only.

**Let's Grow:** Our Let's Grow series this year will again feature Continuing Education events at each of our projects. The clinics are open to the public as well as Master Gardeners and interns. This year we kicked off the series with a Soils Testing Workshop at the New Mexico Wildlife Center on February 25. This will be followed by workshops on Rose Pruning, Building a Native Bee House, Cactus Propagation, Basic Composting, Selecting Native Plants for Your Landscape, Historic Garden Restoration, Planning a Fall Vegetable Garden, and Herb Harvesting. Be sure to check our website ([sfmga.org](http://sfmga.org)) for dates and times



Cut above a healthy side branch

### Heading Back



Pinching out terminal tips stimulates buds in the area to grow

### Pinching Back



Thin by cutting a stem back to a main branch

### Thinning Cut

Picture resource: [www.aldenlane.com](http://www.aldenlane.com)

## Pruning Trees and Shrubs

By Marta Gyeviki

Gardeners know that pruning is both a skill and an art. The skill: knowing when and how to make cuts. The art: making proper cuts. All trees and shrubs respond differently to cutting. Note, too, that with adequate water and nutrients, plants do not need continual pruning (exceptions could be fruit trees and hedges). A plant that requires such treatment may be the wrong choice for its location.

### Reasons to Prune

- To maintain plant health by removing dead, injured, crossing, competing or diseased branches.
- To open the canopy to better light and air penetration.
- To control or direct growth.
- To increase flowering buds, fruit quality.
- To reinvigorate and rejuvenate old trees.

### General Rules

- Understand how growth occurs, including the different types of buds. Terminal buds at the end of a branch grow lengthwise. Lateral buds grow sideways. Under-bark dormant buds become active when the branch above is removed.

*cont. on page 5*

## *Pruning Trees and Shrubs—cont. from page 4*

- Note a tree's natural shape and maintain it.
- Wide-angled branch crotches are stronger.
- Only cut when you have a reason.
- Prune close to the trunk, a bud or branch.
- Don't top an established plant to reduce size.
- Keep your pruning tools sharp and clean. Wipe the tools with 90% alcohol or 5% bleach and water.
- Discard pruned materials.

### **Types of Pruning**

- Thinning serves to open the canopy for sunlight, and sometimes to reduce plant size by removing or shortening a lateral branch.
- Heading back is cutting branches back to a stub. A plant's natural form will be ruined. Topping a tree leaves large wounds allowing entrance for insects and diseases and results in a mass of vigorous growth the following year. These branches are often weak and roots may be compromised. Use this type of pruning only for fruit tree training, rose pruning or hedge shearing.
- Pinching a terminal bud directs plant growth by generating new side branches instead of a central, lengthy branch. With pinching, you can make plants bushier.
- Shearing, usually applied to hedges, maintains an even and dense foliage surface,

### **Time of Pruning**

- Dormant season pruning (late fall to early spring) stimulates healthy spring growth. Cuts typically heal faster during dormancy and disease-carrying insects are not as prevalent. It also makes shaping trees and shrubs easier—branching patterns are most visible at a leafless stage. Early winter pruning can interrupt dormancy prompting some species to break bud too soon. Heavy pruning after growth starts in spring can weaken a tree by forcing it to use stored food for re-growth instead of new growth.
- Summer pruning, usually in July or early August can correct problems such as broken or damaged branches. It is also a good time to use pinching and discourage long, weak growth. Summer pruning reduces growth due to loss of leaf surface. It can control growth vigor and delay fruiting.

If you merely want trim out dead, weak or diseased parts of the tree, you can prune at any time of the year without drastic effects on the tree.

### **Resources:**

Tree pruning, [www.tooleystrees.com](http://www.tooleystrees.com)

Pruning Trees in Spring, David J. Robinson, Extension Specialist, [www.extension.illinois.edu](http://www.extension.illinois.edu)

Sunset, *Western Garden Book*, 1997, Pruning

*Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants*, Judith Phillips, 1987. Pruning guidelines



## Western Blue Flax: *Linum lewisi* var. *lewisi*, (a.k.a. Lewis Flax, Prairie Flax) *Linaceae* (Flax Family)

By Nyla Rasmussen

This short lived perennial is native to Western North America from Alaska to Baja, the Pacific Coast to the Mississippi River, and found on ridges and dry slopes from sea level to 11,000 feet. The plant grows on any well-drained soil, likes full sun and stays green during most of the summer. Native bees are the common pollinator; it is good forage for deer, antelope and birds either as herbage or seed.

*Linaceae* is distributed worldwide. *Linum perenne* is native to Eurasia but has been planted successfully throughout the United States, thus hybridizing much of the flax grown in New Mexico. It is generally accepted that the only difference between the native *Linum lewisii* and the Eurasian *Linum perenne* is that the former is homostylic (all flowers have the same length or form), and the latter heterostylic.



Sow the seed (1/8-1/2 inch deep) anytime for expected growing and flowering the following year. It grows into an airy vase shape that is 12-36 inches tall with a blooming season mid-May through July. The five-petal flowers (blue with dark veins) open every morning only for the day and fade in the hot sun. The plant has many narrow, alternate, simple and entire leaves crowded onto the stems. It is hard to transplant, but it grows well from seed and re-seeds itself.

Historically, the seed oil from the native plants was used by the Navajo for hair and body shampoo and occasionally for food. The cultivated flax is used for linseed oil while the stem fibers are for linen.

Watch for the blue flowers on sunny open well-drained slopes where the blue flax is seeded with other species intended for erosion control, reclamation, highway rights-of-way, gardens and parks. It is a truly versatile New Mexico friendly plant!

### References:

United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Series  
<https://Plantsofthesouthwest.com>

[www.gardenguides.com](http://www.gardenguides.com)

Native Plant Society of New Mexico, *Native Gardening in Northern New Mexico*

Littlefield & Burns, *Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico*

# Mighty Milkweed

By Mary L. Brown

**Here is a history question: During World War II, what did monarch butterflies and American troops have in common?**

**Answer: They both depended on milkweed for their survival.**



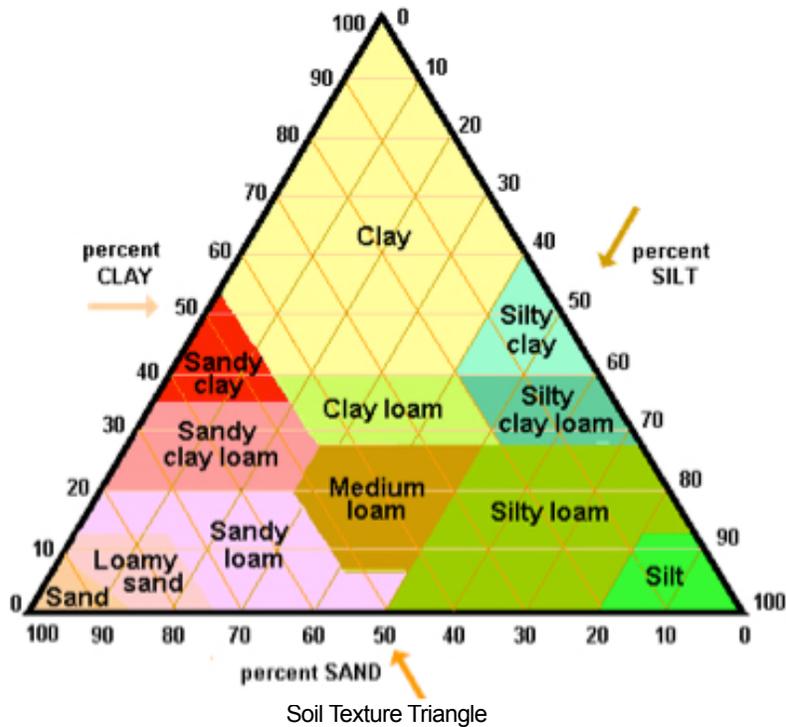
Once considered a pesky weed, gardeners and butterfly advocates today are aware that *Asclepias*, the milkweeds, are a vital part of a sustainable landscape. They are the food host for the endangered migrating monarchs, and also serve as an important pollinator plant for other species of butterflies, bees, and herbivorous insects.

Milkweed has a long history of commercial use. In the 19th century, the silky-soft floss found inside milkweed pods was used as mattress filling, and other parts of the plant were woven into socks and used for cordage. Thomas Edison, as well as WW II scientists, explored the feasibility of using the sticky latex produced by milkweed to make rubber. Today, milkweed is used in the manufacture of hypoallergenic pillows and to help clean up oil spills. Other applications, such as its use as an insect repellent, are being explored.

Milkweed was a war hero during the Second World War. Until the Japanese entered the war, fibers from Indonesian kapok trees were the preferred fill for “Mae West” life jackets. Milkweed floss is hollow and coated with wax, giving it excellent insulation properties. It is waterproof and buoyant as well, making it a good substitute for kapok fibers. The government got into action and soon pamphlets were distributed to encourage children to harvest milkweed: “School children of America! Help save your father’s, brothers’, and neighbors’ lives by collecting milkweed pods.” School children in twenty-nine states and Canada were involved in this effort. They harvested the milkweed they found growing wild in fields, along railroad tracks, fences, and roadsides with astounding results: by the war’s end, an estimated 11 million pounds of milkweed had been harvested!

We can only wonder how many soldiers’ lives were saved because of the humble milkweed plant; but, perhaps the next time we see milkweeds growing unattended by the side of the road or lending beauty to someone’s garden, we can give them a little nod of our thanks and appreciation.

Photos courtesy of Wikipedia



## What Type of Soil Do I Have?

By Sandy Powell

In late winter, everyone is itching to get out into the garden. But before you do, you should know a bit about your soils to increase success. At the end of winter, Master Gardeners working at the New Mexico Wildlife Center held a workshop on how to prepare soil samples. This year we added a section on how to determine your soil texture. If you missed the workshop, feel free to come to any of the Master Gardener workdays at the Wildlife Center and ask for a personal lesson. (Call the Wildlife Center at 505-753-9505 for the Master Gardeners' schedule.) The best times for getting soil tests done are early spring and late fall. Below is a bit about soil texture with some references that should help you figure out how to do the test.

Why is knowing your soil texture important? When looking at the soil texture triangle, the soils in the center are best for gardening because they have good proportions of all the soil sizes. Ideal is 20% clay, 40% silt and 40% sand. Why?

Clay particles are covered with negative charges that hold onto positively charged nutrients, thus giving them good inherent fertility. Sand and silt are mostly quartz, which don't have the same negative charges, are rather infertile and can't hold onto nutrients very easily. These soils will have a lower crop yield than soils with more clay. The addition of organic matter increases not only the negative charges, but also the positive charges in the soil, allowing more nutrients to be available to the plant roots.

Sandy soils have large spaces between the particles, allowing the easy flow of water and air through the soil. Sands also lack any films that would help hold water. Therefore water moves downward quickly and

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*What Type of Soil Do I Have—cont. from page 8*

does not spread out. Evaporation and drainage are high, so erosion is not as great a problem as it is in silty and clay soils, but it also increases the leaching of minerals - particularly nitrogen. These soils need more frequent watering than other soils and drip emitters may need to be closer together. Adding organic material will increase the water capacity of sandy soil.

Clay soils hold lots of water, which spreads out instead of draining. Less frequent watering is needed. These soils are also susceptible to compaction, which will retard root growth and may cause the soil to become anaerobic. Additional organic material will loosen up the clay soil to improve drainage, increase penetration of oxygen, reduce compaction, all of which will encourage plant development and a healthier soil biology.

Did I mention we should add more organic material to our soils? A soils test will determine how much you already have. Five per cent is ideal. More than that doesn't seem to be helpful.

**References:**

"Estimating Soil Texture," Colorado State University Extension, [http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/Soil-Char\(%26RibbonTest\)\\_handout.pdf](http://culter.colorado.edu/~kittel/Soil-Char(%26RibbonTest)_handout.pdf)

"Soil Texture Triangle Tutorial," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hW59WZ0EQI>

Photo: "The Textural Triangle," University of Idaho, <http://www.oneplan.org/Water/soil-triangle.asp>

# The Garden Journal Radio Show

Every Saturday  
10-10:30am

*Live from the Farmers Market*



Tune in on Saturday mornings from 10:00 - 10:30 am to listen to a lively, entertaining and informative gardening show on KSFR 101.1 FM.

To listen to past broadcasts on line, go to the [Santa Fe Master Gardener Association](#) webpage and click on the "Garden Journal Radio Show" page.

March 4: "Designing Naturalistic Landscapes that Support Pollinators," with Lauren Springer Ogden, horticulturist and author

March 11: "Veggie Gardening 101," with Jannine Cabossel, the Tomato Lady

March 18: "The Santa Fe Botanical Garden," with Karen Armijo

March 25: "What To Do in Your Veggie Garden in March," with Jannine Cabossel, the Tomato Lady



# Killing with Kindness: How We Enable Trees to Their Ultimate Demise

**Presentation by Linda Chalker-Scott WSU professor and Extension Horticulturalist**

Summary by Pam Wolfe

Dr. Chalker-Scott's talk was organized around six myths about tree planting and after care. Her recommendations apply to trees and shrubs, the backbone of a permanent landscape.

## **Myth 1: Use lots of organic matter to build a healthy soil**

The transition area between loose and compacted native soils can lead to a perched water table—the vertical movement of water stops at the interface. Second, decomposition of organics will lead to a depression around the plant. Third, nutrient overload is environmentally detrimental. Dr. Chalker-Scott recommends planting in native soil amended as determined by a soil test, and adding organic mulch on top. See guide H-420. [http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_h/H420/](http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H420/)

*cont. on page 11*

*Killing with Kindness: How We Enable Trees to Their Ultimate Demise—cont. from page 10*

**Myth 2: Leave root balls intact when planting**

Not so. There's only one way to know what's hidden in there – take a look! If the nursery has replaced the burlap, it's likely that the crown is below the top of the ball and you'll plant the tree too deep. If the tree is root bound, coiled roots remain coiled; untangle or prune them. Dr. Chalker-Scott suggests you gently shake off the soil in the root ball, make necessary corrections, and plant bare root. See <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS047E/FS047E.pdf> and <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/bb-root-balls.pdf>

**Myth 3: Prune crowns of transplanted trees to compensate for root loss**

If you follow the recommendation in item 2 and prune off coiling roots, you may be tempted to reduce the crown growth to compensate. Pruning the crown directs the plant's resources upward at a time when root development is most beneficial. Wait a year.

**Myth 4: Phosphate fertilizer stimulates root growth**

Too much phosphorous inhibits mycorrhizae, competes with iron and manganese, and pollutes aquatic systems. Get a soil test and add nitrogen, if necessary.

**Myth 5: Landscape fabric controls weeds permanently**

Landscape fabric limits weeds and also air and water to roots. Instead, dress soil well beyond the drip line with a deep, coarse organic mulch to allow a slow release of nutrients, improve soil tilth, and enhance macrofauna biodiversity. Dr. Chalker-Scott favors wood chips. Although wood chip mulches have a high carbon to nitrogen ratio leading to a nitrogen deficiency at the mulch-soil interface, it won't deplete the soil below, and may prevent germination of some weed seed.

**Myth 6: Stake trees firmly at installation**

Dr. Chalker-Scott showed a slide of a parking lot tree strangled by forgotten wire, and another of trees snapped by high wind just above a firm staking arrangement. Her recommendation for bare root planting moderates the need for initial staking. The roots on a bare root tree mudded in (with native soil) begin to grow out quickly, and the tree will be far more stable than a tree on a root ball. If the location is windy and some staking is needed, it should be flexible removed after a year.

**Reference:**

*How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do* (Science for Gardeners) and other books by Linda Chalker-Scott are available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

# Get to Know Your Fellow Master Gardeners

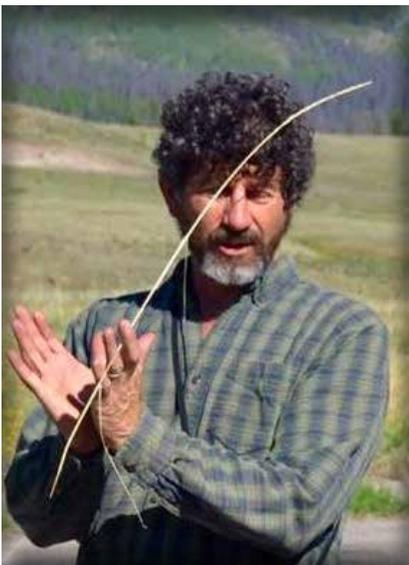


## **Ann Caudell**

Hello! My name is Ann Caudell and I have been a master gardener for one year. I graduated with the 2015 cohort and have been the Secretary for one year. The Master Gardener program has given me a lot of helpful information and resources to help me find the answers I need. Through my project hours, I learned how to set up drip irrigation, amend clay soil, identify good and bad insects, and select those plants that attract pollinators. I took the Compost Certification courses last year and learned all about the various composting techniques and how to identify microbes under a microscope (fun for gardening geeks!).

The things I like most about the SFMGA are that we all have a love for gardening and enjoy helping the community learn how to garden! Last year I was a leader-in-training at the Audubon Center and it is a joy to

see visitors, older and younger, get excited about the birds and the bees, and of course the plants. If you enjoy learning about plants and helping people, the master gardener program is right up your alley!



## **Cullen Hallmark**

I come from a long line of gardeners, and some of my earliest memories are from my granddad's peach and blackberry farm near Marshall, TX. I went through the Master Gardener training in 2014, and did the SCAT and SNaPP training the next year. The MG program has inspired me to branch out, try new techniques, and grow new plants.

My favorite things are working the soil, teaching others, walking around Western rangelands, and watching stuff grow. When I went through the training, I wondered whether I would learn anything new. In fact, I have learned a tremendous amount—especially from fellow master gardeners. The photo of me was taken last year near Creede, Colorado, where I was giving some friends an impromptu lesson on range grasses.

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## Help Your Neighbors

Plant some extra veggies for a local food pantry! Watch for a food pantry list in an upcoming newsletter.



## **Helena van Heiningen**

### **How long have you been a Master Gardener?**

Six years

### **How has the Master Gardener program helped your personal gardening efforts?**

Like many, I moved from somewhere else which was unlike (not even close) the harsh elements we have here. Although I had gardened for 30 years, I knew I needed to learn about New Mexico gardening. Taking the classes gave me a good foundation and working on the projects side-by-side with seasoned Master Gar-

deners gave me an opportunity to learn from them as well.

### **What do you like the most about the Master Gardener organization?**

I like the community of gardeners that make up the membership. I also like participating in helping the organization grow. My passion led me to co-create the advanced training for native plants, SNaPP (Santa Fe Native Plant Project) along with Laurie McGrath and Joy Mandelbaum. So much of native habitats have been destroyed and lost, it is vital to re-create habitats for all types of wildlife

### **What would you tell someone who is considering applying for the internship program?**

It is the best education for Santa Fe gardeners and those who enjoy sharing their knowledge with the public.



## **Michelle Stobnicke**

I completed my Master Gardening internship in 2014. I am mainly a vegetable gardener with a small greenhouse for winter vegetables. As a result of my MG training, I have expanded my raised beds and broadened the variety of vegetables and herbs that I plant. Incorporating my own compost into the beds has greatly improved my yields and success.

I find Master Gardeners so very welcoming and willing to share their knowledge and experience with everyone. At every event and when working on projects, I always feel welcome and appreciated. I also appreciate how organized and well run our events are. Things are well-planned and executed. I have really put my SCAT training to good use and am looking forward to the SNaPP classes this Spring.

I would tell (and have told) anyone interested to pursue membership in Master Gardeners. The knowledge is so valuable, the people so friendly, and the work is fun! I get to spend time with great people AND have my hands in the dirt. It doesn't get any better than that!

# Tiger Moths—A Tent Caterpillar for Your Pines

By Terry R. McGuire

Deciduous trees and shrubs are eaten by social, tent-making caterpillars in the spring (*Malacosoma* species) and the fall (*Hyphantria cunea*). Pines have their own tent-making pest—the caterpillars of the tiger moth (*Lophocampa ingens*). *Lophocampa ingens* are found in the southern Rocky Mountains states—Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. They infest mainly pine trees, ponderosa, lodgepole and piñon, but occasionally will infest Douglas firs.

Adult tiger moths are fairly large. The wingspan for the male is about 2 inches (51 mm) and for the female about 2.30 inches (58 mm). They are an attractive species, having reddish brown wings with large, white oval spots (see figure 1). The hind



Figure 1



Figure 2

wings are white. The moths reproduce one generation per year. Adult moths emerge from the pupa case and lay their eggs on host trees in July and August.

Caterpillars hatch from their eggs in September and October. They build a silk nest around the pine needles in the upper branches of the tree and feed on the enclosed needles. Most caterpillars overwinter as eggs or pupa, but *L. ingens* overwinter as caterpillars in the webs. They are mostly inactive during the winter, but will feed on the needles on warmer winter days. In April and May, as the weather warms, the caterpillars feed continuously on the needles. They enlarge the nests as they grow and the nests become very conspicuous (see figure 2). In rare

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cases, *L. ingens* can completely defoliate a young pine. Generally, a healthy tree suffers no permanent damage. Outbreaks are infrequent and cold winters, predators, parasites and diseases usually cause a population collapse within one or two years.

Mature caterpillars are about 4 cm (1.4 inches) long. They are reddish brown to black and have tufts of black and yellow hairs on their back (see figure 3). These hairs can cause skin irritation. Pupation occurs in June.

There is really no need to control the moths. The tiger moths are more abundant in natural forests than in gardens or yards. The nests are high in the pine and are very hard to reach. Pruning will cause more damage than leaving the nest intact. Insecticides are not generally needed. The defoliated parts of the tree will grow new needles. In the rare cases when control is needed, tiger moth caterpillars should be susceptible to *Bacillus thuringiensis*, carbaryl (Sevin), and other insecticides used to control leaf-feeding caterpillars. In all cases, make sure that any chosen pesticide is approved for this use.



Figure 3

## References

*Forest Insect Defoliators. Field Guide to Insects and Diseases of Arizona and New Mexico Forests.*  
<https://www.fs.fed.us/r3/resources/health/field-guide/fid/tiger-moth.shtml>  
Tiger Moth [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5320266.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5320266.pdf)  
<http://www.ipmimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1468223>

Figure 1: USDA Forest Service - Ogden , USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Figure 2: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

Figure 3 :Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

# LET'S GROW



A **FREE** Monthly Education Series for the Home Gardener  
from the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association

## Soils Testing Workshop

Sat., Feb. 25, 1-4 p.m. New Mexico Wildlife Center, Espanola

This class will include how to prepare packaged soil samples for testing at CSU Soils Lab, how to prepare paperwork and interpret the results, including what amendments to add to soils for certain conditions, demonstrations on how to cheaply, easily and accurately determine your soil structure, how to use the soil triangle and why knowing your soil is important.

## Rose Pruning Workshop

Sat., Apr. 8, 9-12:00 p.m. Harvey Cornell Rose Garden

This is a hands-on rose pruning session at 1315 Galisteo Parkway. Bring your handheld pruners, gloves and long sleeved clothing. Learn the correct way to prune roses and then practice what you learn with Master Gardeners in this historic garden. Pruning instruction is by Master Gardener and Consulting Rosarians, Cindy Hoffman, Jack & Juanita Ortega and Kathern O'Brien of the Santa Fe Rose Society. Instruction: 9- 9:30 and actual pruning in the garden from 9:30 -12:00.

## The Buzz on Building a native Bee House and Selecting Native Plants that Attract the Bees

Sat., Apr. 22, 10- 12 p.m. Randall Davey Audubon Center

Taught by Audubon Project co-leader Ann Caudell. SNAPP (Santa Fe Native Plants Project) will showcase the Native Plants that attract bees. Sessions held in Education Classroom of the Randall Davey Audubon Center at the end of Upper Canyon Road.

## Cactus Propagation

Sat., May 13, 9-11:00 a.m. County Fairgrounds Cactus Garden

Learn how to divide and to grow more cactus. Tips on soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Drop-in demos every half-hour. Jill Foster/ Cullen Hallmark.

## Basic Composting

Sat., Jun. 17, 9-11:00 a.m. County Fairgrounds Compost Area

Learn basic composting: How it works and how to tailor the process to your needs and scale. Plus a hands-on clinic to teach proper techniques for building a thermal pile and turning and finishing the compost; Including a hands-on clinic at our straw bale demonstration area and learning the basics of worm composting. Bring hats, gloves, sturdy shoes, water and a pitch fork.

## Selecting Native Plants for Your Landscape

Sat., Jun. 24, 10-12:00 p.m. Randall Davey Audubon Center

This session taught by SNAPP (Santa Fe Native Plants Project), will include a tour of native plants in the Audubon Gardens.

## Historic Garden Restoration

Fri., Jul. 23, 5:00- 7:00 p.m. 545 Canyon Road

Tour the garden at El Zagan during 4th Friday Art Walk on Canyon Road. Learn how Master Gardeners are restoring their garden, maintaining it's historic layout and ambiance with plants appropriate for our current climate. Taught by Janet Hirons, Lissa Johnson and Nyla Rasmussen.

## How to Plan a Fall Vegetable Garden with Cool Season Crops

Sun., Aug. 13, 12-2 p.m. County Fairgrounds Vegetable Gardens

Learn how to put your garden to bed and plan for all fall gardening. Tips on extending your growing season, things to consider while the summer winds down and how to winterize your garden. Taught by Bob Zimmerman, Jannine Casbossel, Susie Sonflieth.

## Herc Harvesting and Propagation

Sat. Sept. 9, 9-11:00 a.m. County Fairgrounds Herb Garden

Bring your shovels and gloves for a morning of hands-on herb harvesting. Learn to propagate by division, digging out parts of established plants and replanting in pots that you can take home and enjoy.

For more information, visit [sfmga.org](http://sfmga.org) and Please LIKE us on Facebook



If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service please contact County Extension Office at 505 471 4711. NMSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator.



## 2017 MASTER GARDENERS HOURS



**2017**  
**Goal: 9500 hours**  
**Total hours: 594**

	DECEMBER
NOVEMBER	
	OCTOBER
SEPTEMBER	
	AUGUST
JULY	
	JUNE
MAY	
	APRIL
MARCH	
	FEBRUARY-594 hrs 6% of goal
JANUARY	

## From the Membership Director

### Report for the March SFMGA Newsletter

Santa Fe Master Gardeners are currently 226 members strong! This figure includes our Monday evening and Tuesday morning interns.

Our goal for public education, organizational support and continuing education hours this year is 9,500 hours. As of February 20, members have earned, reported and had approved, a total of 594 hours. Please make sure you report your hours on Track it Forward on a monthly basis.

Cheers!

Denise Johnston,

SFMGA Membership Coordinator

## Calendar of Events

**All classes are open to the public.** Visit the Events Calendar on our website for a complete list of garden-related activities and classes with times, locations, and registration information: (<http://sfmga.org/events-calendar>).

MARCH	EVENT	CREDIT
Mar 2	2017 Annual Fruit Grower Workshop, 8:30AM - 3:30 PM (Los Luceros Ranch)	.5 to 1 CE (depending on the lecture)
Mar 2-4	Rocky Mountain Seed Summit (Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance)	1 CE/ (workshop attended)
Mar 4	Simple Greywater Systems, 9AM - 12PM (SFCC)	1.5 CE
Mar 5	History of the Cornell Rose Garden, 9AM - 12PM, (HCRG)	1 CE
Mar 7	Landscaping in Small Gardens with Roses, 6PM (SFRS)	.5 CE
Mar 16	Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club, 7PM (Christ Lutheran Church)	.5 CE
Mar 17	Monarch Butterfly Workshop, 8:30AM - 12PM (Albuquerque Academy)	1.5 CE
Mar 21	Right Plant, Right Place, 7PM - 9PM (SFCC)	1 CE
Mar 25	Introduction to Permaculture, 9AM- 12PM (SFCC)	1.5 CE
Mar 25	Santa Fe Landscaping from the Ground Up, 9AM - 1 PM (SFCC)	2 CE
Mar 28	Garden Superstars, 7PM - 9PM (SFCC)	1 CE

Albuquerque Academy (6400 Wyoming Blvd., NE; to register contact Steve Cary [sicary@centurylink.net](mailto:sicary@centurylink.net))

Christ Lutheran Church (1701 Arroyo Chamiso)

HCRG (Harvey Cornell Rose Garden, 1315 Galisteo Parkway)

Los Luceros Ranch, Española (to register and for directions, call 505-471-4711 or 505-852-4241)

Rocky Mountain Seed Summit, Hotel Santa Fe, <https://rockymountainseeds.org/attend/mountain-west-seed-summit>

SFCC (Santa Fe Community College, 505-428-1676)

SFRS (Santa Fe Rose Society, [SF-rosesociety@outlook.com](mailto:SF-rosesociety@outlook.com))

Members Only: For a complete list of Master Gardener projects and to sign up, please visit

Sign Up Genius in the Members Only section of the webpage. To log hours worked and to see your year-to-date totals, please visit Track It Forward by clicking on the "Report Your Hours" link in the same location.



*Mission Statement:*

*The Santa Fe Master Gardener Association is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to learn, teach, and promote locally sustainable gardening through reliable, current research-based practices*

*New Mexico State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator*