



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 37

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## Thank You for a Successful Anniversary Party!

Thanks to all our customers who came out to help us celebrate our first 40 years. We saw many old customers & quite a few new customers. Some people thought we should do this every year. Maybe we will, at least for our 50<sup>th</sup>.

## What's in Season

Bedding plants are showing off with lots of color now. Warm season annuals such as Marigolds, Celosia, Vinca, Portulaca, Purslane, Zinnias & Impatiens are ready for planting. If your cool season flowers are still healthy and you do not want to disturb them just yet, plant new annuals between them and they will be ready to fill the space when the pansies and snapdragons are done.

Roses are blooming now with their first flush of Spring flowers. Choosing the correct type of bush for your garden will prevent problems later on with a plant that does not perform well for your space. Shrub roses or florabundas can be planted in a bed with other perennials or shrubs in a sunny area. But hybrid Tea roses, or long stem roses, prefer a flower bed of their own with plenty of space for the air to flow around them. Antique roses are good plants to start with as they do not require as

much TLC as new hybrids.

Annual Vines are in season now. Most are fast growing with plenty of blooms in the Summer and Fall. Some good choices are Cypress Vine, Hyacinth Vine, Coral Vine, or Snail Vine.

Caladiums are in season now. They can be planted in a shady bed, container or a patio pot with other plants for season long color

## To Do List:

It is time to fertilize lawns & shrubs if you haven't already done so. You can use a balanced fertilizer like 13-13-13 or 8-8-8 which is usually less expensive than specialty fertilizers, but if the plants do not require some of the nutrients they will not take them in. The unused fertilizer will stay in the soil until it gets washed away. Knowing the right nutrients for the plants you are fertilizing can save money in the long run. You will also be helping the environment by not having unused fertilizer in the runoff water. For instance, lawns need a high nitrogen fertilizer, & blooming plants need a higher concentration of phosphorus.

A weed & feed fertilizer can be applied now to kill weeds in the lawn, following directions carefully on the package. We have had better luck using a liquid weed and feed that attaches to your garden hose. It works by spraying directly onto the

foliage of unwanted weeds and does not affect shrubs and trees around the sprayed area. Just be careful with the overspray.

## Something Extra

By being observant in your garden you can prevent a small problem from becoming a bigger problem. Watch for thrips, which are tiny yellow insect which feed off the blooms on roses or bedding plants. They can be detected by tearing apart a damaged bloom or bud that did not open. Spider Mites are also tiny and live on the underside of leaves of many plants. The leaves will turn a reddish brown color and shrivel up. These insects can be controlled with many insecticides.

Watch for fire blight on apple and pear trees. It is a fungal disease that causes the leaves and branches to turn black as if it has been burned. Pruning the infected branches back to green wood will control it. Black spot is a problem on hybrid roses. It looks like a black mildew spot that soon turns yellow. Spraying with a fungicide or removing the bad leaves so it does not spread helps to control this disease.

## Contact us

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Happy Gardening!