

## Happy Fourth of July!

Monsoon season is just around the corner, newly planted shade trees should be staked to protect against the high winds, also keep in mind that a flash flood doesn't mean the plant got a decent watering, unless we have a nice soaking rain for a couple of hours don't turn the irrigation systems off.

If you haven't done it yet, I would recommend thinning out large shade trees, especially mesquites and palo verdes. With heavy winds that come from monsoons they can easily be blown over if they are not pruned properly every year!



We will have shortened hours Monday July 4th, we will be open 8am-3pm on Monday only. Thank you! Have a safe holiday!

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**Rillito Nursery & Garden Center**  
6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995  
Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



# July Garden Checklist

Do not count on the rain to water your plants. Keep the irrigation system on unless we get a long soaking rain storm lasting all day.

**Grass:** Fertilize Bermuda grass every 4-6 weeks with our 21-7-14 Four Seasons lawn food to keep it looking green and refreshing in the hot summer months. Lawns will need water 1-2 times daily.

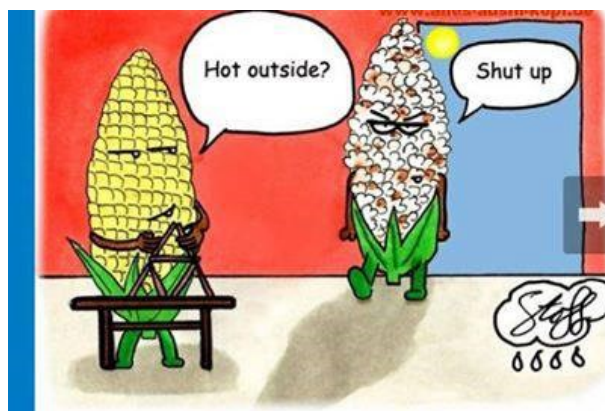
**Trees/Shrubs:** Pick early maturing deciduous fruit which are particularly prone to bird damage. You can help deter birds with Scare tape, a reflective ribbon that will flash and make noise in the wind.

Prune palms when flower spathes show or delay pruning until after the palm has finished flowering. July is a good time to plant desert shrubs like: red bird of paradise, fairy duster, and texas ranger. Rangers will start to bloom now as our humidity continues to rise. Shrubs and vines such as bougainvillea also may be planted. Be sure to keep all new plantings well watered. Protect newly transplanted trees from heavy wind storms by staking.

**Flowers:** Water roses deeply and often as temperatures rise. Water deeply both before and

after applying fertilizer to prevent any burning. Hose off roses, plumerias, and adeniums in the early morning to help increase humidity to control spider mites.

Flowers for full sun color include: gazanias, portulaca, pentas, vinca, zinnias, gomphrena, and angelonia.



**Vegetables:** Tomatoes won't do well when the temperature is over 100 degrees, but they will come back for a small crop in fall. For now just keep them protected from the sun under a porch or somewhere it will get most day shade.

Starts and seeds for cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and winter squash can be planted now.

Putting a thin layer of mulch on top of your soil will help garden beds retain moisture and keep it cooler. As your melons ripen place a board beneath them to help keep moisture from rotting that side and prevent insects from attacking.

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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# Edible Landscaping

Grow your own has quickly become very popular, you can fully landscape a yard using edible plants.

I recently learned that my HOA and neighbors have been talking about turning a park right behind my backyard into a pool. To provide some privacy should they move forward with the plan I planted 3 citrus trees in a triangle so as they grow up they will block a lot of the noise.

Citrus trees can provide some nice shade when they grow up a little bit.

Grape vines can be attached to trellis's to help with privacy or to create a mini enclosed seating area.

With creating edible landscapes, there is a lot of time and maintenance involved, because they are using so much energy to create fruit they will need more watering than normal.

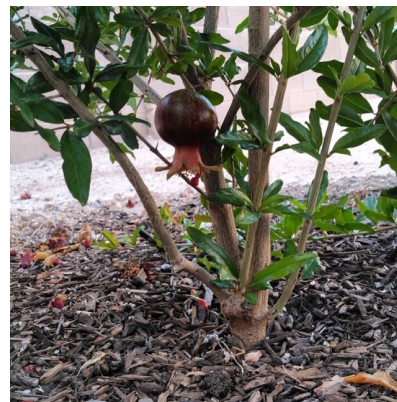
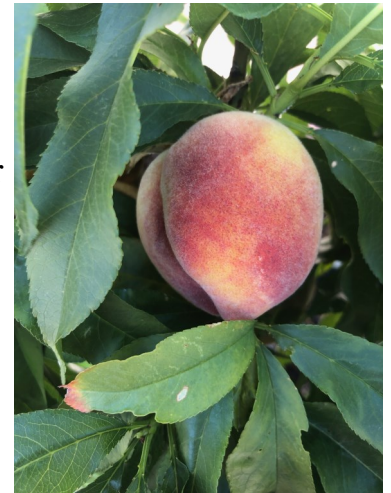
Starting off slow will give you an introduction to edible gardening. Using pots or even repurposing other objects. Like my picture below, my husband and I took a large horse trough drilled holes and doctored it all up with happy frog soil and dirt, to create this beautiful large herb planter.



We also have dwarf citrus in pots and a dwarf peach that are producing.

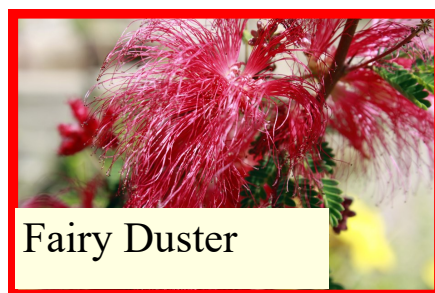
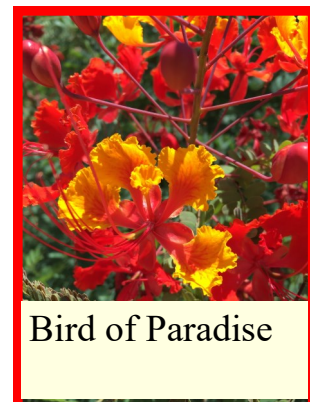
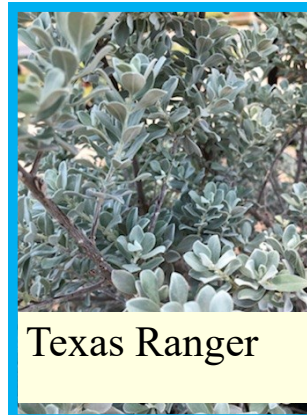
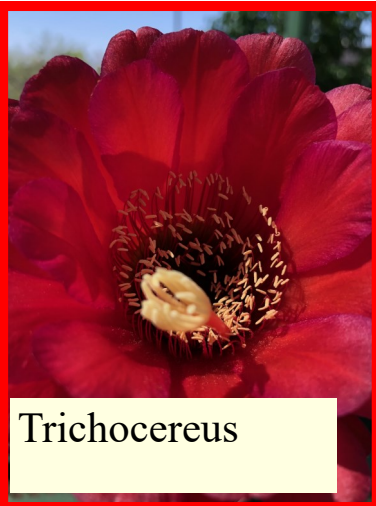


If you are interested in starting your own edible landscape. I am here to answer all your questions and show you pictures of my backyard to help you get started! All pictures here are from my yard.





# Theme of the month: Red, white and blue!



# Plant profile: Fairy Duster

This semi-deciduous shrub flowers most of the year and provides gorgeous color and nectar for the hummingbirds.

**Size (H x W):** 4'-6' x 4'-6'

**Blooms:** Red

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Minimum Temperature:** 20 degrees F

**Watering:** Moderate to low when established

**Pruning:** N/A

**Fertilizer:** All purpose seasonally



# Plant Profile: Crape Myrtle

This plant is staple in the south, they do extremely well here in the desert as well. With striking color all summer this deciduous trees offer something different to landscapes.

**Size (H x W):** 10'-15' x 10'-15'

**Blooms:** Variety of color

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Minimum Temperature:** -10 degrees F

**Watering:** Moderate

**Pruning:** To shape in early spring

**Fertilizer:** Tree and shrub food twice a year







## Staff Picks: Roselle Hibiscus

Picked by: Nicole

Looking for something a little different for the garden? Why not try roselle? A relative of hibiscus and okra, this plant was once a very popular edible.

Roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) is also called Florida cranberry, red sorrel, or Jamaica sorrel, although it is actually native to Central and West Africa and is grown around the world. The part of the plant that is edible are the calyces of the roselle flower which can be used to make a variety of jams, sauces, and teas.



seeds, leaves, fruits, and roots, are used medicinally or in foods. The leaves are lobed and reddish-green and can be used as a cooked green or added raw for a nice "zing" to a salad

Roselle produces attractive foliage and flowers and will reach a height of about 7 feet. Many parts of the plant, including the

**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: Zucchini Bread

This recipe is shared by my friend Trista, she created the recipe to use all the zucchini her garden is producing!

## Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 cups zucchini– finely grated
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 3/4 cup oil
- Optional 1/2 cup nuts

## Directions:

1: Preheat oven to 350 and grease pans.  
This recipe will make 3 of the 4x8 loaves.

2: Combine eggs, brown sugar, zucchini, vanilla and oil. Slowly add in the rest of the dry ingredients to the wet and mix well.

3: Put batter into greased pans and bake for about 45 minutes or until a toothpick entered into the center comes out clean.

