



# GREEN Pages

For all your Online Garden Accessories go to [www.StarNursery.com](http://www.StarNursery.com)

Summer 2009

## Summer Highlights

### Agave

Beauty Queen of the Desert

### Summer Mulching

Soil Amendments

### Lantana

Solid Summer Color

### St. George Utah

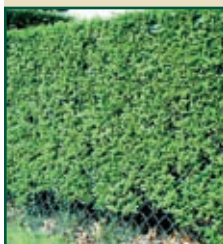
Picturesque Vacation Destination

### Pahrump Nevada

Space to Spread Out!

## Summer Pruning Ideas

### Professionals Gardening Tip



Many homeowners and businesses alike prefer to see their landscape hedges neatly sheared. This demonstrates organization and cleanliness.

When hot summer weather arrives here in the desert, this

type of shearing, which produces massive amounts of new growth, can leave the plant with scorched "new" leaves, and looking anything but healthy or clean.



Here is an example of a good option for summer. Lay off the nitrogen fertilizer, so that the hedge doesn't grow too much. You might want to add some Kerex® iron supplement to ward off chlorosis. Then only prune off the excessively long branches

that will tend to emerge from the hedge.

The result will be a hedge that not only looks healthy, but is healthier. The slightly disheveled look will not overshadow the demonstration of a superior landscaping skill.

Avoid, where possible pruning off scorched foliage on shrubs. These "heading" cuts will generate new growth only to produce more damaged leaves in the future. Try to wait until late September to clean these up. On trees; prune only as needed to protect from wind or allow walkway room, and stick to thinning cuts if you can. If you spend a little time helping your customer to understand these concepts, they are more likely to support this idea. Give them a copy of this issue of the Green Pages, that should do it!

## Agave

### Beauty Queen of Desert

These wonderful succulents are ubiquitous in the southwest and there are perhaps more good reasons for their popularity than you might think.

Did you know that the flowers are edible?

Perhaps so many gardeners think of them as Queens due to the amount of offshoots or pups they produce during their lives.

The history and usefulness of the Agave plant is fascinating and broad. The Agave, which has also been called the 'century plant', the 'Century Aloe' and the 'American Aloe', obtained its name from the Greek language--- the word 'agavos' meaning illustrious, an apt description for these magnificent plants. The name "Agave" actually has ancient Greek roots; In Greek mythology, Agave was the mother of Pentheus and the daughter of Cadmus and Harmonia.

Then there is the issue of its usefulness. Tequila is produced from the Agave. As North America's first distilled drink, and its first commercially-produced alcohol, tequila's history is long and rich. Its roots reach back into pre-Hispanic times when the natives fermented sap from the local "maguey" plants (Agave cantala) into a beer-like drink called pulque.

Before steam-heated ovens were introduced, what was known as Tequila was really just a mescal wine. Tequila's history should be dated from the late 19th century when those ovens came into use. Mezcal wine was first produced around 1535.

It was made into a mescal brandy, agave wine, mescal tequila and finally, after a couple of centuries and some technical developments, one variety was simply called tequila - appropriately named after

Tequila, a small town in a valley west of Guadalajara, in Jalisco state, Mexico.

Not just useful as a liquor there is evidence of agave plants being cultivated by Mexico's native peoples more than a thousand years before the arrival of the Spanish. They extracted fiber to produce ropes, carpets and clothing. The juice from the core of the

Agave is very sweet and has often been used in making drinks and wine. Agave syrup (or nectar) is about 90% fructose. It came to be used as a sweetener only recently. This



fructose has a low glycemic level (27) and so is a safe alternative to table sugar. Unlike the crystalline form of fructose, which is refined primarily from corn, agave syrup is fructose in its natural form. Fructose is sweeter than sugar, so you'll need less in your recipes.

The origin of Agave is strictly New World. Since the 1500s however they have spread out around the world. They range in size from the little **mescalito** (the size of an apple) to the Mexican giant **maguey** which can weigh more than a ton. Agaves have thick succulent leaves that form stemless rosettes. Leaves vary in size and color, and the edges are usually lined with sharp spines. Especially memorable are the tips, often with a large sharp single spine. It is a common misconception that Agaves are cacti. Agaves are closely related to the lily and amaryllis families, and are not related to cacti.



Flowering is a special event with Agaves. We know that "annuals" display a "grow-reproduce once - then die" strategy, but it is rare for long life plants to do this. Agave however is "monocarpic" they bloom only once then die. Although this bloom is many years in the waiting (the Century Plant has been given the name as it seems a century till it blooms), once the beautiful and often enormous flower stalk appears the plant afterwards declines and ends. The actual time it takes for the plant to

(continued next page)

## Agave Beauty Queen of Desert (continued)

bloom (from 3 to 50 years) will depend on the individual vigor of the plant the richness of the soil and type of climate. The plant will continue to store energy in it's leaves until it has the nourishment required for the effort of blooming.

The bloom will emerge on a single stalk that grows rapidly out of the center of the rosette. Agaves actually do most of the reproduction mainly by means of the many underground suckers. You can remove and replant these elsewhere in your landscape as you like. Agave are perhaps the hardiest (barring severe cold) and most reliable of all the landscape plants.



If you'd like to have a few more interesting visitors to your yard; A flowering Agave will certainly attract them. Hummingbirds are among the many feathered friends attracted to these rare but gorgeous blooms

Grow them in heavy sun or shade. Almost any soil is ok as long as it is not swamp-like. Agave will survive and thrive even if you forget to water them for weeks during the summer! You will be amazed how much they grow in a single season if they are regularly watered and fertilized. Agaves are ideal for mass plantings, containers and features and is a great foliage accentor with plants such as Yuccas, Flax and other succulents.

### Looking at a few varieties



**Variegated Century Plant** (*Agave Americana* var. *marginata*) (photo above) - A large Agave variety with broad green leaves having pale yellow margins. This popular specie, is one of the most graceful and largest of the variegated Agave Americana varieties.



**Artichoke Agave** (*Agave parryi truncate*) This slower growing succulent is a compact plant with broad, short, kind of "squared-off" bluish gray leaves. The maroon teeth and terminal spines are quite prominent. The Artichoke Agave will grow to about 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide. When mature, the summer flower spike rises 10 to 15 feet and puts out striking orange buds that when open are yellow. It is one of the more cold hardy Agaves and will typically survive winters in the teens.



**Webers Agave** (*Agave weberi*) offers a little more friendly edge to its leaves. Though they do have spines the spines are much smaller, and this agave will grow to about 5 feet tall and sometimes 8 feet wide before they bloom.



**Twin-flowered Agave** (*Agave geminiflora*) This Agave differs from many others in that its leaves are quite narrow and lack any spines on the leaf edge. It grows to about 2 tall and just as wide Cool Sun/Light Shade. It is a bit cold tender and can be damaged at 28 degrees F.

Agaves make a wonderful accent to an otherwise traditional landscape. Blending these charming and sturdy plants in with colorful groundcovers (see page one) is a fantastic way to provide irresistible variety while keeping with the drought tolerant theme that is so important in our Southwest desert landscapes today.

## Did You Know?

### That 5 minute watering isn't good for trees & shrubs

It is commonly misunderstood that the Water Authority restricts the watering of trees and shrubs to 5 minute intervals. The SNWA does make a recommendation of three "4" minute cycles for your lawn sprinklers, but this is not a recommendation for deep rooted plants like trees. Grass is short rooted and so a 5 minute sprinkle will soak deep enough. A tree needs to have much deeper roots, so a slow flow rate drip emitter, with a run time of an hour is often what's needed to accomplish a healthy deep root system. Drip emitters only put out a gallon or two per hour, so a 5 minute run for a drip may put out only 10 ounces of water. This is not enough to get a root system wet. Then to repeat a 5 minute run time three times a day (proper scheduling for grass – bad for shrubs), only serve to keep the surface moist, and this is where evaporation is the greatest. So, 5 minute shrub watering; bad for the plant, and wastes water.

QUESTIONS? Ask DR. Q and get answers! Look for Star Notes or Seasonal Tips under the Best Advice menu bar @ [Starnursery.com](http://Starnursery.com) We cover nearly every gardening and landscaping category imaginable. Click on Ask Dr. Q and fire away. **You'll receive a prompt answer!**

## Pahrump Nevada Space to Spread Out



At an elevation of 2850 feet, Pahrump is a true "high desert" area. The summer temperatures are a bit cooler than here in the Vegas Valley, maybe by 8 degrees or so.

The winter temperatures and challenges from the winter climate varies throughout the Pahrump area, and this is what often makes plant selection more challenging. Areas where the cold air will tend to settle during windless winter nights can often be much colder than other

areas slightly more elevated. So, the classic "the higher-you-go, the colder-it-gets" doesn't necessarily hold.

Pahrump is an area of open spaces and the chance to spread out and enjoy your property. It is because of this that so many people are excited to become residents of Pahrump after driving through. To be able to enjoy your property is just what a successful landscape can offer, so lets look into some important considerations.

A good place to begin in planning and planting a new landscape is with some appropriate shade trees. Because the winters get colder in Pahrump there are a number of trees that you'll not find offered in our Pahrump Nursery that are stocked back in the Valley. Palo Verdes, and most Acacia trees would be first. More of the Palm trees will struggle, like the Mexican Fan Palm and Sago. These beautiful tropical plants can not take the frequent 15 degrees that Pahrump encounters.

The few plants not suited to Pahrump are truly no problem, because there are many others that will do just fine. Trees like Desert Willow, Pomegranates and Flowering Plums thrive in this part of the state. The milder summer and colder winter are preferred. Cherry trees that need extended chilling hours in order to put out a good crop of fruit, will find Pahrump much to their liking. There are many more trees that flower or stay green to chose from, so it's not that the choices are limited as it is the choices are different. Stop by our store at 911 Buol Rd. and have a conversation with one of our plant specialists and find out just how many trees and shrubs will thrive there. You'll be pleasantly surprised!

Ah, but just like the rest of the southwest desert, Pahrump has to deal with alkaline soil and water. That means high Ph, and that means "soil amendments". Lots of organic material like compost or manure and frequent use of sulfur are important. That high pH condition doesn't allow the plant to take up the nutrition that you so generously put onto the soil for it. Desert soils and water require a little more effort in order to succeed, but succeed you can!

## Summer Mulching Soil Amendments

Each summer the desert keeps its promise to scorch the heck out of our landscape plants. The temperatures in the afternoon will often exceed 110 F., and even late at night we can see temps close to 100 F. One might think that these high nighttime temps aren't really that big of a problem for our plants but hot nights actually do interfere with respiration.

The roots systems of plants need to breathe, they take in oxygen and convert carbohydrates (sugars) to energy. Though plants do perform respiration during daylight hours as well as night, it is the cooler nights that they can be most efficient in this process. So, in order to help the plants to better respire we need to try to keep the soil cooler. This is where mulch can provide great benefit. Organic mulch, like compost or bark, is an excellent insulator. Throughout the day the radiant heat from the sun is kept from reaching the soil. Unlike rock that will radiate the heat it absorbed all day, throughout the night, organic mulch quickly ceases to heat the soil following sunset. Cooler soil means much better respiration, and stronger, more heat resistant plants.

We have more to consider if we want better respiration; the consistency of the soil itself is critical. In order for the root system to take in oxygen, there needs to be pore spaces within the soil where oxygen exists. Most desert native soil is quite high in clay. Clay is the smallest of particles and does little to provide air pore space for roots. How can we improve this? Once again, by adding organic material to the soil! During initial planting we should mix in a good portion 20 to 30% of completely composted material to the dirt we

are surrounding our plant with. Remember, incomplete compost is too high in carbon and too low in nitrogen and this will put stress on your new plants. If you know your soil type (see Jar Test for Soil Analysis – StarNursery.com “Best Advice” “Gardening Tips”) you may want to also mix in 10 to 20% sand. When it comes to helping increase pore space, remember our soil is generally very high in pH (very alkaline) and therefore without adjusting this lower, you can find that your newly mixed soil “sets up” like concrete. High pH is a standard in the desert, so you should figure on providing pH amendments routinely.

The organics that you mix with your planting dirt (I tend not to call our native “soil”, excuse me) will over-time reduce the pH as the organisms that should thrive as a result of these organics will create acids as part of their normal function. Often I feel it is a good idea to provide some added assistance for these organisms in the form of sulfur. Sulfur, as it breaks down and reacts in the soil also create acids and so reduces pH. Have you ever noticed that we don't get too much rain here in the Desert Southwest? Also consider that most of our irrigation systems water in only a couple spots around the shrub. Unlike rainfall, drip irrigation can present an obstacle towards getting sulfur to break down so it can react. There are two options to solve this: 1) Following sulfur applications, hand water routinely for several weeks in order to help put the dry sulfur into solution. 2) Use a liquefied sulfur solution like Con-Grow. I still recommend a couple of deep hand waterings to help push the solution into the soil. Paying attention to the

state of soil alkalinity initially and on an annual basis is one great way to help yourself toward having a healthy landscape.

So, we have made contributions to improve pore space, improving respiration and we have lowered pH. There is a wonderful added benefit from this and that is vastly improved nutritional uptake. Critical micro nutrients like iron and manganese can be bound up by high pH soil and so not be available to the plant. I've helped many clients with plants showing nutritional problems, where they had been fertilizing the plants, but without improvement. Following the addition of appropriate soil pH amendments their plants quickly recovered.

Mulching does so much for plant health, making your landscape more beautiful and hardy, but there is still another important benefit; Water Savings! To achieve significant water savings there are two efforts we want to combine. 1) Deep watering; not a five minute sprinkle that penetrates 4 inches into the soil, but one to two hour drip sessions. 2) Providing a two inch layer of mulch over the root system of plants. The moisture in the surface is thereby protected from rapid evaporation because it's not exposed to high heat, radiation and wind. All of the evaporation is a waste of water and a challenge to plant health.

Help plants breathe, work towards a neutral soil pH for proper nutrition uptake and bacterially active soil and reduce your water bill. Not bad for a few very inexpensive additions to your garden or landscape.

**Try It!**

**Our desert soils need organic compost like**

**Reduce alkalinity, plus help soil to breathe and hold moisture**

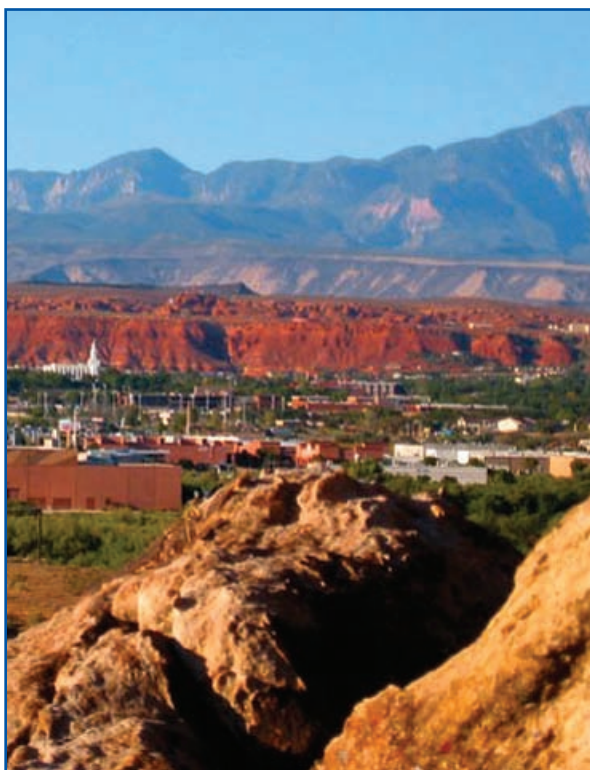
**\$3.99**

**2 cubic feet**

Available at your local Star Nursery



## St. George Utah Picturesque Vacation Destination



St. George is the largest of all the towns founded during the LDS Church's Cotton Mission of 1861. Located in the southwest section of Utah at an elevation of 2,880 feet above sea level, St. George has an average annual temperature of 60° F with summer temperatures well into the 100s and the minimum average winter temperature around 24° F. The average annual rainfall is 8.3 inches which isn't too bad for the desert. The growing season is about 190 days.

St. George itself was named in honor of George A. Smith, who, although he did not participate in the town's settlement, had personally selected most of the company of the pioneers of 1861. The first years in the new outpost were difficult. Great rainstorms almost destroyed the farmlands, and intense summer heat and lack of culinary water made life far from pleasant.

People flock to the St. George area because it is the main hub for visiting many wonderful parks like; Zion National, Bryce Canyon National as well as the Grand Canyon and Lake Powell. St. George is a vacation destination in and of itself. The city is positioned in one of the most picturesque locations in America.

St. George enjoys hot summers, mild winters, a beautiful red desert backdrop and close proximity to many tourist destinations and major cities like Las Vegas and Salt Lake City. If you don't live here already, what's holding you back?

Summertime in the St. George area has plenty of heat, but the temps are still less stressful than lower parts of the desert. So, there are many plants that will thrive even though summer planted; Desert Willow, Mediterranean Fan Palm and Native Mesquite trees to name a few trees. Russian Sage, Arborvitae and Rosemary will give you a start on a few shrubs. For a complete listing go to: [www.starnursery.com](http://www.starnursery.com) click on the "Best Advice" tab, then "Star Notes" and check out # 530U and #535. Better

yet, stop by one of the two Star Nurseries in the area, and have a chat with our plant or irrigation specialists.

Southern Utah has much the same issue with high pH water and soil as the rest of the Southwest. Most plants do best with more acidic conditions, a pH of around 6 to 6.5 (not 8+), so to be successful it pays to use soil amendments that can adjust the alkalinity downward, or select more plants that are more tolerant of these conditions. Plants require a variety of nutrients and these are typically bound up in high pH soils and not available to the plant.

There are many fantastic reasons to visit or move to St. George. To garden there, just like Vegas, you'll want to learn how to succeed. With the right plant selections and care your landscape or garden in Southern Utah can be a truly striking proposition.

## Community Associations & Seasonal events

### Star Nursery

Go to [www.StarNursery.com](http://www.StarNursery.com) and click on "Events - Seminars & Special Links" Stay up-to-date on Gardening Happenings in the area!

### Southern Nevada Water Authority

Nevada Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Ste # 100, Las Vegas

#### *Annual Refresher - Water Smart Contractor*

Find out about recent changes. Course satisfies requirement for one year refresher.

**June 14th 9 am till 11 am**

Details; 702-862-3756 (258-3946 Spanish)

### Springs Preserve – In the Gardens

333 South Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas.

#### *Drip Irrigation*

**June 17th 6 pm till 9 pm**

Upgrade to Water Smart Landscaping

**June 20th 10 am till Noon.**

702-822-7786 to pre-register. Ask for a complete schedule.

### Southern Nevada Iris Society

Star Nursery, 8725 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas

#### *Wide variety of Iris bulbs by local growers.*

Iris enthusiasts, don't miss the Big Sale!

**July 11th 7 am till 5:30 pm**

### Master Gardener Training Classes

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, 89123

*Information session and registration* for FALL '09 Master Gardener Training Program.

**June 10, 9 am till 10:30 am**

Classes will be held on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 a.m.-noon for 8 weeks.

**Topics:** desert plants, irrigation, pest control, pruning, soils, vegetables, palms, fruit trees.

**Contact:** Paula Logan, Program Assistant, 257-5501 or [loganp@unce.unr.edu](mailto:loganp@unce.unr.edu)

## Employee Spotlight Alison Arcega-Falaminiano



Sometimes it is the people "behind" the counter that provide so much support for us shoppers, and add to our experience of good customer service. Alison Arcega-Falaminiano at our Eastern store is definitely this type of person.

Happy and attentive, good at listening and then just as good at helping out, Alison is one of the un-sung heroines at Star Nursery, and so we thought it a good time to start singing about her and others we employ like her.

Alison began learning and practiced her skills at customer service when she was concierge at Mandara Spa in Guam. Born and raised in Guam, Alison grew up with the ethic of being polite whatever the situation. This sense of respecting other people gave her that advantage when it came to becoming tops at customer service.

She moved from Guam to Las Vegas in 2006, and started working as concierge for the Mandara Spa on the strip. Working with clients and customers is the most satisfying part of her job. It wasn't long until Star Nursery got its chance to pick up a talent like Alison and later in 2006 we did just that. She began her employment as a cashier and

soon advanced to contractor cashier; where the details are even more complex and timing more critical. She has thrived at this position, and I'm sure our professional customers at our Eastern store have come to appreciate this.

Alison's husband Joseph is an E4 in the Air Force where he joined four years ago. He has been a weapons systems controller and enjoys the many technical assignments available in the Air Force. Her only son Gabriel is 5 years old. Alison's parents, Leonardo and Luningning live in Guam and she hopes to go and visit them all this summer.

She also is an avid student, currently studying to get her associate of science degree from CSN. Learning seems to be a passion for Alison. Plants also bring her happiness and a favorite plant of Alison's is the Plumeria. When I mentioned the technique for being successful with a Plumeria here "in-the-desert", you could see her eyes light up. After joining the Star Nursery team, Alison was most surprised at the endless list of plant varieties available, and how many names there were to learn.

Alison is an important part of a wonderful store with an enormous selection of plants, fertilizers, chemicals, lighting and irrigation supplies. So, the next time you're in the area of Eastern and the 215, stop by our Eastern store and say hi to Alison. I guaranty you'll get a big smile and a "how can I help you?"

# Summer Gardening Calendar



## JUNE

- **Check your Irrigation Clock-** Your lawn may be watered daily, but check your SNWA water guide for allowable hours during the day. Avoid late afternoon or evening watering, it can start a fungus.
- **Flowers-** Even the toughest, heat-loving flowers need a little help to get through the summer. Dead-head, pinch off faded flowers, and mildly fertilize using low nitrogen fertilizers, like Dr. Q's® Rose (and Flower) Food.
- **Mulch-** If you haven't already mulched this year, now's the time to replenish mulch layers in the garden, to cool the soil and suppress weeds. PAYDIRT™ is a premium grade, fully composted garden mulch. A good mulch layer is about two to three inches thick. Keep mulch away from the stems of flowers and woody plants to avoid stem rot.
- **Fertilize Palms-** Palm trees need to be fertilized when it's hot, right now in the summer. Unlike many other plants that do best with spring and fall fertilization, feed your palms now. Use Dr Q's Palm Food! Loaded with magnesium that palms need to thrive.
- **Weed Control-** If you have been enjoying the benefit of weed control through the use of a pre-emergent like Greenlight's Amaze™, it may be time to re-apply. These products generally last for about four months. As February would have been an optimum time to do something about your spring weeds, now is good to begin the battle against summer weeds.

## JULY

- **Harvest-** Keep your eye on this month's apples, pears, grapes, peaches and figs, to avoid messy fruit drop and get the best harvest.
- If you have squash or tomatoes in your garden, pick ripened vegetables often. Failure to pick early will give you woody, overgrown squash and mushy tomatoes.
- **Bugs?-** Treat squash bugs (and other garden pests) with Sevin® bug killer. Safe to use on vegetables and fruits up to 7 days before harvest. Always read the label!
- **Cedar mulch-** can help keep insects away from your herbs and veggies without the use of any pesticide.
- **Watering Tip-** Avoid top watering of vegetables to prevent disease. Drip irrigation is best.
- **Watch for Bermudagrass-** If you have a fescue lawn, this aggressive lawn grassy weed can be difficult to control in many landscapes, and it's growing rapidly right now. Removal and control methods vary with your situation...see your Star Plant Specialist for options!
- **Roses-** are going through their toughest time now; water deep but not too often.
- **Planting-** This is one of the traditional times to plant corn and bean seeds and squash plants.

## Nevada Star Nursery Locations:

2600 W. Ann Rd.  
Ann Rd. & Coleman  
(702)216-7827 (STAR)

5340 S. Boulder Hwy.  
E. Tropicana & Boulder Hwy.  
(702) 456-8818

7330 W. Cheyenne Ave.  
W. Cheyenne & Tenaya  
(702) 645-2400

5380 Blue Diamond Rd.  
Blue Diamond west of Decatur  
(702) 444-7827 (STAR)

8725 S. Eastern Ave.  
S. Eastern north of I-215  
(702) 333-7827 (STAR)

8170 W. Charleston Blvd.  
Charleston & Cimmaron  
(702) 360-7827 (STAR)

9480 W Tropicana Ave  
& South Fort Apache  
(702) 728-7827 (STAR)

Pahrump  
911 Buol Road,  
(just off the 372, 1 mile off 160)  
(775) 727-5300

## Southern Utah Star Nursery Locations:

1145 W. Sunset Blvd.  
St. George Ut, 84770  
(1/4 mile west of Bluff St.)  
(435) 673-0820

385 W. Telegraph Rd.  
Washington City, UT  
(1/2 mile from Green Springs Dr.  
& the 15) (435)986-0820

## AUGUST

- **Weeds in your Lawn?-** Keep an eye on broadleaf lawn weeds, removing them by hand in summer heat is safest for your grass. If allowed to set seed, they will cause trouble for years to come.
- **Get Ready for Fall-** It's a good time to plant tomato seeds for a fall crop. Plant now, and have luscious garden produce all fall long!
- **Harvest-** Continue to harvest zucchini, peppers and other prolific summer vegetables.
- **Pruning-** If you did not prune your trees earlier, and you are concerned that they may be damaged by the wind, or they deny access to parts of your yard, you can thin out your desert trees which have grown too thick. Acacias, mesquites, olives, sumacs and other evergreens can also benefit from selective thinning of crossing branches and drooping branches.
- **Do not perform-** "heading cuts" during the hot summer season, as this encourages new growth which creates plant stress. Go to [www.StarNursery.com](http://www.StarNursery.com), click on "Best Advice" then Seasonal Tips for details.
- **Water wisely-** Avoid the temptation to drown your plants just because it's hot outside! Our clay soils hold water a long time. If you use a drip system, make sure you water no more often than every other day (unless you have rapid draining soil). Remember deep, infrequent watering builds strong roots and helps keep weeds down.
- **Your shrubs and trees** will likely need water as often as three days a week. Daily water in poor draining soils can suffocate and kill plants.

**Take a break.** Summer's almost over, and our busiest planting and gardening season, Fall is almost upon us. If you've been a vigilant gardener this summer, rest now...there's work ahead!

**Making Room for Life™**

Two 4' x 8' units shown  
Height adjustable from 24" to 44"

Present this ad for:  
\$35.00 off Two 4'x8" units  
- or -  
\$75.00 off Four or more 4'x8" units  
Installed

**Home Installation Services, LLC.**  
A Division of HyLoft, Inc. Specializing in Garage Storage

**307-3838 Free Estimates**

## Lantana Solid Summer Color

Have you ever had trouble telling the difference between a Lantana and a Verbena? Both Lantana and Verbena are of the family 'Verbenaceae'. So you see, that's why we so often get the two confused! This piece is all about Lantana. Lantana 'camara' and 'montevidensis' species abound in our desert communities and well they should. Abundantly colorful as well as easy to care for and hardy is what makes Lantana popular, but were you aware it's history, characteristics and of all the varieties?



One of the most heat hardy and beautiful plants in the southwest desert is Lantana!

Used as a groundcover or moderately sized shrub, these colorful gems are sure to brighten up your landscape.

One of the many reasons they thrive here is their tolerance for our salty water and soil. In climates like San Diego or Phoenix Lantana are evergreen, but here in Las Vegas they are deciduous, while in Utah they are typically annuals.

Lantanas are mostly natives of the comfortable Tropics and subtropics of the Americas, but some are mediterranean natives. So Lantana likes it warm or hot. The leaves of lantana are hairy and the stem seems kind of prickly, but it isn't thorny or painful. If rubbed the leaves usually have a quite pungent odor. Verbena-like flowers form in clusters, and put on quite a show all through the warm season.

In some parts of the country lantanas grow wild as weeds, and are chiefly spread by birds that are very fond of their juicy fruits. The small, berry-like fruits of these varieties contain seeds surrounded by deep purple colored fruit. Lantana has been improved as a bedding-plant much through the efforts of French hybridizers. Though just as showy in hot weather, the older wild varieties are tall and lanky and put out a heavy crop of berry clusters.

These new varieties that today we are blessed with are more dwarf and compact. They also are earlier blooming and free-flowering, and are available in a much wider color range.

Really the best improvement that's been made to Lantana might be 'sterilization'. A few of the new varieties bloom all the time, but never form the berries which tend to inhibit additional blooms if not dead-headed. The Trailing Purple and White as well as the New Gold are of this type.

Though Lantana can be a bit cold tender (native to the tropics remember), with sustained 20° or lower winter temps on a new plant it can cause a plant to fail. These temps are not that common at lower elevations. How the plant behaves is quite different before and after it has had a couple seasons to establish.

Heat is never a problem!

Here are a few varieties that you might select to grace your landscape with color.



Trailing Purple (Lantana 'montevidensis') is one of the most appropriate used as a groundcover as it generally doesn't grow higher than 18 inches or so.

This variety also tends to stay green in the winter, provided that the temps don't get too low. With lot of sunshine – you'll have lots of blooms!



Radiation (Lantana 'camara') will produce a beautiful shrub with outstanding color all summer long. Because this variety will grow to 4 or 5 feet, it can even be used to create a flowering hedge in climates where it stays green. Prune it low to the ground or leave it taller depending on the height you'd like it to achieve in the summer.



Dallas Red



Irene



Gold Lantana

As we all continually search for greater variety for our landscapes here are a few more names for you to remember: Rainbow – White – Sha-Bam and Lavender Ice Lantana. Check them out soon!

In caring for your Lantana, you'll want to provide adequately deep irrigation (plenty of minutes with your drips), but avoid watering too often. Once established these guys can handle being watered as little as a couple times a week in the heat. You can put them on the same zone as your more traditional shrubs and water them every other day in the summer without any harm, but if you have a zone for drought tolerant plants they'll do fine with less often. Don't confuse "less water" with "less frequent". Any plant needs enough water (when it gets watered) to saturate the root system, and that generally takes at least 2 gallons. The larger the plant the larger the roots need to be. Fertilize them in the spring and fall to make sure you get the maximum out of your blooms.

Be careful when pruning for the first time. Like I mentioned Lantana are a bit cold tender, so don't prune them at all the first winter – wait till spring to shape them up. The 'camara' specie will go dormant here in Las Vegas – that means they'll look like sticks. They are not dead, just sleeping; so don't pull them up! After they have established, and if you don't care to look at the "sticks" through the winter months, you can prune them back in January when their completely dormant. The 'montevidensis' specie may not be dormant in January (depends on the temperatures we may have had), so be very careful before pruning these in the winter. To prune a cold tender plant that isn't dormant, and then subject it to freezing temps is a sure way to lose it.



When planning your landscape and considering mixing in some Lantana for that summer punch of color, try mixing it up a bit with some evergreen plants. This helps your yard to look nice all year round.

Insects or disease are rarely any problem with these colorful shrubs, and for the most part (there are exceptions) rabbits don't care to munch on them either.

Lantanas are one of the easy to grow – easy to enjoy plants that the Desert Southwest has to offer.

### FREE SUBSCRIPTION

Please help us set the record straight. If you are receiving the GREEN PAGES™ under the wrong name, getting two copies, you've moved, or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please give us a call at (702) 568-7000, or email: [comments@StarNursery.com](mailto:comments@StarNursery.com) and we'll fix it.

Sign up today to begin to receive your Free copy of Star Nursery's GREEN PAGES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Bring to any Star Nursery location, or mail to:  
GREEN PAGES – 125 Cassia Way,  
Henderson, NV 89014

TAKE *the*  
GUESSWORK *out*  
of FERTILIZING

...Beautiful Landscapes  
Everytime

Saves Water  
Promotes the Activity of Beneficial Bacteria  
Increases Root Mass

Restores the Soils Biological Balance  
by Reducing Salts and Nitrates and  
Increasing Carbon Levels  
in the Soil



*for Plants, Trees, and Turf*

**YARD FEEDER**™  
EFFORTLESS BEAUTY™  
*Automatic Fertilization*



125 Cassiay Way  
Henderson, NV 89014

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAS VEGAS NV  
PERMIT #1750



## Plant Talk

**“Keep sending in your plant questions, issues and ideas to: [comments@StarNursery.com](mailto:comments@StarNursery.com). They’re great! We’ll look at the possibilities, have some fun...and keep the incognito thing going.”**



**Q.** I’ve a lot of oleanders in my yard. I love them. Seems they bloom all the time. I’ve heard that some virus has destroyed many of the oleanders in California. Is there any sign of it in Nevada? My bushes are just now beginning to develop some yellow leaves! Thank you. Ben Gettingyellow, LV

**A.** Mr. Gettingyellow, the virus you refer to has not been found in So. Nevada. The most common cause of yellowing leaves is too much water. Mark my word, less frequent watering but more of it should solve your problem. Mark

**A.** I’ll be frank, we gets lots of questions this time of year about yellowing leaves on evergreen plants. If it turns out you’re already watering like mark suggested, perhaps it’s just a normal response of the plant, abandoning the older leaves. Frank

**Q.** I have desert plants in my yard. This has been a lifesaver as I don’t have a landscaper.....so Roundup is my new best friend! I have an Olive tree, and it must be a female. It keeps sprouting new little feeder shoots around the trunk. It’s impossible to keep them down. Can I use Roundup on these? I’ve heard that if the plant is woody and has bark at the base, round-up won’t harm them. Please help before I end up with more and more trees. Thank you so much! Olive Ann Uther, Pahrump

**A.** A number of tree varieties put out sprouts around the base, like you are describing. Frankly, this can be caused by the trees being planted too deeply. A couple inches of dirt over the roots will stunt growth, or even kill the plant as well as produce all the shoots you describe. You might want to check for this. Frank

**A.** Ms. Uther, only apply Roundup to a plant you WANT to KILL. You will get control of the shoots you describe, but at the cost of your trees. Mark

**Q.** When in Vegas, I used your “wake-up” mixture on my roses every year. I’ve moved to Montana. Can I use it here? Thank you. Miss Ingvegas, MT

**A.** Miss Ingvegas, knock yourself out! It will work in Mt., but you will apply at a later date. Check your dates for the first feeding with the local Cooperative Extension Office. Mark

**Q.** I put fertilizer on my fig tree this Jan. But there are only leaves at the end of the branches.?? Little buds are up and down the branch but they don’t turn into anything. I have about 5 figs, they look fine. I see a few black spots on the leaves.? The figs are quite small. But its the branches I don’t get. Also how much water should it get? Thanks. Na Tu Green, Utah

**A.** It is difficult to say, but my guess is a watering issue. The lack of leaves and spots make me think of too much available water, be it from over application or poor drainage. Did you give your fig Dr Q’s Fruit & Nut Fertilizer? Mark

**A.** Quite frankly, I have found other fig trees to look a sparse just like you describe early in the season. I think my compadre is right on the “mark” for the other symptoms. Frank




# GAMES ALL SUMMER LONG

**Get your tickets today!**

**702-798-7825**

**[www.lv51.com](http://www.lv51.com)**



**Triple-A Affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays**

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	SAC 11:35AM 1	POR 7:05PM 2	POR 7:05PM 3	POR 7:05PM 4	POR 7:05PM 5	TAC 7:05PM 6
TAC 12:05PM 7	TAC 7:05PM 8	TAC 7:05PM 9	<b>OFF</b> 10	COL 6:05PM 11	COL 6:05PM 12	COL 8:05PM 13
COL 12:05PM 14	RNO 7:05PM 15	RNO 7:05PM 16	RNO 7:05PM 17	POR 7:05PM 18	POR 7:05PM 19	POR 7:05PM 20
POR 12:05PM 21	<b>OFF</b> 22	TAC 7:00PM 23	TAC 7:00PM 24	TAC 7:00PM 25	TAC 7:00PM 26	SAC 7:05PM 27
SAC 12:05PM 28	SAC 7:05PM 29	SAC 7:05PM 30				

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			RNO 7:05PM 1	RNO 7:05PM 2	RNO 7:05PM 3	FRES 7:05PM 4
FRES 7:05PM 5	FRES 7:05PM 6	FRES 7:05PM 7	RNO 7:05PM 8	RNO 7:05PM 9	RNO 7:05PM 10	RNO 7:05PM 11
RNO 5:05PM 12	<b>ALL-STAR BREAK</b> 13 Portland, OR	<b>ALL-STAR BREAK</b> 14	<b>ALL-STAR BREAK</b> 15	TAC 7:05PM 16	TAC 7:05PM 17	TAC 7:05PM 18
TAC 7:05PM 19	COL 7:05PM 20	COL 7:05PM 21	COL 7:05PM 22	COL 7:05PM 23	TAC 7:05PM 24	TAC 7:05PM 25
TAC 1:30PM 26	TAC 11:30AM 27	POR 7:05PM 28	POR 7:05PM 29	POR 7:05PM 30	POR 7:05PM 31	

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						SLC 7:05PM 1
SLC 7:05PM 2	SLC 6:05PM 3	<b>OFF</b> 4	OMA 5:05PM 5	OMA 5:05PM 6	OMA 5:05PM 7	OMA 5:05PM 8
IOWA 11:05AM 9	IOWA 5:05PM 10	IOWA 5:05PM 11	IOWA 10:05AM 12	<b>OFF</b> 13	ALB 7:05PM 14	ALB 7:05PM 15
ALB 7:05PM 16	ALB 7:05PM 17	RR 7:05PM 18	RR 7:05PM 19	RR 7:05PM 20	RR 7:05PM 21	SLC 6:05PM 22
SLC 1:05PM 23	SLC 6:05PM 24	SLC 6:05PM 25	RNO 7:05PM 26	RNO 7:05PM 27	RNO 7:05PM 28	RNO 7:05PM 29
RNO 7:05PM 30	FRES 7:05PM 31					

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		FRES 7:05PM 1	FRES 7:05PM 2	FRES 7:05PM 3	POR 7:05PM 4	POR 7:05PM 5
POR 2:05PM 6	POR 2:05PM 7					