



Navajo Sustainable Agriculture Project Webinar Series

Planting Strategies: Veggie Beds & Container Gardening for Beginners

Dr. Marisa Y. Thompson

NMSU Urban Horticulture Extension Specialist

March 16, 2022

<https://nmsudesertblooms.blogspot.com/>

Social media: @NMDesertBlooms



Bigtooth Maple Leaves
Manzano Mountains
Oct 5, 2020



Frosty Plum Trees
Las Vegas, NM
Mar 5, 2019



Apple Blossom
Los Lunas, NM
April 8, 2020



Cherries
Los Lunas, NM
May 8, 2018



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NMSU Cooperative Extension Programs

- County Extension Programs in NM
- 12 Ag Science Centers
- Extension Agents and Specialists
- Extension Horticulture Program



NMSU Extension Horticulture Program

- Extension Programs
- Research Programs
- Southwest Yard & Garden Column
- Workshops

<https://nmsudesertblooms.blogspot.com/>

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Las Cruces Sun-News 3D Sunday, January 28, 2018

The science of pollination strategies

Flower power is usually the easiest way to judge

Southwest Yard and Garden
Marisa Y. Thompson
Columnist
Las Cruces Sun-News

Question: Is there an easy way to tell if a flower is wind-pollinated or insect-pollinated?
Leah M., Albuquerque

Answer: This question is a good one because the answer is beautiful. Big, fragrant, flamboyant flowers are a good indicator that an insect or other animal pollinates the plant. When the flowers are tiny, lacking color and inconspicuous, and might be even be considered ugly, they are likely wind-pollinated. Vectors for pollination can be biotic (e.g., insects, bats, birds, humans) or abiotic (e.g., wind, water, self-pollination).

The flower scent, shape and color, and the timing of bloom, can give clues to which insects are involved in pollination. Flowers that reek like dead flesh attract flies. Night-bloomers are often pollinated by nocturnal animals like moths and bats. Generally speaking, bee- and butterfly-pollinated species tend to have flowers with bright colors, nectaries (nectar-secreting glandular organs), and a sweet scent.

Tubular flowers are perfect for animals with long noses or beaks. Ashley Bennett, NMSU Extension integrated pest management specialist, added that some bees are short-tongued and others are long-tongued, which determines what flowers they visit for nectar and end up pollinating. For example, long-tongued bees can access nectar in very narrow, tubular-shaped flowers, like some penstemons, while

grees to a hot-to-the-touch 114 degree Fahrenheit, and then maintain that exact temperature during the two-day flowering period! You can guess why. Certain scarab beetles that prefer to mate at this temperature are attracted to the heat and end up covered in pollen ready for transport.

When water is a pollination vector, the pollen floats along until it reaches the flower. This is called surface

A flower under ultraviolet light. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS



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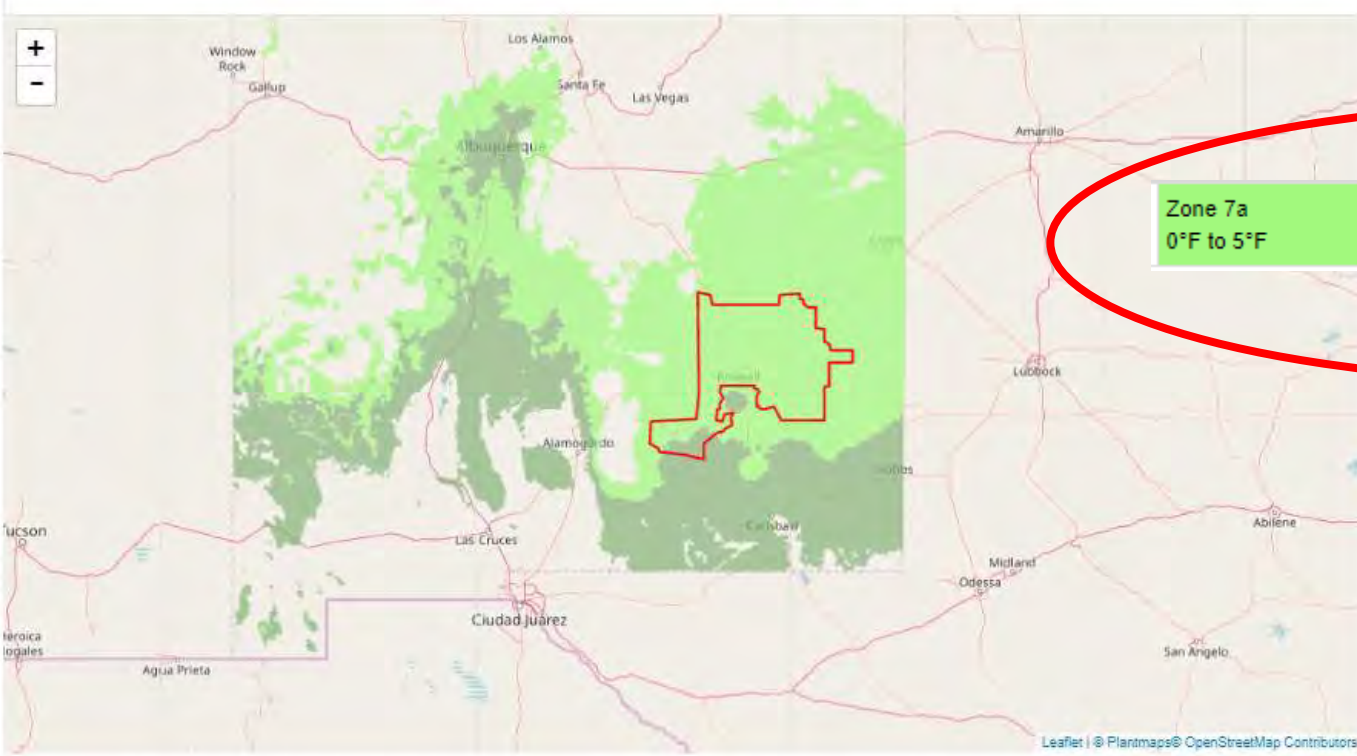
USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 2012 Map

Based on Average Annual
Extreme Low Temperatures

Zone 4 -30° to -20° F
 Zone 5 -20° to -10° F
 Zone 6 -10° to 0° F
 Zone 7 0° to 10° F
 Zone 8 10° to 20° F
 Zone 9 20° to 30° F

<http://www.plantmaps.com>





Zone 7a 0°F to 5°F	Zone 7b 5°F to 10°F
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Additional Gardening Related Data for Zipcode 88201 - Roswell, New Mexico

1990 Hardiness Zone:	Zone 6b: -5F to 0F		Summer Drought Index:	Normal	
Average First Frost:	October 11 - 20		Heat Zone Days:	121 - 150 days Over 86°F	
Average Last Frost:	April 21 - 30				
Koppen-Geiger Climate Zone:	BSk - Cold Semi-Arid Climate				
Ecoregion:	24a - Chihuahuan Basins and Playas				

Annual Climate Data for Zipcode 88201 - Roswell, NM

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Avg Min Temp (°F)	22	26	33	41	51	60	64	62	55	43	30	22	42
Avg Max Temp (°F)	55	61	69	77	85	93	94	92	85	76	65	56	76
Avg Precip (In.)	.45	.42	.38	.61	1.33	1.8	2.19	2.47	2	1.3	.66	.6	14.19



Bok Choy: 45 to 60 days

Depending on the variety and the weather, **bok choy** should be ready to **harvest** in 45 to 60 days after seed germination





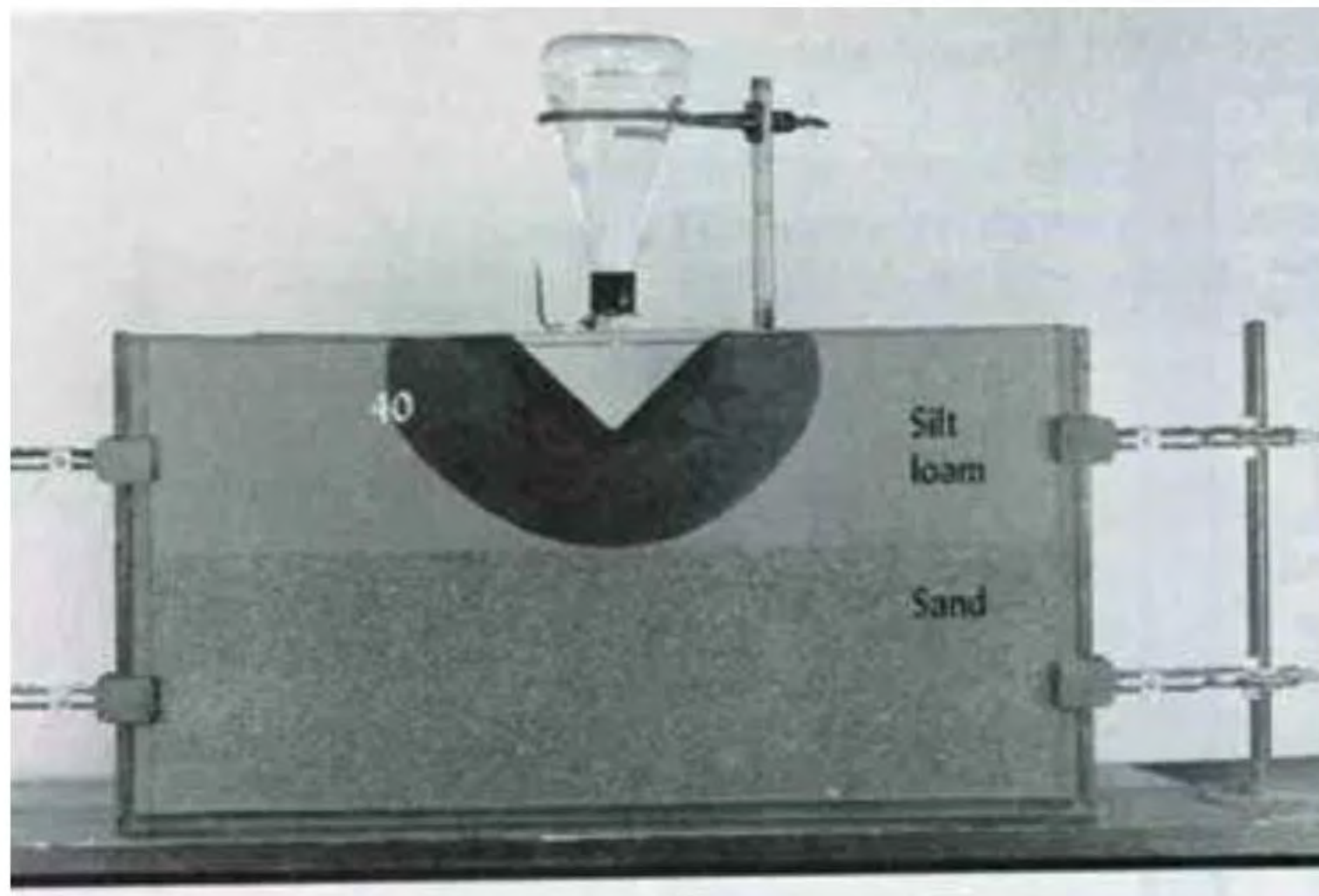


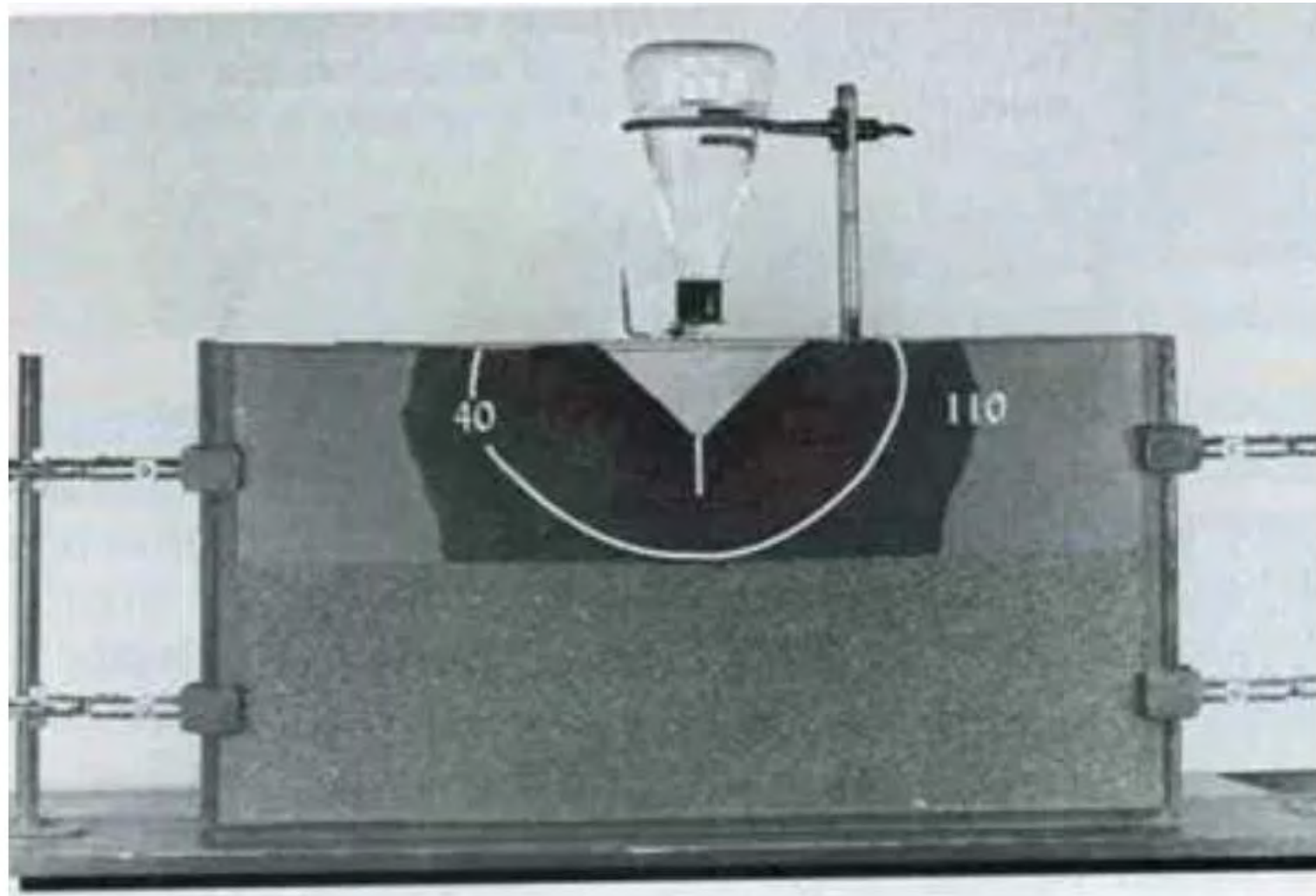


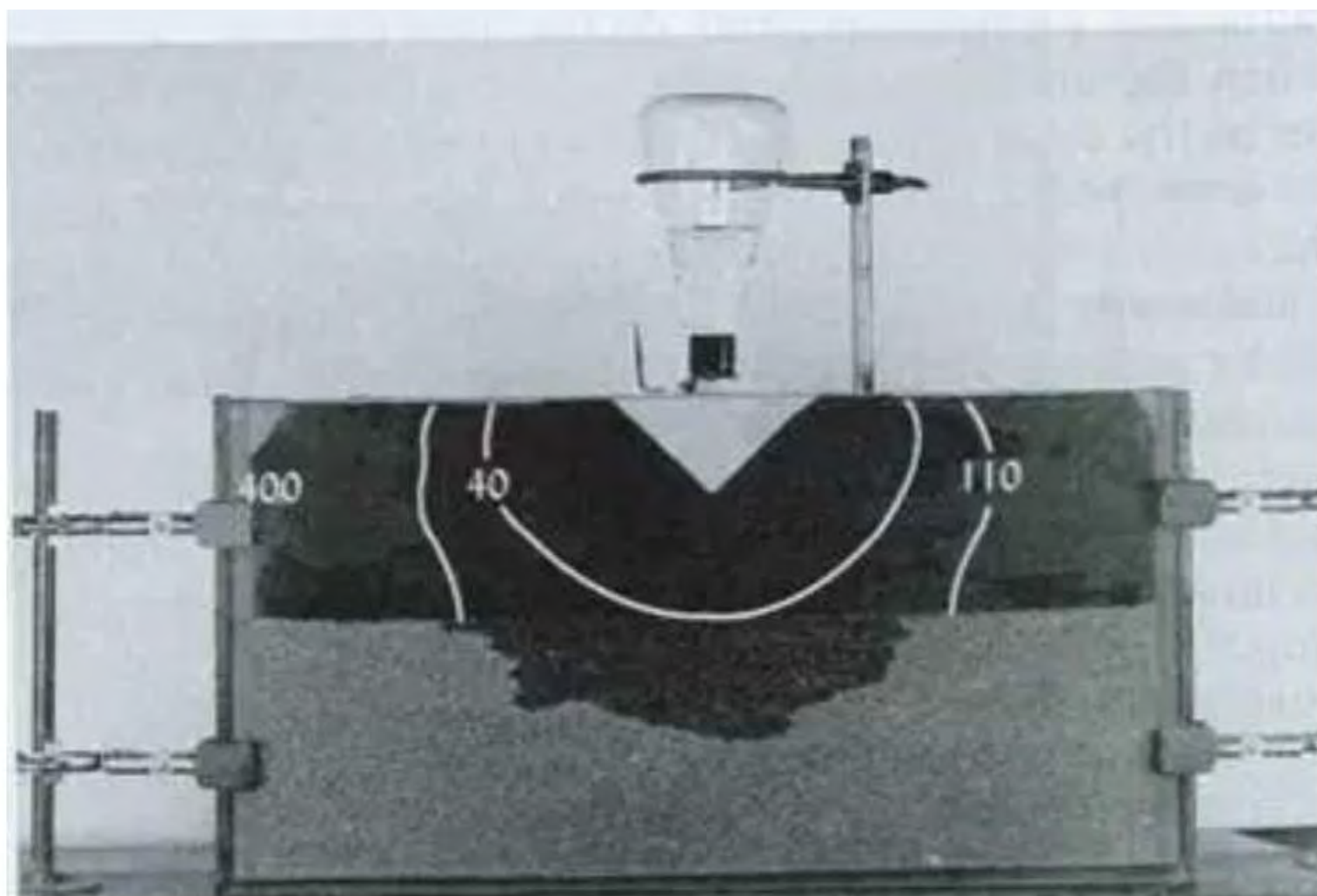


The Myth of Drainage Material in Container Plantings:
***"Add a layer of gravel or other coarse material in the
bottom of containers to improve drainage"***

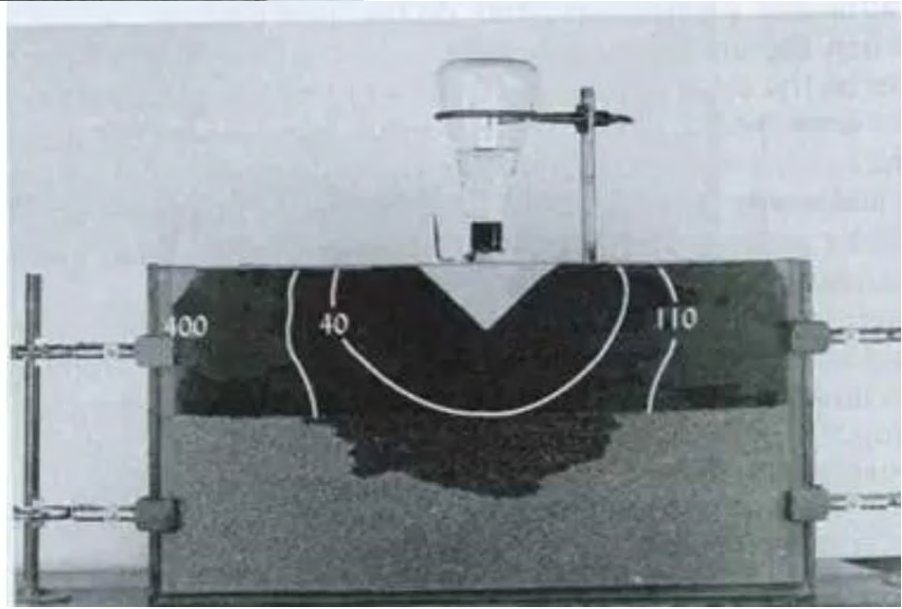
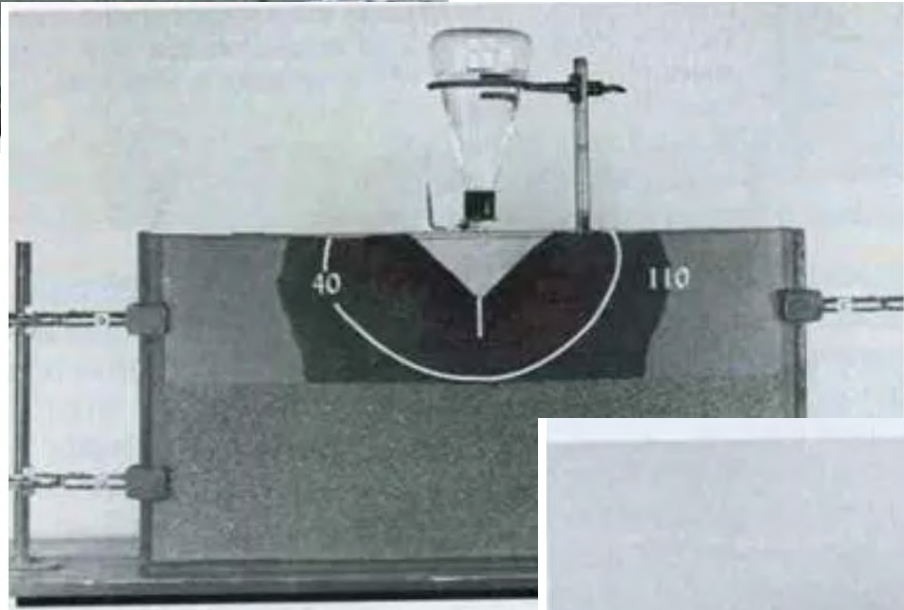
**From Linda Chalker-Scott, Ph.D.,
Extension Horticulturist, Washington State University**







The fact is, when water moving through a soil reaches a horizontal or vertical interface between different soil types, it stops moving.



Herbs for containers



Ollas



Olla Irrigation



- You may fill ollas by hand or with drip emitters inserted into each olla. Each emitter sized to just fill each olla with a given timer setting – slight overflow reduces efficiency, but provides surface water (perhaps for weeds).

Caution!

- Prevent entry of insects (especially mosquitoes) and other animals (mice, etc.)
- Cover with screening in addition to flagstone or paving tile.



For videos on how to make your own homemade OLLAs, click this link:
<https://nmsudesertblooms.blogspot.com/2020/04/oh-yes-ollas.html>



For more OLLA INFORMATION:

<https://nmsudesertblooms.blogspot.com/2020/04/oh-yes-ollas.html>



Olla Irrigation

Surface irrigation may be needed for 1 to 2 weeks (or more) depending on the weather, type of plants, and condition of the plants.



Fertilizer & Manure Woes



Vegetable Bed Maintenance Tip: MULCH!

Photos by Nissa Patterson
NMSU Bernalillo County Extension



Mulch with leaf litter,
woody mulch, pecan
shells, pine straw...



Veggie plants can be left
in place as a mulch!
*(diseased plants should
be removed)*



Mulch potted
plants too!

Control Winter Weeds

(*hint: MULCH!*)

- London Rocket Extension Guide
- <https://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/plantclinic/documents/london-rocket-w-11.pdf>



London Rocket

O & T Guide W-11

Frank Shoedice, Research Associate &
Mark Renz, Extension Weed Scientist



Cooperative Extension Service • College of Agriculture and Home Economics • October 2006

London Rocket, *Sisymbrium irio*, is a non-native winter annual mustard with bright or pale yellow flowers and slender, green to brown seed pods that ascend up the flowering stems. The plant exists as a rosette of leaves on the ground until it produces erect stems during flowering. London rocket is also known as desert mustard.



The stems are erect, branched at the base, and grow to about 20 in. tall. They are mostly green in color, but sometimes have a purple tinge, and often have hairs.



The lower leaves grow to about 6 in. long and have several pairs of opposite lobes separated by a pronounced midvein. The upper leaves are usually smaller, oblong or narrow in shape, with normally smooth edges, and one or more pairs of elongated lobes at the leaf base. All leaves are green with few to no hairs.



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- Harvest
- Storage

If you have questions about Seed to Supper or the sign-up form, contact:

Sally Cassady
(575) 646-0334

scassady@nmsu.edu

Ready, Set, GROW!

Webinar Gardening Series 3rd Wednesdays at
3pm

Register at <https://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/ready-set-grow.html>

Upcoming!

- **Apr 20, 2022 - "Home Drip Irrigation Systems"** with Tom Dominguez, Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension
- **May 18, 2022 - "Soil Issues in New Mexico"** with Gabriella Coughlin, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- **June 15, 2022 - "Keep It Cool: Shading Your Veggies"** with Dr. Stephanie Walker, NMSU Extension Vegetable Specialist
- **...Scheduled through December 2022**

Marisa Thompson

NMSU Extension Horticulture Specialist

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Social Media

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Thank You Very Mulch!



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