

Coconino Master Gardener Association's 2024 Annual Garden Tour



The rose 'Carefree Delight' blooms in the Olivia White Home Hospice Garden.

By: Judi Beckerleg

I hope you have been enjoying the hummingbirds, butterflies and even the bees who drink from all the flowers that are flourishing now that the Monsoon rains are active.

Wet weather has come just in time for the Annual Master Gardeners' Garden Tour, which will be held Saturday, August 10 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, rain or shine. The 2024 tour features eight gardens including residential, community, sustainable, and public ones. This year the tour is sponsored not only by Coconino County Master Gardeners but also by Warner's Nursery and Restoration Soils.

Tickets can be purchased at Warner's Nursery, 1101 E. Butler Ave., Flagstaff, on August 10th from 9:00 am to noon for \$15.00. Maps and wristbands will be provided at the time of purchase. You may also buy tickets online through Eventbrite for \$17.85

(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-gardeners-2024-garden-tour-tickets-874942014117>). All proceeds will go to the Coconino Master Gardener Association* to fund grants for garden projects and gardening education.

The Olivia White Hospice Garden is one of the gardens on the tour. This garden recently received a generous grant from the Flagstaff Sustainability Department. The grant allowed for a

much-needed deer fence to be built, new rose bushes to be planted, irrigation to be repaired and upgraded, plus new rain barrels and raised beds. Master Gardeners have volunteered here since 2003 to landscape the grounds creating an inviting respite for residents, family, friends, and employees.

Touring the residential gardens, you can appreciate the myriad ways in which home gardeners take advantage of their properties' terrain and microclimates to create attractive and sustainable landscapes. One garden is located in the 'inversion zone' located at the base of Mt. Elden with warmer growing conditions than other parts of town. This property features tiered beds using decorative brick and drip irrigation to create gardens throughout the property. The garden displays iris, daylily, snapdragon, purple coneflower, Virginia creeper, coreopsis, and viola. You'll also find Vego beds, a brand of raised garden beds. These are filled with zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers, jalapeno peppers, basil, rosemary, English thyme, and much more.

The garden in Fox Glenn is a sanctuary. This garden too combines both flowers and vegetables and employs drip irrigation and self-watering beds to create a lush landscape. There are many niches created to take advantage of the sunny areas as well as the shady ones to provide different microclimates for a charming variety of plants. Along with garden art, you'll find hosta, moss phlox, goji berry bushes, lavender, impatiens, and tomato, strawberry, and raspberry plants.

Two residential gardens in the Doney Park area demonstrate different approaches to landscaping. One garden provides an annual cut-flower garden and a cottage-style cutting garden. In addition to the cutting gardens, there are numerous perennial flowers throughout the yard to enjoy. Zinnias, sunflowers, delphinium, foxglove, statice, feverfew, snapdragons, columbine, penstemon, and daisies are some of the beauties to admire here.

The second garden offers a native plant approach along with vegetable gardens. This garden blossoms with penstemon, yarrow, sunflower, Mexican vervain, scarlet cinquefoil, prairie evening-primrose, Mexican hat, and blanket flower to name a few. The vegetables that this host gardener grows include corn, peas, kohlrabi, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and green onions. This garden also contains fruit-bearing trees including apples and a peach.

We hope you can join us for the Master Gardener Garden Tour. There's a garden style for everyone.

*CMGA is the non-profit arm of the Master Gardener program and is made up of gardeners dedicated to teaching classes and cultivating gardens. Proceeds from the tour will fund garden education and improvement projects throughout our community. The CMGA and the Coconino County Master Gardener Program would like to thank this year's garden hosts and Master Gardener volunteers for making this fundraising event possible.

Judi Beckerleg is a new Master Gardener. She took the online Master Gardener course in 2023 and completed her volunteer requirement in April. Thanks to the information gained from the course and attending Master Gardener monthly meetings, Judi has added a raised vegetable garden, two self-watering gardens for garlic, shallots and herbs, a pumpkin patch, and a flower garden that includes perennial red hot poker, catmints, purple columbines, milkweeds and a variety of native penstemons. She sustains her gardens using only harvested rainwater.