

Fall is right around the corner!

The best time for planting here in the desert is fall. The winters are not as harsh on the plants as the summers are, so the plants

have a good amount of time to get established and used to their growing conditions before summer hits.

A large selection of citrus will be making their way in by the end of this month!

Dwarf citrus will be back as well. Our dwarf citrus grower out of California will be shipping after the middle of September.



Some locally grown and Phoenix grown hibiscus have made their way into the nursery and putting off a lot of dark green and beautiful blooms! Acclimated to the full sun they will thrive all summer and fall for you!

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



August Garden Checklist

Grass: Keep grass well watered. A deep soak a couple times weekly will help the lawns through this last little leg of summer. Continue to fertilize monthly

Trees/ Shrubs:

Keep trees and shrubs well watered giving them a deep soak every other day to help keep salts from building up around the root ball. Applying mulch around the root ball will help keep roots cooler and slow down the evaporation process. When applying mulch do not build it up against the trunk as that could suffocate the tree and harm it.

Native and heat tolerant plants can still be planted just make sure to keep up on the watering schedule through the heat. They will need to be watered on a regular basis then decrease the frequency in fall.

Protect newly planted trees from heavy winds and storms by staking.

It is still a good time to plant bougainvillea, tecomas, oleanders, acacias, cassias, mesquites and palo verdes.

Flowers: Water roses deeply daily or twice daily when temperatures are over 100 degrees.

Summer flowers such as: vinca, zinnias, angelonia, and pentas can still be planted. Dead heading a couple times a week will help to keep the flowers stimulated to re-bloom. Fertilizer will also help.



Vegetables: Second round of tomatoes should start arriving towards the end of the month to have a chance for a small crop before winter. Corn can still be planted by seed. Melons will have another growth spurt, as well as continue producing.

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

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Not just a Southern Thing...

Crepe myrtle trees, in many varieties, overlook an abundance of southern landscapes. Southern gardeners love their crepe myrtles for summer bloom, attractive peeling bark and limited crepe myrtle care. How to grow crepe myrtle is not an issue in most areas to which they are hardy.

Native to China, this lovely tree can grow up to 20 feet tall at full maturity. The dark green leaves are often tinged red on opening and turn brilliant orange or red in fall. Crinkly-petaled flowers in dense clusters range from white to pink to red and purple. Trained as a tree, Crepe Myrtles develop an attractive trunk and branch structure. Smooth gray or light brown bark peels off to reveal smooth pink-ish inner bark. The winter trunk and branches look polished.

Because the Crepe Myrtles bloom on the new wood, they should be pruned in winter or early spring. On large plants, remove the suckers that come up at the base, twiggy growth, crossing branches and branches that are growing towards the center of the plant. Gradually remove side branches up to a height of 4-5 feet, this will expose the attractive bark on the trunk. You can keep them pruned to a smaller height if you shorten the topmost branches by about 1-3 feet in late winter, cut back to a side branch or bud.. For branches more

than 2 inches thick, cut back to the center of the tree. Snip off spent flowers clusters of all types to neaten appearance and promote a second lighter bloom.



Color of the Month: Blue



Blue cat mint



Soap Bush



Tala Vera



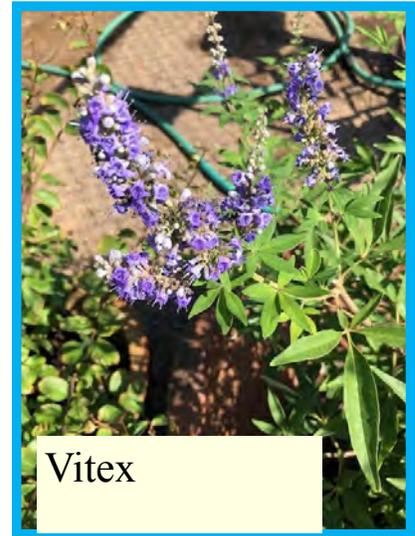
Texas Ranger



Mexican Blue Yucca



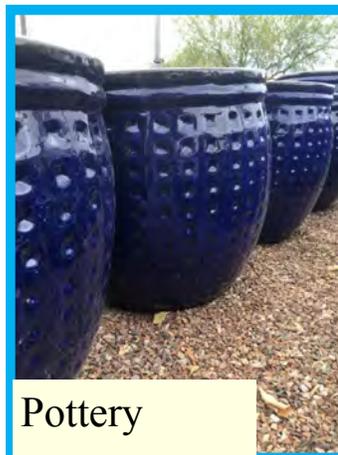
Blue Cereus



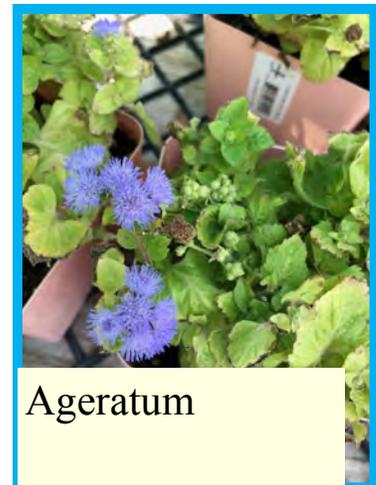
Vitex



Plumbago



Pottery



Ageratum

Plant profile: Blue Cereus

The cousin of the dragon fruit also produces red apple like fruit that is edible and sweet.

Size (HxW): 15'-20' X 8'-10'

Blooms: White

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 30°F Cover the tops of the cactus until no longer reachable.

Water: Low

Pruning: N/A

Growth: Slow

Fertilizer: N/A



Plant profile: Mexican blue Yucca

Yucca Rigida is a trunk forming yucca with distinctive, rigid blue leaves with yellow margins. With tall showy stalks of white flowers this yucca is one to make a statement.

Size (HxW): 12'x6'

Blooms: White

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 0°F

Water: Moderate-Low

Pruning: Dead fronds

Growth: Slow

Fertilizer: N/A





Staff Picks: Mealy cup sage

Picked by: Brian B

Mealy cup sage, *Salvia farinacea*, is native to the plains, prairies, meadows and woodland edges of Mexico, central and western Texas and New Mexico in limestone soils. Also commonly called mealy blue sage,

mealy sage, or blue sage, this short lived herbaceous perennial in the mint family is hardy in zones 7-10.

Because it is fast-growing and bears multiple spikes of blue

flowers in its first year (flowering in less than four months from seed), it is frequently grown as an annual where it will not survive the winter

This upright to sprawling plant can form a mound of foliage up to 4 feet tall and wide. The long (to 3"), drooping, lance-shaped, nearly-glossy leaves grow in



dense clusters from the square stems. Most salvias have hairy or velvety leaves, so the shiny leaves set this species apart. The aromatic leaves may or may not be irregularly-serrate or toothed. They are a soft gray-green to nearly silver in color, especially on the undersides.

Plants bloom from early summer to frost on tall, sturdy flower stems growing from the clusters of leaves in axillary and terminal racemes that somewhat resemble lavender.

Dark blue, light blue, purple, or white flowers are borne in dense whorls along each 4- to 8-inch long flower spike.

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: Caprese Salad

In the summer I eat very light because it is so warm. Caprese Salads and sandwiches are always a favorite.

Ingredients:

1 cup grape or cherry tomatoes, halved
8oz baby mozzarella balls
2 tablespoons basil pesto, homemade or store bought
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1/4 cup olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
2 ripe avocados peeled, seeded and chopped
1/2 cup fresh basil leaves
2 tablespoons balsamic glaze (store bought or use the recipe below)

Directions:

1. In a salad bowl, combine tomatoes, mozzarella, pesto, garlic, olive oil, salt and pepper; mix well to evenly coat in the dressing. Toss with the avocados and basil leaves.
2. Drizzle with balsamic glaze, if using. Taste test and add more salt/ pepper if needed. Serve immediately.



Balsamic Reduction:

Combine 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar and 1 tablespoon of light brown sugar together in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium high heat, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low and immer gently until the vinegar has reduced by half and has thickened to a syrup like consistency (about 8 minutes) Cool to room temperature.