



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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## Summer Time, and the Living is Easy.

Unless you are a gardener, & then Summer Time is watering, weeding and more watering. For the serious gardener Summer Time can also mean picking, canning, freezing and pickling. But, hey, we could be lounging around on the beach and getting sunburned or fighting traffic and getting lost on our big roadtrip this Summer.



## What's in Season?

Most yards are bursting with color in the Spring time with blooming shrubs such as Azalea, Bridal Wreath, and Gardenias and flowering trees like Dogwood and fruit trees. Camellias also add Fall and Winter color.

You can grow summer blooming shrubs and trees to create a year round colorful landscape. A good evergreen to try is Abelia. This hardy bush blooms all Summer with small bell shaped clusters on the end of each branch in colors ranging from blush pink to lavender. The

shiny, dark green foliage can be pruned to 3 feet tall or allowed to grow into a 6 foot weeping bush. There is also a variety with golden yellow foliage for the full sun.

Althea, or Rose of Sharon, is also an easy to grow deciduous bush that will give you Summer long color year after year. The flowers range in color from shades of pink, purple and white in single and double form.

Have you tried the new improved varieties of Crepe Myrtles yet? The new hybrids have been bred to be more compact trees with much larger blooms and disease resistant.

However, planting in the Summer months does require much more work. A newly planted tree or bush will require as much water applied deeply to the roots as one in a nursery container. It takes at least 2 or 3 weeks for a newly planted bush to grow feeder roots and start feeding itself.

One trick to planting this time of year is to dig your planting hole twice as wide as the root ball, and fill the hole with water. Let the water percolate into the soil, then place your plant in the hole and backfill with soil and water "mudding" the plant in. Then, water regularly and deeply for as long as it takes to get established. Of course, it always helps if Mother Nature gives you a hand, nothing beats a good rainy day in the garden.

## To Do List:

Prune Azaleas now for the last time this Summer. Azaleas set their blooms for next Spring in July and August and you do not want to cut off any potential flowers.

If you fertilize regularly with a liquid fertilizer, such as Miracle-Gro, mix your solution half of full strength. (for example- if you mix 1 tablespoon of fertilizer to 1 gallon of water, use ½ tablespoon instead). Your plants should be slowing their growth during the stressful months of Summer. Then in the Fall you can increase the amount of fertilizer back to full strength.

## Something Extra

Before adding a new layer of mulch to your flower beds or garden, place several layers of newspaper down first. The newspaper helps to smother out any weed seeds or sprouts and also helps to retain moisture in the beds. As the newspaper rots it helps to amend the soil. Use only the black & white sections of the newspaper because some of the glossy advertising sections contain chemicals that can be harmful to your soil.

## Contact us

Betty's Bloomers Nursery

6776 FM 418, Silsbee, Tx 77656

Phone- 409-385-4892