



Regular Meeting – January 11, 2018

We will be meeting at the **Lucerne Valley Community Center** this month.

33187 Hwy 247 East, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Refreshments start at 9:00 am

Meeting starts at 9:30 am

Morning Refreshments: Teresa Reyes & Denise Gerau

Drawing: Teresa & Denise

Plant of the Month

JUJUBE tree *Ziziphus jujuba*



Growth Habit: The jujube is a small, deciduous tree, growing to 40 feet tall in Florida, but smaller in size in California. The naturally drooping tree is graceful, ornamental and often thorny with branches growing in a zig-zag pattern. The wood is very hard and strong. Jujube cultivars vary in size and conformation, with some being very narrow in habit and others being more widespread. One cultivar, the So, seems to be fairly dwarfing in habit. After 30 years of growth in an average site, trees can be 30 feet tall with a crown diameter of up to 15 feet. Plants send up suckers (often with intimidating spines) from their roots, and these suckers can appear many feet from the mother plant. These root suckers must be controlled by mowing or hoeing.

Origin: The jujube originated in China where they have been cultivated for more than 4,000 years and where there are over 400 cultivars. The plants traveled beyond Asia centuries ago and today are grown to some extent in Russia, northern Africa, southern Europe, the Middle East and the southwestern United States. Jujube seedlings, inferior to the Chinese cultivars, were introduced into Europe at the beginning of the Christian era and carried to the U. S. in 1837. It wasn't until 1908 that improved Chinese selections were introduced by the USDA.

Adaptation: The jujube can withstand a wide range of temperatures; virtually no temperature seems to be too high in summertime. Winter dormancy allows it to withstand temperatures to about -28° F, yet it requires only a small amount of winter chill in order for it to set fruit. The plant revels in summer sun and heat, with the lack of either limiting fruit production more than winter cold. Jujube trees are not particularly suitable for container culture, but can be grown in a very large container.

Youth Program

Wednesday, January 17 will be the next after school project so be sure to let Linda know if you can come and help. There is always work in the school gardens to do and an indoor craft to help kids with. Contact Linda Riddle at the next meeting or call her at 760-248-6397 if you need more information.

6 Tips for Successful Vegetable Desert Gardening

1. Find the Right Seeds - Seeds that have been grown in and adapted to the high desert are going to be your best bet in the garden. There are countless heirloom varieties that have been protected by the companies that make it their life's work to preserve the history of our fruits and vegetables. Find them at your local nursery, Farmer's Market or order them online at Native.seeds.org, Baker Creek Heirlooms or Seed Savers Exchange.

2. Nurture the Soil - The soil in the high desert is full of sand, gravel, and clay and must be amended. Amend your soil with organic matter, such as compost from your own pile or from your local nursery, knowing this is the foundation of a successful garden. Amending, to some extent, will need to be done annually, and starting with your first planting.

3. Commit to Lots of Water - The high desert has a unique, incredibly arid climate which not only affects plants at their roots, but also affects the plants ability to draw water in through their leaves. Given this, it is essential that, when watering your veggies, you optimize the amount of water they receive. The easiest ways to do this is through drip irrigation and heavily mulching your beds.

4. Mulch It! - Whether used in the form of straw, pulled weeds (before they go to seed) or the bags you can purchase from your local nursery, mulch pulls double duty by keeping weeds down, and holding moisture in the soil.
(continued)

Coming Events

- Jan 11 Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
Jan 17 Youth Club Program
Feb 8 Desert Crossroads Garden Club Meeting
May 10 Roadrunner District Meeting – Host
Desert Crossroads Garden Club

Your Club Officers

Presidents	Sherry Hardin	760-912-8310
	Sharon Ravenstein	760-248-6466
V. President	Pat Hart	760-248-6389
Secretary	Sara Delperdang	760-248-7614
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.

What's In My Garden? Can you tell the difference?



Immature
Sharp-shinned Hawk



Immature
Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawks are notoriously difficult to separate from Sharp-shinned Hawks. Cooper's Hawks are a larger species, but males and females differ so much in size that this character alone is rarely enough. Remember that Cooper's Hawks tend to be more common breeders in suburban areas, whereas Sharp-shinned Hawks nest almost exclusively in conifers and heavily wooded areas; you'll see them in neighborhoods typically only in winter. Cooper's Hawks have larger heads than Sharp-shinned, and in flight the head usually projects well beyond the leading edge of the wings. Also look for the Cooper's rounded tail; when folded the outer feathers are usually shorter than the central ones. Adult Cooper's Hawks have a dark cap and pale back of the neck, whereas Sharp-shinned Hawks have a dark cap and nape. Immature Cooper's Hawks have neat brown streaks concentrated on the chest, whereas immature Sharp-shinned Hawks have broad, blurry streaks that go well down onto the belly. Cooper's Hawk also has thicker legs and larger feet—this can be a great clue when looking at perched birds up close.

Minutes of the December 14, 2017 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 by Co/President Sherry Hardin.

Inspirational poem written & read by Sherry Hardin.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sherry.

Minutes were approved as mailed in the newsletter.

Treasurers report was not available at this meeting.

Committee Reports

Penny Pines, Pat Lugo reported current balance at \$17.25.

Socks for Nursing Home, Myra asked for help tying socks together immediately following today's meeting.

Sunshine, Myra will send a card to Tonya Judkins.

School Youth Program, Linda reported she has collected almost enough money to purchase the first raised garden container for the Elementary School.

Water Awareness Garden, Sue Nolan reported the cost of the watering system could run about \$400. The county offered to purchase the timer. Linda Riddle made a motion to allow up to \$500. for the new water system.

Old Business

Ana Warriner chairman for the quilt project will have a work party soon, a sign-up sheet was passed around.

New Business

Jon Bush proposed the club have a field trip to the Theodore Payne Wildlife Preserve sometime in the spring. Jon also offered to remove the Russian Olive tree in the Water Awareness Garden. Further discussion was tabled.

The program speaker was Pricilla from Hydroponics.

A Holiday Potluck was enjoyed by all attending.
Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Sara Delperdang Secretary

(continued from front page)

5. Watch that Sun – The sun in the high desert can literally fry your vegetable plants due to the high altitude and the intense UV rays. In order to avoid burning our plants, I've found that the following two strategies work best: Shade cloth or taller heartier companion plants.

6. And the wind... The wind in the high desert can take a vegetable plant and lay it out flat in the course of just a few seconds! In order to protect your plants (and all of your hard work), creative windbreaks are essential. Ideally, walls and/or; fencing can be constructed to protect your garden area. However, if that is unrealistic, straw bales can be placed around your garden area to protect your plants. Whether you surround the whole area, or simply create a wind break protecting your plants from the direction the winds usually travel in, every bit of protection is better than none!