

## Spring is springing!

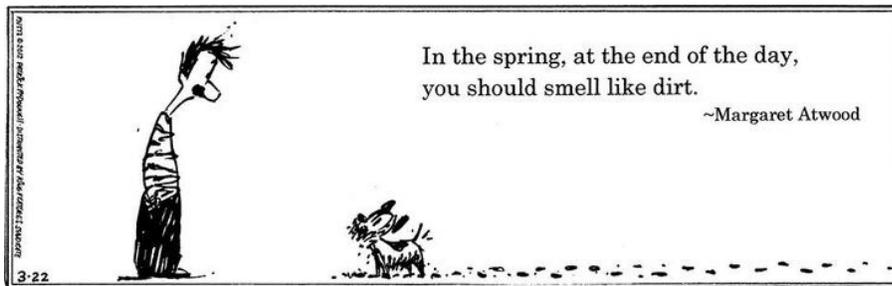
We are in full swing around the nursery here! Roses and citrus are blooming and flying out the door, our garden beds have been planted for spring/summer gardens. Veggies are thriving and

loving the not too hot and not too cold

weather and so are we! Come take a peek at our vegetable garden beds here to get some ideas on how to get yours going!

Lady bugs and praying mantids are just waiting to go home to eat the bugs in your garden.

Pond plants will be arriving later this month! Check out a write up on page three all about pond plants!



Are some of the native trees or plants that are flowering playing with your allergies? We have some of the raw local honey to help combat allergies!

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### **Rillito Nursery & Garden Center**

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Hours Mon-Sat 8am-5pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



## April Garden Checklist

As the weather warms up you'll have to begin increasing the amount of water. Plants will indicate when they need water by drooping, or wilting. Note the time interval; this will tell you just how many days your plants can go between watering. With warm weather, expect to see more aphids on vegetables, shrubs, and trees. The best control is natural predators such as ladybugs or praying mantids. If these are not available, there are several organic and chemical insecticides that we sell to do the job.

**Grass:** Begin Bermuda grass seeding when nighttime temperatures are consistently 65 degrees or higher. Covering with mulch keeps keep birds from eating the seed.

**Trees/Shrubs:** As the weather warms, adjust your irrigation timer to water more frequently. Deep, infrequent watering is much better than a daily sprinkle. Tree water use increases rapidly during this period of leafing out and gradually higher air temperatures.

If the normally upright leaves of agaves or yucca look wilted, the snout weevil may be the culprit. Apply a systemic insecticide in spring as a preventative measure.

**Flowers:** Allow your wildflowers to go to seed. They will produce a natural healthy feast for birds as well as reseeding themselves to come up

again next year. Spring annuals can still be planted, we do still have gazanias, bacopa, alyssum, million bells, marigolds, and many more! As well as summer annuals starting to arrive such as vinca, Angelonia, salvia and portulaca!

**Vegetables:** It is time to redo your soil for spring/summer gardening. The garden at the nursery has been tilled already and Happy Frog has been added to it for a more organic base to it. Seeds you can plant now are: beans, cucumber, melons, okra, summer squash, and green beans. We have the starts for: eggplant, melons, cucumber, squash, artichoke, tomatoes, peppers, and asparagus. For best germination on seeds keep the soil moist. Garden beds are going to need water daily and as we get warmer watering a couple times a day may be necessary.

When visiting our nursery, check in on your smart phone or write a recommendation, show an associate and receive 5% off your entire purchase!

One use only. Some restrictions may apply.





# Pond plants make a happy pond

A big misconception in the pond industry is that you can get away with a once a year cleaning every spring to keep your pond looking great all year.

However, the truth is that a once a year cleaning is not enough. It is best to think of a pond as a small contained ecosystem. Water gardens and aquariums are similar and both rely on filtration and a semi weekly 10% water change. The easiest way to help keep you pond sparkling is to let plants do most of the work!

In the nursery we carry 2 of the most important types of pond plants, the marginal plants, and the hardy water lilies.

## Marginal plants:

Marginals are plants that thrive in soggy soil that is always covered with a small amount of water, or soil that occasionally dries out and then becomes re-saturated.

These plants will help filter the organic material that collects

along the outskirts of the environment, they also help by providing shade to fish or lilies in the pond and protection from the wind. Though their roots grow under water, the majority of the plant grows out and above the water. This diverse group of plants is perfect to help soften the hardscape and create a natural transition from pond to garden. To name a few marginal plants we will carry: Iris, Ruellia, Hibiscus, Blue Lindernia and more!



Purple Iris

## Hardy Water lilies:

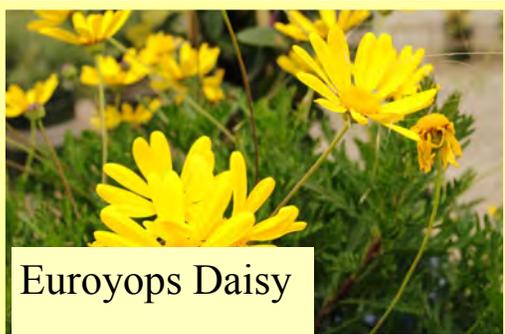
Hardy water lilies produce round leathery leaves up to 1 foot across. They can be green or splashed with brown. Their multi-petaled flowers measure up to 6 inches across and come in white, pink, yellow, and red. Many have flowers that change color as they age, and most are lightly scented. The flowers open in the morning and close at night. Unlike tropical water lilies, the flowers of hardy lilies float on the surface of the water, and the plants grow from rhizomes not tubers.

Besides being pleasing to the eye, water lilies do a great deal to maintain the well-being of the ponds they inhabit. For one, they provide shade to keep the water temperature down during the hot summer months. By blocking out a lot of sunlight, the lilies help to keep the algae growth down. Their shade also gives shelter to any fish that may be in the pond, a respite from both the sun and any predators that may be lurking nearby. They also absorb nutrients in the water that would normally feed these undesirable green plants, keeping the water clear and clean looking.

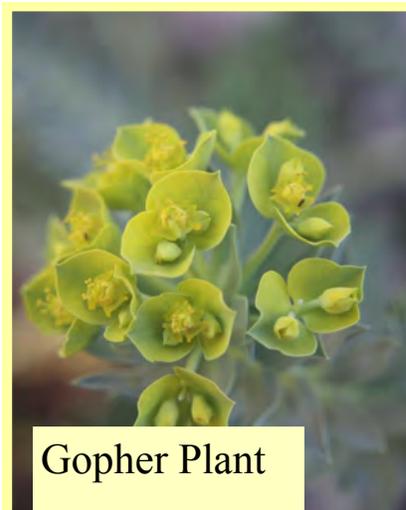


Lilies

# Color of the month: Yellow!



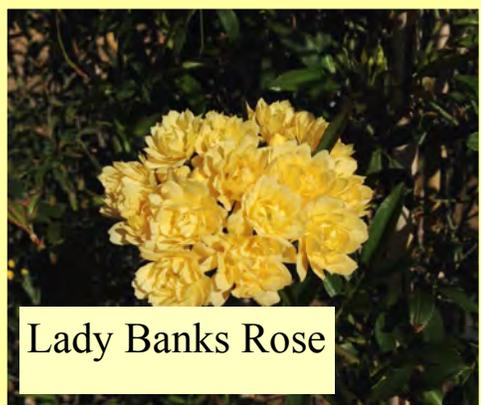
Euroyops Daisy



Gopher Plant



Palo Verde



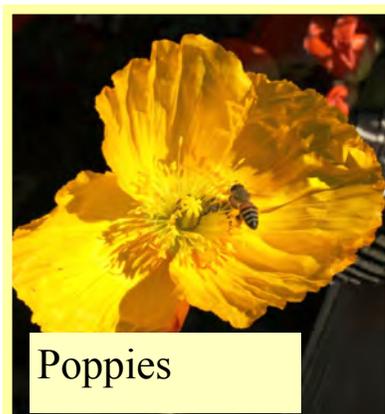
Lady Banks Rose



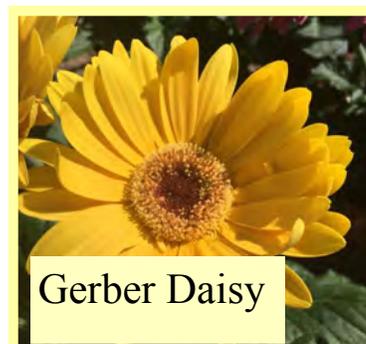
Brittlebush



Agave



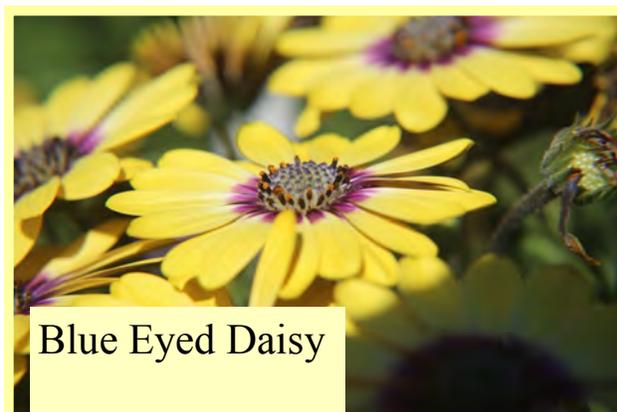
Poppies



Gerber Daisy



Roses



Blue Eyed Daisy

# Color of the month plant profile: Desert Museum Palo Verde

This hybrid tree is a three way cross between the Foothill Palo Verde, Blue Palo Verde, and the Mexican Palo Verde tree. Thorn less, fast growing and up-right, this tree is a popular choice for yards.

**Size (HxW):** 25'x25'

**Blooms:** Yellow

**Exposure:** Full Sun

**Minimum Temperature:** 15°F

**Water:** Low when established

**Pruning:** Light; dead wood or thinning before monsoons

**Growth:** Fast

**Fertilizer:** NA. Or Tree and Shrub Food by Ferti-Lome in Spring and Fall



# Plant profile: Tombstone Rose

A vigorous climber with rich green foliage on thorn less, slender branches. Prolific blooms create a lovely springtime display.

**Size (HxW):** 8'x15'

**Blooms:** Yellow

**Exposure:** Full Sun

**Minimum Temperature:** 15°F

**Water:** High-Moderate

**Pruning:** None to light; dead branches or shaping.

**Growth:** Fast

**Fertilizer:** Doesn't always need but you can use Miller's Rose food Monthly or Ferti-Lome Tree and Shrub Spring and Fall.





## Staff Picks: Yarrow

Picked by: Katie H (Yes we have two Katies now)

The genus name of this hardy herb (*Achillea*) references the Greek hero Achilles, and the plant is similarly noted for its many strengths. It's said that Achilles himself used this plant to heal

wounds more than three thousand years ago during the Trojan War. A member of the sunflower family, yarrow blooms late-spring through fall and adds a pop of color to your perennial or naturalized garden. Currently, we have the red 'Paprika' variety in stock. The native variety grows scattered on Mt.

Lemmon and has white flowers. The foliage grows in mass close to the ground, spreading by rhizome underground and shooting up thin, sturdy stalks with feathery foliage topped with masses of bright red florets. It grows 18-30" tall, attracts butterflies and is deer resistant. Snip off fading flowers to encourage continued bloom time.



Not only a beautiful flower it's also a powerhouse herb. Snipped leaves and florets can be used fresh or dried for tea. Many native peoples chew the fresh leaves to induce sweating and break a fever, temper colds or as a digestive aid. The bitter greens stimulate the production of

stomach acid to digest proteins and fats, reducing indigestion like many bitter greens do. As a common and widely used herb there are many more uses to explore on your own. I've heard stories of deer bedding down in a patch of yarrow when injured or sick. Animals instinctively sense and utilize it's healing properties.

To keep this powerhouse perennial going strong plant in prepared soil where it will receive afternoon shade. I would recommend the Rose and Flower Planting Mix soil to amend your perennial garden. Water regularly to get established and especially during the hottest of months. Then, simply sit back and appreciate her for her strength and beauty.

**Rillito Nursery & Garden Center has been serving Tucson since 1994. We are a family owned and operated business striving to provide the ultimate nursery experience and customer service. We supply the healthiest plants and highest quality garden necessities. Spread out over three acres, we supply a wide arrangement of annuals, shade plants, desert plants, roses, citrus, trees and shrubs.**

# Recipe from the garden: Spinach and artichoke dip

This is a yummy recipe I am going to make, comes from my favorite Chef, Alton Brown.

## Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh or frozen chopped spinach ( if frozen thawed)
- 1 1/2 cup canned or frozen artichoke hearts chopped (if frozen thawed)
- 6 ounces cream cheese
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 grated parmesan
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder

## Directions:

Boil spinach and artichoke hearts in 1 cup of water, until tender and drain. Discard liquid.

Heat cream cheese in microwave for 1 minute or until hot and soft. Stir in rest of ingredients and serve hot.

