Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 15, 16 &17, 2016

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Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 15, 16 &17, 2016

Tips for Successful Gardening in Mohave County, Kingman and Golden Valley Areas Published by Kingman Area Master Gardeners:

Linda Reddick, Vince Beatty, Howard Noble, Robin Kingery, and Extension Agent, Rob Grumbles

Growing vegetables can be fun and profitable. Fun, because growing can add a new dimension to your life - an awareness of the wonderful world in your own back yard, profitable because you will provide highly nutritious vegetables directly to your table rather than from the store, at a fraction of the cost. Most vegetables start losing nutrients from the moment they are harvested, by growing your own you can enjoy maximum nutrients. The marvels of nature will have special meaning when you nurture a small seed into a colorful productive plant with your own hands. This accomplishment can be yours regardless of the size of your garden. Either a few plants or a large plot will be a rewarding experience for both young and old. With the following directions you can be successful at growing vegetables.

Select a good location

Choose an area with plenty of sunlight. Most vegetables especially the fruitful type require at least 6 hours of sunlight daily. Leafy and root vegetables will tolerate partial shade. Don't plant gardens under or near trees or large shrubs - their roots will rob fertility and water from your vegetables. It is not recommended to plant vegetables in narrow shaded spaces between houses and walls. A loose, fertile, level, well-drained soil is best. If heavy clays or very sandy soil is present, amend the soil with mulch or compost. If caliche is present it must be dug out and removed. Avoid areas that are crusted with alkali salts. Where space is limited, grow in containers. A rich growing medium which you prepared or purchased at a garden store should be used in containers (pot, tubs, boxes, etc.). A convenient water supply for irrigating is necessary.

Plan your garden layout

Planning ahead will help to avoid problems and complement your landscape. Make a sketch of the area you plan to use, width and depth, and mark the location with stakes or outline it with a garden hose. Also include any



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containers, or mini garden areas. If you planted a garden last year, be sure and rotate your vegetables. By doing this you will thwart plant-specific pests and diseases, and give your soil a break because different plants use more or less of certain nutrients. Decide on the vegetables you want to plant. Choose vegetables your family likes, and are suitable for growing in your area. Look for varieties that say drought tolerant and disease resistant. If you are planting in small spaces or containers, look for dwarf, compact, or bush varieties. If you are buying transplants from a store or nursery, be selective in what you purchase. Select plants that are healthy, medium sized, with vigorous roots and are pest free. Avoid plants that are wilted, yellow,

spindly, too large, or those with spots on their leaves. Plants with fruit already set on them are not necessarily your best choice. You want young plants to extend their energy on a healthy root system for maximum production at maturity. Mark on your plan where vegetables will be placed, and leave room for proper spacing between plants. Spacing allotments are listed on vegetable seed packets, or on plant identification stakes. Check the chart for approximate planting dates at your elevation. Arrange plants according to harvest periods and growth characteristics. Planting vegetables that will be harvested at approximately the same time will save space.

See TIPS, 3B



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Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 15, 16 &17, 2016

Tips Continued from 2B

Soil Preparation and Fertility

Soil provides nutrients and water for plants. Basically, Mohave County soils are alkaline; having a PH range of 7.5 to 8.5 and are salty along with being low in nitrogen and phosphorus, but do have adequate levels of potassium, sometimes in excess. Typically our soils are low in organic matter, less than .05%, which will require composting for you to be successful. Organic matter makes the soil loose and easy to work. It improves nutrient and water holding capacity, drainage and aeration. Well rotted manures and mulches are the most common organic materials. Apply a layer of organic matter 2 to 3 inches thick 1 to 2 months prior to planting. Composted manure is easy to use and is generally free, but needs to be tilled into soil 6 to 8 inches. Add fertilizer that contains both nitrogen and phosphorus and apply it prior to planting. These are the nutrients most needed by vegetables. Soils vary in fertility but a typical application would be 1 to 2 lbs. of 16-20-0 per 100 sq ft. and 3 to 5 lbs. of soil sulfur per 100 sq ft, to help with PH and sodium/salt exchange. During the growing season fertilizers may need to be added, this is called side dressing and generally involves a nitrogen (N) application. Opinions vary as to whether to add organic products or chemical fertilizers. Great gardens can be achieved with either. Soil bacteria and fungi must act on organic and chemical sources to change them into forms the plant can absorb. A major consideration is that organic products be applied in advance to allow time for the conversion and break down to plant food. Plants do not differentiate between the nutrients of either organic or chemical, but organic does improve soil tilth, water and nutrient holding capacity of the soil. The content of fertilizers is required by federal law with the three numbers appearing on the package indicating the percentage of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potash (K). Examples: 15-10-5 fertilizer contains 15% nitrogen, 10% phosphate and 5% potash: 21-0-0 fertilizer contains 21% nitrogen, but no phosphate or potash.

When to Plant

Vegetables differ in their climatic requirements therefore making it necessary to know when to plant them in order to have a successful garden. Some vegetables will withstand cool even slight freezing weather. Others need warmer conditions to germinate and to produce. Generally vegetables are placed in two categories - cool season crops and warm season crops.

Cool-season vegetables include beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes and turnips. They are hardy, frost tolerant and germinate in cool soil. They can be planted in winter or very early spring. For best quality these crops need to mature during cooler periods rather than in the heat of the summer. In the Kingman area, they may also be planted in late summer allowing the plants to grow into the cooler fall months. Cool season vegetables germinate when the soil temperature is between 40 and 50 degrees.

Warm-season vegetables include beans, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, pumpkins, squash, sweet potatoes and tomatoes. These do not tolerate frost and need warm temperatures to set and properly mature fruit. But if the temperature reaches above 95 degrees tomatoes will not set. The soil temperature needs to be between 50 and 60 degrees for warm season vegetables to germinate. Elevation definitely plays a part in the success of growing vegetables. Since the Kingman area elevations range from 2000' to 4500' we have included a chart with suggested planting dates.

Planting Seeds

It is very important to plant seeds at their proper depth in moist soil. A general rule to follow is to plant the seeds at a depth about two times the diameter of the seed. Cover small seeds such as carrots and lettuce with no more than 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil. Cover large seeds such as corn, beans and peas with 1 to 2 inches of soil. After you have covered the seeds firm the soil over them by gently tamping the soil with your hand or the flat back of the hoe. This prevents rain or irrigation from washing away the seeds. After you have tamped seeds in, sprinkle the soil surface lightly. Water often enough to prevent crusting and drying around the seed. After plants emerge, watering should be less often but deeper. As soon as the plants emerge, you will need to thin them. Do this by pinching out the weakest seedlings. It is not suggested to pull the weak seedlings as you may disturb the roots of the remaining plants. By thinning out, or removing weak seedlings you will be rewarded by healthier, tasty, well formed produce.

Transplanting Seedlings

Transplant seedlings when they have two (2) true leaves (a total of 4 leaves). Moisten plants before you remove them from the containers. It is best to transplant on a cloudy day or in the evening. Dig all your holes so that the transplanted plant sets slightly deeper than it grew in the container. Get the seedlings off to a good start by using a starter solution of water-soluble fertilizer high in phosphorous like 0-45-0, 10-50-10, or 10-52-17. Mix fertilizer with water, following manufactures directions and dilute by 50%. Place about ½ cup in the bottom of the hole, allow it to soak in. After you carefully cover the roots and firm the soil around the plants, and another ½ cup. Protect plants for a few days from sun, wind, or cold if necessary. A one gallon plastic milk container works well, just cut off the bottom and about 2" of the top, and place it over the plant. When peat or fiber pots are set in soil be sure to add enough water to soften the pots. Put additional holes in pots before transplanting to insure root penetration. Remove any plastic or wooden bands from around the roots.

Water with Care

Due to the lack of, or limited rain fall, watering is necessary in the Kingman area. Throughout the growing season, water consistently to keep soil moist (not wet) at the plant root zone. Excessive fluctuation of soil moisture adversely affects plant growth and quality, therefore a regular application of water is needed. Proper watering can be accomplished by watching the plant and the soil. Do not allow the plant to become stressed (wilted or slow-growing). On the other hand too much water, especially in heavy soils, will exclude air from the root zone, resulting in poor growth. When the soil becomes crumbly upon squeezing, it's time to add water. Check the moisture depth by probing the soil with a stick, trowel, or rod. Most vegetables are shallowrooted and absorb most of their water in the upper 24 inches of

Frequency of watering depends on many different things. A large plant needs more water than a small plant. A shallow-rooted vegetable (cabbage, onions, lettuce) needs to be irrigated more often than a deep-rooted vegetable (asparagus, tomato, watermelon). Coarse-textured soils (sandy loams) need to be irrigated more often than fine-textured (clay, or silt loams). Plants need to be watered more often during hot periods than in cool periods. In an average situation during warm weather, a good soaking of the soil every 5 days should give satisfactory results with established plants. Four irrigation methods are commonly used – drip, furrows, soaker hose, and sprinkler.

The drip system or the soaker hose involves a plastic hose which lies beside the crop row, dripping water on the soil.

The furrow method delivers water alongside the plant row. Water should be kept in the furrow long enough for moisture to completely infiltrate the soil to the root

Garden sprinklers are not recommended in the Kingman area due to wind, salinity and the hardness of the water. The salt and hard water film can cause leaf

Plants growing in containers should be watched more closely for water needs because the roots are more confined and the temperature of the soil is more extreme. Make sure there are drainage holes in your containers and put about ½ inch of coarse gravel in the bottom of

The furrow method or the drip system is recommended for our area.

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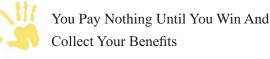
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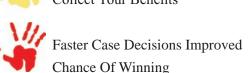
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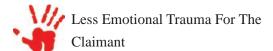
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PERFECT WINDS AND THE SCAPE

As temperatures rise, it's the perfect time to gather friends and family for a getaway in your own backyard. Spruce up your space with furniture and accessories that reflect the newest sights and styles of summer for a patio-ready look that truly takes you places.

Nothing brings people together quite like a party on the patio. Creating a bright, blissful space for your patio celebration is simple when you coordinate everything from dinnerware and drinkware to seating, accessories and even the entertainment.

TABLE TALK

Making vivid memories is as simple as setting your table with a vibrant array. Top your table with layers of colors, textures and bold patterns. Use shatter-resistant dishes and dinnerware made of melamine for a tabletop that is as attractive as it is easy to care for.

DRINK UP

ARGEST INVENTORY

FIBERGLAS ARIZONA

Quench guests' thirst with a cold, refreshing drink station. Turn one corner of your party into a one-stop shop for drinks. Fill an embossed, copper-finished beverage tub with ice and drinks to create your own personal party server. It's a

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Prince Pools

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punch to your party with a jug-shaped acrylic beverage dispenser and a selection of drinkware made for outdoor entertaining. For example, BPA-free Clarity acrylic drinkware from Pier 1 Imports offers the classic good looks of glassware, but the shatter-resistant vessels are at home inside and out. Available in a brilliant range of colors and silhouettes, Clarity pairs perfectly with a line of melamine dinnerware for a cohesive table setting.

OUTDOOR SEATING

Incorporating sectional seating allows you to customize the size and shape that fit your needs. By placing furniture in a corner, you increase functionality without wasting an inch. An ottoman can serve as a small coffee table or low dining table, creating a variety of options for how to use the space. Similarly, repurpose garden stools for multiple uses like tables, plant stands and impromptu seating.



LIGHT THE NIGHT

Crafted of weathered wood and mixed metals, lanterns come alive when the sun goes down. Pair them with flameless LEDs and a remote control so you can turn the festivities on and off at the touch of a button. Group lanterns together and fill a few with surprising elements, like







must-have for hosts who like to mingle. Or add punch to your party with a jug-shaped acrylic beverage dispenser and a selection of drinkware made for outdoor entertaining. For example, BPA-free Clarity acrylic drinkware from Pier 1 terrarium ornaments and faux succulents. Or for high-traffic areas, lanterns and string lights are a perfect solution. Safe for children and pets, these colorful lights are decorative by day and illuminate the celebration after sunset.

GARDEN GAMES

Add a little competitive spirit to your party by setting out a croquet set and let the games begin. Play as singles or set up teams of two. Other party games like bocce ball and horseshoes can inspire even more summer fun.



FINISHING TOUCHES

From the playful to the poetic, unique accents bring your garden into full bloom and make a big difference on your patio. Bring your party theme to life or simply let your own personality shine with accessories such as pillows, rugs and decorative items like planters and garden art.





