

Happy Fall!

If your roses aren't looking great, don't worry. Just keep them well watered.

Roses give off their second largest bloom display in the fall. To help get them to perform better this fall, give them a little haircut to clean up any dead wood from the heat of the summer as well as dead-heading any spent blooms. Keep up the once a month feeding schedule until December.

We are entering the absolute best time to plant here in the desert. As the soil is cooling off from the blast furnace summer we just survived the roots are exploding with growth under the soil level. While you may not see a whole lot of growth in the leaves, by spring you will see an explosion of growth based on what the roots did this fall.

I am looking forward to the planting I plan to do this fall with the cooler weather! Come in and we can share some ideas!

Don't forget to fertilize your citrus trees this weekend. Its not too late to fertilize them one last time before the end of the year. We have both Organic and time release fertilizer in stock for your trees! We will be getting brand new citrus trees soon!



We will have shorter hours Monday September 2nd of 9am-3pm for Labor day! Normal business hours resume Tuesday September 3rd 8am-4pm.

Happy Fall!
Page 1

September Garden
Checklist
Page 2

The desert bird of
paradise
Page 3

Theme of the month:
Citrus
Page 4

Limes, lemons and
oranges oh my!
Page 5

Staff pick: Bicolor
dalea
Page 6

Recipe from the
garden: Pumpkin
chocolate chip bread
Page 7



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



September Garden Checklist

Grass: If you plan to over-seed your Bermuda, stop fertilizing. You'll be over-seeding next month. If you are not planting a winter lawn, keep on a regular fertilizing schedule.

Trees/Shrubs: Continue to deep water on the summer schedule.

Feed trees and shrubs with Fertilome Tree and Shrub Food this month.

Fall is starting and it is the best time to plant here in the desert while the soil temperatures are still warm to help roots grow to get established quickly. When planting we recommend digging a hole twice as wide as the container and just as deep, to avoid planting too deep.

Citrus should be fertilized early this month.

There are quite a few products to use. Potted citrus can be fed with Maxsea Acid Water Soluble. For citrus in the ground you can use Fertilome Fruit, Citrus, and Pecan Food, or Dr. Earth Organic Fruit Tree Food.

Flowers: Prepare flower beds as you would a veggie garden. In the nursery we amend with [Rose and Flower Planting Mix](#), a nice smooth organic blend to add good nutrients to our bland soil.

Hose off roses a couple times a week to remove dust, spider mites and potential white flies.

Continue watering roses daily until temperatures drop below 80 degrees. You may dead head and prune any dead branches but avoid heavy

pruning. Roses are about to have another beautiful display before taking a break for winter. To help them along give them a light pruning and dead heading of spent blooms and feed with Miller's Rose Food or Dr Earth Rose and Flower food.

Vegetables: The most important step to achieving a successful garden in the desert is soil preparation. Amending raised garden beds with [Happy Frog Soil Conditioner](#) is one of the best ways to add organic material and boost the richness of your garden. As the temperatures drop below 95 degrees, seeds of cool season crops can be planted. These veggies and seeds can be planted directly in the garden later in the month: beets, celery, carrots, chard, endive, peas, green onions, parsnips, lettuce, bok choy, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collard greens, radishes, spinach, and turnips.

Have I mentioned I love the fall/winter garden?

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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The desert bird of paradise

When traveling to California or other tropical places we often see the Bird of paradise, and return wanting one of our own.

Well the desert is special as we have our own special bird of paradise.

The *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*, or most commonly called the red bird of paradise. Truly a sight to see when walking or driving through our desert. Standing 6-10' tall this herbaceous perennial will be a gem in your yard.



While it grows in sun in California and other tropical environments here it will require full shade or filtered sun.

The *Strelitzia*, commonly known as the Bird of Paradise Plant, is a spectacular, unmistakable and the unchallenged Queen of the house plant world. One look at it when it's in flower and you know where it got its common name; the flowers look incredibly like the head of a rather exotic crested bird.

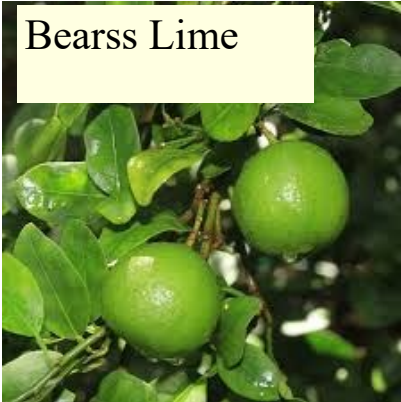
Originally from the tropical West Indies, this plant is widely grown for its exotic flowers and has escaped cultivation. It is evergreen in frost-free climates, but drops leaves in most regions. In the low deserts it is usually cut back almost to the ground in the winter months. It quickly regrows a rosette of upright, woody stems bearing lush compound leaves in the early summer, followed by bright orange and red flowers with long red stamens. This plant performs best in full sun and well-drained soils.



We also carry the tropical bird of paradise.

Theme of the month: Citrus

Bearss Lime



Lisbon Lemon



Limequat



Oranges



Mandarin



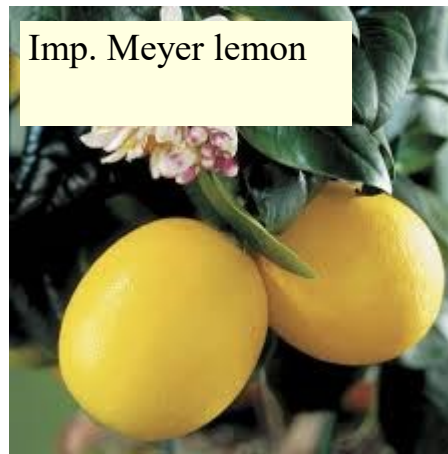
Kumquat



Grapefruit



Imp. Meyer lemon



Blood orange



Mexican Lime



Limes, lemons and oranges oh my!

Fall is the best time to plant citrus in the desert. A large selection of citrus will be making their way into the nursery soon and might even have some fruit on them! They will mature later in the year for you to enjoy fresh off a brand new tree! We carry a large variety of different types of trees, not all are listed below.

Some varieties we carry are:

Improved Meyer Lemon: This is the most popular lemon. It is grafted onto a mandarin root stock which gives it a slightly sweeter taste and also less acidic. The meyer has very thin skin and is a prolific bearer.

Eureka Lemon: The taste between this tree and the Lisbon lemon are very similar. Growth habit is much more controlled to that of a Lisbon. The Eureka is more compact and has slower growth. Traditional tart flavor.

Genoa Italian Lemon: The Genoa Lemon was introduced into California from Genoa Italy in 1875, this variety has similar characteristics to the Eureka Lemon. The Genoa lemon's rind has a high oil content which makes the fruit is great for Limoncello and other recipes calling for tart juice and lemon zest.

Lisbon Lemon: Very fast large grower. Another great choice for the traditional tart flavor.

Mexican Lime: Also called the key lime, has very tart lime flavor. Small fruit, very prolific.

Bearss Lime: Larger baseball sized fruit. Produces a lot of juice and traditional lime flavor. Not as tart as the Mexican.

Moro Blood orange: Skin has a distinct red blush with a striking purple red color on inside

pulp, berry tasting orange.

Tarocco Blood Orange: Tarocco Orange trees grow best in warm climates, but the distinctive color of the fruit requires a chilly winter to develop properly.

Trovita Orange: Late spring for ripening very sweet, smooth skin, some seeds. Heavy reliable producer.

Washington Navel orange: Winter/early spring ripening, seedless, sweet, and easy peel. Can produce bi-annually.

Tango Mandarin: Mostly seedless, easy peel, sweet flavor, and very similar to the "Cutie's, or Halo's" from the grocery store.

Nagami Kumquat: Eat the peel and all. The inside (pulp) will be sour, as you chew through the rind it will become sweet.

Limequat: Tart flavor, rind is also meant to be eaten or cooked. Tastes like a salty lemon.

Rio Red Grapefruit: Very cold hardy, excellent flavor no sugar needed.

Ruby Red Grapefruit: More of a mild grapefruit, slightly more acidic than a Rio.

Oro Blanco Grapefruit: White flesh, sweet flavor, very fragrant blossom.

Valentine Pummelo: Resembles a heart shape when cut in half, with vibrant, red-pigmented flesh, a combination of a Pomelo, a mandarin, and a blood orange



Staff Picks: Dalea bicolor

Picked by: Kenneth L.

This large semi-evergreen shrub is often cut back like a red bird of paradise, to only about 1-2' tall in January. This stimulates new growth in spring and new blooms on the new wood. Many varieties grow about 3-4' tall and wide, but some grow 6-8' tall if unpruned. Magenta, to purple, to almost blue pea-shaped flowers occur in Fall through the cool season. Sometimes in spring. Some selections/ varieties have greener foliage.



Many pollinators are attracted to the sweet nectar from the blooms, a wonderful addition to any pollinator garden.

The plant can also be made into teas where it is native to in Mexico, New Mexico and Texas.

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: Pumpkin chocolate chip bread

Recipe from Missy Rakes of gracefullittlehoneybee.com

Ingredients:

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup pumpkin puree
1/2 cup milk
1 egg
1 tablespoon melted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350. Grease a loaf pan.
2. In a bowl mix sugar, pumpkin, milk, egg, butter and vanilla. Add flour baking soda and cinnamon, mix until just combined. Fold in chocolate chips.
3. Pour batter into the loaf pan and bake for 30 minutes or until knife inserted in middle comes out clean.

