




Comparisons of colorants on a golf green near Camelback Mountain.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
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IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY

IN THIS ISSUE

Want green grass? Paint it!

By Kai Umeda

Did you get too busy or forgot to oversee your winter lawn? Do you want to take a break from the routine of mowing, fertilizing, and irrigating an overseeded turfgrass this winter? In our desert southwest, the bermudagrass turf becomes dormant and turns straw-colored when frosty nights occur around November – December. The “blonde” bermudagrass lawn can still become an instant green field of dreams.

In the last seven years, since we began to explore the use of colorants on golf greens in Arizona, manufacturers have improved and expanded the availability of different colors for turf uses. The improved green colors can closely match the authentic look of dark ryegrass to bluish bermudagrass. Exclusive colors for golf greens can differ from those on fairways to offer a contrast when looking from a tee. Colorants applied to golf greens beginning in the late fall can be sprayed multiple times during the winter to maintain the required aesthetic appearance.

A single application of a paint product should provide a green surface for about 4-6 weeks. In colorant comparison

experiments, the darker green colored turf showed an increase in surface temperatures by 2 to 3°F versus the untreated “blonde” bermudagrass surface. Boosting the soil temperatures encourages the bermudagrass to initiate new growth earlier in February – March.

The paints that were evaluated and compared on golf greens contained binding agents to enhance adhering, which allowed it to last longer on the turfgrass leaf surface. There are dyes or pigments that are less viscous without the binding agents and they require more frequent applications, almost weekly to maintain desirable color.

When comparing the economics of coloring lawns versus overseeding, consider the differences in material costs – paint versus seed as well as fertilizer costs. Rough estimates of multiple season-long golf green coloring experiments, from four years ago, ranged from \$200 to \$2,400 per acre. Last but not least, water conservation would be achieved since a dormant lawn would require minimal irrigation during the winter to maintain moisture in the bermudagrass rootzone.



Walk Our Children to School Day



Event Spotlight: Fall Festival & Plant Sale



Volunteer Spotlight: Marianna Hancin

Walk Our Children to School Day

By Paula Barr Skillicorn, Betty Thompson,
Anne Cimorelli-Stears

More than 700 Phoenix children, their parents, and their teachers promoted the health benefits of walking by heading to school on foot as part of the October 5, 2016, Fuel Up To Play 60 kickoff event at Justine Spitalny Elementary School. The school incorporated Fuel Up To Play 60 into Walk to School Day to provide a physical activity component for the kickoff.

In addition to the morning walk through the neighborhood, the event included festivities organized with the help of the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension's University of Arizona Nutrition Network (UANN) team. Team members Betty Thompson, Health Educator Sr., and Maricela Garcia, Instructional Specialist Sr., met with school officials, teachers, and others in the community to plan the event.

Betty and Maricela joined fellow UANN team members, Sarah Lane, Anne Cimorelli-Stears, and Lupe Reyes in offering two of the seven field events at the kickoff. They brought the popular Blender Bike, which students pedaled to make healthy smoothies. The UANN team also provided 100 percent fruit juice tastings.

The team appreciated the help of Cartwright SD 83 Health & Wellness Administrator Rosie Espinoza, who assisted at the UANN Booth.

The kickoff event began with a walk from Orme Park to the school. In honor of their tiger mascot, Spitalny students wore orange tie-dyed t-shirts and teachers and staff wore tiger ears. The Spitalny Tiger joined the students and the Maryvale High School Band played spirited tunes to raise everyone's energy level. The Arizona Cardinals' mascot, Big Red, greeted students at the finish line and Phoenix Mayor, Greg Stanton, spoke to the youth after the walk. Mayor Stanton and Big Red led the youth in a Cupid Shuffle dance session. The festivities included a healthy breakfast and many outdoor field activities.

Walk Our Children to School Day is designed to promote the benefits of walking and raise awareness of changes needed to create safe walking places. Spitalny Elementary School, the City of Phoenix, and The Partnership for a Walkable America sponsored the morning walk. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a nutrition and physical activity program in schools that was started by the National Dairy Council and the National Football League in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture. The program was created to help encourage youth to lead healthier lives. Cartwright School District includes Walk to School Day and Fuel Up to Play 60 as components in its local wellness plan.



Event Spotlight: Master Gardener Fall Festival



Master Gardener Training

The next Maricopa County Master Gardener Training will take place in January 2017. To register and for more information, visit: <http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa-county-master-gardener-training-winter-session-2017>



Publications

Free University of Arizona gardening publications are available at: <http://extension.arizona.edu/pubs>

FAST FACT



Nearly 500

The Maricopa County Master Gardener program has nearly 500 active Certified Master Gardeners.

Event Spotlight:



Fall Festival and Plant Sale Celebrated Fun, Sun, and a Love of Gardening

By Julie Knapp & Yvonne Cooper

More than 750 community members attended a great day of fall festivities and *funshine* at this year’s Annual Fall Festival and Plant Sale event. This year’s Fall Festival and Plant Sale event was hosted by the Maricopa County Master Gardener program in collaboration with the Metro Tech High School located at 1900 W. Thomas in Phoenix, AZ. The day’s events included a plant sale, vendor sales, and a treasure of rummage items. Plants were propagated and donated by volunteer Master Gardeners. Unique vendor items included a beautiful variety of garden art, handmade soaps, and unique succulents. Green Living Magazine was represented with the latest magazine edition and the promotion of sustainable living. Fun and educational exhibits presented by Master Gardeners and program Interns included How to Attract Wildlife to Your Garden, Vegetable Gardening, and Composting. A hands-on exhibit, Making-a-Paper-Pot and Planting Seeds, helped children explore the wonders of gardening.

This annual event remains at the heart of the Master Gardener program mission. “The mission of the Maricopa County Master Gardeners is to teach people to select, place, and care for plants in an environmentally responsible manner based on research specific to the low desert,” said University of Arizona’s, Certified Master Gardener Kathy Hill, co-chair of the Fall Festival. “In keeping with this, the most accessible way for us to reach the public is through community

events like the Fall Festival.” Co-chair Kathy Hill reminds us all that Master Gardener volunteers and interns who made this event successful, “deserve a big pat on the back, a huge hug, and heartfelt thank you.”

Festival patrons purchased donated plants while Master Gardener experts offered advice on proper plant placement, instillation, and care. At the day’s end, all unsold plants were donated to the Arizona State Prison – Perryville in support of beautification projects by a newly created horticulture class.

As usual, this annual event provided a wonderful day of comradery among shoppers, gardeners, and family strollers. “This year’s proceeds provided approximately \$3,000. These monies go to providing program staff support, help desk technology, books, seeds, printing, and all things necessary that make the Maricopa County Master Gardener program a model for other programs throughout the United States,” says Kelly Young, Assistant Agent, Agroecology, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County.

Thank you to all who attended and shared in this community event!





Volunteer Spotlight: Marianna Hancin

The goal of the Volunteer Spotlight article is to recognize the exemplary volunteers who demonstrate the values and mission of Maricopa County Cooperative Extension in the community in which they live.



Marianna Hancin, a Master Gardener since 1999, is our volunteer spotlight.

With hundreds of volunteer hours logged, some of Marianna's MG activities include mentoring new intern classes (at least six times), co-directing the Northwest Valley MG office for six years, MG Advisory Board Member (Liaison to the Fall Festival) for four years, and has served on the planning committee for the Real Gardens for Real People garden tour numerous times.

Marianna was born in Springfield, Missouri. The oldest of five children, Marianna was a shy child whose parents were both veterans of WWII. Her world travels started in childhood. A self-described "Navy brat," she and her family moved to New Orleans, several places in California, Ohio, and even spent a couple of years in Japan. She returned to Japan in the fall of 2015 to visit friends. These same friends have since relocated to Alaska, and a trip

there may be in her not too distant future. For now, though, she is gearing up for a trip to South Africa in October. She'll visit Cape Town where she'll watch whales from her hotel room and visit the National Botanical Gardens. She will then head north of Johannesburg to a private game preserve where she'll stay in luxury tents and take twice daily trips to see animals in the wild.

When Marianna's father retired from the service, he decided to move the family to Phoenix. For the first time, the family was settled with a home they owned rather than rented. There was a large yard with which Marianna's parents had little interest, and it was here that Marianna's love for gardening was born. She planted trees and flowering bushes and shrubs, some of which lived, but many failed. Years later, her curiosity about desert gardening would lead her to the UA program we all know and love.

Marianna is retired now, but for 40 years, she was a librarian in the Phoenix valley. After graduating from college, she took a job as a typist in the Arizona State Law Library, fell in love with everything the library had to offer, and got an advanced degree as a librarian. She was a law librarian for 15 years, working with Governor Bruce Babbitt and numerous state legislators, doing mostly legal research. A highlight for Marianna was seeing Sandra Day O'Connor come to the library to be photographed against the backdrop of huge murals depicting Arizona history during her nomination process. Marianna went on to work at the Glendale Public Library for 25 years, and it was there that she learned about the Master Gardener Program.

Advertisements for the Maricopa County Master Gardening Classes appeared in the Glendale Library, and Marianna finally decided, "I'm just going to do this!" Her hunger to learn later led her to take the 9-month Desert Landscape School at Desert Botanical Garden. She learned more about arid gardening and developed an appreciation for agaves and aloes; her favorites being agave titanota and agave macroacantha. Today, in addition to her MG activities, Marianna is a devoted member of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society.

Marianna's advice to newly graduating MG interns is this, "Don' be afraid to try something new. Try a variety of volunteer jobs. Learn everything you can about the program. Attend advance training. Shadow experienced MGs. Be a mentor. Sit in on the classes again. You'll have an amazing opportunity to influence and encourage others."



Marianna Hancin, a dedicated Master Gardener.

The Director's Cut

By Ed Martin



Fall has finally arrived and we are getting much needed relief with the cooler morning temperatures. This means it's time to start planting our vegetables. Check out our Vegetable Planting Calendar for Maricopa County at: <http://extension.arizona.edu/pubs/vegetable-planting-calendar-maricopa-county>. This publication has information on when to plant seeds and transplants of some of your favorite vegetables. Also, come on out and see what's growing in our garden at the main office. Our Master Gardeners have been hard at work preparing the soil for the fall plantings. Our faculty and staff at the Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center have been busy with Baby Care workshops, Women's Support Group, and Story Time for Families. Stop by their location at The Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center, 4615 S. 22nd St. in Phoenix, AZ 85040 to see what's new. Our 2016 Beginning Farmer Training Series began in October. The training consists of a 5-week program that builds beginning farmer/market gardener/rancher competencies through classroom and experiential learning. We also had a very successful 6th Annual Central Arizona Farmer Field Day at the Maricopa Agricultural Center. Coordinated by our own Dr. Ayman Mostafa, the field day was filled with research and educational information for growers in Central AZ. There is a Brain Builders workshop scheduled for November; the workshop's target audience is child care providers and early childhood teachers where participants receive a 16-hour continuing education certificate (<https://extension.arizona.edu/brain-builders-life-maricopa-county-november-19-2016>). Finally, don't forget that Ag. Literacy Days are October 17th through December 16th. For more information on how you can help educate Arizona students about our connection to agriculture and the commodities produced on Arizona's lands, go to: <http://cals.arizona.edu/agliteracy/AZ-Ag-Lit-Days>. Since our next Newsletter is in January 2017, on behalf of the entire staff and faculty here at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, thanks to everyone for their support during 2016 and may you all have a safe and happy holiday season!

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Traci Armstrong Florian Nutrition/SNAP-Ed/EFNEP
(602) 827-8237 tarmstro@cals.arizona.edu
- Bryan Chadd..... 4-H Youth Development
(602) 827-8250 bchadd@cals.arizona.edu
- Kim Christman..... 4-H Youth Development
(602) 827-8291 kchristman@email.arizona.edu
- Ed Martin County Director/ANR/Water Resources
(602) 827-8200 ecmartin@email.arizona.edu
- Patty Merk Family and Youth
(602) 827-8257 pmerk@cals.arizona.edu
- Ayman Mostafa Agriculture
(602) 827-8213 ayman@cals.arizona.edu
- Monica Pastor Agricultural Literacy/Project CENTRL
(602) 827-8217 mpastor@cals.arizona.edu
- Rebecca Senior Horticulture
(602) 827-8276 rsenior@cals.arizona.edu
- Kai Umeda Turfgrass Science
(602) 827-8214 kumeda@cals.arizona.edu
- Kelly Young Horticulture/Agroecology
(602) 827-8219 kyoung@cals.arizona.edu

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ABOUT TOWN

AZ Agriculture Literacy Day

When: Now through Dec. 16
Coordinated between volunteer & teacher
Where: At an elementary school near you
Contact: bmoak@cals.arizona.edu
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/az-agricultural-literacy-days-october-17-december-16>

Seed to Table Garden & Nutrition Classes

When: November 9 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Where: George Benjamin Brooks Community Ctr.
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/seed-table-garden-nutrition-classes>

Story Time for Families

When: November 9 5:00pm - 6:30pm
(Event is held every Wednesday)
Where: Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/story-time-families>

STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math

When: November 14 5:00pm - 6:30pm
(Event is held every Monday)
Where: Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/steam-science-technology-engineering-art-and-math>

Late Season Field Day

When: November 16 9:00am - 11:00am
Where: A Tumbling T Ranches
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/late-season-field-day>

Roosevelt Family Resource Center Winter Festival

When: December 14 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Where: Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/roosevelt-family-resource-center-winter-festival>

11th Annual Desert Turf School

When: January 9 8:00am - 1:00pm
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
Application Deadline: December 1st
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/11th-annual-desert-turf-school>

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar

<http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa>



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<https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyCooperativeExtension>

Edited By:
Edward Martin
Amber Jones
Kaitlin Poe-Orsburn