

Fall is just around the corner!

Well August is here, I don't know about you, but I am ready for fall. The best time for planting here in the desert is fall. The winters are not as harsh on the plants as the summers are, so the plants have a good amount of time to get established and used to their growing conditions before summer hits.

We have had a great monsoon season so far, and it has kept the plants looking better, just don't forget to keep the irrigation running unless we get long soaking rains.

I am back in the office after being gone for a couple weeks in Florida. The vegetation was absolutely stunning. I found a plumeria growing like a weed in the middle of my brothers-in

-law property, truly amazing.

New selections of fruit trees should be arriving this fall! We will be getting our semi-dwarf citrus again and hopefully some other types of fruit trees such as guavas and avocadoes. Keep your eyes peeled on our social media and newsletter.

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Rillito Nursery & Garden Center
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Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



August Garden Checklist

Grass: Keep grass well watered. A deep soak a couple times weekly will help the lawns through this last little leg of summer. Continue to fertilize monthly.

Trees/ Shrubs: Keep trees and shrubs well watered giving them

a deep soak every other day to help keep salts from building up around the root ball.

Applying mulch around the root ball will help keep roots cooler and slow down the evaporation process.

When applying mulch do not build

it up against the trunk as that could suffocate the tree and harm it.

Native and heat tolerant plants can still be planted just make sure to keep up on the watering schedule through the heat. They will need to be watered on a regular basis then decrease the frequency in fall.

Help protect newly planted trees from heavy winds and storms by staking.

It is still a good time to plant bougainvillea, tecomas, oleanders, acacias, cassias, mesquites and palo verdes.

Flowers: Water roses deeply twice daily when temperatures are over 100 degrees. Summer flowers such as: vinca, zinnias, angelonia, and pentas can still be planted. Dead heading a couple times a week will help to keep the flowers stimulated to re-bloom. Fertilizer will also help to keep them blooming nicely.



Vegetables: Second round of tomatoes should start arriving towards the end of the month to have a chance for a small crop before winter. Corn can still be planted by seed. Melons will have another growth spurt, as they continue producing. Now is the time to also prep

the garden for fall and winter crops, by starting seeds for brassicas (cabbage, brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower), and peas.

When visiting our nursery, check in on your smart phone or write a recommendation, show an associate and receive 5% off your plant purchase!

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Time to start planning for fall/winter

With fall rapidly approaching and the summer gardens beginning to slow down, now is the perfect time to start planning your fall/winter garden. Getting ahead of the curve will help make sure you are stocked and ready for planting in mid September. This year is unlike any other, it has been difficult getting and keeping soil, seeds and vegetables in stock. If you see something you want buy it now, soil and seeds will surely last.

Planting for the fall/winter garden should begin on or around September 15th.

What you can start includes

Brassicas:

- Broccoli
- Brussels Sprouts
- Bok Choy
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Kohlrabi
- Mustard greens

Leafy Greens:

- Leaf lettuce
- Romaine Lettuce
- Buttercrunch Lettuce
- Kale
- Mustard Greens
- Micro Greens
- Arugula
- Spinach
- Sorrel
- Chard
- Cilantro
- Collard

Root Crops:

- Carrots

- Radishes
- Parsnips
- Turnips
- Beets

Bulbs:

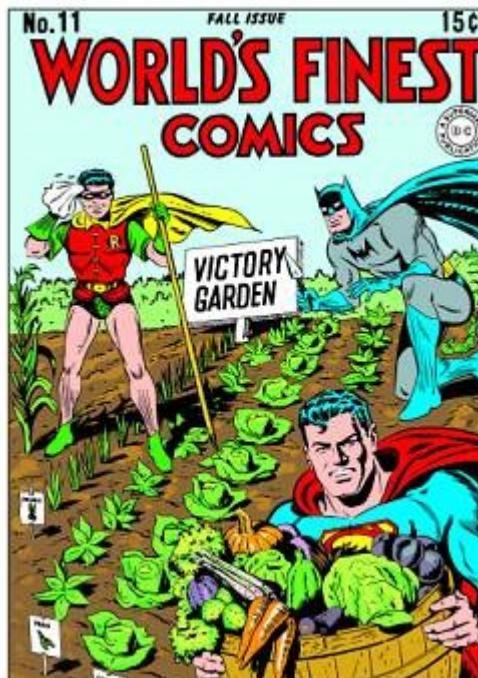
- Garlic
- Onions

Climbers:

- Peas

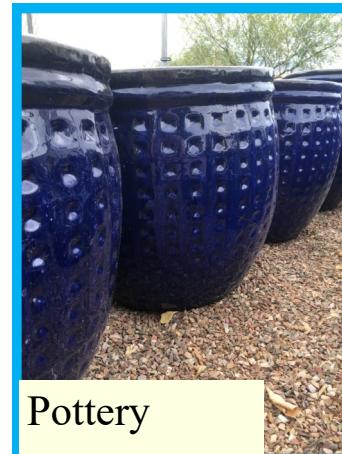
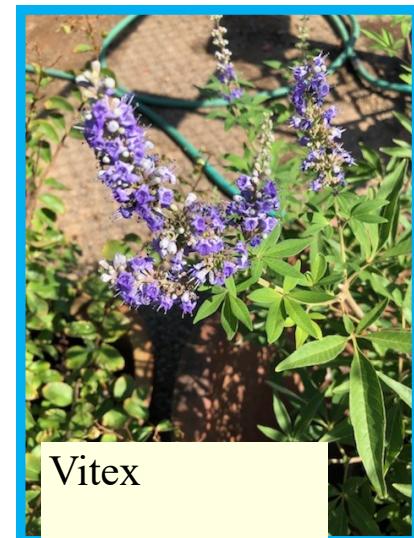
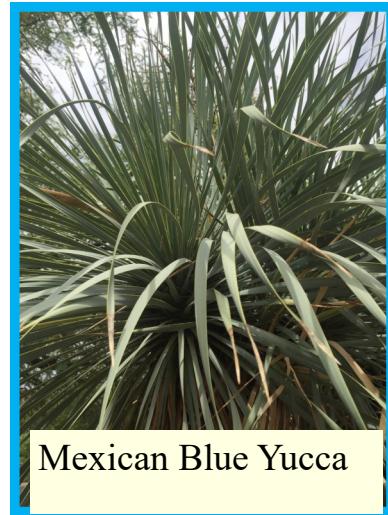
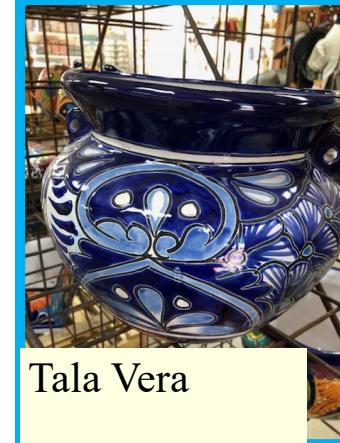
Other:

- Celery
- Potato
- Tomatoes
- Artichoke
- Strawberry



The fall/winter garden is my favorite one to grow, besides the fact its so much cooler and easier on the plants, it produces so well! I make a fresh homegrown salad every night with dinner. If you are just starting to get your feet with gardening the fall/winter garden is the easiest and will sure get you great results using proper soil. I use the Happy Frog Soil Conditioner and have had amazing results!

Color of the Month: Blue



Plant Profile: Plumbago

Size (HxW): 6'-8'x 6'-8'

Blooms: Blue

Exposure: Partial sun, morning sun afternoon shade

Minimum Temperature: 32°F Cover on freezing nights

Water: Moderate-High

Pruning: Frost damage in spring

Growth: Moderate-Fast

Fertilizer: Maxsea Acid (14-18-14) monthly



Plant Profile: Texas Ranger

Size (HxW): Depending on variety (4'-8' x 4'-8')

Blooms: Purple

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 20-25 degrees F

Water: Moderate-Low

Pruning: N/A As needed

Growth: Moderate-Fast

Fertilizer: N/A





Staff Picks: Hibiscus

Picked by: Olivia

Hibiscus thrive in the hot humid months. They have been showing extraordinary colors with large bloom size! Thrives in well-drained, enriched soils with neutral to slightly acidic pH. Water deeply and frequently. Hibiscus will be high water users in the desert and do best in containers to protect from frost easier. Fertilize before new growth begins in spring.

Hibiscus can handle full sun in the summer with lots of water and protection from frost in the winter.



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: Ratatouille

Is your garden producing all kinds of veggies this summer? Throw them all together in a single delicious dish! This is a recipe for a bit of a deconstructed version. Recipe is from Bon Appétit.

Ingredients:

1 onion sliced thin
2 garlic cloves (or more if you want), minced
5 tablespoons olive oil
3/4 lb eggplant, cut into 1/2" pieces
1 small zucchini, quartered lengthwise and cut into thin slices
1 red bell pepper, chopped
3/4 lb small rip tomatoes, chopped coarse
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
1/8 teaspoon ground coriander
1/4 teaspoon fennel seeds
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup torn fresh basil

Directions:

- 1) In a large skillet cook the onion and the garlic in 2 tablespoons olive oil over moderately low heat, stirring occasionally, until the onion is softened. Add the remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil and heat it over moderately high heat until it is hot but not smoking. Add the eggplant and cook the mixture, stirring occasionally, for 8 minutes or until the eggplant is softened.
- 2) Stir in the zucchini and the bell pepper and cook the mixture over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, for 12 minutes.
- 3) Stir in the tomatoes and cook the mixture stirring occasionally for 5-7 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Stir in the oregano, thyme, coriander, fennel seeds, and salt and pepper to taste and cook for 1 minute. Stir in the basil and mix well.

