



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 28

June 15, 2007

If You Don't like the Weather in Texas...

Just wait a while and it will change. I have heard this saying all my life but it has been true lately. Last week we were complaining about how hot and dry it was already, and this week we have had more than enough rain. Enjoy the cooler, wet weather while it lasts because I'm sure we will be wishing for some of this weather before long.

What's in Season

Do you have places in your yard under large trees or in a corner next to your house where shrubs or grass just don't work? One problem with planting under large nut-bearing trees like Oaks, Magnolias, and Pecans is you are fighting against Mother Nature. These trees produce a natural herbicide that works to kill anything growing under them, making it easier for animals to find and gather the nuts to help spread their seedlings to other areas. Also, these trees have a massive shallow root system that is impossible for a small bush to compete with. One solution is to plant shallow rooted groundcovers or hardy ferns. There are many varieties to choose from, all with different type foliage and variation in color. Just remember, you will need to water enough for

the new plants and for the trees.

Many gardening magazines have featured "Butterfly Gardens" with a list of plants that butterflies prefer, however some of these plants just do not grow well here. But, there are plenty of good South East Texas plants that are butterfly friendly. Of course you need to plant Lantana, Verbena and Mexican Heather and Butterfly Bush, but you need to try some flat Daisy-type blooms for butterflies to perch on, such as Black-eyed Susan, Coreopsis, Copper Canyon Daisy and Hardy Hibiscus.

Butterflies are also attracted to easy to grow ornamental trees that bloom in the Summer months like Crepe Myrtle and Althea, or Rose of Sharon.

To Do List:

All the recent rain causes fungal diseases to spread quickly. Watch for Black Spot on Roses and Powdery Mildew on Crepe Myrtles and other shrubs. It helps to remove the infected leaves from your bushes and rake and clean any diseased leaves on the ground. If you still have problems after the rainy weather has stopped, you may need to use a fungicide to get rid of the problem.

Vinca, Zinnias, Petunias, and other annuals may have black, mushy leaves and stems after all the wet weather. Prune the infected parts back to good stems, and when the weather gets better they should re-sprout with new growth.

Also, too much water leaches the fertilizer out of the soil, so a new application of fertilizer will need to be applied soon.

Something Extra

All soil benefits from regular tilling and aeration and adding nutrients. You may consider hiring this work out. I'm not talking about the local lawn services, but Earthworms! These creatures help gardeners by tunneling into the soil and taking composted material down into the soil and eating it and adding their waste castings to the soil. Loosening the soil helps with getting the water to the roots and helping the roots spread in compacted soil. Fortunately for us Earthworms work cheap. They only require plenty of moisture and organic material which is what our plants need, too!

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!