

# Happy Mother's Day!



For many of us it was our Mothers and Grandmothers that first instilled a love of gardening in a little kid that just wanted to tag along and play in the dirt. Whether gardening has become a life long passion or we just have fond memories or those times we often have our maternal influences to thank!

Sometimes it is nice to take a moment to thank the women in our lives for those wonderful memories and for the knowledge they have

passed on to us, that we may one day pass on to our children.

We have a lot of special gifts to thank mom on her day. New hummingbird feeders, garden hats, and even living roses in bloom! We also offer gift cards if you can't decide. Come in and see if there is something that reminds you of your mom!

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

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## May Garden Checklist

As we continue to get warmer and warmer, please make sure your watering schedule is reflecting our hot temps.

**Grass:** Plant Bermuda lawns when soil warms up in early May, to 65 degrees or higher at night. Fertilize Bermuda grass lawns each month beginning late April or early May. We recommend a **Four seasons lawn food 21-7-14**. Mow your lawn down to half of an inch until the winter rye grass dies. This encourages new growth and is healthy for the Bermuda lawn. Water grass early in the morning.

**Trees and Shrubs:** It is still a wonderful time to plant citrus and shade trees. If you are planting them make sure they get plenty of water. For the first week we recommend every day water for about an hour second week and for the rest of the summer every other day for 2-3 hours on a long slow drip. Daily if temperatures are over 110 degrees! It is best to place the irrigation at the edge of the root ball when first planted.

Pick any grapefruits that were left on the tree before the birds get to them first. Netting also helps, but try to keep it off the ground so ground squirrels or lizards don't get caught in them. Make sure mature mesquite trees are thinned before monsoons come, if they are not thinned they will act as a wall towards the wind and be blown right over. When planting taller new trees make sure they are staked properly to help protect them from the wind.

End of the month around Memorial day will be time again to fertilize your citrus. We carry a wonderful product for in ground citrus **Organic Citrus and Avocado Food 7-3-3**, it is our own private labeled brand and will have the micronutrients citrus need in our area. It is all I use on my trees in the ground! We also have special food for citrus in containers as well.

**Flowers:** It is time to replace petunias, pansies, snapdragons and other winter annuals, with vinca, portulaca, gomphrena, purslane, zinnias, angelonia, cosmos, salvia, gazanias, parrots beak lotus and many more. Flowers will benefit from a small fertilizer in the heat of the summer. A good product is the **Grow More 20-20-20**.

**Vegetables:** Seeds for beans, cantaloupe, melons, okra, and squash can still be planted. We have starts for peppers, melons, beans, eggplant, artichoke, asparagus, and various types of herbs. Veggies will need fertilizer to help get them through the intense summer. We recommend **Maxsea Acid 14-18-14 plus iron and zinc**.

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

One use only. Some restrictions may apply.



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# Attracting pollinators



It is becoming increasingly popular to plant pollinator gardens. Not only does this provide visible entertainment to watch the birds, butterflies and bees visiting all the flowers in the garden, but it aids in spreading pollen from various blooms to others and help in fruit production. When thinking about adding pollinator plants to your yard, you may want to first plan for which pollinators since they are attracted to different plants.

## Hummingbirds:

Hummers are more attracted to flower shape and color than they are scents. Some of the best flowers for hummingbirds are bright red and orange tubular flowers. Some plants to keep in mind for planting for hummingbirds are:

- Salvia
- Aloe
- Desert Willow
- Ruellia
- Emu
- Russelia
- Honeysuckle
- Penstemon



## Bees:

Bees are not as picky as the hummingbirds, they love all open flowers that they can easily get to the pollen. Some of the best bee attracting flowers are:

- Rosemary
- Bottlebrush
- Hibiscus
- Globe Mallow
- Gazanias
- Penstemon
- Agastache



## Butterflies:

Butterflies can sometimes be a bit trickier to attract and keep around the garden, they require some key elements within a habitat for them.

Elements like, sources of pooling water for them to drink, shade and protection from the nasty heat that they can land on to rest their wings, plants that they will use for nectar and also plants that they can lay their eggs on for their larvae to eat. Some of the best plants that can offer a create area for butterflies can be:

- Milkweed (host and nectar)
- Gregg's Mist Flower (nectar)
- Fairy Duster (nectar)
- Lantana (nectar)
- Sunflowers (nectar)
- Verbena (nectar)
- Citrus (best host plant for swallowtails)
- Parsley (host )
- Rue (host)
- Iceplant (nectar)



# Color of the month: Orange



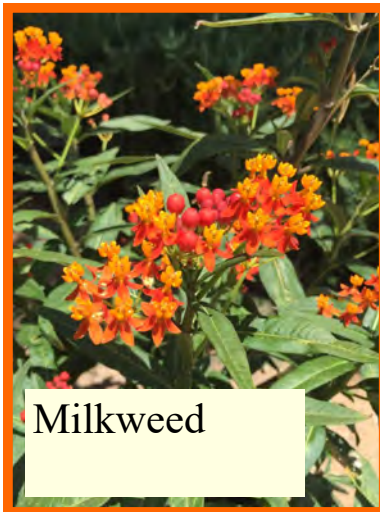
Cape Honeysuckle



Globe Mallow



Orange King Bougainvillea



Milkweed



Roses



Hibiscus



Parrots beak lotus



Tecoma



Bird of Paradise



## Plant profile: Globe Mallow

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

**Blooms:** Orange; variety of colors

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Minimum Temperature:** 25-30 degrees F

**Water:** Moderate

**Pruning:** Frost damage in March or dead inner growth throughout the year

**Fertilizer:** All Purpose (20-20-20) during growth season.



## Plant profile: Trichocereus

**Size: (H x W) :** 2'-3' x 2'-3'

**Blooms:** Variety of color

**Exposure:** Part sun, full sun

**Minimum Temperature:** 25-30 degrees F

**Water:** Low-Moderate

**Pruning:** N/A

**Growth Rate:** Slow

**Fertilizer:** N/A





## Staff Picks: Parry's Penstemon

Picked by: Carl O

Spring is the best time for wildflowers, we had quite a bit of winter rain this year which means we are in for an abundance of wildflowers all over the desert this spring!

The tall bright pink flower that is seen all over is the wonderful parry's penstemon. This hummingbird favorite, does great in well draining desert soil, and reseeds itself all over the highway and native areas. While the



leaves stay less than a 1 foot tall the flower stalks can reach 3 feet. Penstemon can do well in filtered shade just make sure that it dries out between waterings, otherwise it could get powdery mildew on the leaves.

**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: Herb and Cheddar Squash Bread

I found this recipe from Missy Rakes of [gracefullittlehoneybee.com](http://gracefullittlehoneybee.com)

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons of your favorite herbs (Missy used oregano and rosemary)
- 2 green onions diced
- 1 cup shredded cheddar
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup yellow squash or zucchini shredded

## Directions:

1. Combine dry ingredients, herbs, green onions and cheddar and mix well.
2. In a separate bowl beat eggs then add oil and milk.
3. Squeeze excess moisture out of the squash then add to the liquid mixture.
4. Add liquid ingredients to dry ingredients and stir until just combined.
5. Pour batter into greased loaf pan and bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until knife inserted into the center comes out clean.

