

Happy Father's Day!

What do dads like to do in the summer? Grill! At least mine does.

Why not plant him his very own barbeque garden? Complete with his favorite herbs and veggies he loves to cook with.

I planted a scotch bonnet habanero for my dad because he makes several different sauces for barbequing with. I have also planted squash, okra, onions, and asparagus to put on the grill with olive oil.

Now you don't necessarily have to plant it up in an old grill, we have window boxes that are great for planting a selection of herbs in, low bowls and many other styles of pots dad is sure to love.



You could also plant a nice shade tree to give him shade in the heat of the summer while he is grilling.

Is dad tired of getting eaten by mosquitoes every time he grills? These plants will repel the mosquitoes: lemon grass, citronella scented geraniums, marigolds, lemon balm, and lavender.

Lemon balm can also be used when you have been bitten by a mosquito or ant, crush up the leaf and rub on for a relief from itching.

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Rillito Nursery & Garden Center

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



June Garden Checklist

June is the hottest driest month here in the desert. Please make sure not only are your plants staying hydrated but you and your pets are as well!

Grass: If you haven't planted Bermuda grass already go ahead and plant seeds or sod. If you are going with seeds put mulch over the seeds to hold more moisture and to keep the birds from eating the seeds.

Trees/Shrubs: To help keep moisture in the soil apply mulch around plants out at the base. Do not push the mulch up against the trunk this could kill your plant. Leave a circular circumference around the trunk. The mulch will help keep roots cooler and prevent evaporation. You can still plant through the summer, plants will need a lot of water upon planting. Great plants to plant now are palms, mesquites, palo verdes, and other arid shrubs in the heat of the summer for best results. Prune bougainvillea and lantana lightly to encourage blooms and new growth.

Flowers: Water roses deeply. At the nursery we

water our rose garden a couple times daily. Sometimes hosing the roses off in the early morning will help increase humidity to help keep spider mites at bay.

Great summer flowers include: celosia, gazanias, portulaca, vinca, zinnia, cosmos, gomphrena, pentas, angelonia, golden dyssodia, and many more. Flower beds will need irrigation twice daily throughout the summer. Keep up on fertilizing plants as they will benefit from a little food in the summer, I know I do!



THE SECRET LIVES OF TOMATOES

Copyright by Signe Wilkinson.

peppers, asparagus, and artichoke. Melons or squash that are grown in the shade will get powdery mildew. Wilted leaves on melons or squash in the morning are a sign of moisture stress, wilted leaves in the afternoon may be heat stress. As your melons grow place a board below the fruit to keep the moist soil from rotting one side and prevent insects from attacking.

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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Hawaiian plumeria in Tucson!

I am escaping the heat for a few days and heading to Southern California! Whooo! During my trip I will be bringing back some very special passengers. The tropical Plumeria. They will be here in the nursery ready to go home with you on June 15th!

Plumerias are a very popular plant because of their sweet smelling colorful flowers and attractive form.

In Hawaii, the plumeria has become part of the culture and is used to make the lei necklaces used in celebrations.

Although they are thought of as tropical, plumerias can handle a subtropical climate because they go dormant, shedding their leaves, when the weather gets cool.



They can tolerate temperatures down to freezing and possibly a little cooler for very short periods of time. Plumerias prefer being planted in a pot to allow it to be brought in and protected in freezing temperatures. Given a good microclimate, plumerias do very well in Tucson.

In spring and fall when the weather is nice put it in full sun. The more full sun it gets during nice months the more it will flower. Plumerias can take a couple of summers to start flowering.

When moving the plant to a site to get more sun, the leaves will sunburn some. This is normal. Newer leaves emerging will be more adapted to the new light conditions.

In the summer, when temperatures are over 90 degrees, keep your plumeria on a covered patio, on the east side or south side of your house.

Place it near the edge of the patio so that it gets lots of indirect light, but is shielded from direct sun overhead. In the middle of summer, an east facing patio will give the plant direct sun before noon, and a south facing patio puts the plant in the shade all day, because the sun is so high. If

your plumeria continues to burn from the sun, not just during transition to a lighter spot, move it deeper into the patio to give it more shade. In mid summer, flowers will last longer in the shade as well.

Plumerias like to dry out between watering, number one way to kill a plumeria is by over watering. If planted in a large pot water maybe once a week,

however, daily or every other day spray the leaves with water to help keep pests such as spider mites off.

Plumerias like a fertilizer with a high middle number, I use **Fertilome Blooming and Rooting 9-58-8** I use this once a week to help it bloom. It is best to NOT fertilize once flowers come out. They can burn off. I learned from experience... Oops.

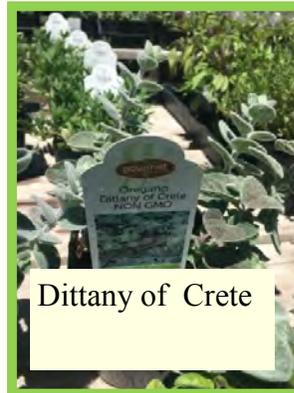
Theme of the month: Herbs!



Chocolate mint



Cuban oregano



Dittany of Crete



English thyme



Garlic Chives



Golden Sage



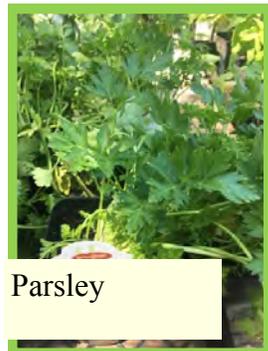
Hot & Spicy Oregano



Lavender



Lemon Thyme



Parsley



Pineapple Sage



Rosemary



Spearmint



Stevia



Strawberry mint



Basil

Plant profile: Stevia

Although stevia looks like an average green plant, it is an exciting choice for the herb garden because of the natural, calorie-free sweetness found in its leaves. It is a great choice of natural sugar for diabetics and dieters.

Stevia is considered a tender perennial so it would want morning sun afternoon shade and protection from frost. Use the fresh leaves during the growing season to sweeten tea. The sweetness in the leaves is approximately one-fourth as concentrated as the white, powdered stevia sold at the store.



Plant profile: Cuban Oregano

The flavor of Cuban oregano is said to be much stronger than Greek oregano, the herb most frequently used to flavor pizzas and other Mediterranean dishes. Harvesting Cuban oregano and using it in recipes can provide similar flavor to traditional oreganos but should be used in more moderate amounts to avoid over-seasoning the dish.

Cuban oregano is a member of the mint or deadnettle family. As such, it has characteristic thick, fuzzy leaves with a strong pleasing odor.





Staff Picks: Pineapple Guava

Picked by: Katie L

Pineapple Guava, *Feijoa sellowiana*, is a small evergreen tree or shrub in the myrtle family. It is grown as an ornamental and also has the added bonus of edible flowers and fruits. The fruits are said to taste like pineapple with an undertone of apple and mint.

The species is native to southern Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, northern Argentina and Paraguay where it thrives in moist tropical conditions. However, it has been known to grow as far north as Scotland and does well here in our heat. It is frost tolerant, but fruit set is hindered by temperatures on either end of the scale, too cold and too hot. It often doesn't set fruit here in the desert with our heat and while tolerant of dry alkaline soils these conditions also affect fruit set. It will flower nicely here and the blooms are beautiful. The petals make for a stunning presentation and can be eaten as-is, made into a jelly-like spread for



crackers, or tossed into salads and used to flavor iced tea. They are described as having a crisp texture and a spicy-sweet vanilla flavor or that of cinnamon cotton candy.

It is a hardy plant for our environment: enduring the heat, the alkaline soils and has few insect pests. It is also known to be deer resistant, while javalina's may be another story.

It works well as an ornamental because it has beautiful evergreen foliage and can be shaped to your desire as a small tree or hedge. They are slow growing and can top out at 8-10 feet tall and wide. It can also be grown in a large

container just make sure to give the roots ample space to grow.

Plant in afternoon shade and amend your soil with our Soil Building Conditioner to give it the best chance to thrive and you can enjoy the beautiful foliage yearlong and the spring-time flowers with your meals.

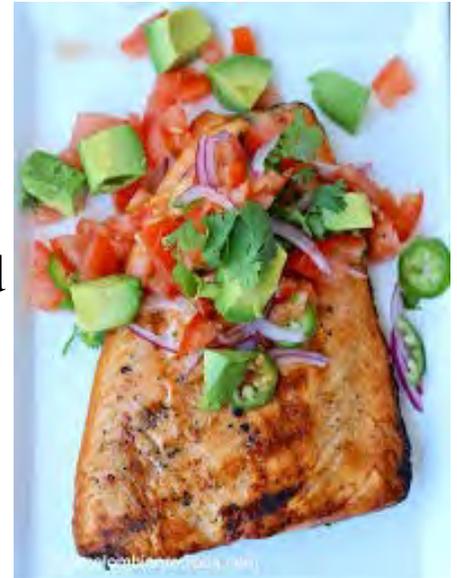
Rillito Nursery & Garden Center has been serving Tucson since 1994. We are a family owned and operated business striving to provide the ultimate nursery experience and customer service. We supply the healthiest plants and highest quality garden necessities. Spread out over three acres, we supply a wide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

Recipe from the garden: Seafood Salsa

I recently made this salsa to go with the salmon we made for mothers day. It is such a easy and delicious salsa. This is a family favorite recipe.

Ingredients:

3 large ripe plum tomatoes, diced
1/2 Cucumber peeled and finely diced
Salt (at least 2 tablespoons)
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
2 jalapeno peppers, stems removed finely diced
1 large white onion, finely diced
1 bunch cilantro, cleaned and chopped
4 large haas avocados, cut into 1/4 inch chunks.



Directions:

Dice and cut up all ingredients except for avocados and mix together well, and chill.

Right before serving cut and add avocados. If done with everything else it will get mushy. Great with grilled fish!