



Mohave County Master Gardener Program

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Featured Article

"PVC Piping Threaded Fittings (Don't and Do's)"

by

Bill Stillman, Bullhead City Master Gardener Emeritus

When it comes to installing PVC water piping you have your choice of using threaded fittings or using a solvent to assemble the piping together. The solvent actually melts (similar to welding) the surfaces together. Many times the assembly requires a combination of both threaded fittings and solvent-assembled fittings. The problem lies when joining threaded fittings. Many people are under the assumption using Teflon tape and/or Teflon paste will help seal the piping. Instead it will allow the fitting to be over tightened. Over tightening will create an excessive pressure against the fittings causing a fitting failure.



If you carefully look at the PVC pipe threads, you will see the threads are tapered (except for conduit). The female fitting gets smaller inside of the fitting, and the male fitting gets larger. This taper seals the threads, stretching the female fitting as it is tightened. These tapered pipe threads are tapered 3/4" per foot, or about 1/16" per inch of length of the threaded part of the fitting. By tightening the fittings by hand first, then using wrenches, the tapered threads form the seal. (See photo PVC Fitting)

Over tightening plastic pipe screwed fittings will break the fitting/s. Using Teflon tape or paste will allow the fittings to be over tightened, thus breaking the fittings.

What to use and not to use (Don'ts and Do's)

- Don't use Teflon based pastes
- Don't use Teflon Tape
- Don't use stronger schedule 80 fittings with schedule 40 fittings
- Do hand tighten the fittings, then 1-2 turns with tooling.
- Do use a sealant for threaded joints. (I use Oatey's Great White Pipe Joint Compound and on occasion I have used Tru-Blu pipe thread sealant. Each I have had favorable results.

Remember: do not over tighten the fittings, use only schedule 40 fittings with schedule 40 fittings, and do not use Teflon materials on plastic pipe.



Andrew's Corner

We're only a quarter of the way through the year and, weirdly, it feels longer than that. It's been very busy, especially compared to the last two years. I'm continually amazed by the perseverance and commitment from our MG volunteers as we work through this time of transition back to more normal programming. I know I don't say it enough, but your work as Mohave County Master Gardeners (MCMG) is very appreciated and noticed; we see the results as our programs continue to regain momentum and return to pre-pandemic participation.

Sadly, we lost a very active and influential Master Gardener earlier this year. Linda Reddick passed away January 24th, 2022. Linda was an extraordinary MCMG volunteer that served the greater Kingman community in a variety of roles including leadership and mentorship as the Kingman Area Coordinator, numerous school gardening programs, and provided general advice, knowledge, and answers to our current MGs and public. She is already greatly missed but through her mentorship I know our current MGs will continue the incredible legacy she left.

In other news, our current MCMG Training Course class has been progressing quite nicely and it appears we have an enthusiastic group of participants that would like to continue forward with their MG journey. They have been engaged at every class and very patient with the minor scheduling changes that

seem to occur with every Training Course we offer. Again, I greatly appreciate their adaptability that we know you need to have as a MG. I'd also like to thank the BHC MG who attend to take care of the often unnoticed but necessary tasks to make the classes run smoothly.

To end on some rather good news, we are in the process of extending an offer to a candidate for the MCMG Program Coordinator position. The candidate is very enthusiastic and excited to start. We hope we can get her aboard quickly and out to each area to begin meeting our MCMGs. She will have a steep learning curve when it comes to the gardening aspect but from all accounts, she is very detail oriented and organized, which if you've ever walked into my office, you know I could use a little help with those skills.

Perhaps more than most I'm looking forward to including some much-needed help both in the form of a new cohort of Associate MGs as well as a Program Coordinator. One of the first tasks our new Program Coordinator will have is to help me organize one of our most important events, our Volunteer Recognition luncheon. After more than two years of your hard work and perseverance through these difficult times, I'm delighted to recognize all the time and effort you all bring to the MCMG program.

Cheers,

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Edward C. Martin, Associate Dean & Director, Extension & Economic Development, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona.

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Bullhead City Master Gardeners

Dennis Lesowsky – Coordinator
Debbie Miller – Co-Coordinator
Bonnie Muir- Secretary
Bill Stillman - Scribe

Well, here it is spring, after a rather mild winter in the low desert. In my garden I've only recorded one night below 32 degrees, and that was for less than a two hour period.

Bullhead Master Gardeners have been involved with the City of Bullhead City in designing and advising the start-up of a local community garden for which the BLM is working to procure land. Once procured, the City will be providing that land and some of the materials and labor for the construction of the garden. The garden will be managed by the newly formed 501C non-profit board of non-paid directors. The Board of seven members will be comprised of business owners, local store managers, City staff and one Master Gardener. The Bullhead City Master Gardeners will be involved teaching at the garden and as advisors to the board as needed. The project is moving fast and is off to a very good start. Our Master Gardeners are looking forward to many great teaching opportunities at the site.

We have had a drop off in attendance for our presentations at the library since Covid has been around. Lifestyle changes due to Covid disrupted our normal Master Gardener activities, but hopefully as things return closer to normal, our classes will begin to see a higher attendance. Our classes on Pruning and Irrigation were smaller this year than in the past but the people who did come out were treated to a bucket of knowledge by our presenters. Next up is a program on raising chickens on April 21.



Our school gardening programming with the Academy of Building Industries (AOBI) has resumed, but other school programs are still not active.

Sponsored by the Mohave Community College, lectures at the DIG It Community Garden are still on going. Debbie, Leroy and Bill have been the presenters. The March topic was fertilizers and their uses. The class was divided into two parts: the fertilizers themselves, with discussions about using a “one bag fits all” versus using individual ingredients to fertilize your plants, and the second part was about the diagnosis of plant problems associated with nutrient deficiencies versus problems related to the lack of, or improper, maintenance of the plant materials themselves.



(Continued from page 3)



This year, the Bullhead City Master Gardeners are hosting the Master Gardener Training Course. With limited classroom space, our master gardeners have been taking turns monitoring the Master Gardener course at Mohave Community College. Some of the attendees have become regulars at our Home Garden days and Library presentations. Hopefully many of the local students in the class will join our Master Gardener group this spring.

The Bullhead City Area Home and Garden show took place the last weekend of January 2022 at the Anderson Fieldhouse. Our booth was adequate in size, though a little larger space would have helped. Our Bullhead City Master Gardeners manned the booth over the weekend, answering questions and handing out flyers for our upcoming events and activities. Geneva brought in boxloads of Aloe Vera as giveaways, which was a hit with all the visitors to the booth. “Spin the Wheel” players received seed packets. We are looking forward to the next home show event, coming soon to Bullhead City.



Kingman Master Gardeners

Izzy Brood, Coordinator

Greetings from Kingman Master Gardeners. First off, for those of you who do not know, Linda Reddick passed away from stage 4 ovarian cancer on January 24, 2022. She was a leader, mentor, teacher, and good friend to many during her 20 plus years in our community.

My name is Izzy Brood, pronounced “Brud”, and I have taken over the coordinator position for the Kingman Master Gardeners. I have been a gardener since childhood and became a Certified Master Gardener in 2017; I served as Co-Coordinator with Linda since 2020. The Kingman Master Gardeners will continue to follow in Linda’s footsteps, promoting the school gardens and supporting the community in a way that would make Linda proud.

Spring is just around the corner, depending on whose calendar you’re reading. Seed catalogs have been arriving and seedlings are now in the nursery departments. Here in the Kingman area the weather has been constantly changing: cold, hot, warm, rainy, freezing and windy. We have been busy with several workshops already - Seed Saving, Seed Exchange and a Spring Garden Planting workshops. The workshops were all well attended with attendees showing great enthusiasm. We are now utilizing three facilities to present our Master Gardener workshops to the community: the UA Mohave County Cooperative Extension office on Beale Street; the Mohave County Kingman Library on Burbank, and the DigIt Community Garden on Lillie. Upcoming Master Gardener workshops will include Grapevine Pruning, Irrigation, Propagation, and even one on Preparation for the County Fair.

The school gardens are going strong. Each school has its own unique micro-climate presenting different challenges. The schools have harvested broccoli, Brussel sprouts, carrots, beets, lettuce, radishes, turnips, peas, Bok choi, spinach, and kohlrabi. Some of these plants are still producing. The students are prepping their raised beds for late spring planting of watermelons, pumpkins and sunflowers so they will be ready to harvest just in time to enter the fair.



Linda Reddick
January 3, 1946 – January 24, 2022
by Izzy Broöd

Linda was raised on a farm five miles north of State College, in Centre County, Pennsylvania with her parents, brother, two sisters, and many farm animals.

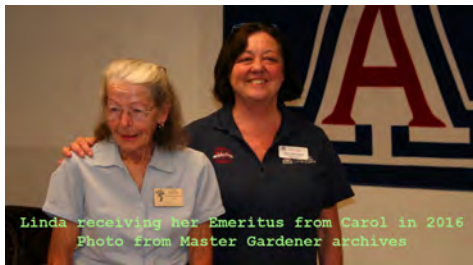


Her family moved to California in 1958 and she became a dog handler in Mountain View in 1961. In her 20's she moved to San Bernadino, California

and worked for the Cajon Valley School District as a Financial Secretary. Linda and Deane moved to her 80 acre off-grid home in Hackberry, Arizona in the early 2000's.

We know Linda best for her years of volunteer service as a Kingman Master Gardener which she began in 2006 and reached her Emeritus status in 2016. She had logged over 8,000 volunteer hours as a Master Gardener. She was always volunteering before she was even asked.

Linda found a need for her knowledge in a special part of the community with guidance from Nina Brackett and the 4-H School Garden Programs. The Kingman school district did not have any problems for elementary students to learn about gardening, agriculture, and the related



Linda receiving her Emeritus from Carol in 2016
Photo from Master Gardener archives

subjects. She created the school program utilizing Master Gardeners as teachers that continues still today. Bob Clotworthy and Izzy Broöd started assisting her in 2016 at Cerbat Elementary School Garden. Linda and Izzy would shovel and bag compost/manure donated by Rob Grumbles, past Mohave County Extension Director, for the school garden beds.

Linda constantly listened to others who were experts in their fields, researched topics, took classes, wrote papers,

and soaked up knowledge like a sponge. She was always willing to share her knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn. If you asked her a gardening question that she couldn't answer, she would research the topic and give you the answer based on fact and science. Her goal was to see her knowledge educate the community through workshops, and create lesson plans to teach the children about their food: where it comes from, how it grows, and the impact it has on people's lives and the environment. Many school students have benefitted from her knowledge, including Black Mountain Elementary in Golden Valley, Mt. Tipton in Dolan Springs, Valentine Elementary in Valentine, and in the Kingman school district - Cerbat, Manzanita, Hualapai Mountain, White Cliffs, La Senita, Desert Willow Elementary schools, and Kingman Academy of Learning Intermediate. She also taught at the 4-H Summer Kamp, Girl Power.

Linda provided us with the tools, knowledge, and encouragement to continue her legacy with the School Garden Clubs.

She was our teacher and mentor. It's soil, not dirt!



MOAL 2011-2012
Photo from Nina Brackett



Linda at BK
Photo from Nina Brackett



Photo from Master Gardener archives



Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

Sharon Gomez, Coordinator

The first three months of 2022 have certainly flown by! And Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners have been busy.

January started off with a very busy Home Garden Day. Everyone is thinking about their gardens and wondering what has gone wrong. Lots of questions about growing veggies, citrus, palms, shrubs and mesquite trees; plants dying or pretty close to dying, overwatering, pruning are just some of the pertinent questions asked. We have stocked up on handouts to give to our residents to take home for future reference and referral.

On January 15, we held our Meet the Master Gardeners program featuring Bob Morris speaking on Making Desert Gardening Easy. He was very well received by close to 90 residents. Then a couple of weeks later we held a pruning seminar at the Aquatic Center. The city's Public Works landscape crew was there to demonstrate how to properly prune a residential tree followed by Master Gardeners demonstrating how to prune shrubs. Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions throughout the demonstrations, after which we adjourned to a room to further discuss plant pruning, and then opened up the floor to any and all questions. The residents gobbled up the fliers we had regarding citrus, pruning, planting instructions, proper irrigation, and anything they needed advice on. We had around 60 residents attend the seminar.

February was another busy month. Home Garden Day had a great attendance. Then, February 12 and 13, the city held Winter Fest on our downtown Main Street. Master Gardeners set up two easy-ups, a couple of tables and chairs, our tri-fold story boards with photos of native and desert-adapted plants for Lake Havasu, baskets with aloe vera to hand out, and some lemons from our home trees. Both

days were very busy with people stopping in to ask gardening questions. We were able to supply fliers to back up the instructions we were speaking about. We also promoted Home Garden Day for further information.

Towards the end of the month, we held a Library Landscape Work Day. The Master Gardeners take care of the landscape along the front of the library. We prune, weed, and check irrigation at least twice a year. This year, some of the shrubs had died off or were in need of removal. We worked in conjunction with the Friends of the Library to purchase new, replacement shrubs while we did the installation. Shortly, we will add some new gravel to refresh the entire area. Come fall, we should see a splendid display of our hard work.

Home Garden Day in March continued to have excellent attendance. All three months have had at least two to three home garden visits. We met with the residents of a condo complex off the golf course to explain proper irrigation and care and maintenance of their complex's landscape and some of their personal condo landscaping. The concerned residents have spoken with our Master Gardeners at Home Garden Day and taken the information back to the HOA. Many residents don't believe our instructions (less days of irrigation), therefore, the residents who engaged us will now create an email to send to all the residents of the complex with our instructions and the reasoning behind it.

We met with the Ft. Mohave Indian Reservation Child Care Center and University staff member Bree Daughtery. The Center is interested in setting up a raised bed for veggie gardening and perimeter tree planting. We advised on soil, irrigation and fertilization. Instructions were given on what veggies to plant in the Spring and Fall and how to



care for them. We will also be advising on types of trees to plant along a fence line. Advice on running irrigation lines to all were discussed.

We continue to receive numerous hot-line calls and emails asking for assistance. Residents are losing plants right and left after a second extremely hot and dry summer. Most, if not all, are either irrigating way too much or not at all. In particular, we have seen the decline and fall of numerous palms – Mexican Fan, Pygmy date, and Pineapple palms – some due to fungal infections that have been going on for a while. We've also seen the decline of mesquite trees due to borers. Portions of the mesquite tree were dying off and there was definite evidence of past and present damage from borers.

We have received many questions about citrus: die-back, fertilizing, planting, and watering. The last two summers have played havoc with so many citrus

trees due to the extreme heat. Then again, watering was the main issue as well as a proper fertilization schedule.

A variety of Lake Havasu Master Gardeners have stepped up to answer many other inquiries. From how and what vegetables to grow in our low desert, cactus identification, along with diseases and pests attacking plants.

Hope everyone is out in their gardens, enjoying the next couple of months before summer and our HOT weather returns.

And a final word: Havasu Master Gardeners want to send a special condolence to the Kingman Master Gardeners on their loss of Linda Reddick. We were all taken aback by the announcement and spoke about our times together in the past with Linda. She will be sorely missed!



Photos by Shelley



Mohave County Master Gardener Spring 2022 Calendar

April

Kingman School Gardening - Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Every Tuesday Laughlin Community Garden 7am -5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

TBD LHC Library Landscape Workday

TBD,LHC Garden Visit to Jan Emming's ranch

2nd , LHC Xeric Gardening by Jan Emming, Lake Havasu Library, 1 PM

5th LHC Home Garden Day

6th Laughlin Master Gardeners Meeting Zoom?

7th Horticulture Class @ MCC Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Dr. Dawn Gouge, Extension Specialist, Public Health Entomologist, Maricopa Agricultural Center, University of Arizona

9th Science Behind Companion Planting, Digit Community Garden, 2301 Lillie Ave, Kingman, 1 PM

12th BHC Master Gardener Meeting 3 PM to 4:45 PM

14th Horticulture Class @ MCC Diagnosing Plant Problems/Finding Solutions Dr. Bindu Poudel, Extension Plant Pathologist & Plant Disease Diagnostician, Yuma Agricultural Center, University of Arizona

**FINAL EXAM WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THIS CLASS*

19th Business Meeting and Spring Luncheon, Sharon Gomez's Home

21st Horticulture Class @ MCC Final Exam, Grading & Class Evaluation Andrew Brischke, Area Assistant Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), Mohave County Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona Master Gardener Program Q&A

22nd Kingman MG meeting, extension office Kingman, 1 PM

23rd Propagation 1, Kingman Library, 3269 N. Burbank, 1 PM

27th Laughlin Ask the Master Gardener 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM Nevada Time

29th Dig Community Garden Arbor Day Tree Planting (Bill, Leroy Debbie) 12:30 PM

30th Propagation 2, Kingman Library, 3269 N. Burbank, 1 PM

May

Kingman School Gardening - Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

3rd LHC Home Garden Day

4th Laughlin Master Gardeners Meeting Zoom?

10th BHC Master Gardener Meeting 3 PM to 4:45 PM

12th Bullhead City Home Garden Days 10 AM to 12 PM

17th LHC Business Meeting

19th BHC Library Gardening in the Low Desert. 2 PM to 4 AM

25th Laughlin Ask the Master Gardener 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM Nevada Time

27th Kingman MG meeting, extension office Kingman, 1 PM

June

Kingman School Gardening - Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Every Tuesday Laughlin Community Garden 7am -all month

1st Laughlin Master Gardeners Meeting Zoom?

7th LHC Home Garden Day

9th Bullhead City Home Garden Days 10 AM to 12 PM

14th BHC Master Gardener Meeting 3 PM to 4:45 PM

21st LHC Business Meeting

22nd Laughlin Ask the Master Gardener 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM Nevada Time

24th Kingman MG meeting, extension office, Kingman, 1 PM

Spring 2022 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley Lossing, Master Gardener

