



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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Is it Hot Enough For You?

Well, we have almost survived another hot East Texas summer one more time. People ask us how we can stand working out in the heat of summer all day. I tell them we drink plenty of water and try to stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day. Then I think, that is the same thing we tell people to do with many plants.---Give them plenty of water and don't plant them in the hottest sun of the day.

Grower tips

Azaleas & other Early Spring blooming plants set their flower buds now for next seasons flowers. Avoid pruning now to prevent reducing the number of flowers on your bushes for next spring. Also, keeping your azaleas well watered and healthy now will ensure lots of blooms in the spring too.

Carefully inspect plants for insect or fungal damage. Spider Mites and Whiteflies flourish in our hot humid weather. Also fungal diseases spread rapidly with increased moisture.

What's in Season?

Set out tomato & pepper transplants for the fall garden. If your spring tomato plants are still healthy & green on the base of the plants but the tops are dried or damaged, cut

them back to healthy stems, fertilize and water . These plants already have an established root system and will have a jump start on new transplants. Wait a few weeks for cooler weather to plant cole crops like broccoli, cabbage, and greens.

To Do List:

Prune rose bushes now and through Labor Day for a new flush of blooms this fall. Cut back any dead or weak branches & generally reshape your plants into compact bushes. Remove any yellow or black spotted leaves and sweep up any leaves that have fallen on the ground to prevent spreading fungal diseases. Spray with a general purpose fungicide and fertilize. Sprinkle a tablespoon of epsom salts around the base of each plant.

Cutting back Summer annual plants-(marigolds, salvia, zinnias, and periwinkles) half way down will extend their growing season for several more months. Water in fast acting fertilizers like Miracle-Gro or Peters plant food to get them growing again.

Begin Dividing Daylily and Iris clumps now and through Fall Transplant to a new location or share with your gardener friends. Add new compost and keep them watered well until they recover from transplant shock.

Sow Bluebonnet seed and other wildflower seed now through next

month for Spring blooms. Make sure the bluebonnet seed are "scarified" which is scratching the hard outside covering of the seed to help in germinating. If they are not scarified, rub the seed between two sheets of sandpaper to remove some of the outer covering from the seed, then plant in rich moist soil. Keep the soil very wet until the seed sprout in a few weeks.

Something Extra

Soon some of the big garden centers will be getting in a supply of fall bedding plants in full bloom. As tempting as chrysanthemums in full bloom are, remember they have been grown in air-conditioned greenhouses to force them to bloom early. These plants do not respond well to being forced to cope with the hot temperatures outdoors. Plants purchased later in the season when the temperatures are cooler will reward you with a longer lasting bloom time.

Pansies and other cool weather bedding plants need to be transplanted when the soil temperature is 70 degrees or cooler, usually around the middle of October or later.

Contact us

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HAPPY GARDENING!