

Happy St Patrick's Day!

Spring has arrived! Bees are buzzing, plants are blooming, and business is booming! Come in and take a look at all the new stuff we have received. Tomatoes, peppers, and a beautiful selection of herbs as well! Get a head start on your spring garden!

Mature citrus with loads of blooms are just patiently waiting to be planted in your yard!

An old Chinese proverb said it best "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is now."

Let's enjoy the gorgeous spring in store for us!

Don't forget we do offer delivery and planting services! Sit back and let us do the work for you and help add new beauty into your yard!



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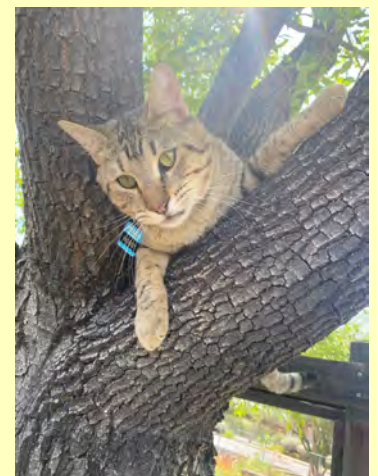
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Rillito Nursery & Garden Center
6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995
Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



March Garden Checklist

Trees/Shrubs: You can start to trim out the frost damage from your plants, be careful not to trim too much out or you may be losing some of the new growth for spring. Stone fruits can now be fertilized with a fertilizer that has micro-nutrients in it, we carry Ferti-lome Fruit, Citrus and Pecan tree food. Now is one of the best times to plant trees and shrubs, it is best to get them in the ground and allow time for the roots to become established before the heat of the summer.

Flowers: You can start using fertilizer in your garden beds to help prepare them for the Spring garden crops. A fertilizer with a high nitrogen and phosphorous will be the best to use. Winter annuals will still be going for a couple more months before we get really hot. Keep them looking nice by picking off any spent blooms, and fertilizing with a well balanced fertilizer.

Vegetables: Typically the best date to change out your garden soil and start your seeds for the spring/ summer garden is March 15, that's when we will be doing our gardens here at the nursery. Our garden will be getting doctored up with some really good organic material. I will start with two bags of Happy Frog Potting Soil, then 4 bags of Happy Frog Soil Conditioner, then sprinkle a little bit of chicken manure. The best gardens I've had in years has been with using good organic material.

You can start the following seeds now: beans, corn, cucumbers, melons, okra, green onions, pumpkins, squash, and sunflowers. We do have the starts for: artichokes, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes. Old herbs can be trimmed back and fertilized to encourage new growth. Herb transplants we have at the moment are: Parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, and mint.

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.



You can smell it from here!

Texas Mountain Laurel Sophora Secundiflora

About this time of year you may be seeing a nice tree or shrub producing large clusters of very fragrant purple flowers (smell like grape Kool-Aid). Well, it is called the Texas Mountain Laurel or Sophora Secundiflora.

This slow growing evergreen may be grown as a medium to large shrub. The pinnate leaves with their lustrous leathery upper surface provide year long beauty enhanced in mid spring by the dense clusters of flowers of lavender or violet.

The seed pods contain a red orange seed that is sometimes used in jewelry. Both seeds and flowers are poisonous, and can contain narcotic properties.

Nothing seems to bother the hardy, drought-tolerant, grow-in-a-stone Mountain Laurel, hard freezes (below 20 degrees F) except for caterpillars in the spring and fall. They are a plant anyone can grow!



Feathery Cassia Senna Artemisioides

Also blooming around town and in the medians, are the feathery cassia. This lovely fragrant shrub makes a wonderful desert shrub.

The lacy foliage of the Feathery Cassia is made up of narrow, gray-green needle like leaflets. The foliage has a silvery sheen when it's blown by the wind, which adds beauty to the landscape even when the plant is not in flower.

Flowers are borne in clusters that cover this shrub in masses of golden-yellow color in winter and spring. The pea like flowers aren't just beautiful; they're very fragrant as well. They share the fragrance of the jasmine.

Cassia's are hardy down to 20 degrees F. Drought tolerant once established, and being able to take full Arizona full sun makes this showy shrub a favorite in desert landscapes.

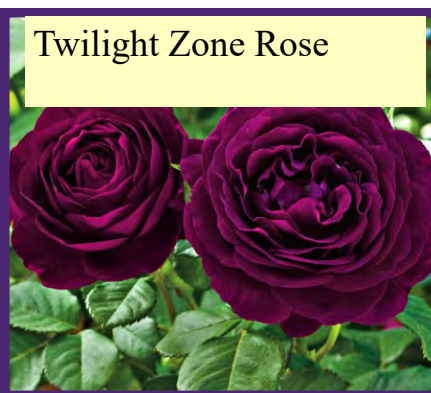


Color of the month: Purple

Artichoke flower



Twilight Zone Rose



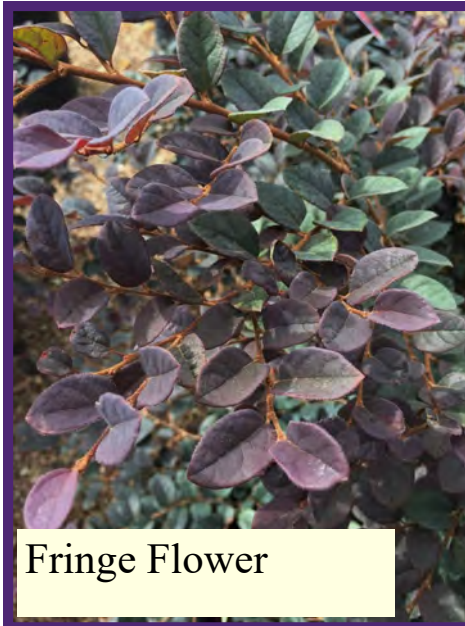
Bearded Iris



Ruellia



Fringe Flower



Desert Willow



Lavender



Purple Heart



Texas Mountain Laurel



Plant Profile: Desert Willow

Size: 20'x20'

Blooms: Burgundy

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: -10 degrees F

Water: Moderate

Pruning: To shape when dormant

Growth: Moderate– slow

Fertilizer: 7-3-3 organic fertilizer monthly after planted for at least 6 months.



Plant Profile: Lavender Trumpet vine

Size: 15'x10'12'

Blooms: Lavender

Exposure: Part shade-full sun

Minimum Temperature: 10 degrees F

Water: Moderate to high

Growth: Moderate

Fertilizer: Maxsea Acid monthly.





Staff Picks: Winter Blaze Emu bush

Picked by: Kenneth L

Winter Blaze Emu is an evergreen shrub with glossy foliage. It produces tubular red flowers on new growth through most of the year. It is tough as nails, with a petite growth habit (3'-4' tall and 4'-5' wide). It handles full sun and reflected heat beautifully. Hummingbirds love it too. This is a native of western Australia.

This evergreen shrub has slender, silver-green leaves and vibrant red-orange tubular flowers. Its unique foliage provides landscapes with a visually appealing shrub, suitable for standalone features, accents in mixed plantings, or as part of a vibrant backdrop in outdoor designs.



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: Crock pot lasagna

As we get busier and busier, I run out of time for what I really enjoy, cooking. Here is a great recipe that you just stuff in the crock pot and walk away.

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced (or more if you're like me)
1 pound ground beef
Salt and Pepper to taste
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
3 1/2 c marinara sauce divided
16 oz ricotta
1/4 c fresh grated parmesan
1/4 c parsley (optional)
1 box lasagna noodles, uncooked
4 1/2c shredded mozzarella

Directions:

In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until translucent, 3-4 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant. Add beef and season with salt, pepper, and Italian seasoning (I also add garlic powder, basil, thyme and oregano.) Cook until no pink remains, then drain grease if desired. Stir in 3 cups of the marinara until combine, and cook 2-3 minutes.

In a large bowl combine ricotta with parmesan and parsley (I sub basil for parsley.) Season with salt and pepper and stir until full incorporated.

Grease the bottom of your crock pot with olive oil. Using the remaining marinara, spread a thin layer on the bottom of the crock pot. Next add a layer of noodles (you'll have to break some to make them fit) a layer of meat mixture, a layer

of mozzarella, and a layer of ricotta mixture. Repeat until all ingredients are used up, ending with mozzarella. Cover and cook on low for 4 to 5 hours.

Garnish with more parmesan and parsley and serve.

