



# NORTHERN NEVADA

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## MASTER GARDENER

### Restoring landscape after the Caughlin Fire

By Susan Donaldson  
 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

It's been a year since the scary Caughlin Fire roared through southwest Reno, burning homes and destroying landscapes. Grants from the Truckee River Fund and NV Energy supported early efforts to



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prevent erosion into drainages for emergency watershed stabilization. The extremely

dry winter prevented a lot of erosion from occurring, but it also made restoration more challenging. Some of the lessons learned may be useful to those of you who are struggling to restore vegetation after wildfire.

Some of the burned vegetation returned without help. In many areas, willows, native roses and desert peach resprouted from the roots. To help suppress cheatgrass and other weeds and establish fuel breaks, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Nevada Land Trust gave away seed mixtures to residents in the burned area. Plant success was highly variable, with lots of failures.

Why didn't some revegetation efforts work? There are several possible reasons. It's tempting to just spread seed on the burned areas, but folks who tried this found it didn't work very well. Proper seedbed preparation is essential. Seed must have good contact with the soil, which means raking it in and tamping it into the soil. Once the seeds germinate, the seedlings must have constant access to soil moisture or they'll die. There's little hope of success when we don't have good winter precipitation unless you irrigate the seeded areas.

Timing is another issue. Normally, fall reseeding works best, but the unusual timing of the Caughlin fire meant reseeding during spring or postponing for a season, allowing weeds to grow.

People who tried to reseed (relatively) hot, dry south slopes found it rarely worked. Lynda Nelson of the NLT suggests focusing on swales or the cooler north or east-facing slopes. Incorporate certified weed-free straw into the soil to help retain moisture.

Some homeowners hydroseeded burned areas. This technique sprays a mixture of seed and mulch onto the soil. Unfortunately, we did not get sufficient moisture after hydroseeding occurred last winter to allow for seedling establishment, and cheatgrass has dominated most of the burned area. Most years, successful hydroseeding requires irrigation unless we are lucky enough to have a wet winter and spring. Provide temporary irrigation using sprinklers or soaker hoses.

Cheatgrass invasion continues to be a huge problem after not only the Caughlin fire, but every wildfire. The critical period occurs during the first year after the fire. If desirable vegetation is not established immediately, the area will likely revert to

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## ENTERTAINING

# THANKSGIVING SIPS



Pick the perfect wines for your Thanksgiving table. GETTY IMAGES

### Riesling, Beaujolais star on the table

By Laura Longero  
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Picking out wines for Thanksgiving can be a hard task. You have to try to please everyone's palates and match the food without winding up penniless after a trip to the wine store. While it's a good rule to drink what you like, there are a few considerations when contemplating your Thanksgiving sips.

First, you don't want to serve a super tannic red. Cabernet sauvignon, for example, pairs terribly with turkey — it creates a metallic taste in your mouth.

Another thing is to pick a few wines that everyone will like, so try to stay away from polarizing wines like buttery chardonnay and heavy reds — people either like them or they don't.

My two favorite wines for Thanksgiving are Beaujolais and riesling. Beaujolais is fruity and delicious without being overly complex, and riesling, which ranges from dry to very sweet,

is a versatile, low-alcohol wine, perfect for sipping all day.

Here are some picks for your Thanksgiving table, available locally:

#### Louis Bouillot crémant de Bourgogne blanc de blancs

Because only sparkling wine from the Champagne region in France can be called Champagne, other sparklers like crémant from other regions in France are a great value. Crémant de Bourgogne is from Burgundy, home of some of the world's most renowned pinot noirs and chardonnays. It's a blanc de blancs, so it's made only from chardonnay grapes.

**Price:** About \$17.99  
**Alcohol:** 12 percent

**Tasting notes:** Yeasty on the nose with notes of brioche, almonds and apple pie. Round and rich on the palate with a whisper of acidity, and the bubbles dance across your tongue.

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### STORING WINE

**Temperature:** Temperature is one of the most important factors to consider when deciding where to store your wine. The perfect storage temperature is 52 F, but anything between 40 and 65 F will work. The most important thing is to keep the wine at a consistent temperature.

**Light:** The other important factor is light. All wines are negatively affected by ultraviolet light. Avoid purchasing bottles displayed in sunlight. Dark-colored glass bottles better protects the wine than lighter-colored glass bottles.

**Other factors:** Humidity is necessary to keep the cork moist and flexible, which is why you shouldn't store wine long-term in a domestic refrigerator. Several days spent in the refrigerators is the max you should keep it in there. Wines also should be stored in vibration-free conditions. Stack wines on their sides to keep the corks moist, exceptions being sparkling wines and those sealed with screwtops.

Source: "The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia" by Tom Stevenson (Dorling Kindersley, 2005)

### SERVING WINE

**Serving temperatures:** For sparkling wine, the serving temperature is 40-45 F; white wines, 45-50 F; rosé and light-bodied reds, 50-55 F; medium-bodied reds, 55-60 F; and full-bodied reds, 60-65 F. Wines served too cold will mute the wine's nuances, and red wines served too warm will enhance the presence of alcohol.

**Rapid chilling:** You can chill wine in the refrigerator for a couple hours, or put it into the deep freeze for 10 to 15 minutes (but remember to take it out otherwise you'll be cleaning wine and glass shards out of the freezer). Putting the wine into an ice bath is the quickest way to chill a bottle.

**Decanting:** Decanting helps separate the wine from its sediment and is useful when drinking older wines or heavily tannic red wines. Several hours before decanting, stand the bottle in an upright position. When decanting, bring the wine bottle and decanter, one in each hand, and pour the wine into the decanter. You may pour over a lighted candle or flashlight, which will show you where the sediment is so you can avoid pouring it into the decanter. Pour the wine in a slow, steady flow.

Source: "The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia" by Tom Stevenson (2005, Dorling Kindersley)

## Seed blends make bird feeding easier

Staff report

Just as people have diverse dining preferences, wild birds also have different food tastes. Many people are learning that these preferences can be indulged to attract the greatest variety of birds to their backyards.

The average backyard can be visited regularly by 15 to 20 different bird species. Bird feeders are successful in attracting birds because they imitate birds' natural feeding

preferences.

"Offering a seed blend is the best way to see a variety of birds," said Jacque Lowery, manager of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shops at Moana Nursery. "Blends are a mixture of seeds and nuts that numerous birds will enjoy eating."

Not all blends are created equal. Some blends add cereal grain fillers such as milo, wheat and oats, ingredients not preferred by most birds. In those cases, these fillers are left uneaten and found in a pile on the

ground.

"In many instances, you will find inexpensive bird seed blends have a very large quantity of cereal grain fillers," Lowery said. "These fillers add bulk to the bag and lower the price, but they are undesired by the birds."

Wild Birds Unlimited offers a variety of seed blends that are specially formulated for birds in this area, all free of cereal fillers. Visit the store to learn more about the feeding preferences of the birds in the area.

### DETAILS

Wild Birds Unlimited, located inside all three Moana Nursery locations (1100 W. Moana Lane, 11301 S. Virginia St. and 7655 Pyramid Highway, Sparks), is part of the original and largest franchise system of backyard bird feeding and nature specialty stores with more than 275 locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in bringing people and nature together with bird feeding and nature products, expert advice and educational events. Details: www.reno.wbu.com.

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# Sips

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## J brut rosé

I am a big fan of J's sparkling wines, although not as much a fan of the winery's still wines. But this is the perfect wine for celebrating, and rosé sparklers tend to be a bit richer than their counterparts. This is a fun cocktail wine, or pour for toasting.

**Price:** About \$26.99  
**Alcohol:** 12.5 percent  
**Tasting notes:** With a pale pink hue, the J has aromas of strawberry, peaches and freshly baked bread. It's effervescent with the fruit on the front of the palate. Refreshing acidity with a moderate finish.

## 2007 Joh. Jos. Prum Wehlener Sonnenuhr kabinett riesling

Riesling, along with Beaujolais, is my favorite Thanksgiving wine. It will match with the sweet and savory items, won't overwhelm your bird and, best of all, is lower in alcohol than many wines so you can drink a few glasses of it without overindulging. This riesling is off-dry, but the sugar is balanced with acidity.

**Price:** About \$29.99  
**Alcohol:** 9 percent  
**Tasting notes:** On the nose, the minerality jumps out at you, fol-

lowed by notes of gasoline and pear. It's off-dry with juicy acidity and tame fruit on the palate.

## 2011 Barons de Rothschild white Bordeaux

This white wine from the first-growth Bordeaux house of Lafite, is a blend of 60 percent semillon and 40 percent sauvignon blanc. I like Bordeaux blends because the blend is like a marriage — semillon brings luscious richness and sauvignon blanc adds racy acidity.

**Price:** About \$14.99  
**Alcohol:** 12 percent  
**Tasting notes:** Crisp and clean on the nose with hints of freshly hung laundry, lemon, lime and rocky river bed. On the palate, it's mineral and elegant with subtle fruit notes of pear, refreshing acidity and a lingering finish.

## 2011 Calera viognier

Viognier traditionally comes from France's Northern Rhône and can have the most intoxicating aroma compared with many other varietals. The Calera viognier has those aromatics with a balanced but luscious texture.

**Price:** About \$14.99  
**Alcohol:** 13.6 percent  
**Tasting notes:** Aromas of white flowers, summer peaches, honeysuckle and apricots. On the palate, there's a whisper of

acidity, followed by round fruit flavors.

## 2011 Domaine du Vieil Aven Tavel rosé

Tavel is a famous French rosé appellation, and this wine is made from 50 percent grenache, 15 percent mourvèdre, 13 percent clairette, 12 percent picpoul and 10 percent syrah. I like rosé pretty much year-round. It's a red-wine drinker's rosé, full-bodied and round with plenty of acidity for balance.

**Price:** About \$12.99  
**Alcohol:** 13.5 percent  
**Tasting notes:** Bright pink to reddish color — like cherry Kool-Aid — with bright notes of strawberry, watermelon, red cherry and cotton candy. Dry, it has crisp red fruit flavors on the palate.

## 2011 Domaine Dupeuble Père et Fils Beaujolais

No story on wines for Thanksgiving would be complete without mentioning Beaujolais, from France. There are many different types, including Beaujolais nouveau, which is the current year's vintage released just before Thanksgiving. The wine is typically fresh and fruity without much tannin, the perfect accompaniment for turkey.

**Price:** About \$14.70

**Alcohol:** 12.5 percent  
**Tasting notes:** On the nose, baking spices, black plum, black cherry and white pepper give way to fruit on the palate and mild acidity.

## 2006 Papapietro Perry Elsabee Vineyard pinot noir

I first visited Sonoma County's Papapietro Perry in 2006, and then again a couple weeks ago. The wines were just as I'd remembered: elegant and super complex pinot noirs. Pinot is another great wine for Thanksgiving because it's lighter-bodied so it won't overwhelm the turkey and stuffing but is still layered and lovely.

**Price:** About \$39.99  
**Alcohol:** 13.9 percent  
**Tasting notes:** The nose on this wine is beautiful: earthy aromas like mushroom, forest floor jump out of the glass, followed by dark cherry, cinnamon and dried cranberry. On the palate, dark fruit notes are followed by a slap of acidity, lingering on the tongue and giving way to a smooth, slow finish.

## 2009 Domaine du Grand Prieur Vacqueyras

Grenache-syrah-mourvèdre blends are one of my new favorites — lighter grenache sexified with spicy syrah. This blend is 75 percent gre-

nache, 15 percent syrah and 10 percent mourvèdre. If you want a bigger red on your Thanksgiving table, this one's your girl.

**Price:** About \$17.99  
**Alcohol:** 14.5 percent  
**Tasting notes:** Barn-

yard, spice, fig and raisin on the nose. Fruit dominates the front palate with lush tannins and a wallop of flavor. Medium-to full-bodied, this wine is best as a cocktail red before the turkey arrives on the table.

# WORD SLEUTH • THINGS WITH A HEAD

MDBXWUMROLIEBEY  
VSLQROUNKHEBYCB  
WTGOVERNMENTRUE  
OLJGHEDRNBYWLTE  
URPNKEINAGDCBTR  
ZXVSRISOICFMKEI  
GECAYEEULLOWMLU  
SQPNVNLWOIYMJBH  
FECAYIXGOHACEAV  
USQPNRPMKHJRHTF  
ECBZYXVUTRSQTPQ

Friday's unlisted clue: SLENDER

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Saturday's unlisted clue hint: SHOT FROM A BOW

Beer	Golf club	Lettuce	Shower
Comet	Government	Nail	Table
Cylinder	Hammer	Pin	Trail
Drum	Household	River	

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11/17

## CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"PLNWFNDWP DF'PEWFFWZ YLF FL  
EJLH VO MF PLNWLYW. D TMY PMAW  
FGMF MYCWX MYR WNLFDLY BLZ NK  
CVDFMZ OJMKDYC." — YWDJ KLVYC

Previous Solution: "There are two kinds of man: the ones who make history and the ones who endure it." — Camilo Jose Cela

TODAY'S CLUE: J sjenbe 8

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# Gardener

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cheatgrass. Alternatively, you can use a pre-emergence herbicide right after the fire occurs, and reseed the following fall.

Some people are nervous about using these products, but for those areas with invasive grasses, seeding is un-

likely to be successful unless the weeds are managed first. The success of this approach can be seen at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, where control of cheatgrass on 30 acres using a pre-emergence herbicide has allowed some native vegetation to return. And, it helped control other potentially worse invaders, such as medusa-head, another flammable invasive grass. The

burned areas were reseeded two weeks ago.

It's doubly important to think about defensible space when revegetating after a fire. While there are no "fire resistant" plant species, we do know that some plants, such as junipers, ignite more easily and burn hotter than others. A publication to help you choose the right plants is posted on the UNCE website, www.unce.

unr.edu. See www.livingwithfire.info for tips on reducing the threat of wildfire to your property. Sooner or later, there will be another fire. Are you prepared?

Susan Donaldson is a water quality education specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

## HOME & GARDEN CALENDAR

**Holiday Open House:** Come in and stroll through a holiday wonderland. Enjoy snacks and in-store specials. Gift ideas for even the hard-to-buy-for person in your life. **When:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. **Where:** Rail City Garden Center, 1720 Brierley Way, Sparks. **Cost:** Free. **Details:** 775-355-1551.

**Indoor Succulent Gardens:** Presented by Roxanne Martin. Succulents are one of the hottest trends in gardening especially in containers. Bring your own container or purchase one. **When:** 11 a.m. Dec. 1; 1 p.m. Dec. 2. **Where:** Rail City Garden Center, 1720 Brierley Way, Sparks. **Cost:** Cost of succulents and/or containers; soil provided. **Details:** 775-355-1551 or www.railcitygarden.net.

**What's Wrong With My Plant?:** The horticulture department is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday for plant questions and diagnostics. **Where:** Washoe County Cooperative Extension, 4955 Energy Way. **Cost:** Free. **Details:** andrewsa@unce.unr.edu.

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