

Happy Father's Day!

What do dads like to do in the summer? Grill! Well, at least mine does.

Why not plant him his very own barbeque garden? Complete with his favorite herbs and veggies he loves to cook with.

I planted a scotch bonnet habanero for my dad because he makes several different sauces for barbequing. I have also planted squash, okra, onions, and asparagus to put on the grill with olive oil.

Now you don't necessarily have to plant it up in an old grill, we have window boxes that are great for planting a selection of herbs in, low bowls and many other styles of pots dad is sure to love.



June is our hottest and driest month here in the nursery, almost every issue I am seeing lately is from not enough water. Make sure you are keeping your plants just as hydrated as your self! I have my irrigation

running slowly every day for a couple hours to thoroughly soak the root system. My potted irrigation line is running 3 times a day.

I don't fertilize in the hottest part of the summer, if plants are stressed adding fertilizer to them will stress them further. All they need right now is WATER!

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Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm

June Garden Checklist

June is the hottest driest month here in the desert. Please make sure not only are your plants staying hydrated but you and your pets are as well!

Grass: If you haven't planted Bermuda grass already go ahead and plant seeds or sod. If you are going with seeds put mulch over the seeds to hold more moisture and to keep the birds from eating the seeds.

Trees/Shrubs: To help keep moisture in the soil apply mulch around plants out at the base. Do not push the mulch up against the trunk this could kill your plant. Leave a circular circumference around the trunk. The mulch will help keep roots cooler and prevent evaporation. You can still plant through the summer, plants will need a lot of water upon planting. Great plants to plant now are palms, mesquites, palo verdes, and other arid shrubs in the heat of the summer for best results. Prune bougainvillea and lantana lightly to encourage blooms and new growth.

Flowers: Water roses deeply. At the nursery we water our rose garden a couple times daily.

Sometimes hosing the roses off in the early morning will help increase humidity to help keep spider mites at bay.

Great summer flowers include: celosia, gazanias, portulaca, vinca, zinnia, cosmos, gomphrena, pentas, angelonia, golden dyssodia, and many more.

Flower beds will need irrigation twice daily throughout the summer. Keep up on fertilizing plants as they will benefit from a little food in the summer, I know I do!

Veggies: Plant seeds for cucumbers, squash, cantaloupe, melons, and okra. Plant starts for cucumbers, melons, squash, strawberries, peppers, asparagus, and artichoke. Melons or squash that are grown in the shade

will get powdery mildew. Wilted leaves on melons or squash in the morning are a sign of moisture stress, wilted leaves in the afternoon may be heat stress. As your melons grow place a board below the fruit to keep the moist soil from rotting one side and prevent insects from attacking.



THE SECRET LIVES OF TOMATOES

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Hawaiian plumeria in Tucson!

I have begun propagating and growing our own plumeria for the nursery, as this July we will be skipping our California trip and taking a much bigger trip to Florida and Georgia to visit family and the birthplace of my dear husband!

Plumerias are a very popular plant because of their sweet smelling colorful flowers and attractive form.

In Hawaii, the plumeria has become part of the culture and is used to make the lei necklaces used in celebrations. Although they are thought of as tropical, plumerias can handle a subtropical climate because they go dormant, shedding their leaves, when the weather gets cool.

They can tolerate temperatures down to freezing and possibly a little cooler for very short periods of time. Plumerias prefer being planted in a pot to allow it to be brought in and protected in freezing temperatures. Given a good microclimate, plumerias do very well in Tucson.

In spring and fall when the weather is nice put it in full sun. The more full sun it gets during nice months the more it will flower. Plumerias can take a couple of summers to start flowering. When moving the plant to a site to get more sun, the leaves will sunburn some. This is normal. Newer leaves emerging will be more adapted to the new light conditions. In the summer, when temperatures are over 90 degrees, keep your plumeria on a covered patio, on the east side or south side of your house.

Place it near the edge of the patio so that it gets lots of indirect light, but is shielded from direct sun overhead. In the middle of summer, an east facing patio will give the plant direct sun before noon, and a south facing patio puts the plant in the shade all day, because the sun is so high. If your plumeria continues to burn from the sun, not just during transition to a lighter spot, move it deeper into the patio to give it more shade. In mid summer, flowers will last longer in the shade as well.

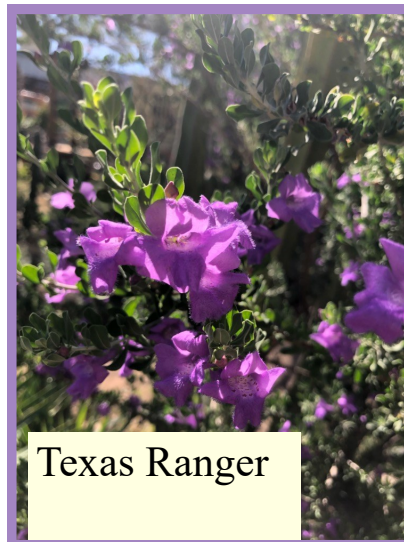
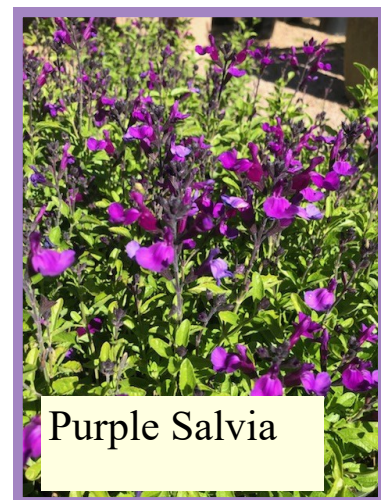
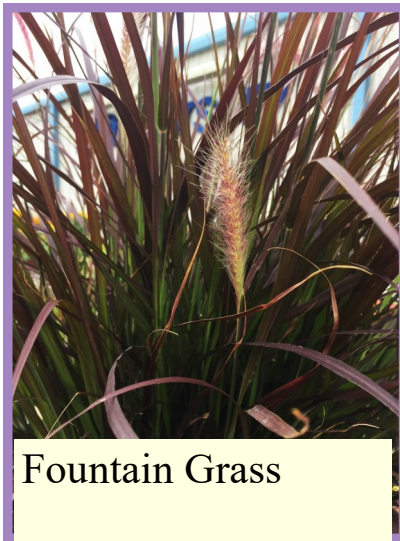


Plumerias like to dry out between watering, number one way to kill a plumeria is by over watering. If planted in a large pot water when the soil is dry to the touch, how often can depend on your own yard. However, daily or every other day spray the leaves with water to help keep pests such as spider mites off. I am watering mine at home about every

other day. They are in quite a bit of sun and tend to dry out faster.

I fertilize once a week starting when the plumerias wake up from dormancy in spring all the way through October. I use the Fame fertilizer (2-2-1). I have found this works much better on the plumerias than high numbered synthetic fertilizers.

Color of the month: Purple



Plant Profile: Butterfly Bush

Size (H x W): 6' x 6'-8'

Blooms: Purple

Exposure: Full Sun-Afternoon
Shade

Minimum Temperature: 25F

Water: High

Pruning: As needed early spring

Growth: Fast

Fertilizer: Maxsea Acid 14-18-14



Plant Profile: Purple Leaf Plum

Size (H x W): 10'-12'

Blooms: Pink

Exposure: Full Sun

Minimum Temperature: 0-10F

Water: Moderate-High

Pruning: As needed early spring

Growth: Moderate

Fertilizer: Organic 7-3-3 Rillito
Brand





Staff Picks: Sundance Tecoma

Picked by: Eric L

The Sundance Esperanza may be the burst of cheer you're looking for. The sunny yellow and trumpet-shaped blooms coat this fast-growing shrub, providing plenty of color for your landscape or garden. Along with the flowers, the fern-like leaves grow upright in an olive-green color.

With the Sundance Tecoma, also called Esperanza, you'll have color most of the growing season, blooming from spring until the first frost. Come fall, the plant produces seed pods and pale brown to dark gray bark.

Butterflies and hummingbirds enjoy the slightly fragrant flowers, so this plant will fit right into wildlife gardens. The bush works well in containers for patio gardens, mass plantings, hedges, rock gardens, and Mediterranean-inspired landscapes.



Rillito Nursery & Garden Center has been serving Tucson since 1994. We are a family owned and operated business striving to provide the ultimate nursery experience and customer service. We supply the healthiest plants and highest quality garden necessities. Spread out over three acres, we supply a wide arrangement of annuals, shade plants, desert plants, roses, citrus, trees and shrubs.

Recipe from the garden: Lemon poppy seed squash bread

Recently I was looking up recipes to figure out what to do with all the squash my plants are producing since it is way too much for my husband and I to eat. I found this recipe and tried it. It's delicious, you wouldn't even know that there is squash in it!

Ingredients:

1 cup melted unsalted butter
2 cups granulated sugar (you can decrease if you don't want it as sweet)
Juice and zest of 2 small lemons
1 teaspoon almond extract
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 large eggs
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
3 cups all purpose flour
2 cups grated summer squash
1 tablespoon poppy seeds

1-2 minutes.

Add the eggs one at a time, allowing each egg to fully incorporate into the mixture before adding the next.

Evenly sprinkle salt, baking soda, and baking powder over the top of the mixture. Mix well.

Working in batches, add the flour 1/2 cup at a time; mix in entirely between additions. Fold in the squash and poppy seeds. Divide the batter between the prepared loaf pans. Bake 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the loaf comes out clean.



Directions:

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Grease or line two loaf pans; set aside.

Place the melted butter, sugar, lemon juice, zest, almond extract and vanilla extract in a large mixing bowl. Cream together until fluffy and light in color, about