

Merry Christmas!

Can you believe this is the last newsletter of 2018? I can't, this year has flown by!

We have lots of nice gift ideas for the gardener in your life. We have hummingbird feeders, gloves, pottery, fun little garden spinners, and gift cards for any denomination if you just can't decide what to get.



Living Christmas trees, Christmas cactus, poinsettias and the fresh wreaths and garland have made their way into the nursery and it looks and smells like

Christmas!
Bareroot roses will be arriving this month. Keep an eye out, the rose seminar date will be

coming up soon. Don't forget to look for the acorn. It looks a little bit different this go round, hopefully it is not hidden too hard! Congrats to Dawn C who found the acorn first last month! First person who emails back with

the correct location will receive 20% off one item in stock.

Have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In This Issue

Merry Christmas!
Page 1

December Garden Checklist
Page 2

As we start to cool down
Page 3

Color of the month:
Red
Page 4

Plant profile: Little John Bottlebrush, Nandina
Page 5

Staff Pick: Toothless Desert Spoon
Page 6

Recipe from the Garden: Spinach and artichoke dip
Page 7



Rillito Nursery & Garden Center

6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995
Hours Mon-Sat 8am-5pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



December Garden Checklist

Grass: Over seeded rye grass should be established by now. Watering can be decreased to once every 5-7 days. More often if soil seems too dry. Sandy soils can dry out faster. You can now start fertilizing monthly.

Trees and Shrubs:

Remember limes and lemons are frost tender, on freezing nights they should be protected for the night and uncovered during the day to enjoy the warmer air. Lemons and oranges should be ripe soon. You can start harvesting now, and leave fruit on the tree that you won't get to right away as the fruit can get sweeter when left on the tree longer. Trees are the best for storing fruit!

Living Christmas trees are here! They will make a wonderful tree for decorating then make an even better shade tree in the yard to plant afterwards!

Flowers: Annuals can still be planted for great winter color.

Poinsettias are here. Make sure to take the foil

sleeve off to water so the water drains away rather than the plant sitting in the water. Plant wildflowers seeds for best chance of spring bloom.



Vegetables and Herbs:

Now is still a good time for planting seeds for lettuce, carrots, radishes, beets, and turnips. It is better to plant sets for broccoli, artichoke, cauliflower, onions, and shallots. As they take longer to germinate and grow. Switch out basil for cilantro. Basil doesn't like the cold but loves the summer heat, where cilantro loves the winter cold but doesn't like the summer heat.

Fertilizing should now wait until Spring as we do not want to promote too much new growth during the cooler night time temperatures.

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.



As we start to cool down...

As we move our way into winter here are some helpful ways to make sure you are doing all you can to protect your plants.

Some frequently asked questions are:

How do I know when I should cover my plants?

Every plant will have a different minimum temperature, but a general rule once we start hitting 35-30 degrees at night or lower is a safe bet.

What should I cover my plants with?

The best thing to cover with is a frost cloth, it is made especially for plants as it wicks the water or dew away, to help keep the cloth from getting weighed down. You can use towels or sheets but they will retain the water and can potentially weigh the plants down. Plastic is NOT the best thing to use as it can trap the cold if put directly on to the plant. If you have the time and space, building a structure over your plants like a green house, then plastic can be used.

What plants are especially sensitive to the cold?

There is a long list of frost tender plants, that is including but not limited to: Hibiscus, limes and lemon trees, bougainvillea, plumbago, plumeria, desert rose (adenium,) succulents and houseplants. Things that will loose their leaves or goes dormant will not need to be covered. If you are unsure about anything that may or may not

need to be covered please contact us and ask! We are always happy to answer questions!

How do I cover up cactus without being poked?

Most cacti are actually rather cold tolerant. The exception being any columnar cactus: Mexican fence post, totem pole, Curiosity cactus and etc.. How we cover them in the winter is stuffing newspaper at the bottom of empty one gallon or so buckets to act as insulation, then placing them on the top of the cactus. We call this Cactus Hats. You can also use Santa Hats or Styrofoam cups!



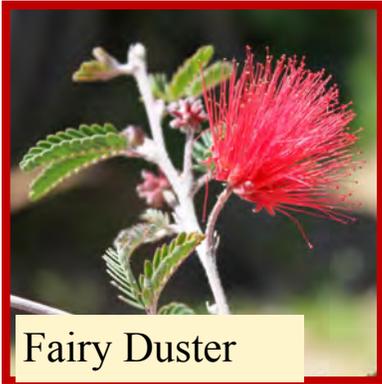
What are some other ideas when it comes to protecting?

Tender plants such as Limes or Lemons, can be decorated with Christmas lights, (but not the LED as they don't produce enough heat,) can be beneficial since trees can be too large to cover. Also watering deeply before a frost can help keep the soil a little

warmer for the roots!

Always remember to remove the frost cloth the next morning so the plant can enjoy the warmer days!!

Color of the month: Red



Fairy Duster



Bottlebrush



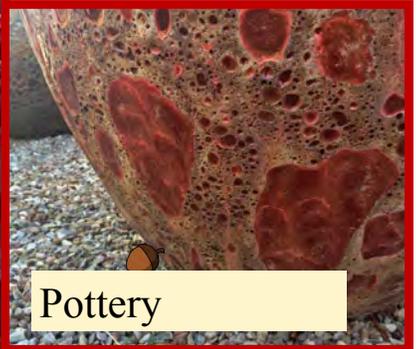
Pyracantha



Hummingbird Feeders



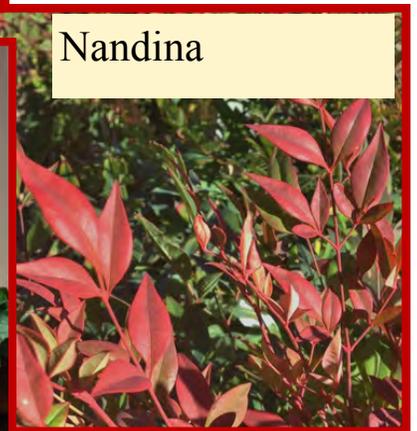
Camellia



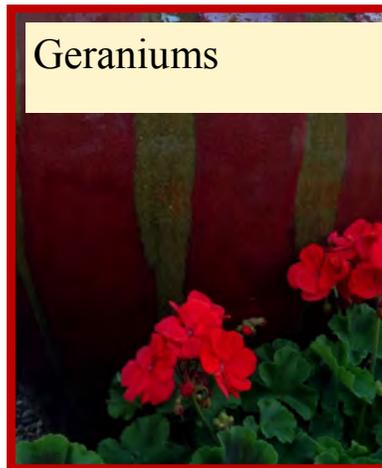
Pottery



Accessories



Nandina



Geraniums



Color bowls



Salvia

Plant Profile: Little John Bottlebrush

Callistemon Citrinus

This lovely compact shrub has beautiful color and will attract butterflies and hummingbirds:

Size: (H x W) 3'x4'

Blooms: Spring to summer, mild winters. Red bottlebrush like blooms

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 20 degrees F

Water: Consistent, does not wilt if it misses a watering will just turn brown and die.

Pruning: Not necessary

Growth Rate: Moderate

Fertilizer: Doesn't really need fertilizer but a well balanced fertilizer is All Season's 20-20-20



Plant Profile: Gulf Stream Nandina

Very hardy compact evergreen shrub, displays beautiful color the colder we get.

Size: (H x W) 3' x 3'

Blooms: No blooms, just colorful foliage

Exposure: Full sun, no reflected heat

Minimum Temperature: 20 degrees F

Water: Regular water, especially during summer

Pruning: Not necessary on compact shrubs

Growth Rate: Moderate to slow

Fertilizer: Doesn't really need fertilizer but a well balanced fertilizer is All Season's 20-20-20





Staff Picks: Toothless Desert Spoon

Picked by Brian B

This mounding grass-like shrub grows six to nine feet tall with an equal spread. It produces long, flat, narrow, leathery, green leaves that emerge from the center basal portion of this symmetrical growing plant. It does not have any sharp spines along its margins like the other desert spoon species.

After many years of growth, it develops an insignificant, whitish-green flower stalk that reaches heights of ten to twelve feet tall. The flowers attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Use it as an attractive desert accent plant in arid or tropical gardens.

It can be combined with palms, or plant it in large, decorative containers for a



tropical, whimsical effect. Use the toothless desert spoon around fountains and ponds. Give this plant plenty of room to grow and mature. It is native to northeast Mexico in the states of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, where it grows along hillsides and dry riverbeds.

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 warm hearty dip is perfect for the cool wet days ahead for us!

Ingredients:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened

1/4 cup Mayonnaise

1/4 cup grated parmesan

1/4 cup grated Romano

1 clove garlic, minced

1/2 teaspoon dried basil

1/4 teaspoon garlic salt

Salt and pepper to taste

14 ounce can artichoke hearts, drained well and chopped

1/2 cup frozen spinach, thawed and drained well

1/4 cup grated mozzarella cheese.

Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 350*. Lightly grease a small baking dish.
- 2) In a medium bowl mix together cream cheese, mayonnaise, parmesan, romano, garlic, basil, garlic salt, salt and pepper. Gently stir in artichoke hearts and spinach.
- 3) Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish. Top with mozzarella cheese and bake for 25 minutes or until bubbly, and lightly browned.

