

## Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and spent time with family. As we begin our journey into 2018, it's always nice to look back at our gardening accomplishments. Don't let setbacks hold you down.

Is that one silly rose bush giving you trouble? Come see me on January 20th from 10-11:30 AM as I lead our Annual Rose seminar! Learn all about watering, fertilizing and general rose care in our desert, as well as seeing a pruning



demonstration.

We will be hosting the annual Super Citrus Saturday again with the community food bank. They will be sitting on our hill late January collecting the overflow citrus from customer's yards. Just bring in the

Citrus you and your family won't eat and they will collect it and give it out.

Watch our Facebook page for the specific date and time!

**Rillito Nursery & Garden Center**  
6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995  
Hours Mon-Sat 8am-5pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm

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# January Garden Checklist

When there is a frost forecasted, cover your frost tender plants with frost cloth ( No plastic unless there is a frame built around the plants). Plastic should not touch plants. Cover by 8p.m. and uncover the next morning by 10a.m.

**Grass:** Fertilize every 4-6 weeks with a high nitrogen fertilizer we recommend Four Seasons Lawn food 21-7-14, only fertilize over-seeded grass. If you did not over-seed the Bermuda grass, water the dormant Bermuda at least once a month. Fertilize the Bermuda when it begins to emerge from dormancy in February/ March

**Trees and Shrubs:** Plant fruit and shade trees now, however it is best to wait to plant lemons and limes until March as they can freeze. Go ahead and plant any deciduous fruit trees or shrubs in pots or in the ground. Lightly prune any unwanted branches on deciduous vines or trees.

**Flowers:** Bedding plants can still be planted for the winter. Plant flowers in pots to help add some winter color on your patio or entry way.

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.

We have a beautiful selection of sun and shade loving flowers. Prune roses back for their annual sleep. Attend our rose seminar on January 20th to find out exactly how to cut back!

For those who are unable to attend here is a brief description how to cut back:

Cut canes back approx. by half, remove all dead canes or any weak canes. Strip off all leaves, then seal the fresh cuts with a wood glue to prevent a wood borer from hollowing out the canes. Fertilize after pruning for best spring blooms!

**Veggies:** It is still a great time for planting seeds for beets, bok choy, carrots, chard, collard greens, leeks, lettuce, mustard greens, green onions, peas, potatoes,

radishes, and spinach.

It is best to plant transplants for: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower. It is a little early to being the transition from winter beds to summer beds but it never hurts to start planning. Think of the Happy Frog potting soil and mulch when tilling your beds during late spring!



# Bare root Roses step by step

Every December we receive somewhere between 800-900 bare root roses. It is the most exciting time of year, at least for me. I love roses, I treat them as my babies every year. When we get them they are referred to as a “bare root rose”. What makes them so special is they aren’t planted. They are just sticks and roots.

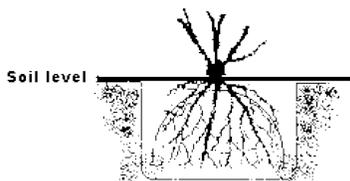
It takes a lot for our roses to go from sticks and roots to the gorgeous full and colorful plants you see here in the nursery. So I am going to let you in on the secret!



1. When planting the bare root roses we first start by allowing the root to soak in water and root stimulator solution for about 12 hours.
2. Prune out any weak or dead branches, and use a wood glue to seal the canes

to protect from a borer that can hollow out the canes and cause damage.

3. We then plant into five gallon recycled plant containers using Rose and Flower Planting Mix as the potting soil. Be very careful when you plant, you do not want to plant deeper than the root ball crown. You also do not want any air pockets below the roots. It is best to pack the soil well.



4. Once potted we keep a frost cloth draped over the rose as it starts to take root. Occasionally,

(couple times a day) we mist the frost cloth with water. Misting the canes will help your rose to leaf out faster.

5. We will release our roses for sale once we see that they have rooted in by showing us they are happy enough to bloom!

Additional information for roses:

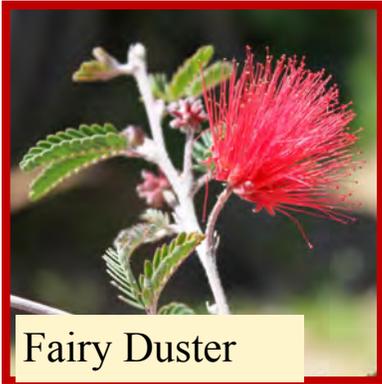
Fertilizing: Roses are a heavy feeder, I use Miller’s Rose Food (in ground roses) for fertilizing, one cup per plant per month February-November. You want to skip December fertilizing to slow down their growth to force them into a dormant state to help with January pruning.

Pruning: Roses need HEAVY pruning in January.

1. Examine the rose for sucker growth (any shoot that grows below the graft line). Suckers will take the majority of the plant’s energy away.
2. Remove dead branches. Prune at an outward facing bud and prune inward to allow the bud to continue out.
3. Prune any weak or spindly canes, leaving the stronger ones to grow. If canes are crossed or badly congested, remove the smaller, weaker canes. This will help strengthen remaining canes and preserve the health of the plant.
4. Prune all remaining canes to maintain a rounded form and encourage growth!

REMEMBER: Always seal a cut with wood glue, AND disinfect pruners with a rubbing alcohol water solution when going from plant to plant!

# Color of the month: Red



Fairy Duster



Bottlebrush



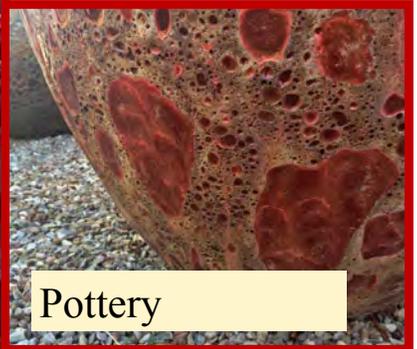
Pyracantha



Hummingbird Feeders



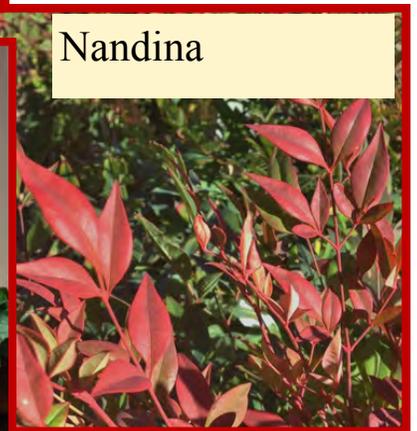
Camellia



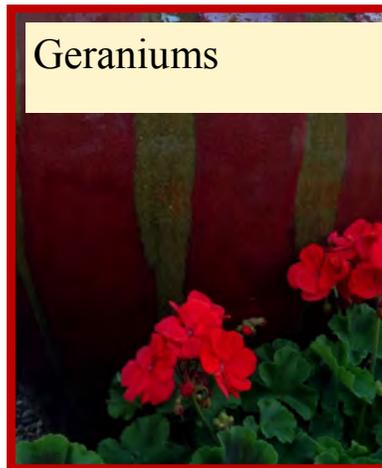
Pottery



Accessories



Nandina



Geraniums



Color bowls



Salvia

# Color of the month 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



# 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-





# Staff Picks: Trailing Indigo Bush

Picked by: Brian B.

*Dalea Greggii*

This long-lived, durable ground cover requires almost no maintenance. *Dalea greggii* is a ground cover that thrives in full sun and reflected heat locations, forming a dense silvery mound to only one to two feet tall. The fuzzy purple flower balls produced in the spring and early summer are not overly showy, although the bees seem to like them. Trailing indigo bush is a great choice for steep banks, or other areas where erosion control is needed. It is notorious for looking scraggly in nursery containers, but don't let that discourage you from trying it. Once established, it's one of the hardiest ground covers available! Just be careful



not to mix this ground cover with water-loving plants, as it is susceptible to rotting out if over-watered.

**Plant Habit or Use:** groundcover  
small shrub

**Exposure:** sun

**Flower Color:** lavender to purple

**Blooming Period:** spring  
summer

**Height:** 6 inches to 1 foot

**Width:** to 4 feet

**Plant**

**Character:** semievergreen

**Heat Tolerance:** very high

**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: French Onion Soup

January is usually one of our cooler months and I like a nice rich soup on cold rainy days.

## Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 6 large yellow onions, diced
- 3 tablespoons dry sherry
- 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar, or to taste
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups beef broth
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme, salt, and ground black pepper to taste
- 6 slices French bread
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup shredded extra sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese



## Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 425 degrees F
- 2) Melt 1/4 cup butter in a large, oven safe skillet on medium heat. Stir in onions until they are all coated in butter. Transfer skillet to the preheated oven and cook onions, stirring occasionally, until they are tender and well browned, about 1 hour..
- 3) Transfer skillet to the stovetop; cook and stir onions over medium heat until they start to brown and stick to the bottom of the pan, about 5 minutes. Pour sherry and vinegar into the pan, and bring to a boil while scraping

browned bits of onion off the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon.

- 4) Place caramelized onions in a large soup pot. Pour in chicken broth, beef broth, and thyme. Bring to a boil, skimming off any foam and fat that may appear on top. Reduce heat to low and simmer for about an hour. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 5) Preheat the oven's broiler and set the oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source.
- 6) Generously brush the French bread slices with melted butter. Place on a baking sheet and broil in the preheated oven until crisp and golden about 5 minutes.
- 7) Ladle soup into heat-proof bowls, top each bowl with a piece of toasted bread, sprinkle with 2-3 tablespoons of both cheeses.
- 8) Broil bowls of soup under the broiler until cheese is golden and bubbly, about 5-6 minutes.