



## Mohave County Master Gardener Program

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## Fair Photos









## Bullhead City Master Gardeners

**Bea Munoz – Coordinator**

**Dennis Lesowsky – Co-Coordinator**

**Bill Stillman - Scribe**

Our usual summer hiatus is over and we are back to our regular schedule. Almost. All of our meeting times and days remain the same but not the venue. Mohave Community College has invited us to hold all of our meetings on campus. This will work very well for us and eliminate a lot of the problems maintaining and using the library. So less work for us and more of a classroom feel for attendees. A real win.

There are new officers for the BHC MG group. Bea Munoz is now the coordinator, and Dennis Lesowsky will assume the co-coordinator position. The rest of the team remains the same dedicated group that makes us useful to the community.

We had more than usual client requests this summer with most problems being the usual irrigation - too much or too little - and the same with watering intervals being too often or not often enough. Sun and wind damage, improper pruning, and poor pruning techniques were other common issues.

A home visit to Mohave Valley had us dealing with a past owner's bad choices. There was a rather large *Melia azedarach* (China berry tree). The owner planned to build a covered patio, and the tree needed to be cut back so as not to interfere with building. In doing so, he hacked the top of the tree off. No thought of where or how to properly prune said tree. As a result, the tree is rotting where too long a stub was left on large cuts. There was then not enough tree to shade the trunk which resulted in sunburn. Weak new growth is constantly being broken by the wind. The tree is a disaster and may survive but never to the vigor it will require to again be a useful shade tree. Photos 1, 2, 3.



(continued from page 3)

Another typical visit occurred last week in BHC. An orange tree was losing all its leaves and looked distressed. The first thing was watering too often and not out to the drip line. There were crossing branches and some die back. Other plants include another unknown citrus variety. All looked healthy and well tended. We suggested to start watering every three days for a longer time, moving the basin to the drip line, and adding 1-2 more bubblers. {Photos 4, 5, 6}



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## Kingman Master Gardeners

Nancy Sandy – Coordinator

### Adventures of the Master Gardeners by Nancy Sandy

In my opinion, one of the best things about being a Master Gardener is the incredible array of activities you can participate in. Workshops, school gardens, seed libraries, hot-line questions, continuing education opportunities, social activities and, of course, Fair. My latest Master Gardener adventure fell under the umbrella of “Fair”, specifically ‘booth decoration.’ The theme for Fair this year was “Raising the Steaks,” a cute play on words that left us gardeners scrambling to find a way to decorate our booth in keeping with the Fair’s theme. It was decided that the only way to relate beef cattle to gardening was...you guessed it...manure!

All we needed was a nice looking patty to use as a visual aid for an educational display on the use of steer manure as a garden amendment. So, one fine morning in September, I headed out in search of a cow pie. There’s a lot of open range near me and I knew if I found a cow, I’d be likely to find a cow pie. I wandered down the back roads till I spotted a few cows grazing among the creosote bushes. I hopped out with my pie plate (what else would I put it in?) and began scouring the ground for a likely specimen. I should mention here that I am afraid of cows. I don’t like them, but, more importantly, they don’t like me. The cows I had spotted were a good distance off so I felt safe. But, there’s always that one rogue cow that won’t hang with the herd and she was waiting for me in a little draw a few 100 yards from my truck. About the time I found and bagged an excellent specimen of cow crap, she stood up and announced her presence with a loud snort.

Clutching my prize (if you can call a sack of shit a “prize”), I backed carefully away and started quick stepping towards my truck. She lumbered after me and while I’m pretty sure it was more curiosity or a vain hope I was setting out salt block, to my terrified mind it was a full out charge. I stepped behind a creosote bush and she stopped. I scurried towards another bush and here she came! We went around that creosote bush three or four times with her getting a little more irritated each time we swapped sides. To make matters worse, off in the distance, the rest of the herd were heading over to see what was going on. In desperation, I flung my “educational display” pie pan and its contents as far as I could and made a dash for my truck. It worked. She went to see what kind of pie I had brought her and I escaped with my life. As I was driving away all I could think of was an old saying; “Never bullshit a bullshitter.”

Hope you all are having fun and finding new and interesting ways to spend your time. Don’t forget to come out for Tomato Quest, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00pm in Cecil Davis Park in Kingman. Enjoy the cooler weather and keep growing!



# Tomato Information compiled by Nancy Sandy

Photos from tomato quest catalog: Open sourced from the internet. No copyright infringements

## 2023 SEEDS FOR TEST GARDENERS

### Neptune:



Origin: **Florida**

67 days; 4ft bush;  
Determinate; Open  
pollinated

Specifically bred to be heat  
tolerant, crack resistant and  
disease resistant.

### Ozark Pink:



75 days; Indeterminate;  
Open pollinated

Large vigorous vines are  
heat tolerant and disease  
resistant with delicious 7 oz  
fruits.

Origin: **Arkansas**

### Flamenco:



Origin: **Arizona**

75 days; Indeterminate; 4 ft  
vines; Open pollinated

High tolerance for heat and  
drought Mid-sized tomatoes  
is great for stews and  
salads.

### Hazelfield Farm:



85 days; Indeterminate;  
Open pollinated

A sweet, juicy beefsteak  
slicer. Well suited to hot  
dry summers.

Origin: **Kentucky**

### Eva Purple Bell:



### Illinois Beauty:



Origin: **Illinois**

75 days; Indeterminate;  
Open pollinated

Crack resistant and thrives  
in hot weather. 6-8oz fruit  
has superb flavor.

Origin: **Black Forest of  
Germany late 1800's**

### Sunrise Bumblebee:



Origin: **California**

70 days; Indeterminate;  
Open Pollinated

Red/yellow striped cherry  
tomato that's excellent for  
sun-dried tomatoes. Bears  
well into fall months.

### Micro Tom:



Origin: **Florida**

90 seed to harvest;  
Determinate; Open  
pollinated

Penny sized fruit on a 6  
inch bush. Can be grown in  
small pots, indoors or out.

### Dwarf Russian Swirl:



Origin: **Dwarf Tomato Project, Russia**

87 days; Determinate; 4ft  
Bush; Open pollinated

Slightly flattened, large  
slicer, with tie-dye swirls of  
orange and red and a  
sweet/tangy taste.

### Ananas Noire:



flesh is swirled with pink, yellow, green and red.  
Smoky, sweet flavor.

Origin: **Belgium**

90 days; Indeterminate;  
Open pollinated

Incredibly beautiful large  
ribbed slicer striped with  
purple, green, and red. Its



**42 Days:**

42 days; Determinate; Open pollinated

Very early, heat tolerant 3ft x 3ft bush yields small cherry tomatoes with excellent flavor.

Origin: **Mexico**

**Wherokowhai:** (fer-dow-co-if)

90 days; Indeterminate; Open pollinated

Name is Maori word meaning red/yellow. 3ft bush with 14 oz fruit.

Origin: **Dwarf Tomato Project, New Zealand**

**Thessaloniki:**

60 days; Indeterminate; Open Pollinated

Medium sized slicer on a 4-6ft vine Heat tolerant with great heirloom tomato taste.

Origin: **Greece**

**Zapotec Oaxacana Ribbed:**

90 days; Indeterminate; Open pollinated

Large beefsteak with beautiful pleated fruits. Thin skinned, meaty with a mild, sweet flavor.

Origin: **Oaxaca, Mexico**

**1884:**

80 days; Indeterminate; Open pollinated

Tough reliable tomato. Large fruit has old-fashioned tomato flavor.

Discovered in a pile of flood debris in 1884.

Origin: **Ohio**

**Sub-Arctic Plenty:**

55 days; Open Pollinated; Determinate bush

A cold-set tomato starts early and continues to produce all summer.

Origin: **Alberta, Canada**

**506 Bush:**

65 days; Open Pollinated; Determinate bush, 18 to 24 inches

A mildly sweet slicing tomato, drought tolerant and container friendly.

**Punta Banda:**

65 days; Open Pollinated; Semi-determinate

Heat and drought tolerant. Large plant. Great for paste and sauces.

Origin: **Baja, California**

**Dirty Girl:**

55 days; Open Pollinated; Indeterminate

Stabilized from the Early Girl tomato, it has all her best qualities plus is less

susceptible to end rot.

Origin: **Santa Cruz County**

**Prescott:**

75 days; Open Pollinated; Indeterminate

Plum tomato developed for hot, dry climates. Good for sauce.

Origin: **Wickenburg, AZ**





### **Tiny Tim:**



50 days; Open Pollinated;  
Dwarf Determinate  
Cherry tomato great for  
pots 12 to 18 inches tall  
well-balance flavor.

Origin: Univ. of New Hampshire, 1945

### **Blue Beauty:**



80 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate  
Large slicer with superior  
flavor and texture crack  
resistant

Origin: California

### **Prairie Fire:**



75 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate  
Extremely sweet (Brix  
reading of 10), pretty  
torpedo-shaped cherry

Origin: Whitewater, Wisconsin

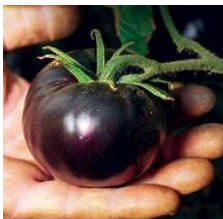
### **Marvel Stripe:**



80 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate  
Beautiful yellow/red  
Beefsteak tomato with  
sweet mellow flavor

Origin: Oaxaca, Mexico

### **Black:**



85 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate  
Medium to large slicer with  
intense, complex flavor.  
Origin: Crimea

### **Siberia:**



50 days; Open Pollinated;  
Determinate 3ft bush  
Medium slicer. Cold set  
that produces in  
temperatures as low as 38  
degrees but also tolerates  
heat. Shade tolerant.  
Origin: Russia

### **Orange Accordion:**



80 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate  
Large fruited Beefsteak  
highly ruffled and colorful  
Origin: Lancaster,  
Virginia

**The following varieties, while not  
selected for this year's test  
gardeners, may also be worth trying:**

### **Pineapple:**



90 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate Heirloom  
Excellent flavor, resists  
cracking.  
Origin: Kentucky

### **Rapunzel:**



New Hybrid cherry by Flora  
Nova Co.  
75 days; Indeterminate  
High yields, good flavor,  
disease resistant. Impressive  
growth and productivity.

### **Box Car Willie:**

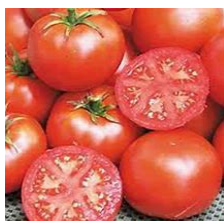


80 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate  
Large slicer, 6-8ft bushes, very  
reliable heirloom will over  
winter at 50 degrees.  
Origin: New Jersey





### Bonny's Best:



80 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate Heirloom

Small to medium slicer  
with classic tomato flavor.

Origin: **Pennsylvania,**  
**1897**

### Chadwick Cherry:



85 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate

Large bush, 7-8ft tall,  
excellent flavor, heat and  
drought tolerant.

Origin: **California**

### Cherry Falls:



65 days; Open Pollinated;  
Determinate

Good container tomato.

Origin: **Andes**

### White Cherry:



60 days; Open Pollinated;  
Semi-determinate

White fruit, sweet fruity  
flavor.

**These tomatoes are ones we feel  
have proven themselves reliable in  
Kingman, AZ. They produce well,  
even during our hottest months, are  
easy to grow, and heat and drought  
tolerant.**

### Green Zebra:



80 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate

This beautiful green and  
gold striped tomato was  
developed by Tom Wagner  
in Everett, Washington in

the 1980's. A large cherry tomato that is crack  
resistant, with a wonderful tangy tomato flavor.

### Gardener's Delight (aka Sugar Lump):



65 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate

Large bushes (6-8 ft) are  
extremely productive even  
in 100+° heat. Even  
sweeter than Sweet 100, it

has a nicely balanced flavor, tolerates most soils  
and is heat and drought resistant. Too much water  
may cause the fruit to crack.

Origin: **Germany**

### Bob's Tucson:



65 days; Open Pollinated;  
Indeterminate

Originally developed and  
marketed by a grower in  
Tucson, AZ, it became  
commercially unavailable  
when they dropped it  
because they felt the flavor

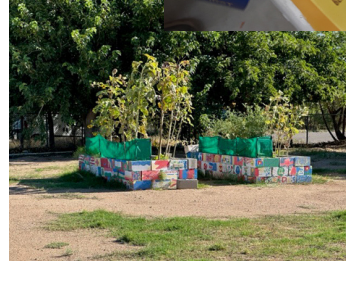
was too inconsistent. At its best, it's an explosion  
of sweet/tart tomato taste but in other years, it has  
a mild sweet flavor without any of the zest. Local  
Kingman gardener, Bob Clotworthy, began  
growing it several years ago and started saving  
seeds when they were no longer available  
commercially. The plant is large and vigorous. It  
sets large teardrop shaped cherry tomatoes from  
spring through fall, even maintaining its'  
productivity through 100+° heat! After 5 years of  
selecting and saving seeds, this reliable tomato is  
one that Kingman can claim as its' own.



## Hualapai Elementary



## Manzanita Elementary



## Cerbat Elementary





## Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

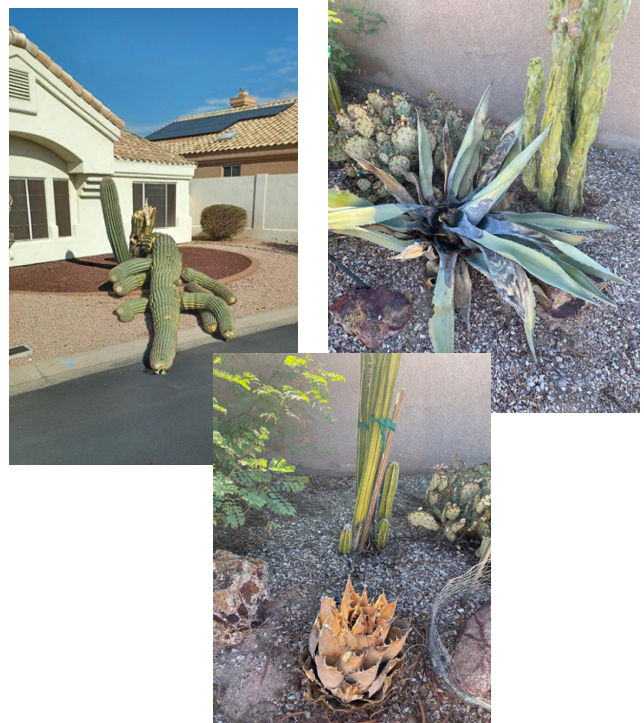
### Sharon Gomez, Coordinator

Well, here we are about to enter the month of October and I think we may be experiencing some fall-like temperatures! After another summer testing our ability to endure weeks of downright horribly HOT weather, we are all ready to get back outside and get some dirt under our fingernails. Everyone has had something die in their gardens and Master Gardeners are not the exception. We will all have a busy fall season replacing dead or dying plants.

Home Garden Days have been well attended even with the hot weather. Of course, most of the questions asked have been, “Why are my plants dying?” But not just the hot weather has contributed to the deaths. As usual, irrigation continues to be an issue with many residents. With this in mind, we will be planning an irrigation workshop in the coming year to try again to impart the correct method for irrigating all plants in the low desert. Unfortunately, we find we give out the information – including printed material to take home – but the residents don’t always make a change and their problems continue. Part of being a Master Gardener is having the patience and fortitude to continue to give out the best information as possible and hope, hope, hope the residents will put that information to good use!

Our phone and email hotline contacts have continued to be busy. Most visits have involved dead or dying cactus. In particular, Lake Havasu has been experiencing a large number of dying saguaro cactus. And so many of these saguaros are very old – some as much as 200 years old with eight to ten arms that have stripped away. Personally, my saguaro spear has survived the summer, but three of my big, blue Murpheyi (Murphy) agaves passed along with a couple Parrasana agaves. Driving around town, I have noticed numerous agaves looking very similar to the pictured photo. I’m hoping we can put a positive note on this horrible summer and maybe convert many gardeners to

begin to use natives and desert-adapted plants to replace those lost.



In August, the Lake Havasu Master Gardeners gave a presentation on vegetable gardening to the Western Association of Council of Governments. The presentation was attended by members from various areas in Mohave County. However, we concentrated on raised bed gardens in the low desert. We will be giving a similar presentation for Meet the Master Gardeners in November.

As we continue into our fall season, our busy time of the year begins with the return of our winter visitors and all of the activities that go along with their return. We began September with the return of our Business Meeting where plans were set in motion for the winter and spring months. We will be looking to have speakers on a variety of subjects like citrus, palms, native and desert-adapted plants, irrigation, and pruning. Lake Havasu Master Gardeners continue to enlighten our residents with the best possible gardening experience through good gardening practices here in the low desert.



# Mohave County Master Gardener Fall 2023 Calendar

## October

Every Tuesday, NV Community Garden, 7am - Nevada Time

- 3<sup>rd</sup> LHC: Home Garden Day, Library 11am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> NV: MG Meeting Zoom, 9-12 - Nevada Time
- 10<sup>th</sup> KNG: Tomato Quest, Cecil Davis Park, 10-2
- 10<sup>th</sup> BHC: MG Meeting, MCC RM #201, 3-4:45
- 12<sup>th</sup> BHC: Home Gardens Days, MCC RM #600, 10am-12pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> LHC: Business Meeting, Library 4 pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> BHC: "Tree Planting Native and Non-Native", MCC #403, 2-4pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> NV: Ask a Master Gardener, 10:30-12:30pm - Nevada Time
- 27<sup>th</sup> KNG: MG Meeting, Extension Office, 1pm

## November

Every Tuesday, NV Community Garden, 7am - Nevada Time

- 1<sup>st</sup> NV: MG Meeting Zoom, 9-12 - Nevada Time
- 7<sup>th</sup> LHC: Home Garden Day, Library 11-1 pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> BHC: Home Gardens Days, MCC RM #600, 10am-12pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> KNG: Arizona Department of Forestry, Tree Presentation, TBD
- 14<sup>th</sup> BHC: MG Meeting, MCC RM #201, 3-4:45pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> BHC: "How to Take Care for & Maintain Potted Plants", MCC Rm 403, 2-4pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> LHC: Business Meeting, Library 4 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> NV: Ask a Master Gardener, 10:30-12:30pm - Nevada Time

## December

Every Tuesday, NV Community Garden, 7am - Nevada Time

TBD NV: MG Meeting Zoom, 9-12 - Nevada Time

- 5<sup>th</sup> LHC: Tuesday, December 5, Home Garden Day, Library 11-1 pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> BHC: MG Dinner, Oriols Restaurant, 5pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> BHC: Home Gardens Days, MCC RM #600, 10am-12pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> BHC: "Moved Here, Now What? Tips on Desert Gardening", MCC RM #403
- 27<sup>th</sup> NV: Ask a Master Gardener, 10:30-12:30pm - Nevada Time

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Fall 2023 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley Lossing, Master Gardener

