

Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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April Showers (or Deluges) bring May Flowers---

We've all gardened in South East Texas long enough to know that we are going to have too much rain or not enough. Hopefully, you have all your planting beds raised enough for the water to drain off fast.



What's in Season

Annual vines are beginning to grow now that it is warming up. They grow fast and will cover fences or trellises quickly and will give you lots of color for the Summer & Fall along with much needed shade. Some easy vines to try are Morning Glory, Moon Vine, Cypress Vine, and Perennial Sweet Pea.

Caladium bulbs are available now for season long color in a shady spot or for containers. If you dug your old bulbs last fall, you can begin replanting them now. Plant them in

a loose well drained area shaded from the hot afternoon sun. Any bulbs left in the soil over the winter may not return this year due to the cold, wet weather we have experienced lately.

Having fresh herbs to cook with are always nice, but most of us do not have the room or time for a large herb bed. Herbs like parsley, basil, cilantro, & chives do not take up a lot of space and can be easily added to flower beds or vegetable gardens where you have a little extra space.

To Do List:

Prune azaleas and other Spring blooming plants now. For a more natural look, avoid pruning in round balls or boxy squares. Older azalea bushes can be revived by pruning the large old canes back to the ground, allowing new limbs to sprout from the roots. Cut back Spring blooming vines like Wisteria and Jasmine now to keep them under control.

Roses are displaying their first flush of blooms now. To keep them beautiful, continue to feed and water them on a regular basis and be sure to dead head any spent blooms. Long stem Tea Roses need to be pruned back to the first stem with 5 leaves on it. This is where it will sprout again with a new set of blooms. With all the wet weather we have experienced lately, you will need to spray Roses with a fungicide

for black spot or powdery mildew. You can alternate your spray with a home made fungicide by mixing 1 teaspoon of Baking Soda in a gallon of water.

With warmer weather also come Annual weeds. It goes without saying that if you can get rid of them before they go to seed they are easier to control. Using pre-emergent weed killers like Preen give you a little help but you still need to be vigilant and keep those beds clean. Adding a new layer of mulch also helps smother the weeds before they sprout.

Something Extra

Give your Tomato plants and other vegetable plants a little extra boost by sprinkling a Tablespoon of Epsom salt around each plant and spray with water to dissolve it. If you have problems with blossom end rot on your Tomatoes or Squash a calcium deficiency may be to blame. Adding calcium to the soil can help or spread crushed eggshells around each plant.

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!