

### Farewell Good Friend

It is with a bit of sadness that we say goodbye to a Southern Nevada Horticulturist, Master Gardener, Newspaper Columnist and all around Great Guy, Linn Mills. Linn passed away February 28th in his sleep after a hip surgery. Linn was not only one of my greatest teachers, but he was a dear friend. The room was always a little brighter and the day was always a little better when he was around. In the twenty-seven years that I knew Linn, I don't ever remember seeing him without a smile on his face and an encouraging word in his conversation. The week before his passing, he called me just to see how I was doing and talk about plants... his favorite subject. Before he hung up he told me how much he appreciated me, something I know he did with just about everyone he met.



Linn never took himself too seriously and was always trying to lift the spirits of those around him. In 2003 I had the honor of receiving the Linn Mills Award. The award was presented at the Desert Green Conference in front of a couple of hundred people. Linn got up front and started to tell about why he had chosen me for the award. After a while I could tell he was stretching for things to say. Finally he said, "I've forgotten your name, but you know who you are, so come on up!" The room erupted in laughter. As I was walking up, Linn suddenly remembered my name and continued by making jokes about his memory.

Linn, I will miss you but will forever remember the influence you had on me. The daisies you push up will be the biggest, brightest and happiest of any in the garden.

For more on Linn's influence on others see the Review Journal article at <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/horticulturist-mills-76-dies-after-hip-operation>.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."  
— Gertrude Jekyll

### FAVORITE FLORA: ASPARAGUS DENSIFLORUS 'MYERS' - MYER'S ASPARGUS FERN



With its unique shape and hardiness, this month's favorite flora is loved by many. Myer's Asparagus (*Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'*) is native to South Africa growing along coastal areas. This evergreen perennial grows spear shaped stems 2-3 feet long, radiating from the center of the plant. Small, non-showy white flowers appear in the spring and become orange and red berries by the fall. In coastal regions this plant can be grown in full sun but in Las Vegas prefers filter sun. This hardy plant can also be grown in full shade and even indoors near a window. Myer's Asparagus can handle temperatures down to around 20 degrees Fahrenheit before showing any frost damage. This low maintenance plant requires little care other

than removing unwanted or damaged stems. It can be cut back in late summer/ early fall to rejuvenate the foliage if it begins to look rangy.

Water and Lights  
Las Vegas, NV  
Matt Durham

### Photo of the Month



*Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'* is a lush looking shrub that can be used in a number of ways. Plant this *Asparagus* in mass for a grouping of fun shapes or alone as an accent. Need a border but don't like square hedges? This shrub can add a lot of interest along a pathway or driveway. The berries are mildly toxic and the sap can cause short term dermatitis, take care when planting around areas where children play.