

ARCADIA CENTRAL

Newsletter of the Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association

June 2023

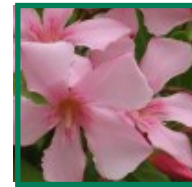
Toxic Plants In Your Yard And Home

In the beauty and serenity of our Arcadia landscapes lurk the hidden danger of toxic plants. Homeowners need to be aware of hazardous plants in their landscapes so they can safeguard children and pets from danger. Here are the actions you can take to ensure their safety:

1. Familiarize yourself with common toxic plants in your yard and neighborhood. Understand their characteristics, appearance, and potential risks. This knowledge will help you identify and avoid them.
2. Prioritize non-toxic plant varieties for your landscaping. Consult with local nurseries or gardening experts to ensure you choose safe and suitable options that won't pose a threat to children or pets.
3. Install physical barriers like fences or gates to restrict access to areas containing toxic plants. This will prevent curious little explorers or playful pets from coming into direct contact with these potentially harmful specimens.
4. Keep a watchful eye on children and pets while they are in the garden. Train pets to obey commands such as "leave it" or "drop it."
5. Store gardening tools, fertilizers, and pesticides securely, out of reach from children and pets. Dispose of any plant trimmings or fallen leaves in a responsible manner to prevent accidental ingestion.
6. Maintain your garden by regularly inspecting and removing any toxic plants that may have sprouted. Promptly address any potential hazards to ensure the safety of your family.
7. If you are unsure about the toxicity of a particular plant or need guidance on creating a safe garden environment, consult with a local horticulturist or professional landscaper.

A few poisonous plants found in Arcadia are listed in the table (right). In addition, beware of toxic plants delivered to your house – often flower bouquets and arrangements will have filler plants that can be toxic (place these where pets and children can't reach them).

All types of lilies (Easter Lily, Tiger Lily, etc.) are extremely toxic to cats. Both the leaves and flowers are toxic.



Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
Every part of the oleander is toxic, as well as smoke from burning it. Contains several poisons affecting the heart and produces severe digestive upset. Potentially fatal.



Azalea (*Rhododendron*)
Entire plant is poisonous. Symptoms of drooling, tears, vomiting, slow pulse, low blood pressure, coma, death.



Lantana (*Lantana* spp.) Toxic
Pentacyclic triterpenoids cause vomiting, diarrhea, labored breathing, weakness, leading to liver failure.



Mexican Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*)
Tannins cause gastrointestinal irritation, vomiting, and diarrhea.



Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium Sempervirens*)
Entire plant extremely toxic. Trace amount can be deadly.



Oak (*Quercus* spp.) Most dangerous in budding and leafing stages when acorns are available. Toxic gallotannins lead to kidney failure.

See ACMNA website for photos and additional poisonous plants and foods:

www.acmna.org/toxic-plants. There are over 2000 toxic plants in Arizona. Any plant consumed by a child or pet should be investigated for safety.

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Stinknet Alert



An invasive plant, Stinknet (also called “Globe Chamomile”) is threatening to blanket the desert, and locally, Camelback Mountain. This smelly, noxious plant spreads quickly into all open areas and crowds out natural wildflowers and other plants. It looks like wild carrot, but then produces pretty yellow puffball flowers. (The photo below was taken in Cave Creek.) In summer heat, those puffballs dry out into seed heads, which release hundreds of seeds – making the growth extremely flammable. While removing the dried plants will spread seeds, large stands should be removed to reduce wildfire hazard. [Learn more here.](#)

More information on the threat of Stinkweed and its control will appear in the September newsletter.



Toxic Plants *continued from page 1*

Wild mushrooms are assumed to be poisonous. Remove all mushrooms from your yard. Often after heavy rain in Arcadia, mushrooms can sprout overnight. While it is tempting to just kick them, that will just spread spores that will sprout in the future. Using gloves, pull them up by the stems, place them in a plastic bag, then dispose of them in the trash.

If you suspect a child or pet has ingested toxic plant material, do not wait for symptoms to take action. Save or gather parts of the plant (stems, leaves, and especially flowers) for identification (if vomiting has occurred, collect a sample of vomit). **Contact the appropriate hotline immediately.** Self-treatment is not recommended.

For humans: Call the [Poison Control](#) at 1-800-222-1222.

For pets: Call the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) 24-hr emergency hotline at 1-888-426-4435 or the [Pet Poison Helpline](#) at 1-855-764-7661. Consulting fees will be charged.

Virtual Blockwatch

If you have one or more security cameras monitoring the outside of your home, consider registering it with the Phoenix Police as part of their Virtual Block Watch Program. It only takes about 10 minutes. Go to the [Phoenix Virtual Block Watch](#) website and select “Register Now” at the bottom of the page. Once registered, the police department will contact you to confirm your registration.



If, in the future, a criminal incident occurs in the vicinity of your security camera, the police department will contact you (by phone or email) to request a copy of any video captured by your camera which may assist in the investigation of a crime.



Newsletter

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Writers / Contributors:

Andy Gough,
Michael Phillips, Craig Steblay

Layout: Lisa Binsfeld

ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 6pm on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) Prince of Peace, Choir Room (NW corner).

These meetings are open to the public and Arcadia residents are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted 5 days prior to meetings at: www.acmna.org/agendas

ACMNA website: www.acmna.org

Newsletter Archive: www.arcadiacentral.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA

Sign up for our Email notices (sent only when important issues occur):

www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list

Only in Arcadia! Black Sphinx Dates

In 1928, date enthusiast Roy Franklin was walking along West Glenwood Avenue and noticed a curious palm seedling growing in a yard – which turned out to be a new variety of date. Franklin interested Ellen Amelia Goodbody Brophy (who also founded Brophy Preparatory) in the idea of farming the dates. Multiple acres were planted on the Brophy property in Arcadia, to become the original Sphinx Date Ranch. When Ellen died in 1934, her son Frank and Ed Peterson took over the operation with Roy Franklin to grow the dates commercially.

Frank came up with the name “Sphinx” for the new variety, due to its mysterious origin. “Black” is the color of the fruit, which is considered to be a “wet date,” with more juice and softer texture. In contrast to Medjool dates (which have a syrupy, candy-like sweetness), black sphinx dates have creamy texture, and a more muted sweet, honeyed flavor with notes of caramel and vanilla.

In the late 1950s, the cost to maintain the date groves had brought the business into considerable debt, so the owners decided to divide the property into residential lots, named Mountgrove Arcadia. Many of those Sphinx palms were left in place as attractive ornamental trees. Those trees still exist today – in the original Mountgrove area, South of E Calle Tuberia, between N 46th Place and N 47th Place (behind the Villa Lafayette Condominiums). All of these trees are females, as they are the only trees that produce fruit.

Black sphinx dates are considered a culturally significant and endangered food. Black sphinx dates have thinner skins and are highly perishable, so they are not suitable for large scale commercial production. The majority of Black Sphinx dates for sale come from homeowners in the area who harvest dates from trees on their property. Some also come from the ASU Polytechnic Date Palm Grove in Mesa. Many of those dates are sold to the Sphinx Date Co. Palm & Pantry, 3039 N Scottsdale Rd



(between Thomas and Earl, just north of U-Haul), the successor company to the original Sphinx Date Ranch (Black Sphinx dates typically become available in September, however this year it is likely to be October). A couple producing Sphinx palms are known to exist in California, and a couple at the Phoenix Zoo.

Mountgrove Arcadia neighbor Erica Schlather is a leading grower of Black Sphinx dates, harvesting 7 – 15 trees per year. She sells dates directly to individuals, at local farmers markets, and to Sphinx Date Co. Contact her at (602) 505-7892 or email Ericas@cox.net. Due to this year's cooler weather, she advises that dates will likely be available in October. Many neighbors do not harvest their dates. Some have an agreement with Rejean Durette to trim their palms and harvest the dates; however, Rejean is fully booked. Anyone in the construction industry with access to cherry picker equipment could make new friends and be rewarded with a harvest of delicious dates that are grown nowhere else in the world.

If you are a home gardener interested in growing a Sphinx palm tree, see the [ACMNA website](#) for more information on cultivating date palms.



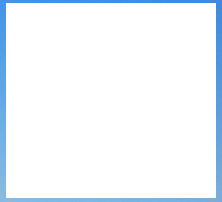
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www.arcadiacentral.com

4340 E. Indian School Road, Box 21-293

Phoenix, AZ 85018



Preserving our neighborhood starts with you.

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Arcadia Neighborhood 4th OF JULY Parade

Rain or Shine! July 4th at 8:00AM (7:30 Registration)

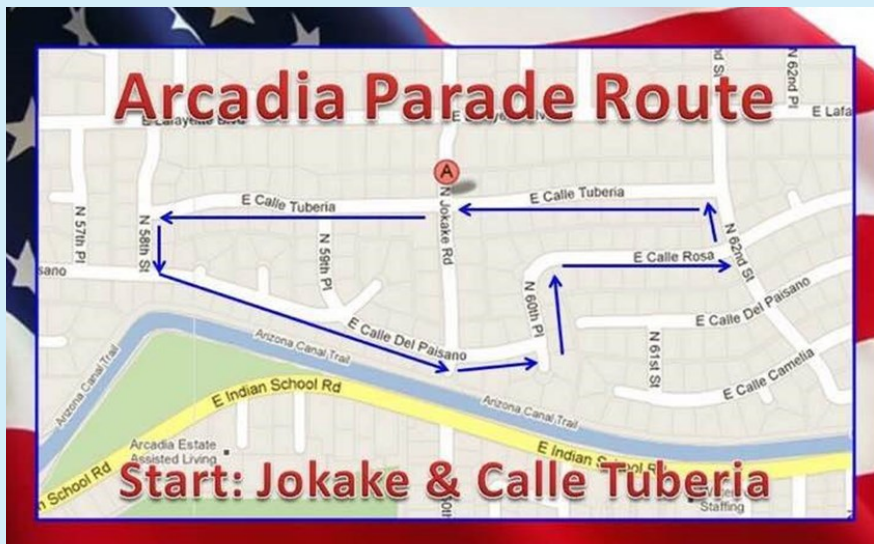
Starting Location: corner of Jokake (60th St) and Calle Tuberia

Neighbors, families and kids of all ages can participate. Decorate your bikes, strollers, golf carts or make a float. Drive your antique or unique vehicle, walk or skate with a flag. To enter, simply show up at 7:30 to register!

[\(http://arcadiaparade.com/\)](http://arcadiaparade.com/)

Bottled water will be provided. Coffee & bagels available at 7:30AM.

Cool off after the parade with a fire hose spray down by the PHX Fire Department.



Upcoming Events

July 4th Parade

← info to left

ACMNA

Board Meetings

Summer Recess

July and August

Next Meeting

September 7th, 6pm

Prince of Peach Choir Room

3641 N. 56th St

ACMNA Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month.

For meeting agendas see:

www.acmna.org/agendas