

Happy New Year!

As we roll into the new year, Rillito Nursery is celebrating 25 years in business! As a great big thank you to our supportive customers, on the 25th of every month we will be doing something special! I will post it in our newsletter as well as on our Facebook page!

To celebrate with our customers, the month of January we will be doing 25% off roses! Check in store for details.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and spent time with family.

As we begin our journey into 2019, it's always nice to look back at our gardening accomplishments. Don't let set backs hold you down.

Is that one silly rose bush giving

you trouble? Come see me on January 19th 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 Saturday January 26th from 11-2 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 to the community.

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

In This Issue

Happy New Year!
Page 1

January Garden
Checklist
Page 2

Bare Root Roses Step
by Step
Page 3

Color of the Month:
Green
Page 4

Plant profile: Sago
Palm, Octopus agave
Page 5

Staff Pick: Dwarf Peach
Page 6

Recipe from the
Garden: Meyer Lemon
Beurre Blanc
Page 7





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 stone 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 19th 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 early 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.

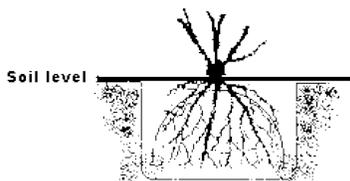
It takes a lot for our roses to go from sticks and roots to the gorgeous full and colorful plants you see here in the nursery. So I am going to let you in on the secret!



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: Green



Green Hopbush



Jaws Agave



Pottery



Jojoba



Geranium



Texas Mountain Laurel



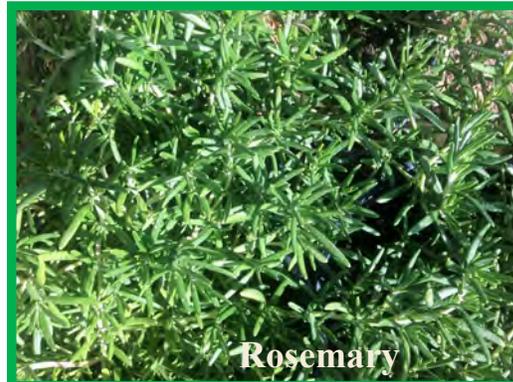
Sago Palm



Foxtail Fern



Octopus Agave



Rosemary

Color of the month plant profile: Sago Palm

This is a great ornamental plant that is not actually a palm! Just be careful around pets as the plant is toxic, front entry ways are the best spot as they love shade!

Size (H x W): 6'-8'

Blooms: N/A

Exposure: Shade— morning sun afternoon shade

Minimum Temperature: 20°F to 25°F

Water: Moderate to low depending on weather

Pruning: N/A

Growth: Slow

Fertilizer: Doesn't need any, but to keep the fronds nice and green give a 20-20-20 with chelated micronutrients, such as Gro-More All seasons plant food.



Plant profile: Octopus Agave

This is a very sculptural plant.

Size (H x W): 4'-6'

Blooms: Only once at the end of its life, it can send a stalk up to about 15'-20' tall. Most often white to cream color.

Exposure: Full Sun

Minimum Temperature: 15°F

Water: Low to Moderate

Pruning: N/A

Growth: Slow

Fertilizer: N/A





Staff Picks: Dwarf Bonanza Peach

Picked By: Katie L.

As a Christmas present to myself, I got a really nice 5 gallon dwarf bonanza. I tried one at my apartment but it didn't get enough sun and unfortunately, did not survive. So this will be round two, and it is in full sun (and a much bigger pot) in my backyard! I potted it up in organic potting soil called Happy Frog.

With this past week of cold weather I expect some really nice fruit off of it in the summer.

Peaches are apart of the stone fruit family.

Meaning, the fruit flesh circles a stone, or pit. Stone fruits are deciduous so they are supposed to lose all their leaves and go dormant in the fall and winter. In order to set the fruit these trees need chill hours, which is the number of hours spent between 32-45 degrees.

Tucson can receive chill hours between 250-500 chill hours.

We will not carry fruits that need more than 500 chill hours, because they will not fruit here. Dwarf peaches only need 250 so it is a perfect match. They bloom just before they leaf out so that the busy little bees can get in there and pollinate the



blossoms. The foliage will then hang over the developing fruit so that hungry little birds don't steal all our fruit.

I am very excited to see how my

little peach will turn out!

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: Meyer Lemon Beurre Blanc over Salmon

Our meyer lemon tree here at the nursery is loaded with fruit! If you would like some to try this recipe come in and get a few, we have plenty to share!

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons meyer lemon juice

1 medium shallot, finely diced (about a tablespoon)

12 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, diced

1 teaspoon meyer lemon zest

Salt to taste

Directions:

- 1) In a nonreactive pan* over medium low heat, add the lemon juice and shallots. Simmer until half the liquid has been reduced, it will feel almost dry.
- 2) Take the pan off the heat and whisk in several pieces of diced butter, (about 1/4 of the butter). When its nicely incorporated whisk in a few more pieces of butter (another 1/4 of the butter). The sauce should begin to feel smooth.
- 3) Place the pan back over medium low heat and whisk in the remaining butter until the sauce is smooth.
- 4) Take the sauce off the heat and gently

stir in the lemon zest and season to taste with salt. Strain the sauce into a container and ladle over pan seared, roasted or grilled salmon.

Notes:* A reactive pan is one that contains metals that might interact with certain foods. Stainless steel and tin (including tin-lined copper) are examples of nonreactive metals.



Personally I like grilled salmon. I have a couple tricks for grilling salmon. The first is to get the slab of salmon from a meat department that is fresh with the skin still on. Heat the grill to at least 400 degrees and season the fish as you like. I take cooking spray and

thoroughly spray the skin side first and then the grill grate. Place skin side down for 5 minutes. I then spray the top of the fish and flip for another 5 minutes with the skin side up.

If you like to get the little filets that do not have skin you can cut 3 slices of lemon to place on the grill and place the salmon on the lemons. This way the salmon will not just flake and crumble or stick to the grill.