

Happy Father's Day!

June is one of my favorite months, for several reasons. First, its my birthday month!

Second, we go on an annual vacation to our favorite beach in Southern California!

Third, the plumerias arrive this month!! Check out all about them on page three of the newsletter. I guess I can forgive June for also being one of the hottest and driest months.

What do dads like to do in the summer? Grill! Well, 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.

We have a large selection of veggies! For our newsletter readers we are offering 20% off vegetables the month of June! Please show this page to the cashier at the time of your purchase for the discount!

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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

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Veggies: Plant seeds for cucumbers, squash, cantaloupe, melons, and okra. Plant starts for cucumbers, melons, squash, strawberries, 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!

One use only. Some restrictions may apply.



Hawaiian plumeria in Tucson!

I am escaping the heat for a few days and heading to Southern California. During my trip I will be picking up some very special passengers to bring back. The tropical Plumeria. They will be here in the nursery ready to go home with you on June 18th! This will be my last trip to pick up plumerias, as my vendor has passed away. I do hope to start growing my own for sale next year! Stay in touch!

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 when the soil is dry to the touch, how often can depend on your own yard. However, daily or every other day spray the leaves with water to help keep pests such as spider mites off. I am watering mine at home about every other day. They are in quite a bit of sun and tend to dry out faster.

I fertilize once a week starting when the plumerias wake up from dormancy in spring all the way through October. I use the Fame fertilizer (2-2-1). I have found this works much better on the plumerias than high numbered synthetic fertilizers.

Color of the month: Red



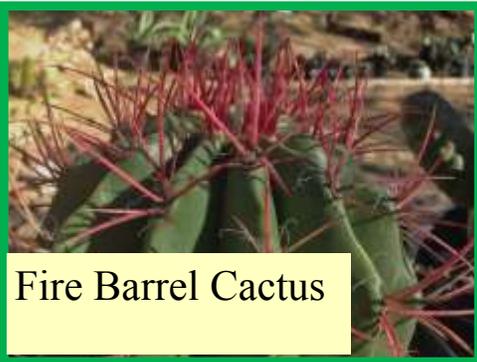
Bottlebrush



Salvia



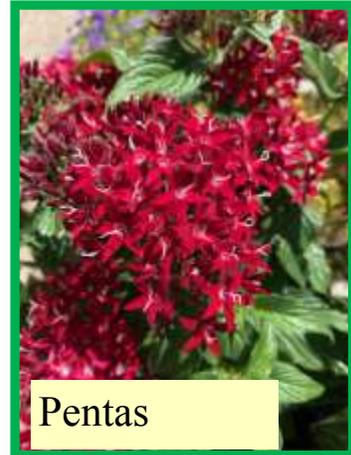
Trichocereus



Fire Barrel Cactus



Red Leafed Banana



Pentas



Hibiscus



Canna



Vinca



Mandavilla

Plant Profile: Red Leafed Banana

Size: (H x W) : 12'-15' x 8'-10'

Blooms: N/A; prized for foliage

Exposure: Shade or morning sun after-noon shade

Minimum Temperature: 35-40 degrees F

Water: High

Pruning: Dead leaves in early spring

Growth Rate: Fast

Fertilizer: Organic Happy Frog 7-3-3



Plant profile: Canna

Size: (H x W) : 4'-5' x 3'

Blooms: Red

Exposure: Shade or morning sun after-noon shade

Minimum Temperature: 35-40 degrees F

Water: High

Pruning: Dead leaves in early spring

Growth Rate: Fast

Fertilizer: Organic Happy Frog 7-3-3 or liquid Fame 2-2-1





Staff Picks: Mexican Flame

Picked by: Brian B

Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. *wrightii*, commonly called Texas firecracker, is an

upright, deciduous shrub reaching up to 5' tall and 4' wide with an informal, spreading appearance. It is native to extreme south-central Texas and adjacent northern Mexi-

co, where it is found growing on rocky, calcareous slopes and floodplains. The slender, brittle stems have attractive, peeling bark. The leaves are small, nearly clasping. Bright red-orange tubular flowers appear in abundance during bloom periods, which most often fall from spring to late summer after rain. Extremely attrac-



tive to hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators. Deer tend to avoid this plant.

Best grown in medium to dry, well-draining soils in full sun, but is adaptable to many soil types including poor, rocky soils and heavy, clay soils. Tolerant of drought, and takes well to pot culture.

Occasional but regular summer irrigation may be required in desert landscapes. In the colder parts, this plant will die back to the roots and reemerge in the spring with new top growth. Pruning is not required, but can be pruned for shape in the fall and cut back more severely every few years

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: Lemon, poppy seed, summer squash bread

Recently I was looking up recipes to figure out what to do with all the squash my plants are producing since it is way too much for my husband and I to eat. I found this recipe and tried it. It's delicious, you wouldn't even know that there is squash in it!

Ingredients:

1 cup melted unsalted butter

2 cups granulated sugar (you can decrease if you don't want it as sweet)

Juice and zest of 2 small lemons

1 teaspoon almond extract

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

3 large eggs

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon baking powder

3 cups all purpose flour

2 cups grated summer squash

1 tablespoon poppy seeds

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Grease or line two loaf pans; set aside.

Place the melted butter, sugar, lemon

juice, zest, almond extract and vanilla extract in a large mixing bowl. Cream together until fluffy and light in color, about 1-2 minutes.

Add the eggs one at a time, allowing each egg to fully incorporate into the mixture before adding the next.

Evenly sprinkle salt, baking soda, and baking powder over the top of the mixture. Mix well.



Working in batches, add the flour 1/2 cup at a time; mix in entirely between additions. Fold in the squash and poppy seeds. Divide the batter between the prepared loaf pans. Bake 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the loaf comes out clean.