Native Plant Society of New Mexico newsletter

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1982 VOLUME VII NO.5

Sept/Oct Southeastern Chapter has no set meeting date. For information on these months, call Nina Eppley at 622-1226.

Sept/Oct UNM Chapter is organizing for the fall. For information on meetings, call Tom Andrews at 255-0381.

Sept. 1 Albuquerque Chapter meets(1st Wednesdays): Program will be on solar greenhouses. 7:30 pm, Museum of Albuquerque, 2000 Mountain Rd.

Sept. 8 Las Cruces Chapter meets(2nd Wednesdays): 7:30 pm. NMSU Agriculture Building Room 156. For information, call Jean at 526-3771.

Sept. 15 Santa Fe Chapter Meets(3rd Wednesdays): 7:30 pm. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. Call Carol for details at 471-7786. 9840750

Sept. 26 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets(last Sundays): This is a floating meeting. For details on this one, call Jean at 434-3041 or Madelyn at 378-4117.

Oct.2-3 General Statewide Meeting. Plan to attend this fun filled weekend! See the article in this issue for details.

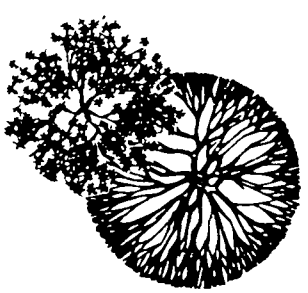
Oct. 6 Albuquerque Chapter meets: Show and Tell Night. Bring your slides, pictures or whatever to share with everyone. Also informal identification of plants. 7:30 pm. Museum of Albuquerque.

Oct. 7 Glenn Niner Chapter Meets(1st Thursdays): Ted Hodoba will share his pictures of his trip to the National Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Washington, D.C. 7:30 pm. Plant Materials Center, 1036 Miller ST SW, Los Lunas.

Oct. 13 Las Cruces Chapter meets: 7:30 pm. NMSU Ag Building. For information on this meeting, call Jean at 526-3771.

Oct. 20 Santa Fe Chapter meets: 7:30 pm, St. John's College. For information on this meeting, call Carol.

Oct. 31 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets: Call Jean or Madelyn for details.



This issue's contributors are:

J.D. Jean Dodd
J.L. Jean Lozier
M.W. Mary Wohlers
R.P. Roger Peterson
L.J. Lisa Johnston
B.M. Bill Mayfield
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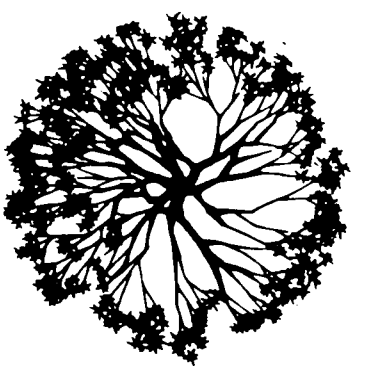


MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Users of those products brightly marketed as controls for weeds and insects far outnumber us, the less credulous, who know a little about mutation and the grinning grasshopper. The products have well-researched labels, however, and directions are there to be read and followed so damage will be minimized.

NPS is a New Mexico corporation, and it doesn't stretch metaphor too far to say its by-laws are its label. Native plants are more complicated than by-laws, so we are acting to become competent and self-correcting in both areas after making some unhappy mistakes.

Wish us well; we won't die of growing pains. Come to our next board meeting in Magdalena in October and give us your constructive advice. It's your Society all the way, and mistakes can be fun too, downright operatic in fact. What's the human mind for?

-M.W.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

". . . As a new resident(permanent) of your state I can use information re native plants. For example, I am thinking of planting deciduous trees but want a rather tall (not too tall 30ft) tree which will not spread too wide, can't use non fruiting mulberry. Thought of using a desert willow or one of the poplars."

-Joseph E. Steger
P.O. Box 1202
Truth or Consequences
NM 87901

-We agree that a desert willow is a good choice. The lavender-pink flowers and its graceful shape make it a good specimen tree. Because it remains a medium size, it would fit your height requirements. Another tree that you might consider, although it isn't native, is the Russian Olive. These trees attain good height and are rapid growers. The fruit attracts wildlife and can be ornamental if the red-fruited variety is selected.
Does any reader have other suggestions for Mr. Steger?

-The Editors.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

It's coming! The weekend of October 2-3 will be the annual statewide meeting of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. This year's festivities will be held in Magdalena. Registration will begin Saturday morning. Saturday's activities will include field trips and a panel discussion on propagation. The topic Saturday evening will be "The Future of Native Plants." On Sunday, there will be a program on Conservation, more field trips, special interest topics, a general meeting of all members, and a Board of Directors meeting.

There will also be an information room with free literature and an assortment of books, pamphlets, plants and seeds for sale. Plan to stop by and check out what's new. Don't hesitate to bring items to trade, sell or give away.

The finalized schedule with a list of accomodations will be available after September 5th. Contact any of the following people for details:

Albuquerque-	Frances Szeman(344-8201)
Santa Fe	- Anna Deardorff(983-8363)
Las Cruces	- Jean Lozier(526-4106)
Otero	- Jean Dodd(434-3041)
Lincoln	- Madelyn Murray(378-4117)
Roswell	- Nina Eppley(622-1226)

or contact Lisa (865-5608), Newsletter Editors, Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031.

Mark your calendar and make plans now to attend. It's a great time to meet other members and to learn more about native plants.

ERRATA

In the July/August issue, the words Crossomataceae and Crossomataceologists should be spelled: Crossosomataceae and Crossosomataceologists. Our typewriter is still learning botany and sometimes forgets itself. Apologies to Roger Peterson, whose typewriter can spell.

NEW ENGLAND NATIVE PLANT SEED PROGRAM

Due to last year's overwhelming response, the New England Wild Flower Society is offering for sale once again freshly collected seed and spores of over 100 native plants.

This program, an adjunct of the Society's world-wide botanical garden seed distribution, is intended to further the use of native plants in the home landscape. The program will continue on a year-to-year basis as long as demand for seed remains strong.

Members of the New England Wild Flower Society will receive in January 1983, a list of seeds available, and all orders must be received by March 1, 1983.

Non-members wishing to receive the Seed Sales List should mail a stamped, self-addressed business(#10 size) envelope by February 1, 1983 to SEED SALES, New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701. No requests for lists will be honored without the stamped envelope.

TREE SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE

The New Mexico Division of State Forestry is introducing a limited fall Tree Seedling Distribution Program of two containerized conifer species. The sale will be limited to the lower 1/3 of the State.

This program offers low cost quality seedlings to New Mexico landowners with a minimum of 2 acres of land. The seedlings must be planted for conservation purposes i.e., windbreaks, erosion control, etc. The minimum order is 98 seedlings at a cost of $42.00. The application period began in June. Seedlings will be distributed October 19-21, 1982.

For further information, inquire at your local Soil Conservation Service and County Extension Service Offices, or by writing to: New Mexico State Forestry Division, PO Box 2167, Santa Fe NM 87504.

CHAPTER NOTES

LAS CRUCES

The Las Cruces Chapter joined the Audubon Society for a field trip to the mouth of Soledad Canyon on July 10. Even with a scarcity of rainfall so far this year, the group found melon loco, fairy duster, catclaw, desert willow, Indian paintbrush, runner bean (wild green bean), blackfoot daisy and Apache plume. Everyone enjoyed have Bob Reeves lead this trip.

The regular summer meetings have been spent identifying as many plants as people bring in. Tom Todson brought specimens he had collected for the Herbarium at NMSU.

-J.L.

OTERO-LINCOLN

The Otero-Lincoln Chapter was delighted with the riot of blooming wildflowers at Smokey Bear State Park in Capitan on July 25. Since our tourguide had to work, we had lots of practice using our wildflower books and sharing knowledge of the plants. The silvery black sage was so beautiful that it will show up in a number of our landscapes.

In August, we visited Mrs. Samuella Lentz Callaway of Carlsbad. She is a native New Mexican who has a fine talent for art. Mrs. Callaway has published a set of her watercolors of wildflowers, it is now a two volume set. Everyone enjoyed looking over the drawings and talking to Mrs. Callaway.

-J.D.

NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR

Once again the Native Plant Society will have an educational display at the State Fair. Located in the Flower Building, we get many inquiries on all aspects of native plants. Anyone interested in helping design the display or working at the booth should contact Lisa Johnston at 865-5608. We hope to see you there. Plan to stop by and say hello!

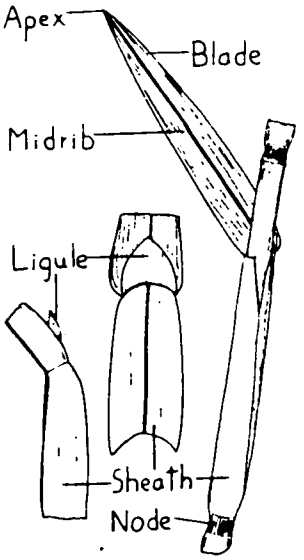
Although grasses are very important to man, we usually know very little about them. Why? Because we think that "All grasses are alike" or "They are too hard to tell apart". There are over 5,000 species of grasses in the world. While many are similar at first glance, they all have individual characteristics which identify them. Wheat is very different from Bermudagrass, but they are both grasses, of the family Graminae.

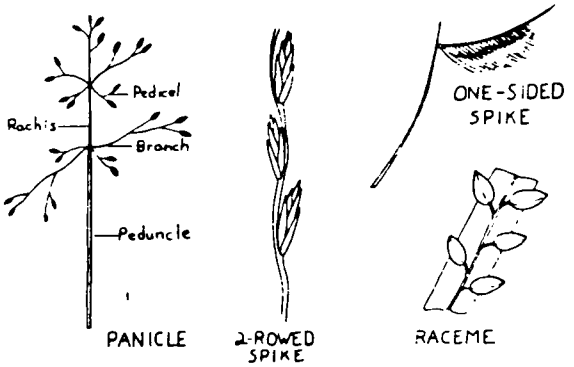
The grasses are part of a larger group called monocotyledons. Plants in this group are alike in having one seed leaf, parallel-veined leaves and stems with vascular bundles scattered in the pith.

A grass plant is composed primarily of root root, stem, leaves and a flower stalk. The root system of grasses is fibrous and extensive, often reaching a depth of six feet. These characteristics make grasses excellent soil binders and very useful in conservation projects.

The leaves of grasses are always parallel-veined and generally have long, narrow blades. The foliage leaf consists of a sheath, a ligule, and a blade. The sheath surrounds the stem, the ligule is a little collar above the sheath and the blade is the spreading portion of the leaf.

The flower cluster is always made up of a number of subdivisions called spikelets. The simplest sort of spikelet is merely a tiny scaly branchlet of flowers, each flower being surrounded by two bracts. At the base of the branchlet are two bracts with no flowers in their axils. These bracts are the first and second glumes. The remainder of the spikelet is made up of flowering units called florets. Each floret consists of an outer bract(lemma) and an inner bract(palea) with the naked flower between them. All grasses are wind pollinated, although insects and bees have been observed on the flower stalks.





The flowering stems or culms of grasses are jointed and usually round and hollow between the solid joints(nodes). Stems may be erect, or with bent, knee-like bases (decumbent) or they may trail on the surface of the ground(stolons) and root at the nodes, or they may even grow in the top few inches of soil(rhizomes). The stems of grasses range in size from a few inches to a hundred feet or more.

Grasses can be divided into two broad catagories - cool season grasses and warm season grasses. The cool season grasses begin their growth early in the spring when soil temperatures reach 40-45 degrees F. They complete their life cycle during the cooler months before hot summer weather sets in and are usually partially dormant during the summer months. They are important in extending the period of green

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

PLANT SOURCE LIST

Name and Location	Type of Business	Contact	Catalogue Avail	Special Order
Agua Fria Nursery 1409 Agua Fria Santa Fe NM 87501	Retail	Bob Pennington Phil Pennington	Yes	-
Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm Star Rt 7 Box 145 Veguita NM 87062	Wholesale Retail	Judith Phillips	Yes	-
Dry Country Plants 3904 Hwy 70 E. Las Cruces NM 88003	Retail	Tom Wootten	Yes	-
Evergreen Nursery 282o Cerrillos Rd Santa Fe NM 87501	Wholesale Retail Landscape	-	-	Yes
Evergreen Nursery 8015 E. Main Farmington NM 87401	Wholesale Retail	Daniel Alden(mgr)		Yes
Fro Landscaping & Supply Co. 2135 Metzgar SW Albuquerque NM 87105	Landscaping	Darrell Pettis	-	-
Green Acres Nursery 201 S. Solano Dr. Las Cruces NM 88001	Retail	-	-	Possibly
Green Acres Nursery 3 Locations in Albuquerque NM	Retail	-	-	Yes
Green Horizons 500 Thompson Dr. Kerrville TX 78028	Mailorder Retail	Carroll Abbott	Yes($1.00)	-
James Ranch 33800 Hwy 550 Durango CO 81301	Wholesale	-	Yes	-
Ku-Tips Nursery 1817 Schofield Farmington NM 87401	Retail Landscape	Willie Kutac	-	Yes
Lilac Shop Box 1917 Taos NM 87571	Retail	Linda Libbey	-	Yes
Little Valley Wholesale Nursery 13022 E. 136th Ave. Brighton CO 80601	Wholesale	Larry Watson Anne Wollerman	Yes	

Name and Location	Type of Business	Contact	Catalogue Avail	Special Order
Los Patios Inc. P.O. Box 1346 Corrales NM 87048	Landscape Wholesale Retail	Patty Bigelow	Wholesale list	Yes
Mesa Gardens P.O. Box 72 Belen NM 87002	Retail	Steven Brack Linda Brack	Yes	-
Mitchell Environmental Planning & Design Inc. 1304 Los Arboles NW Albuquerque NM 87107	Landscape design through maintenance Contract Growing	Pleas Glenn Ellie Mitchell	Yes	-
NM Cactus Research P.O. Box 787 Belen NM 87002	Mailorder Wholesale Retail	Horst Kuenzler	Yes	-
Payless Nurseries 400 Hamilton St Carlsbad NM 88220	Retail	-	-	-
Paynes Nurseries P.O. Box 4817 715 St. Michaels Dr. Santa Fe NM 87502	Retail	L.D. Payne Clint Cummings	-	-
Plants of the Southwest 1570 Pacheco St Santa Fe NM 87501	Wholesale Retail	Evelyn Smith Kat Kohlhaas Russell Duncan	Yes	-
Rio Grande Landscaping Supply 8032 Fourth NW Albuquerque NM 87114	Landscaping	David Lee Robert Bennett Jaci Fisher Melenee Burr	-	Yes
Timeri Lawn & Garden 811 Tyler Rd NW Albuquerque NM 87107	Landscape	Candy Cavillier	-	-
Trees of Tannamar 6401 Menaul NE Albuquerque NM 87110	Wholesale	Richard Heise	-	-
Western Construction & Site Development 127 Daniel Rd. NW Albuquerque NM 87107	Landscaping	JJ Archuleta	-	Yes
Wildland & Native Seeds Foundation 2402 Hoffman Dr. Albuquerque NM 87110	Custom Seed Collecting	Edward Reinhardt Jack Hawley	-	-
Yonomoto Inc. 8727 4th NW Albuquerque NM 87114	Retail Landscaping	Darrell Yonomoto	-	-

foliage while the warm season grasses are dormant. They're valuable sources of protein and vitamin A during the late fall-early winter and again in late winter-early spring. Cool season grasses include wheatgrasses, bluegrasses, fescues, bromes, wheat, barley and other small grains.

The second main group of grasses is the warm season grasses. They begin their surge of growth when the soil warms to 60-65 degrees F. These plants are adapted to higher temperatures and can endure summer heat. They complete their growth cycle in late summer or early fall. Warm season grasses occupy much of our rangeland, especially in the Great Plains area. These grasses include: the gramas, bluestems, dropseeds, lovegrasses, indian ricegrass & buffalo grass.

Man uses grasses more than any other plants on earth. Grasses furnish the major grains and breadstuffs of the world and a large part of the food of domestic animals; they are also used in industry and extensively as ornamentals in parks and gardens.

The most important food plants for man are the cereals: wheat, corn, rice, barley, rye and oats. Additional grains are often utilized by the local peoples. Here in the Southwest Indian Ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and various dropseeds (*Sporobolus*) were commonly used.

As food for animals, the grasses provide both grain and forage, in hay, pasture, or range. Important hay grasses include: timothy(*Phleum pratense*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) and orchardgrass(*Dactylis glomerata*). Other important hay grasses known as prairie grasses are: Western wheatgrass(*Agropyron smithii*), Needle-and-thread grass(*Stipa comata*), Switchgrass(*Panicum virgatum*) and the bluestems(*Andropogon*).

A large number of grasses make up the rangelands in the West. The best known range grass is buffalo grass(*Buchloe dactyloides*), a sod-forming "short grass" dominant over much of the Great Plains. Along with the buffalo grass are the gramas(*Bouteloua*), important forage grasses for stockmen. Blue grama(*Bouteloua gracilis*), Black grama(*B. eriopoda*) and Sideoats grama(*B. curtipendula*) are both nutritious and palatable.

Industrially, grasses are a source of fiber (*Stipa tenacissima*), essential oils for perfumes (lemongrass, *Cymbopogon citratus*) and building materials, such as bamboo. Starch and alcohol are produced from corn, wheat and other cereals. Corn stalks, grain and cobs are used to produce many products, ranging from corncob pipes to red rubber.

As ornamentals, grasses are most often associated with lawns and turf. In the humid regions of the Northern states, Kentucky bluegrass(*Poa pratensis*) is often used. For the arid southwest however, other species would work better, such as Buffalo grass, Blue grama, or Bermuda(*Cynadon*). The tall plumegrasses, such as pampasgrass (*Cortaderia selloana*) are commonly used as accent plants. Indian ricegrass and Sacaton(*Sporobolus wrightii*) could also be used in a landscape.

Grasses are an important part of man's existance. Without them, the world would be a very different and less desirable place. Let's give grasses the credit they deserve.

-L.J.

Buffalograss

REFERENCES ON GRASSES

Below is a list of some of the books that can found about grasses.

Cotter, DJ, Sullivan, DT & Sais, JR. Landscaping with Native Grasses. NMSU Cooperative Extension Circular 400 H-19. 1981.

Gould, FW. Grasses of Southwestern United States. University of Arizona Press. 1977.

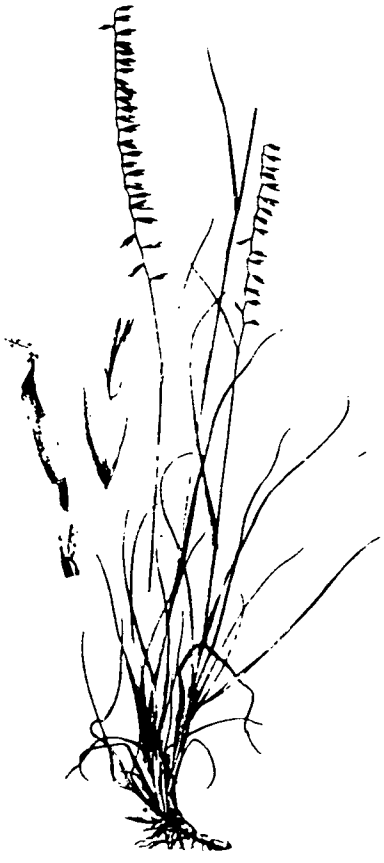
Hitchcock, AS. Manual of the Grasses of the United States. Two Volumes. Dover Publications 1971.

New Mexico Range Plants. NMSU Cooperative Extension Circular 374. ($2.75)

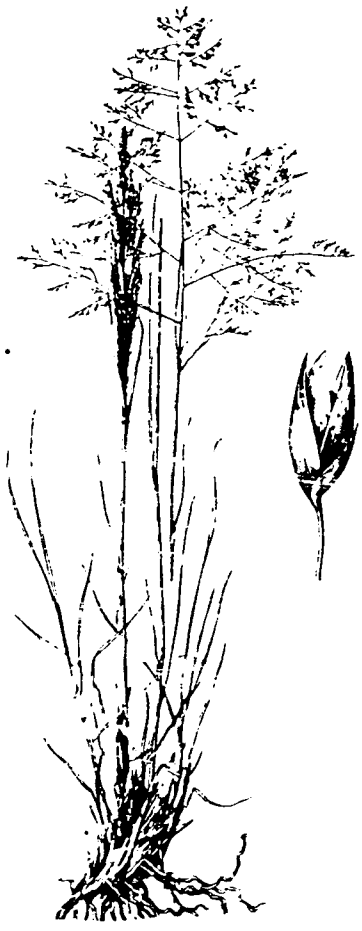
Pasture and Range Plants. Phillips Petroleum Co, Bartlesville, OK 74004. 1963.

Pohl, RW. How to Know the Grasses. W.C. Brown Co. 1968.

Southwest Grasses. Curtis & Curtis Inc., Star Rt Box 8A, Clovis NM 88101.



Sideoats grama



Alkali sacaton

Blue grama

Indian ricegrass

Western wheatgrass

ASTERS AND GRASSHOPPERS

Machaeranthera (Aster) canescens is a biennial aster of mid elevations, common along a few New Mexico roadsides. Matthew Parker and Richard Root of Cornell University, who are grasshopperologists, have been asking whether their hoppers control the distribution of this aster. From their studies near the base of the Sandias, the answer was yes. Asters they transplanted from roadsides to snakeweed range survived only if protected from Hesperotettix viridis, a grasshopper species that specializes in snakeweed but is willing to use some other plants for dessert. All exposed transplants were colonized by the insects within three days, and average time until complete defoliation was 7.4 days. Protected plants grew and flowered. Natural seedlings near snakeweed suffered the same fate as the exposed transplants. Thus we have an example of one plant, snakeweed, limiting the distribution of another not through competition but by increased herbivore pressure. (From Ecology 62: 1390-1392.)

-R.P.

THE HEAT'S OFF

Happily, we've passed the days when the faint-hearted avoid their gardens after noon, when wilted is an emotion as well as a physiological state. Late July and August have brought the rain that brings the bloom: Desert Marigold, Gaillardias, Prairie Coneflower, Globemallows, Evening Primrose and soon the Purple Aster.

Masses of color followed closely by as much seed - now's the time, gardeners, to plan next year's show. Seeds of many native biennials and perennials can be collected and planted now. Generally, seed is ripe when it detaches from the plant readily, is hard, and not green in color. Seed collected while still green, soft and milky will rarely mature to a viable condition.

Plan to work your native seed beds as you would any flowerbed: tilling the soil, adding sand or pumice to heavy clay areas, raking to level, and watering to see and correct any problem low spots.

Plan a pattern of color and height: English style borders, formal bedding compositions or crazy quilt meadows, are all design options.

Finally, sow your seed, scratch-raking it into the surface , firming the soil and gently sprinkling. Most seed will germinate within 3 weeks to a month, if the soil is kept damp. The tiny rosettes of foliage hugging the ground anticipate the cold temperatures and long nights that predicate the flowers of '83.

As days become shorter and nights cooler, long before the first hint of falling leaves, your landscape should be 'hardening off' against winter weather. 'Hardening off' is the natural sequal to the flush of soft growth produced by nitrogen rich rains. Top growth stops and tissues mature to a woody state less susceptible to damage by extreme cold and drying wind.

Summer's over. Watering schedules, for drought tolerant plants especially, should reflect the changing season. Deep, thorough irrigations, to encourage deep rooting, should be "few and far between".

Do not fertilize. Plantings weakened by heat stress that have not enjoyed an obvious early autumn revival will benefit from a late feeding. After deciduous plants have lost their leaves, but while the ground is not frozen, an application of a balanced 20-20-20, 15-30-15, or similar fertilizer will be absorbed by the plant and stored for later use, stimulating only root growth. Top growth should not be encouraged. This especially true on cold sensitive plants like Desert Willow. Fertilized too early in fall, Desert Willow, an uncontrollable glutton, will develop abundant soft growth. The following spring you'll find you've lost all the late growth, and possibly the entire plant. Likewise, restrain the urge to spend that crisp fall day with pruning shears in hand. Better spend the time collecting and sowing some seeds, mulching a little here and there and otherwise hitting a new low in low maintenance.

-J.P.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
P.O. Box 5917
Santa Fe NM 87502

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_____Friend($25.00 min)

Please check the following list to indicate your area(s) of interest and/or anything that you would like to assist with. Address your check to the above address.

	Interested	Willing to help
Landscaping with Native plants		
Conservation/Ecology		
Rare or Endangered plants		
Photography, slide collection		
Field trip		
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Mailing		
Clerical		
Membership Committee		

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