



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 1

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Planning, Preparing, & Pruning:

On those nice, warm sunny days this month, everyone wants to get outside and work in the yard. But, most of us have learned by experience not to get in too big of a hurry and rush the Spring season. We have all planted new tender bedding plants or vegetable plants only to see late cold spells turn them into a black gooey mush.

However, now is a good time for planning new flower beds or reworking old ones, Prepare the vegetable gardens and annual flower beds by tilling in a new layer of compost and fertilizer. Doing this now adds nutrients to help feed your plants all season. If you haven't already done so, prune any dead or damaged wood from perennials and deciduous trees and bushes. Remove weak, twiggy stems from rose bushes. Retain strong robust canes but shorten to 2 or 3 feet.

What's in Season?

Trees and shrubs can be planted now allowing plenty of time for them to grow new feeder roots and get established in the ground before the hot dry Summer weather arrives. Some fast growing varieties of shade trees include Arizona Ash, River Birch, or Maple. These trees have good fall color, and will give you

shade in a short amount of time.

Good ornamental trees to choose for our area include Golden Rain Trees, Purple Magnolia, Flowering Pear, Japanese Red Maple, and of course, Crepe Myrtle. A new tree for us is the Kousa Red Twig Dogwood. It has shown to be a fast growing tree and the bare stems are bright red in the winter.

Fruit trees can still be planted this month, but they do best if you can get them in the ground before they begin to leaf out and grow this Spring.

Plant cool weather annuals such as petunias, snapdragons, Flowering tobacco, and Dianthus now so they will be well established before warmer weather gets here.

Potatoes, Lettuce, onions, chives and hardier herbs can be planted in the garden now. If you have never tried an herb garden before, try growing hardier varieties like Rosemary, parsley, basil & mint.

To Do List:



Roses are available in many garden

centers now. There are many varieties that do not need as much care as others. Antique roses, or old garden roses, and some of the new shrub roses do not need to be sprayed with fungicides as often as the hybrid selections. However, if you don't mind spending time working with the Hybrid Teas and Grandiflora roses, you will be rewarded with big beautiful bouquets almost year round.

Something Extra

Almost every year, here in Southeast Texas, just when you think Spring is here to stay and it is safe to plant, those last cold spells of the season come and ruin blooms and tender new buds just getting started. However, the damage can be minimal if you help Mother Nature out by covering those plants before cold weather hits. If you are a procrastinator like me, or if it got colder than the weatherman said it was going to, you can prevent some of the damage by washing the frost off the blooms and new growth before the sun comes up. This allows the plants to warm up gradually instead of a quick temperature change from the heat of the sun.

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THINK SPRING !