



December 2016

News Bulletin

Regular Meeting – December 8, 2016

We will be meeting at the Community Center this month.

33187 Hwy 247 East, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Refreshments start at 9:00 am Meeting starts at 9:30 am

Program: *Patti Riddle will have a workshop making Holiday Floral Arrangements.*

Be sure to bring your wooden boxes from last years workshop.

Refreshments: Pat Lugo & Sherry Hardin

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Sultana Grape

Thompson Seedless



The Sultana is a “white”, oval seedless grape variety also called the Sultanina, Thompson Seedless, Lady de Coverly, and oval-fruited Kishmish. It is assumed to originate from the Asian part of the Ottoman Empire.

Grapes a long season crop, are often ignored in home gardens, and yet are one of the most widely produced fruits in the world.

A single grapevine can produce enough new growth every year to arch over a walk, roof an arbor, form a leafy wall, or provide an umbrella of shade over deck or terrace. Grape is one of the few fruiting vines that offer bold textured foliage, colorful edible fruit, and a dominant trunk and branch pattern for winter interest. To produce good quality fruit, you must choose a variety that suits your climate well, train it carefully and prune it regularly.

There are several basic grape types. European grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) have tight skin, a generally high heat requirement, and cold tolerance to around 5-15 degrees. These are the table grapes, including “Thompson Seedless”.

Almost all grapes are self-fruitful and do not require pollination from another variety to bear fruit—but since they differ greatly in hardiness and heat requirements, choosing the right type and variety is important.

Deep, fertile, well-drained sandy loam is ideal for grape plants. Good air movement and lots of sun is important. Moderate to regular water is essential to healthy plants, cutting water back in the winter as the bush goes dormant.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The next School Youth Garden program will be January 18th at the Elementary School @ 2:00 pm. Linda and Sue will be working in the youth gardens if the weather permits. They can **always** use extra help. We will also have a craft project to do with the students, so indoors or outdoors, come help if you can. There will be no youth program in December.

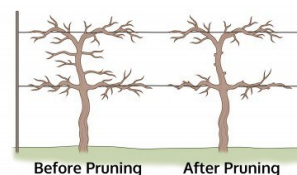
PRUNING GRAPE VINES

Once they are established, grape vines grow rampantly. If all you want is a leafy cover for an arbor or patio, you need only to train a strong vine up and over its support and thin out entangling growth each year. But most people plant grapes for the fruit, even if they want shade as well. To prepare vines for good fruit production, you will need to follow more careful pruning procedures.

In addition to support, pruning grapes is a vital part of their overall health. Regular pruning is essential for controlling grape canes and producing quality fruit yields. Let's look at a few pruning tips.

Grapes should be pruned during their dormancy, usually late winter.

Grapes are produced on stems that develop from 1 year old wood stems that formed in the previous season. These 1 year old stems have smooth bark, where as older stems have rough, shaggy bark. The purpose of pruning is to limit the amount of potential fruiting wood to ensure that the plant doesn't produce too much fruit and that the fruit it does bear is of good quality. Basic pruning of grapes is simple. For most home gardeners, simply pruning off the old wood and making way for new fruiting wood is all that is needed for maintaining a grapevine.



COMING EVENTS

Nov 29 Wreath Workshops begin, 9-noon weekdays
Dec 8 DCGC Meeting & Brunch
Dec 10 Wreath Placement & Memorial Ceremony
Jan 12 DCGC Meeting
Jan 18 Elementary School Youth Program
Jan 26 Living Desert Field Trip
Jan 29-Feb1 CGCI Fall Board Meeting – Redding
Feb 9 DCGC Meeting

YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

President	Linda Riddle	760-248-6397
V. President	Ana Warriner	760-285-3004
Secretary	Martha Rader	760-248-7871
Treasurer	Darla King	760-947-7925
Parliamentarian	Shirley Clemmons	
Newsletter	Sara Delperdang	760-248-7614

Find us on the Roadrunner District website at:
roadrunnergardenclubs.com

Affiliates

Roadrunner District, Inc. of California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We will be laying the wreaths this year on Saturday, December 10th in the Lucerne Valley Memorial Cemetery starting at 8 am. The Memorial Ceremony will begin at 9 am everyone should plan on attending this event, a lot of work goes into making and laying the wreaths in honor of our veterans for the holiday remembrance.

Patty Riddle will be helping us with a Christmas floral design for our **December meeting program**. Bring your wooden box or an appropriate container. I still have 3 extras for those of you that didn't get one yet. The cost will be \$5. for the flowers and foam. We will be having our Christmas brunch/potluck before we start our arrangements.

January 26, 2017 is the **field trip** to the Living Desert Gardens & Zoo. Tour & entry is \$22.50, plus the lunch is \$14.95. You will need to sign up in advance. Feel free to bring guests. We will be carpooling from the Library parking lot in Lucene Valley at 8:00am. For more information contact Linda Riddle at 760-248-6397.

Don't forget to bring sox for the nursing home to the Dec. 8 meeting if you haven't yet. White cotton sox, or a donation to purchase them if necessary.

Potluck Luncheon Food List

Last name	A – G	Casserole
	H – M	Salad
	N – Z	Desert

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Feed Vegetables Nitrogen is an essential nutrient to produce healthy green foliage. Most vegetables are heavy nitrogen consumers and benefit from a side dressing of nitrogen during the growing season. Use a water-soluble form or lightly scratch granular fertilizers into the soil near the plant, taking care not to injure roots. Organic nitrogen sources include alfalfa meal, blood meal, cottonseed meal, fish emulsion and guano. Compost and compost tea also provide nitrogen. If nitrogen deficiency is severe, with such evidence as older lower leaves yellowing and slow growth, a chemical fertilizer will be faster acting than an organic source. However, chemical fertilizers do not enhance soil-building efforts over time, as organics do. These steps not only apply to winter gardens but can be used in spring vegetable gardens as well.

Evergreen care If unruly evergreen branches need light trimming to prevent damage during upcoming winter storms, time your pruning so that you can use the cut branches for holiday wreaths and decorations. Inspect them for insects, and if needed, hose off so insects are not carried indoors.

Provide frost protection If you have not done so yet, protect frost-tender annual flowers, vegetables and herbs with burlap, old sheets or frost cloth. Most frost cloth provides protection to 20 degrees, but it's best to check individual manufactures' specifications. Cover plants at sunset to trap warmth radiating from the ground. If possible, support the cover with stakes or poles so that it does not touch foliage. Never use plastic sheeting, which worsens frost damage.

WHATS IN MY GARDEN

Kangaroo mouse
Microdipodops



Either of two species of leaping bipedal rodents found only in certain deserts of the western United States. The forelimbs are short, but the hind limbs and feet are long—hence giving them the appearance of a kangaroo. The dark kangaroo mouse has buff or brownish upperparts tinted with black and has gray or whitish underparts. Where as the upperparts and entire tail of the pale kangaroo mouse are creamy buff and the underparts are white.

Kangaroo mice do not need to drink water; instead, they obtain what they require from a diet of seeds and the occasional insect. Winter is cold and harsh in the high desert and kangaroo mice survive it by hibernating from about November until March. Breeding all summer they can produce multiple litters of two to seven young apiece. Kangaroo mice are a smaller version of the Kangaroo rat.