Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners Newsletter



Austrian copper rose. Photo by Sarah Baldwin.

How to Grow Roses in Santa Fe

by Katherine O'Brien, ARS Consulting Rosarian

Growing roses in Santa Fe can be as complicated as you make it. For easy, choose a species rose such as our native *Rosa woodsii* and grow it like you would most native plants, giving it sunlight and enough moisture to start it and sustain it. *Rosa foetida*, the genus of the popular Austrian copper and Persian yellow roses, also thrives in Santa Fe's high and dry climate without much fuss.

When selecting a hybrid tea, floribunda, climber, or shrub rose, you need to put a bit more thought into the project. Roses like sun but not a lot of wind or

reflected heat, so choose a site in your yard with these qualities. Soil that contains a high percentage of organic matter, a neutral pH, and good drainage is preferable. In Santa Fe, we usually need to create this soil by incorporating compost, magnesium sulfate, and greensand into our existing subsoil. Roses also require regular watering throughout the year. More roses die in Santa Fe from insufficient water during winter than for any other reason. In the warmer seasons irrigation systems can deliver the water. But in winter a means must be devised to supply water to rose bushes at least every two weeks.

Roses are grown for their beautiful and often fragrant flowers. To achieve abundant florescence, the rose plant needs a steady supply of nutrients along with regular watering. Phosphorous is the macronutrient that promotes both rooting and flowering. Place either superphosphate or bone meal in the hole at the time of planting to give roots immediate access to phosphorous, as this nutrient moves slowly in the soil. A complete fertilizer containing a balanced proportion of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, plus micronutrients, should be applied in early May to boost growth development in the plant. The rose flowers occur most abundantly on vigorous new growth. Early fertilization with a complete fertilizer promotes this growth. Rose plants can also be fertilized in June, before the hot weather begins. Avoid fertilizing during the hot summer months to allow the plants to go into semi-dormancy. As the weather cools at the end of summer, a fertilizer higher in phosphorous and lower in nitrogen can be used to prepare roses for winter.

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How to Grow Roses in Santa Fe—cont. from page 1

Well-aged composts and manures supply nutrients to the plants. They also add necessary organic matter to the soil. These can be worked into the soil beginning in late June. Fish emulsion and



David Austin rose, 'A Shropshire Lad.' Photo by Sergey Rodovnichenko.

seaweed fertilizer are especially good for new rose plantings as they are easily absorbed by the plants and supply valuable minerals. Organic fertilizers are preferable as they do not interfere with the soil's microbial activity.

In Santa Fe, rose plants are best pruned in early April, when the danger of a heavy frost has passed. As different types of roses require different pruning methods, it is best to learn how to prune by working with experienced rose growers. Free workshops are offered in April both at the Harvey Cornell Rose Garden and at Railyard Park.

Our high-desert climate includes daily temperature extremes and long periods of dryness. To moderate soil temperature and help maintain moisture content, apply organic mulch at a depth of two inches over the rose's root system. The mulch should be low at the plant base, not actually covering the canes. In the winter, rose canes can be covered with mulch, as the mounded organic matter protects the canes and plant graft from cold damage.

The good news about our dry climate is that fungal diseases, which can plague roses in wetter conditions, are rare and easily controlled. Neem oil can be used to mitigate mildew. Dispose of affected foliage to avoid reinfecting the plant. Neem also works as a pesticide for controlling both aphids and thrips. Many rose gardeners control pests with hard blasts of water directed toward the bug-laden plants. Gophers are less easy to deal with, and rose wood is very attractive to them. Use hardware cloth in and a couple of inches above the planting hole in gopher-prone areas.

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Editor: Sarah Baldwin

Art Director: Jannine Cabossel



From the Board

by Bonnie Martin, member at large

Well, I was going to say that spring is here and let the planting begin, but this Santa Fe weather never ceases to amaze us, does it? This year I have actually avoided the agony of re-planting my garden; in the past I have been a little over-eager and planted at the first sign of warmth. Ahhhh, mother nature!



Our 2019 Garden Fair was a blast. My co-chair, Holly Henry, and I would like to give a big shout out to our fantastic garden fair committee and all the hard working volunteers who made this year's event a huge success. Thanks to each and every one of you for all your hard work. We are already getting started on next year's fair!

Stay tuned for new programs and events coming to Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners in the future, most notably periodic "socials," to be offered at different times of day. We want all our members to feel welcome and part of a like-minded group; we hope you'll attend one or more of these events to become better acquainted with each another. Your suggestions are welcome and heard.

Some of our Master Gardeners have been doing "behind the scenes" work in the organization for several years (and have done a superb job, I might add). Going forward, we would like others to learn about these positions. We'll soon be offering opportunities to "shadow" these leaders, to see what they do and to learn the ropes. Please consider taking part; fresh leaders often have fresh ideas and solutions.

Don't forget to make your garden a haven for pollinators: plant a variety of natives, with blooms from spring to fall, for beauty and for all the bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds out there scouting for nectar. May your garden bring you much satisfaction and joy.

Tomato Blossom Drop

by Jannine Cabossel, the Tomato Lady

Tomato blossom drop is common problem for tomato growers. It usually happens in June, our hottest month here in Santa Fe. When the tomato plants set flower blossoms but before they've had a chance to set fruit, if the temperature outside gets to 92°F or hotter, the blossoms dry up and fall off. This is normal for a tomato to do when it gets too hot. Basically they self-abort their blossoms.



Temperature is critical during pollination, when a tomato



is setting its blossoms. Once the fruit is set, tomato plants can handle hotter temperatures, but not during pollination. They will continue to produce new blossoms, and once temperatures are below 92°F, usually after the monsoons come in July, they will start to set fruit from the blossoms. This is frustrating for the tomato grower, as it pushes our harvest dates later.

What can we do to prevent blossom drop? Nothing. We really are at the hands of mother nature. The funny thing is once they do pollinate (tomatoes are self-pollinating and wind-pollinated and don't need pollinators) and they produce baby fruit, they do fine when it's hot—it's just while they are trying to set fruit that the temperature is critical. There is also a low temperature where they will drop the blossoms, but we usually don't have to worry about that here.

Last year in June we had intense heat, with every day reaching 92°F or warmer, and the blossoms just couldn't set fruit. When the monsoons came, in late July, and it cooled down, they were able to set their fruit. Luckily for us, we had a long fall and were able to harvest before we got a freeze. So don't despair; they will set fruit from their blossoms when the time is right. Hopefully the monsoons will come in July. For now, just surrender and chill out (if you can).

Photos by Jannine Cabossel



Project Highlight: The Garden at El Zaguán

by Joan Dayton

The 1800s garden at El Zaguán is located at 545 Canyon Road. In 2012 the Historic Santa Fe Foundation invited the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association to help restore the garden to its original splendor while also taking into consideration changing climate conditions and water availability.

In 2013 an assessment was made of the garden's plants, soil, and water, and a garden design and work plan was created. There have been challenges in the past seven years, including the loss of one of a pair of towering horse-chestnut trees. In its place perennials such as butterfly bush, gaura, and red hot poker were planted. Two chokecherries add beauty and fragrance to the garden. The increased sunlight created by the loss of the chestnut tree also helped existing plants, including peonies and roses.

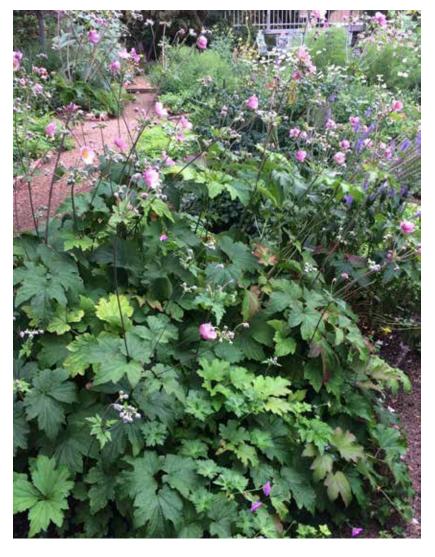
One of last year's projects was rebricking the bed edges along the garden paths. This has made the paths more attractive as well as safer for visitors walking in the gardens. It has also protected tender plantings from being stepped on. The path is a work in progress and will continue as time permits. Another ongoing project is compost, which needs to be turned and moved from bin to bin as it matures. This is an interesting learning project for Master Gardeners.

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Project Highlight: The Garden at El Zaguán—cont. from page 5

In March and April of this year Master Gardeners pruned and cleaned up the garden and weeded beds and paths. Irrigation was turned on at the end of April. In May we planted Kelsey dwarf dogwoods, Weston Pink coral bells, and a butterfly bush, along with alyssum to edge pathways. Roses will be relocated to take advantage of sunnier locations. Next autumn peonies and veronica will be moved to more appropriate locations. One of the plans for the garden is to increase the use of plants for bees and other pollinators.

In 2014 the Historic Santa Fe Foundation hired horticulturist Linda Churchill, who continues to work with us in the garden. She is generous with her knowledge; as she works with us she sometimes stops and gathers us for a "teaching moment." From learning how to compost to identifying plants or weeds, Master Gardeners who join us to work in this charming garden can learn from Linda every other Friday morning from 8:30 to 10:30.



Members of the public are invited to join project leaders Janet Hirons, Lissa Johnson, Nyla Rasmussen, and Joan Dayton on July 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. for a garden tour. We look forward to showing you the garden and sharing the history of this precious Santa Fe treasure.

Photos by Lissa Johnson

Roses have been "cultivated" for so long, crossed and recrossed to reflect our ideals, that it is by now impossible to separate their nature from our culture.

-Michael Pollan (Second Nature, 1991)

We Are Here to Help!

From April through September, Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening questions on Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. at the SFEMG office (at the fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road). These folks can answer your questions and share their experiences with what does and does not work in our environment. Drop by to chat about gardening challenges and to get suggestions.

Master Gardeners and interns also staff Ask a Master Gardener tables at various locations during the growing season. Here are May's AAMG events:

June 01	Newman's	9 a.mnoon
June 01	Payne's, North and South locations	9 a.mnoon
June 01	Railyard	8–11 a.m.
June 07	Eldorado Farmer's Market	3:30–6:30 p.m.
June 08	Newman's	9 a.mnoon
June 08	Payne's, North and South locations	9 a.mnoon
June 08	Railyard	8–11 a.m.
June 14	Eldorado Farmer's Market	3:30–6:30 p.m.
June 15	Newman's	9 a.mnoon
June 15	Payne's, North and South locations	9 a.mnoon
June 15	Railyard	8–11 a.m.
June 15	Santa Fe Botanical Garden	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
June 21	Eldorado Farmer's Market	3:30–6:30 p.m.
June 22	Newman's	9 a.mnoon
June 22	Payne's, North and South locations	9 a.mnoon
June 22	Railyard	8–11 a.m.
June 28	Eldorado Farmer's Market	3:30–6:30 p.m.
June 29	Newman's	9 a.mnoon
June 29	Payne's, North and South locations	9 a.mnoon
June 29	Railyard	8–11 a.m.

You can also pose your questions online by going to our <u>website</u> and clicking on the "Garden Questions?" tab; someone will do research and get back to you.



Fernbush (Chamaebatiaria millefolium)

by Laurie McGrath

While often considered native to New Mexico, fernbush is actually native to rocky, dry mountain slopes in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, California, and Oregon. But since state borders mean little to plants, it is easy to see how fernbush, also known as desert sweet, arrived in New Mexico and has fared so well here.

Local landscape designer Judith Phillips likes fernbush for its "finely cut evergreen foliage and profuse white flower clusters." Gardeners new to our arid climate can use it as a substitute for



Photo by NMSU Agricultural Science Center, Farmington

white lilacs as they transition to a more native and habitat-friendly garden. The flowers are magnets for native bees. Mature plants have attractive bark and require little to no maintenance.

Planting and care: Fernbush thrives in full sun to part shade and well-drained soil, though according to Mike Bone, plant propagator at Denver Botanic Garden, it can adapt to clay soil. Light fertilization at planting helps get it established. While it is drought tolerant once established, Phillips recommends periodic deep watering during hot, dry spells to maintain the density of its foliage. If you are a tidy gardener, you can shear the spent blooms. Or leave them on the plant for winter interest and some added insulation during the coldest months. No known pests or diseases.

Landscape use: A good choice for areas that may be difficult to water, as an accent plant, or as a border, fernbush pairs well with other drought-tolerant native perennials and grasses and can be used as a neutral backdrop for stronger colors.

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Fernbush (Chamaebatiaria millefolium)—cont from page 8

Propagation: Seeds require cold stratification if planted in spring (two to four weeks at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below). They can also be planted in the fall. Seeds are very small and should not be covered with soil. Plants are commercially available.

Plant type: perennial shrub Bloom time: June to August

Height x width: 5-6 feet x 6-8 feet

Sun: full sun, part shade

Soil: dry, gravelly, well-draining, and low in nutrients

Water: low

USDA Zones: 4-8

Sources:

Bone, Mike. Fernbush: fantastic! (Plant Select website)

Phillips, Judith. Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants (Museum of New Mexico, 1987)

SNaPP, A Guide to Native Plants for the Santa Fe Landscape (2019 edition)

USDA NRCS Native Plant Network, Propagation Protocol Database, Chamaebatiaria (millefolium)



Photo by Sarah Baldwin

Harvesting and Cooking with Herbs

If you're interesting in growing and cooking with herbs but aren't sure where to start, sign up for one of two SFEMG classes being offered in July. Starting at the Herb Demo Garden, leaders will discuss herbs easily grown in Santa Fe, different methods of cultivation (traditional beds, raised beds, containers), the history and various uses of herbs, and how and when to harvest them. The class will then move to the extension office kitchen, where we will learn about preserving the herbs just harvested and using them for flavoring. We will work from a couple of recipes to prepare a lunch for us all to enjoy. To sign up, click here.

When: July 13 or July 27, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Herb Demo Garden and Extension Office Kitchen, 3229 Rodeo Rd.

Cost: \$10 per class

New & Noteworthy

Have you recently read a plant-related article, visited a horticultural website or blog, listened to podcast, or seen a nature show or documentary you think other gardeners would enjoy or find useful? Send a link to the newsletter (news.sfemg@gmail.com) and we'll include the information in the next issue. **Note that some of these sources have paywalls**.

Botany One, Pyrethrum's mimicry gives flowers a double defence, by Alun Salt

Desert Blooms (NMSU), Knowing How Much to Water, by Marisa Thompson

Humane Gardener, To Feed or Not to Feed? [hummingbirds], by Nancy Lawson

National Geographic, Centuries-old irrigation system shows how to manage scarce water, by Robert Neuwirth

National Geographic, Beekeepers hit hard by thefts of hives, by Rene Ebersole

New York Times, Chronicles of the Rings: What Trees Tell Us, by Jim Robbins

New York Times, 'Earthworm Dilemma' Has Climate Scientists Racing to Keep Up, by Alanna Mitchell

New York Times, From Apples to Popcorn, Climate Change Is Altering the Foods America Grows, by Kim Severson

NM Political Report, Irrigation district, state issue head's up on high waters, by Laura Paskus

Ron Finley, <u>A guerilla gardener in South Central LA</u> (TED Talk)

Santa Fe New Mexican, May has brought incredible bird activity to Santa Fe, by Anne Schmauss

Science Daily, Native plants regenerate on the their own after invasive shrubs are removed

Washington Post, Washington passes bill to become first state to compost human bodies, by Ben Guarino

The Years Project, Carbon Farming: Harnessing the Power of the Earth (video)





Learn how to compost your yard and food waste from the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardener Association!

Saturday, April 13 1PM—3PM Hands on

Saturday, May 4 9AM—1PM During the 14th Annual Garden Fair

Saturday, June 15 9AM—11AM Part of our Let's Grow Series

Saturday, July 20 9AM—11AM Hands on

Saturday, August 17 9AM—11AM Hands on

Saturday, September 14 9AM—11AM Hands on

Saturday, October 19 9AM—11AM Hands on

CE hours available for Extension Master Gardeners

Bring hat, gloves, sturdy shoes, water & a pitch fork if you have one!

These hands-on clinics will teach proper techniques for building a thermal pile, turning, finishing, and screening compost. In addition there is a straw bale worm bin on site for vermicomposting.

All clinics will be held at the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at the SF County Fairgrounds: 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe

For more information, visit sfemga.org and please LIKE US on Facebook



If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service, please contact County Extension Office at 505-471-4711. NMSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator. GARDENERS



The Garden Journal Radio Show

Every Saturday 10–10:30 a.m. Live from the Farmers Market



Tune in to KSFR 101.1 FM on Saturday mornings from 10 to 10:30 to listen to a lively, entertaining, and informative gardening show.

- June 01 Santa Fe Botanical Garden's Lindsay Taylor with Patrick Briggs, director, and John F. Andrews, dramaturge, on this season's Shakespeare in the Garden production, *Romeo and Juliet*
- June 08 SFEMG host Christine Salem with Master Gardener Laurie McGrath on selecting native plants for pollinators
- June 15 Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute's Carrie Core with Pam Walker and Ron Boyd on seeds
- June 22 SFEMG host Christine Salem with guest on restoring the historic gardens at El Rancho de las Golondrinas
- June 29 Home Grown New Mexico's Jannine Cabossel, the Tomato Lady, with tips and techniques for next month's veggie garden; more info at <u>Giant Veggie Gardener</u>

Schedule subject to change. For updates and to listen to previous broadcasts, visit this section of our website.

Let's Grow 2019

A FREE Monthly Education Series for the Home Gardener from the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardener Association



NM Wildlife Center, Espanola

Sun, Feb. 24 & Sun, March 24, 1-4 pm each day

NM Wildlife Center, I

Learn how to prepare paperwork and package soil samples for testing at CSU Soils Lab. Demonstrations on how to cheaply,
easily and accurately determine your soil structure, how to use the soil triangle, and why knowing your soil is important. Return
March 24 to learn how to interpret the results from the CSU Soil Lab, including amendments recommended to add to soils for certain conditions. Both sections taught by Sandy Powell and Steven Fellows.

Harvey Cornell Rose Garden

Rose Pruning Clinic (hands-on!)

Saturday, April 13, 9 am - 12 pm

Bring your handheld pruners, gloves and long sleeved clothing. Learn the correct way to prune roses from Master Gardeners Kim Martinez and Shelly Cooper and then practice in this historic gards 1315 Galistee Parkway. Instruction from 9 - 9:30 a.m, and hands-on pruning from 9:30 a.m - 12:00 p.m

Native Bee Basics, Building Bee Houses and Selecting Plants that Attract Them

Randall Davey Audubon Center

Saturday, April 27, 10 am - 12 pm Randall Davey Aud Taught by Audubon Project leader Joy Mandelbaum. Santa Fe Native Plants Project (SNAPP) will showcase

the native plants that attract bees. Sessions will be held in the Education Classroom of the Randall Davey Audubon Center at the end of Upper Canyon Road.

Cactus Propagation
County Fairgrounds Cactus Garden

Saturday, May 11, 9 am - 11 am County Fairgrounds Cactus Garden
Learn to divide cactus and how to grow more. Tips on soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Drop-in demos every half hour, Taught by Jill Foster and Cullen Hallmark.

Saturday May 18, 2019, 10-11 am

Save Water! Plant Natives!

Santa Fe Water Conservation Office

Join Members of the Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP) to explore the new water conservation garden at the City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Offie, 801 W. San Mateo. Handouts, free seeds, raffle prizes and updates on plans for the garden.

Basic Composting (hands-on!)

Saturday, June 15, 9 am - 11 am

County Fairgrounds Compost Area

Participate in a hands-on compost demonstration, and learn how to start a new compost pile and to maintain it as it develops. Worm and straw bale composting basics will be covered. Taught by Vicki Jacobson and Madeline Pryor.

Selecting Native Plants for Your Landscape

Saturday, June 22, 10 am - 12 pm

Randall Davey Audubon Center

Taught by Helena van Heinegen, Joy Mandelbaum, Susie Sonflieth, this will include a tour of native plants in the Audubon Gardens.

Historic Garden Restoration

Friday, July 26, 5 pm- 7 pm

El Zaguan Garden at 545 Canyon Road

Tour the garden with Janet Hirons, Lissa Johnson, Nyla Rasmussen and Joan Dayton, during 4th Friday Art Walk on Canyon Road. Learn how Master Gardeners are restoring this garden and maintaining its historic layout and ambiance with plants appropriate for our current climate.

How to Plan a Fall Vegetable Garden with Cool Season Crops

Sunday, August 11, 12 pm - 2 pm

County Fairgrounds Vegetable Garden

Learn how to plan for fall gardening. Tips on extending your growing season and things to consider while the summer winds down. Taught by Jannine Cabossel, Bob Zimmerman, Linda Flemming, and Diane Pratt.

Saturday, August 24, 9 am - 11 am County Fairgrounds Herb Garden

Discover herbs that prosper in our region and how to propagate them from cutting, as well as techniques for growing, pruning, harvesting and preserving herbs. Taught by Cherry Payne.

For more information, visit

sfemg.org

and Please LIKE us on Facebook



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Volunteers Needed for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects Project







Goal: To record pollinator and beneficial insect abundances across the state in natural areas, turf parks, and home gardens (vegetable or flower).

How can you help?

Biweekly observations (about 1 hour each week) of pollinators and beneficial insects in your yard over the summer (June through August)
We will provide supplies, ID guides, and training in methods and identification of insect groups.





Contact: Miranda Kersten | mkersten@nmsu.edu | 575-865-7340

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate, please contact Miranda Kersten in advance at (575) 865-7340 or mkersten@nmsu.edu.

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NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Calendar of Events

All events are open to the public. Visit the <u>events calendar</u> on our website for a complete list of garden-related activities and classes with times, locations, and registration information. Note: phc stands for "per hour of class time."

DATES	EVENTS	CREDITS
June 02	Blooming Cactus and Cactus Counts, 8:30–11:30 a.m. (NMWC)	1 CE, 2 OS
June 05	Drip Irrigation Workshop, 5:30–7 p.m. (SFPL)	2 CE
June 08	Los Alamos MG Garden Fair & Plant Sale, 9 a.m.–noon (LAMG)	NA
June 08	Tree Identification Class, 9–11 a.m. (SFBG)	2 CE
June 11	Botanical Book Club, 1–2:30 p.m. (SFBG)	NA
June 12	Masa in the Casa: Tortillas, noon –2 p.m. (HGNM)	2 CE
June 12-14	Water Is Life: Next Generation Water Summit, full days (NGWS)	3 CE
June 14	Hike to Hamilton Mesa, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (SFBG)	NA
June 15	Basic Composting, 9–11 a.m. (SFEMG)	2 CE
June 15	Weed ID and Soil Reclamation, 9 a.m.–noon (NMWC)	2 CE, 1 OS
June 17-21	Penn's Woods: Digging into Our Roots, full days (IMGC)	3 CE
June 22	Bird Walk at Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve, 8–10 a.m. (SFBG)	NA
June 22	Selecting Native Plants for Your Landscape, 10 a.mnoon (RDAC)	2 CE
June 23	Kimchi Workshop, noon–2 p.m. (HGNM)	NA

HGNM: Sign up for classes at <u>Home Grown New Mexico/classes/events</u>

IMGC: <u>International Master Gardener Conference</u>; event at Valley Forge Casino Resort **LAMG**: <u>Los Alamos Master Gardeners</u>; event at Los Alamos Extension Demo Garden

NMWC: New Mexico Wildlife Center, between Pojaque and Española; event sponsored by SFEMG

NGWS: Next Generation Water Summit; conference at Santa Fe Convention Center

RDAC: Randall Davy Audubon Center, 1800 Upper Canyon Rd.; event sponsored by SFEMG

SFBG: Santa Fe Botanical Garden, 715 Camino Lejo, 505-471-9103

SFEMG: Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners, County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Rd.

SFPL: Santa Fe Public Library, Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Dr.; event sponsored by SFEMG

Members Only: For a complete list of Master Gardener projects and to sign up, please visit Sign Up Genius, a link to which is in the <u>Members Only</u> section of the website. To log hours worked and to see year-to-date totals, visit Track It Forward in the same location.



Mission Statement:

Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to learn, teach, and promote locally sustainable gardening through reliable, current research-based practices

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