



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 19

August 15, 2006

## All the Signs Point to the End of Summer:

Yellow School Buses, End of Summer Sales at the Mall, Football Practice all say Fall is on the way. However, as I write this we are experiencing the hottest weather of the year. Due to the stress of high temperatures, it is not a good time to plant new things. But, now is the time to take care of what you have.

## What's in Season?

Crepe Myrtles are winding down their blooming season. Encourage another bloom set by "dead-heading" the seed pods from each branch. Seedpods and new flower buds are very similar in appearance, but can be distinguished by touch. The seed pods are very hard and dark green while the new flower buds are soft and light green or reddish in color.

## To Do List:

Even though we have had more than normal rain fall this Summer, it does not take long for the soil to dry in this heat. Plants may have lost roots due to root rot, so make sure you water when needed. Container grown plants dry out fast when placed in the sun, move them to a shadier location or increase the number of times you water them.



Many plant have grown more than normal due to the excess rainfall earlier this Summer. Cut back 1/3 of the new growth. Annuals and Perennials will reward you with a new flush of blooms as soon as it starts cooling off. Heavy feeders like annuals, perennials and tropicals will benefit from a light feeding of liquid fertilizer such as Miracle-Gro.

Prune Roses now for the Fall blooming season. Cut out dead branches and prune healthy canes back one third. Add mulch and fertilizer to stimulate new growth and blooms. Keep insects and fungal diseases in check by spraying with chemical sprays formulated for Roses or spray with Epsom Salt solution (1 tablespoon of epsom salt mixed with 1 gallon of soapy water).

Azaleas, Camellias and other Spring blooming Shrubs have already set their buds for next season. Keep them growing and maturing by watering and adding mulch as needed.

## Something Extra

Spider Mites are really active in warm weather. Because they are so microscopic, they can do much damage before you even know they are there. They hide underneath leaves of many varieties of plants and suck the sap out of the leaves. Watch for pale green leaves that have a sandblasted look. In severe infestations small spider webs can be spotted on the stems and leaves also. Spider Mites hatch by the thousands every 5 to 7 days. You can control them by spraying with a Miticide such as Kelthane or using an All-season oil spray. Make sure you spray under the leaves where they hide.

## Contact us

Betty's Bloomers Nursery

6776 FM 418, Silsbee, Tx 77656

Phone- 409-385-4892

E-Mail

[bettysbloomers@cyberscope.net](mailto:bettysbloomers@cyberscope.net)

Happy Gardening!