



Mohave County Master Gardener Program

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Featured Article

by

Isabell Brood, Kingman Master Gardener

Iris Division and Care

Generally irises need to be divided or thinned every 3-4 years before they become overcrowded and clumpy. Without the thinning process the blooms will suffer, and disease problems could be introduced. I thin and divide my irises when they look crowded, which might be every 2-3 years since iris cultivars have different growing rates dependent on their growing environment (soil, location, sun exposure, and watering). Iris need at least a half day of full sun. In extreme hot climates, like we receive in Arizona, some shade is beneficial. In most climates iris do best in full sun.

STEP 1:

You can remove the center rhizomes individually and leave the new growth rhizomes in the ground. Or dig up entire clump with garden fork or shovel, and remove and replant the new large rhizomes. Be careful not to damage roots or leaves. It depends on the size of the clump and how crowded it is. I use hand garden tools mostly, a shovel, garden fork, and digger. Sometimes I use a full-size shovel and/or a spade fork, especially for clumps that haven't seen regular care and maintenance.



STEP 2:

Shake off excess dirt and remove dead material. Trim roots to 2" inches, and fan leaves 4-6" inches. If you are not replanting immediately, then store irises in a cool dry place, no plastic bags, until planting. Irises can survive several months out of ground when stored properly.



STEP 3:

Replant the rhizomes so top is visible and flush with the soil, and the roots spread out facing downward in the soil. In our hot climate you may cover the top of rhizome with 1" inch of soil. Pack soil firmly and moderately water.

Ideally irises should be planted 12-24" inches apart, giving them room to grow and multiply before dividing. For best results, iris should be planted in July, August, or September. In areas with hot summers and mild winters, such as Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City, September or early October plantings may be preferred.

Remember to work with one clump of iris cultivar at a time so the rhizomes don't get mixed up with other cultivars. Label the cultivars using a permanent marker, Sharpie, on the leaves (with the name of cultivar, color, or both). It is not necessary to

rinse or wash the dirt from the rhizomes if just re-planting. Now is the time to amend your soil before re-planting, as iris are heavy feeders, especially if it has been awhile since you last divided the clumps. To help replenish soil nutrients you can combine mushroom mulch, grow mulch and garden soil. Make sure what ever you use is low nitrogen.



References: 1. Schreiner's Irises 2. San Diego Iris Society 3. personal experience of 15+ years of growing them



Amy's Corner

What a difference three months makes! When I last wrote for the summer edition of *Wind & Weeds*, we were coming off an unseasonably cool and wet spring. Despite hopes that the trend may continue through summer, the weather pendulum swung in the opposite direction, and we had an exceptionally hot and dry season, with no real monsoon rain in the region until September 1st! As our winter visitors start filtering back into the area, they will undoubtedly be encountering landscaping that is struggling after months of above average temps with very little rain. I anticipate our hotline and Home & Garden Days will be busier than normal as a result, but have full faith that our amazing team of Master Gardeners will be ready for the challenge!

Master Gardeners are equipped to provide science-based horticultural advice to the public in part because they receive their initial training through a 13-week training previously known as the Urban Home Horticulture Class. At the annual Master Gardener Coordinator meeting held in July, we agreed that the UHHC title was cumbersome and confusing, and decided to change the name to the Master Gardener Training Class. The next 13-week Master Gardener Training Class is slated to be held in Lake Havasu City starting in mid-January 2020. As soon as a location is set, and instructor schedule is confirmed, I will send out registration information.

There were some additional changes decided upon at our annual Master Gardener Coordinator meeting in July that affect both Certified Master Gardeners, and Associates (recent graduates of the Master Gardener Training Class who are working towards becoming Master Gardeners). Both groups previously had an annual requirement of 12 educational hours/year. That number has been reduced to 6 hours/year, but there is now a requirement that all education hours must come from attending a workshop or webinar from a reputable source. Volunteer hour requirements will remain the same – 50 hours for new Associates in their first year, and 35 hours/year thereafter for Certified Master Gardeners. We

hope that this shift will take the guesswork out of deciding what is considered education, and what is considered volunteer – along with increasing the quality of education being attained by our Master Gardeners.

With the fall planting season upon us, I want to remind everyone to visit our free seed library, located at the Mohave County Cooperative Extension office in Kingman. We still have hundreds of packets of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds, along with a wide variety of gardening books available at no cost to both Master Gardeners and the general public. Stop in during normal business hours, Monday – Friday from 9 am – 4 pm, and see what you can find.

I am excited to see so many different events on the calendar this quarter, and look forward to a great fall season of learning and growing. A big thank you to all the Mohave County Master Gardeners for your service to our community!

Amy Nickel, Instructional Specialist Sr.



Bullhead City Master Gardeners

Debbi Miller, Coordinator
Leroy Jackson, Co-coordinator
Bonnie Muir, Secretary
Bill Stillman, Scribe

July and August are the months when the Bullhead City Master Gardeners, along with most of the local population, stay in their air conditioned spaces and peer out their windows at their gardens. In the early mornings some might check their emitters for clogs, check the batteries on their irrigation timers, and occasionally add shade cloth to help decrease the sunburn on their most tender plants. No meetings or events are scheduled in Bullhead City during these months, and even the hotline calls were few and far between this year.

By mid-August we start gearing up for a very busy September-October burst of activity. We plant seeds indoors, get our programs printed, and begin organizing and implementing plans for the events that start with a vengeance in September.

Our series of library programs began on September 12 with “Home Garden Day”—our monthly informal morning sessions where the public can bring their horticultural questions or problems for us to answer or diagnose. A panel of Master Gardeners, usually including Bill Stillman, Leroy Jackson, Debbie Miller and Dennis Lesowsky, sits at the front of the room with their assorted reference materials (including a wi-fi hookup to the computer), and preliminarily field the questions. Our audience includes other Master Gardeners, as well as many regulars who also offer suggestions and solutions, and the discussions often are quite lively and lead from one thing to another.

We never know what topics will arise, though it's always a safe bet irrigation problems will be discussed, along with white flies or other insects at certain times of the year. This year we had a grasshopper invasion causing more of a mess than actual damage to plants, and thankfully short-lived. After the July/August hiatus, we always have samples brought in of plants that didn't survive the heat of summer, or ap-

pear to be severely stressed—some of which can be explained simply as the challenge of trying to grow anything non-native in the Mohave Desert. Reassurances are also offered to newcomers that you can grow things here!

Our third-Thursday afternoon library presentations also began in September with a program given by Dennis on Vegetables. It was preceded by something new we're trying this year—a short talk by Sally Stevens on “What to do in your garden this month”. Her article in this issue of *Winds & Weeds* is similar to the presentation given to our library audience. This short talk further energized us to get busy planting right now, as well as think ahead for the next few months.





We also have formalized two school garden programs for this year. Seven of the Master Gardeners got their fingerprint clearance cards and will be working with the Academy of Building Industries (AOBI), and Bullhead City Middle School gardens. AOBI is a high school for alternative students interested in the building trades, and has a school bus which they have converted into a greenhouse. They began their program last year and we will be working with them twice a month. Bullhead City Middle School has an enthusiastic Science teacher who is dedicated to establishing a garden at their location, and we will also be working with them twice monthly. As these projects grow and we get more interested volunteers we can add additional schools or additional visits. Becky Leisle and Maria Waitas are taking the leads on these programs.

Looking forward to the future, we are partnering with Mohave Electric Cooperative (MEC) for two upcoming events. First, we will be hosting a table at their National Night Out community festival on October 2, and also preparing for their annual fall event, Operation Cool Shade. During Operation Cool Shade, MEC offers pre-sales on low cost trees to their customers beginning in September, and we help on “distribution day” which will be November 9 this year.

In keeping with the Cool Shade theme, we will focus on our upcoming October Library program on planting native and non-native trees. Mohave Electric Cooperative helps publicize our program through their newsletter and local ads, so it is truly a win-win for everyone involved.

We’re glad to be back, and look forward to a busy fall!



Bullhead City Master Gardener's Almanac for September

by Sally Stevens, Bullhead City Master Gardener

Along the Colorado River Basin, the heat is finally leaving. Yippee! We gardeners have been waiting all summer for the colloquial “fifteen minutes of autumn” to arrive. There are so many things to do in this short pivotal season! Take advantage of the balmy weather outside and refresh your garden beds with new compost. Tired perennials will brighten up with a light pruning and layer of compost at the roots. Water the compost in well and watch how they perk up. You can get another flush of bloom if the warm weather holds. While it is appropriate to fertilize some things now, just remember to go easy on tender perennials and citrus trees, as new shoots damage more easily in frost. The new shoots need time to harden off, and this area can get first frosts as early as November.

Cooler air temperatures and warm soil temperatures are a perfect combination for germinating seeds, especially vegetables. Most gardeners familiar with this climate have already begun their first succession of fall/winter vegetables indoors, but if you have not done so yet you can still plant seeds directly in the ground. As the days get shorter this window of opportunity for soil germination will dwindle however you can still plant many things all the way through the winter and into the spring. Plant short season crops (radishes, peas, short day corn) or crops

which can take a light frost (beets, chard, kale, rapini, oriental greens, mustards) as it is only 90 days until Christmas. If you find strawberries, grapes, berries or citrus at the box stores this is a premium time to put them in the ground also. Don't forget about planting the wildflower seeds we collected this year. Planting them before October 1 will ensure they get up and going in time for early spring blooms. If you are planning for bulbs in the spring you should be making sure they have been adequately chilled and get them into their beds as well.

Bermuda lawns are beginning their transition to winter. Now is the time to reseed with winter rye. I know many golf courses and parks have already scalped and reseeded. While warm soil temperatures are key to good germination and fast greening, the soil temps should hold through the end of October.

This brings us into the month of October. The Bullhead City Master Gardeners will be focusing on the planting of trees. Our workshop is on the third Thursday of the month, October 17th. We hope to see you there!

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Kingman Master Gardeners

Linda L Reddick, Coordinator
Melissa Palmer, Co-Coordinator

Well, folks, fall is just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I am ready for some cooler weather. This monsoon season has been a bust. No rain, just hot and windy. Plants and people alike are struggling to stay hydrated and as cool as possible. But, no matter, it hasn't stopped the Kingman Master Gardeners.

The July workshop "Landscape Plants for Kingman" was attended by an overflow crowd. Actually there were about 35 people turned away, as we exceeded our seating capacity! I covered landscape trees and shrubs, Bob Clotworthy talked about fruit trees, and Nancy Sandy elaborated on perennials. The participants gave us great reviews, so kudos to all the presenters. At the request of those who were turned away, we scheduled an encore performance in August.

Hot, windy August was kicked off with the "Blue Ribbon Vegetables" workshop, led by Susan Crews. We covered what to plant and when, do's and don'ts for fall clean up, and how to enter the fair. Attendance was very good, as were the review scores. Great job everyone! Then three days later we did our encore presentation of "Landscape Plants for Kingman". Again it was well attended, with great review scores.

With the Mohave County Fair rapidly approaching, Cathy Bryan took the lead for the Master Gardener booth and started a preliminary sign up list for the time slots. Sherry Kelly-Buie, superintendent for the Fruits and Vegetable Exhibit, recruited people to help decorate and receive items for judging.

September is Fair time... and it was a very busy one to-boot. The decorating teams for both the Master Gardener booth and the Vegetable & Produce exhibit did a bang-up job, the booths looked marvelous. We received lots of positive comments. The produce team, Sherry Kelley-Buie, Izzy Brood, Colleen Richters, Ben May, Bob Clotworthy and I, worked

like a dream team. The intake of the items through the final judging went smooth as butter. The judge, Dr. Angela O'Callaghan, even gave us an atta-boy for having everything so organized. Thank you Sherry Kelley-Buie for the super job you did.

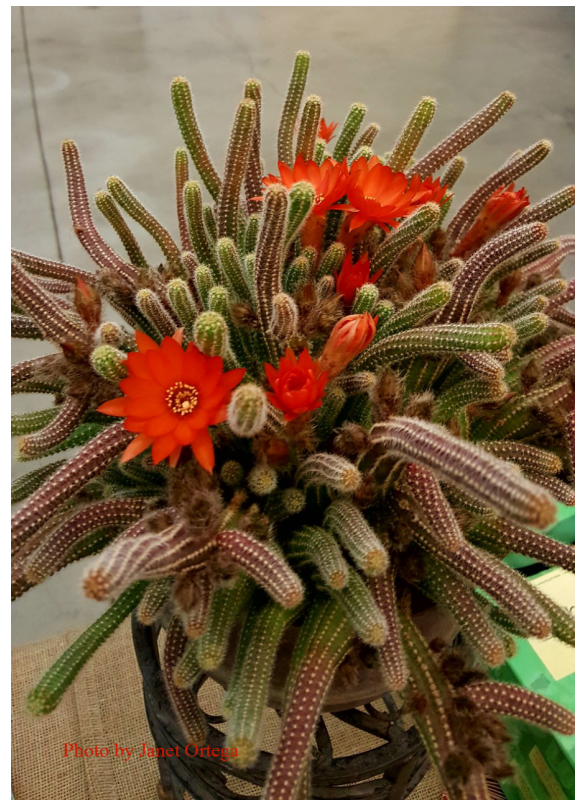




Meanwhile in the Master Gardener booth they were busy answering all kinds of questions. Andrew Brischke not only moved and set up the hydroponic garden display, but disassembled it too. He sure stirred up a ton of interest. Some time after the first of the year, Andrew will be giving a workshop on all of the ins and outs of setting up your own system. Sure hope he is ready for an overflow crowd. Don't want to forget to thank the Master Gardeners from Lake Havasu for coming up and helping in the booth. Special thanks to Cathy Bryan for coordinating the Master Gardner booth so efficiently. It was sure fun seeing old friends and prior students at the fair.

I hope everyone has their winter vegetables ready to plant. It's one of the big advantages of living in this part of Arizona. We are able to grow year around, so why not take advantage of that. Plant some extra cabbage and make some sauerkraut.

Best Regards,
Linda L Reddick
Kingman Coordinator



Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

Sharon Gomez, Co-coordinator

We are looking forward to our snowbird Master Gardener members that will be returning to LHC soon, as they are eager to participate in the events here over the winter. Lake Havasu City has been expanding at a rapid pace, and as it continues the Master Gardeners will benefit from the number of people that will become a part of this group. I have talked to many people that would like to attend the upcoming Master Gardener Training that begins in January. I would speculate that there will be some new faces in our ranks in the next several months.

The hotline number has been busy for Irene Rose, the team leader who answers many gardening questions and who also coordinates the home visits here. There have been issues with sooty canker on citrus, bacterial necrosis on saguaros, watering issues, and other problems that she has addressed in a timely manner. Thank you, Irene.

Enjoy the cooler weather, and happy gardening.



Mohave County Master Gardener Fall 2019 Calendar

October

- October 1: LHC Home Garden Day, Lake Havasu City Library, 11 am - 1 pm
October 2: National Night Out, Mohave Electric offices, 928 Hancock Rd, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm,
October 8: BHC Master Gardener Meeting, Bullhead City Library, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
October 10: BHC Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, 10 am – 12 pm
October 15: LHC Business Meeting, Lake Havasu City Library, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
October 17: BHC Library Presentation, “Planting Your Cool Shade Tree”, 2 pm – 4 pm
October 24: KGM Master Gardener Meeting, Cooperative Extension Office, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
October 25: Container Gardening for Kids & Parents, Lake Havasu City Library, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
October 26: KGM Seed Saving Workshop, Cooperative Extension Office, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

November

- November 2: Meet the Master Gardeners, Lake Havasu City Library, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
November 5: LHC Home Garden Day, Lake Havasu City Library, 11 am - 1 pm
November 9: Cool Shade Tree Distribution, Justice Complex parking lot, Alona’s Way, 7 am – 12 pm
November 12: BHC Master Gardener Meeting, Bullhead City Library, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
November 14: BHC Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, 10 am – 12 pm
November 19: LHC Business Meeting, Lake Havasu City Library, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
November 21: BHC Library Presentation, “Gardening in Small Spaces” w/ Angela O’Callaghan, 2 – 4 pm
November 23: KGM Cactus & Succulents Workshop, Cooperative Extension Office, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
November 28: Happy Thanksgiving! No KGM Master Gardener Meeting this month

December

- TBD: KGM Business Meeting and Holiday Gathering
December 3: LHC Home Garden Day, Lake Havasu City Library, 11 am - 1 pm
December 10: BHC Master Gardener Meeting and Holiday Dinner, Location TBD, 6 pm – 7:30 pm
December 12: BHC Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, 10 am – 12 pm
December 13: Deadline for Spring Wind & Weeds Submissions
December 17: LHC Business Meeting, Lake Havasu City Library, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

KEY: Bullhead City (BHC) Lake Havasu City (LHC) Kingman (KGM) ALL

Fall 2019 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley, Master Gardener

