

Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 12

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Ready for Winter?

Where did our fall season go? I know, we were all too busy cleaning up after Hurricane Rita to notice that our fall season came and went. You are probably noticing cold damage on some of our tender plants from those cold mornings we have already experienced. If you have not already done so, prepare to protect your topical or tender plants by bringing them in to a warmer location or covering on those cold nights. Just remember to uncover your plants after the cold weather has past.

Covering plants with plastic or with sheets or blankets can sometimes do as much damage as the cold when the sun shines and the plants warm too much. Keeping outside plants covered does not allow them the rest period they normally would get in cooler weather in the Winter months.

Generally, if most hardy plants are allowed to go dormant naturally and are reasonably healthy and well watered they will survive a short cold spell on their own.

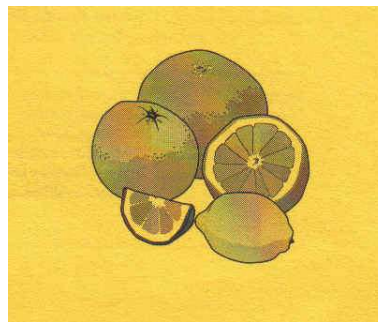
What's in Season?

Citrus trees are available in Nurseries now. Although citrus trees are produced commercially in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, many varieties can be successfully planted in our area with a little pre-planning and care. The hardiest Citrus trees for our area are

Satsuma Oranges and Kumquats. These plants will survive temperatures as low as 22 degrees, and lower for healthy specimens .

Lemons, Limes, Navel Oranges and Grapefruit will perform marginally well surviving temperatures in the 28 degree range.

Carefully choosing your planting site helps to ensure a healthy and fruitful tree. All Citrus trees prefer well drained, fertile, slightly acidic soil and full sun. Allow 15-20 ft. for mature growth. A fruiting tree requires 40"-50" of rainfall each year with the majority water being applied during the growing season of early March through September or October. Fertilizer can be applied at the first sign of new growth in the Spring and again in May or June. Most Citrus trees are self-pollinating so one tree will be enough to get your orchard started.



Due to damage from the Hurricane, we will have a limited number of Poinsettias available this Christmas season, so get your orders in early

for Churches and Businesses. We may make arrangements to buy in extra plants if you need them, but we will need to know soon before the best selection is gone.

To Do List:

Plant Sweet Pea seed now on fences or trellis for a spectacular show and fragrant smell in early Spring. Follow package directions, but you can simply sprinkle seeds in a cultivated sunny area that can support these easy-to-grow vines that can reach 6-8 ft tall.

Something Extra

Sometimes opportunity comes from hardship. We all were saddened by the loss of so many of our large oak trees and pine trees that was always a part of the South East Texas landscape. But, if you are like me, because of all that shade those trees made I was not able to grow many of my favorite sun loving plants in my own yard. Now I can! I can take advantage of the new, loose soil placed in the holes left from the stump removal and plant ornamental trees and shrubs for a whole new look to my landscape.

Contact us

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HAPPY GARDENING!