HOME SANTA FE VIEW MEXICAN



Welcome! Login |Signup

GO

HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION PASATIEMPO MAGAZINES MULTIMEDIA LIFE CALENDAR REALESTATE SUBSCRIBE CLASSIF	HOME	NEWS SPORTS C	OPINION PASATIEMPO	MAGAZINES	MULTIMEDIA	LIFE	CALENDAR	REAL ESTATE	SUBSCRIBE	CLASSIFIE
---	------	---------------	--------------------	-----------	------------	------	----------	-------------	-----------	-----------

Thanks for visiting Santa Fe New Mexican. If you are 7-day print subscriber, please create an online account and then click 'subscribe' to activate your unlimited access. Otherwise, you're entitled to view 5 free articles every 30 days. Then, if you enjoy our site and want full access, we'll ask you to purchase an affordable subscription.

Remaining

Search

Let's get into gardening!

Print 😑 Font Size: 🗕 +

Previous Next

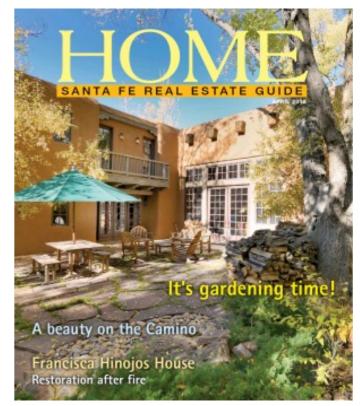


Posted: Sunday, April 3, 2016 6:00 am

Paul Weideman

The weather's warming and many of us are eager to get our hands dirty, to get our gardens cleaned up and to plant colorful flowers and good food. Of course, this can be a challenge in Santa Fe County because of the poor soils, relentless wind and sun, rare rains, and plenty of gophers. Fortunately, there are

Home Magazine / Real Estate Guide



Click above to view the latest issue of Home. Or click here to view previous issues.



A festival of pansies



scores of plants that like this environment, and hundreds more that can deal with it if we're careful about placement, soil preparation, mulching, and watering.

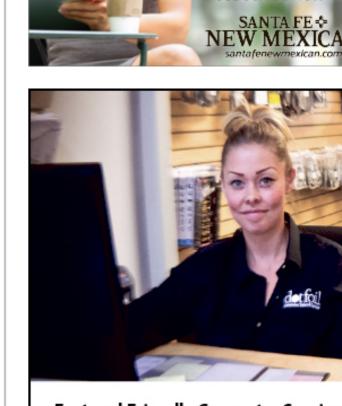
Zoned planting is a well-tested strategy. Native plants are left alone — and perhaps augmented with more native

plants appropriate to your location — in the outer fringes of the yard. Closer in, you can add some drought-tolerant exotics; then you can nourish a few thirstier plants in shaded, sheltered "microclimate" areas, perhaps on the east or north side of the house, or within courtyards, patios, and other outdoor-living areas where they can be watered easily.

If you have questions or problems, there are some great local resources: the Santa Fe Master Gardeners, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. The Office of the State Engineer has a number of free publications, including "Xeriscape 101," "A Waterwise Guide to Trees," and "The Enchanted Xeriscape." Find them by clicking the "Use & Conservation" tab at <u>www.ose.state.nm.us</u>, then click on "Water Conservation Program," then "Home Owners." Nate Downey's *Harvest the Rain* is an excellent handbook to help make sure your landscape plants are nourished by rainwater, always preferable to tap water.

The **Santa Fe Tree Farm** (www.santafetree.com) is the city's youngest nursery, now in its 13th year. The business sells more than 60 varieties of deciduous and evergreen trees.

Payne's Nursery, now 61 years old, has all kinds of helpful information at <u>paynes.com</u>, including how-to articles about soils, composting, mulching, fertilizing, and watering; and a handy plant library searchable by plant type and



52 Weeks Free

UNLIMITED DIGITAL ACCESS TO

The Washington Post

with any

Santa Fe New Mexican print subscription

SUBSCRIBE NOW>>>

Fast and Friendly Computer Service Mac | Windows PC | Repair | Sales Drop-off or Call-out sun/location. "The big change in our program this year is the fact we have taken over the management of all composting operations at the Caja del Rio landfill site," said Lynn Payne. "We will be responsible for actually making the compost and as it comes available we will sell it from our soil yard on Agua Fria Street.

"Another new product we will be offering this summer is a collection of about eight of the best lavender plants for our area. They will be marketed in lavendercolored pots under the label 'Lynn's Lavender'."

Payne's has free workshops at 11 a.m. Saturdays at the 715 St. Michael's Drive store. All participants receive a 20 percent discount card to use the day of the workshop. On April 9, Lynn Payne has "Gardening for Beginners." On April 16, TJ Jones leads the workshop "Growing Vegetables in Containers." On April 23, Valerie Jones and Mara Lafferty offer "The Wonderful World of Fairy Gardens" and "Designing Your Own Color Pots/Hanging Baskets." Then on April 30, Payne speaks on "America's Favorite Flower, the Rose."

Newman's Nursery (newmansnursery.com) has been in Santa Fe for 42 years and also has a valuable web resource. Check out the "Nuts & Berries" link for a fabulous illustrated guide to available apple, apricot, cherry, peach, pear, plum, nectarine, fig, almond, and pistachio trees, as well as grapes and raspberries (seven varieties each), gooseberries, elderberries, raspberries, currants, and more. Ditto with the nursery's guides to shade trees and roses.

Plants of the Southwest, founded four decades ago, has what is arguably the most complete, illustrated plant index around. Also at plantsofthesouthwest.com are articles on "How to Plant a Meadow," "Ants," and "Eating Bugs."

Agua Fria Nursery's website was under construction at press time, so *Home* decided to feature an interview with owner Bob Pennington. He is a founding member of both the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and the Eriogonum Society, current co-chair of the New Mexico Chapter of the Colorado Nursery Green-house



NEWS VIDEO



More videos:



Association, former president of the American Penstemon Society, and instructor for the New Mexico Nursery Professional Certification program. Every Saturday at 8 a.m., Bob and his sons, Shane and Mark, host the Bob's Botanical Broadcast radio show on KTRC 1260 AM.

We always hear that May 15 is the safe planting date. What can people do in April?

Number one, I'd say that frost-free date of May 10 or May 15 was largely created by the Chamber of Commerce, because more often than not we get a frost after that. People can plant all kinds of things. That frost-free date is basically for plants that are frost-tender above ground, such as tomatos, peppers, petunias, and marigolds. But there are many annuals, pretty much all the perennials, trees and shrubs, that the sooner they're in the ground — once the ground is warm, anyway — the happier they are. They do not want to wait until it's hot to start growing. Some of them are blooming by then.

Are we talking primarily transplants or seeds?

Both. You can plant all kinds of seeds now. You can plant lettuce and spinach and kale, all your cold crops, and just about any green or root crop, certainly if you've got access to a little row-cover cloth in case it gets bitter cold.

What about cold-stratifying flower seeds?

You're already late. Typically you do that for two months to 12 weeks and that means moist temperatures below 40 degrees. Of course the refrigerator is the easiest way in the world to stratify seeds.

Do you advocate using paper towels or a medium of some kind?

We either sow them in flats, simply because we won't get around to it till later, or a lot of things we'll just mix with sand and put them in a ziplock bag. Paper towels

MOST READ

1.Canyon Road hot spot up for sale

2.Another Arizona firm hired in mental health shake-up to leave state

3.Jemez Pueblo man gets life sentence for brutal murder

4.OptumHealth accused of fraud in three lawsuits

5.Man held in knife attack on S.F. movie set

6.Demonettes dethroned, finishing third at State Spirit despite flawless Saturday routine

7.Many claim they've solved Forrest Fenn riddle, but treasure hunt continues

8.Statin intolerance is real, researchers find

9.Eldorado can raise chickens following appeals court ruling

10. Burglar hits Eldorado gallery



is just one more step.

Two that we've stratified with some success this year are roundleaf silver buffaloberry and the desert peach.



Roundleaf silver buffaloberry?

Yeah. Silver buffaloberry used to be pretty common here until Russian olive invaded. They're very close relations and live in the same habitat as Russian olive but Russian olive is much more successful. But the roundleaf silver buffaloberry does very well here.

And desert peach? Does that give you edible fruit?

Well, in theory. It's on the ethnobotanical lists, but the fruit is really small and mostly pit. But it is an awesome flowering shrub, okay in terrible soil and no water, once established, and it has brilliant pink flowers about the size of a quarter.

Seeds are great. I'm told we sell more seeds than anybody else in New Mexico, which is hard to believe, but that's what the seed people tell us. Santa Fe is a tremendous market for vegies, less so for fruit because look what happens every year.

The trees flower too early.

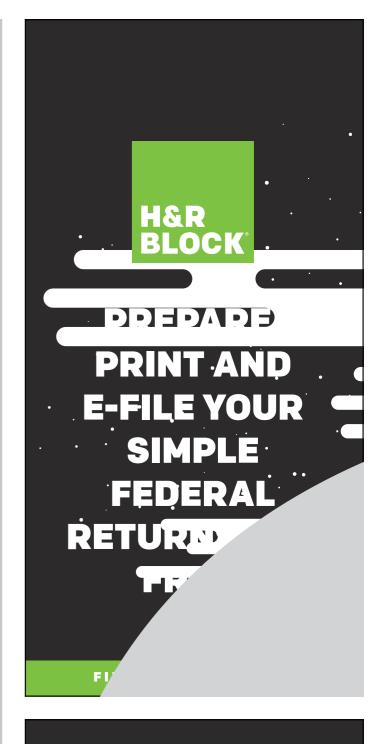
They do. The problem is early flowering and normal freezes. The best thing to do now is plant your wildflower annuals, all of your daisies, all the members of Asteraceae, because almost none of them require stratification.

Purple coneflowers and black-eyed susans?

Just go out and plant those.

Even simple things can be difficult propositions in Eldorado, with all that sun and wind.

The one thing you have to remember and never, ever forget: Water is the key to



pdfcrowd.com

life. You probably have to water three times a day. Water your plants before you go to work and if you can't do it in the middle of the day, cover them with about a quarter inch of mulch, then water them as soon as you get home.

The wind will blow the mulch off.

Then make your mulch gravel, or an eighth inch of sand. Arroyo sand is great. I know where you can get it for free.

We're living in the land of drought.

The drought has been really good for [sales of] so-called xeric plants, and native plants probably in another growth cycle: in the 40 years we've been in business, we've seen the zest for native plants go up and down five or six times at least. Whenever it get dry for long enough, everybody wants to plant native plants, and of course people include columbines and aspens, which are native but not the least bit drought-tolerant.

And food plants?

They were sort of declining and then about the time there were all the foodcontamination scares and Michelle Obama planted her garden, it's been on an upswing ever since. It's booming, and now we plant vegetables 12 months of the year, including in mini-greenhouses and even in sunny windows.

There's a big sign in one of your greenhouses showing people where the shishito peppers are.

One der Terrere and the second lands have sight a second could associate the first



One day I suppose they will crash but right now we can't grow enough. It's just insane. It is probably the most productive pepper on earth. They taste terrible raw but if you get them young and throw them in a frying pan with a little olive oil and salt and just pop them in your mouth, they're good. They're easy to grow and easy to cook.

All the vegetables are doing well. We probably sell 40 varieties of lettuce and God knows how many kinds of Asian greens and this year we will probably grow over 90 varieties of tomatoes.

That's crazy. Why so many?

Some people have really good luck with certain types and other people have good luck with other tomatoes. People grow them for different things, fresh-eating tomatoes, drying tomatoes, sauce tomatoes, and all the different colors.

How about a recommendation for a good patio tree?

You might try the "Hot Wings" Tatarian maple. It's a smallish tree that has little yellow flowers and bright red-winged seeds. The flowering crabapples and plums and pears are all good.

You're not too hot on drip irrigation, if I remember.

Well, I don't know much about it, except I hate it. It's killed more plants than anything I can think of. It can be a wonderful tool, but you have to know how to install it and use it and maintain it. I really like hand-watering. I recommend it highly. And if you're worried about consumption, we now sell little water meters that you put right on the end of your hose and you can see how much you're using.

We need more rain, Bob.

We do, but we're doing amazingly well. We're learning more and more about how





to cope with drought and I think we'll get even better at it. Our plant choices will get smarter and we'll do things like plant more natives and then we'll see more birds and bugs — good birds and good bugs.

I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I

┶	_
т	Т

More about Local

- **ARTICLE**: How low can we go?
- - 040316MerrilycolumnP5
 - 040316MerrilycolumnP3
- 040316MerrilycolumnP4



040316Mer	rilycolu	mnP

Discuss	Print 🖪
Posted in Home/Real Estate on Sunday, April 3, 2016 6:00 am. Tags: Local	

More Stories

How low can we go? The news, from the same old me Recent single-family building permits Gorgeous compound full of artistic history The 15-year fixed is the winner!

Most Read

Canyon Road hot spot up for sale Another Arizona firm hired in mental health shake-up to leave state Jemez Pueblo man gets life sentence for brutal murder OptumHealth accused of fraud in three lawsuits Man held in knife attack on S.F. movie set

To our readers, Santafenewmexican.com now uses Facebook to power its comments forum. You will need to login using your Facebook account to post comments to news articles. As always, we do require you to use your real, full name when posting and to be courteous to others when posting.

0 Comments

Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

Sections	Services	Connections	Search
Home	- Place Classified Ad - Subscription Services		
New s		Phone number: 505-983-3303 E-mail:	Search Search
Sports	- Submission Forms		Search in:
Opinion	- Site Index	webeditor@sfnewmexican.com	Search III.
Pasatiempo	- Featured Ads	Address: 202 E. Marcy St. Santa Fe, NM 87501	All Pasatiempo Opinion
Magazines	- Featured Ads Reprints		🗌 News 🔲 Magazines 🔲 Photos

- Life	- Open House Listings	- Contact us	📙 Sports 🔛 Life	Video
- Multimedia	- Open House Re-Prints	The Taos News		
- Weather	- Add Search Toolbar	⁻ The Sangre de Cristo Chronicle		
	- Ad Rates	Enchanted Homes Real Estate Magazine		

© Copyright 2016, The Santa Fe New Mexican, Santa Fe, NM.