



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 29

This was a Season of Too Much...

...Too much rain in the Spring Season, followed by too many mosquitoes, too many hungry Web Worms that threatened to eat every leaf in our garden, and lately, too much heat. But, we all know that all these things will pass, the trees and shrubs did sprout back with a new set of leaves and we will soon be enjoying milder weather soon.

What's in Season

Planting in the middle of Summer can be very stressful on new plants, so we recommend waiting until cooler weather. If you do plant now remember that new transplants that have been growing in containers will not develop "feeder" roots quickly if planted now, so it is important to keep the soil wet all the way to the base of the root system. This requires daily, deep watering until the heat stress is less and the plants are established. So you might think about letting us take care of the plants for awhile.

Setting out large containers of Hot-weather tropical plants adds color and lush foliage to your deck or porches. Plants such as Ficus, Rubber Plants, Diffenbachias, and Crotons will need to be protected from cold weather this Winter. Gingers, Cannas, and cold hardy Philo-

dendrons, Palms and ferns do not require protection, but will go dormant in cold weather and sprout again next Spring.

To Do List:

Taking care of plants that you already have is important this time of year. Cut back old flower heads from annuals and perennials that have gone to seed so they will produce more flowers. After flowering plants have set their seed, they think their work is done and they can rest. Removing the seed pods starts another cycle of flower production.

Groundcovers and spreading plants will need to be pruned back to keep them from smothering out other plants. Hand pruning or using a weed eater helps to keep these plants under control.

Old gardeners say to prune Roses on Valentine's Day and Labor Day, and since one of those deadlines is a few weeks away, plan on pruning them soon. Cut back overgrown canes to one half the size. Also remove any dead or damaged canes to the main stalk. Rake and discard any diseased leaves that have fallen to the ground. Now is also a good time to fertilize with a plant food that contains a high amount of Phosphorus (the middle number on the fertilizer formulas). Many Rose foods are on the market that contain the nutrients Roses need. Also sprinkling a little bit of

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Epsom salts around the base of your plants helps too.



Something Extra

The single most important thing you can do for your garden this time of year is really simple. WATER, WATER, WATER! It may be easy to say, but with our busy schedules and not wanting to leave the nice cool air-conditioning, hard to do. There are lots of choices in water systems on the market now. You can spend a lot of money on expensive computer controlled, automatic systems that will do it for you, or you can take the time with a water hose in your hand in the early morning or late afternoon and enjoy the butterflies trying to steal a drink or notice a new flower just opening up.

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!