

Happy Thanksgiving!

I can't believe how fast this year has flown by and it is November already!

Living Christmas trees will be arriving very soon! The beautiful Eldarica Pine, also called the Afghan Pine is the best pine tree to plant for our climate.

Eldarica pines are great for using indoors to decorate for the holiday season, but only for a week or two. Then plant outdoors for nice dark green color year round! They also tend to retain their "Christmas tree"

shape.

The Eldarica pines have a symmetrical branching structure, and needles that are 4-5 inches long. Both factors help contribute to the overall fullness of the tree.



As a reminder we will have special hours for the week of Thanksgiving and we will be closed on Thursday November 23rd. I will add a holiday hours calendar on the last page of the newsletter for your reference.

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



November Garden Checklist

Grass: Winter Rye should be mowed to 1-1/2 to 2 inches. Keep watering until established, and then water only about twice a week. Yellowing of the winter lawn may occur when the cold weather sets in, an application of a high nitrogen fertilizer will bring back the dark green color.

Trees/Shrubs: Cut back the frequency of watering on established trees and shrubs, but continue water deeply. Clean out the dead branches but be careful not to prune too much or fertilize plants that are frost tender. Keep “suckers” or growth that is below the graft line of citrus cut off to keep the nutrients into the true tree.

Flowers: Annuals that can be planted in full sun are: petunias, pansies, violas, snapdragon dianthus, calendula, marigolds, and many more. Our tables are full of color. Roses are in the middle of their fall display, keep spent blooms dead headed to encourage more flowers.

Vegetables: Now is the time to plant seeds for beets, bok choy, celery, carrots, chard, collards, endive, kale, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley,

peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Transplants you can plant in November include asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, and lettuce.

When you plant any of the many varieties of leaf lettuce you can harvest outer leaves and the plant will continue to grow new leaves all winter long.



When visiting our nursery, check in on your smart phone or write a recommendation, show an associate and receive 5% off your plant purchase!
One use only. Some restrictions may apply.





As we start to cool down...

Even though it seems unlikely, we are starting to cool down. Our daytime temperatures are still fairly warm, the cooler night time temperatures are starting to dip a little bit, it's beginning to feel like fall. It will be cold before we know it, with that in mind, it is important to take extra precautions to protect the frost sensitive plants in your garden.

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 mid 30s 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?

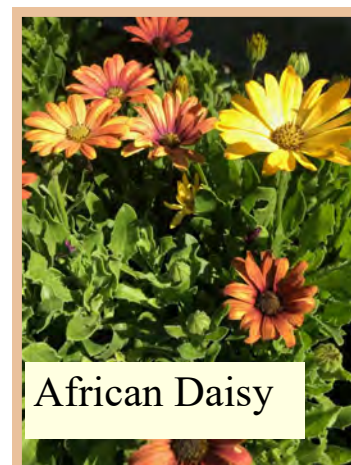
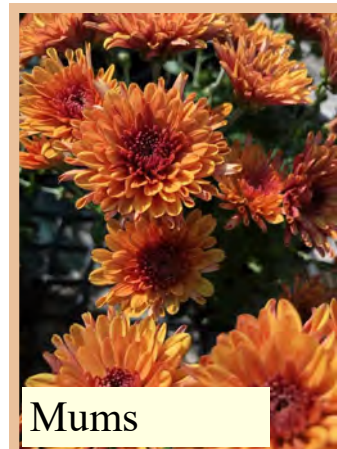
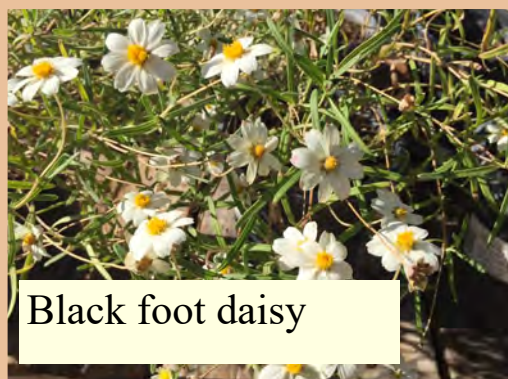
Most cacti are actually rather cold tolerant. The exception being any columnar cactus: Mexican fence post, totem pole, Curiosity cactus and etc.. How we cover them in the winter is stuffing newspaper at the bottom of empty one gallon or so buckets to act as insulation, then placing them on the top of 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: Thanksgiving Displays



Plant Profile: Dwarf Magnolia

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

Blooms: Very fragrant white

Exposure: Morning Sun afternoon shade/ full sun

Minimum Temperature: -10 Degrees F

Water: Moderate-High

Pruning: N/A

Growth Rate: Moderate

Fertilizer: Maxsea Acid 14-18-14



Plant profile: Regal Mist

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

Blooms: Pink

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 10 Degrees F

Water: Low-Moderate

Pruning: Spring Clean up

Growth Rate: Moderate

Fertilizer: N/A





Staff Picks: Pink-a-boo Camellia

Picked by: Megan M.

Camellias in the desert? Well, camellias are one of the very few plants that do well in shade and bloom for you during our winters.

They are evergreen, will take our colder winters, with minimum temperatures of -10 degrees Fahrenheit, and bloom throughout winter to early spring.

There are varieties that will grow taller and are great for background plants or tall accents along a wall and there are varieties that grow shorter, like groundcovers! All will do fine in a pot or in the ground, and some have a sweet, lovely fragrance.

As far as colors, they come in a large variety of reds, pinks, and whites. So when do you plant them? Now! Actually anytime is fine, but we are going to be receiving our annual shipment, now is the time for the best selection and you get to enjoy their colorful flowers this winter.

Camellias in the desert need shade. They perform best on the North or East sides of a house under a patio or where they get filtered sun. Here they do not want any direct sunlight.

Camellias need well draining soil, if going in a pot we recommend a Black Gold All Purpose potting soil. For planting in the ground, dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as the container the plant comes in. Then mix compost with the backfill soil at about a 50:50 ratio and water thoroughly.



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: Cilantro Pesto Pasta with Roasted Pumpkin and Honey

Recipe found from ambitiouskitchen.com written by Monique Volz

Ingredients:

Honey Roasted Pumpkin:

3-4 cups cubed pumpkin
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon honey
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
Freshly ground salt and pepper

Pesto:

1 heaping handful cilantro (about 1 small bunch cilantro)
2 cups spinach
1/2 cup roasted pistachios (unsalted is best)
2 tablespoons roasted pumpkin seeds
1 small clove garlic
2-3 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons water to thin pesto
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
1/4 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
Freshly ground black pepper

Pasta:

10 ounces cavatappi pasta (or pasta of choice)

Garnish:

1-2 tablespoons honey
Roasted pumpkin seeds
1/2 teaspoon red chili flakes
Freshly ground salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Place pumpkin cubes on the prepared pan. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with honey, chili powder, garlic powder, cayenne pepper, salt and pepper. Use tongs or clean hands to toss the pumpkin with the spices and honey so that it's evenly coated. Roast for 30-35 minutes or until pumpkin cubes are fork tender, flipping halfway through to ensure even cooking.
3. While the pumpkin is roasting, you can make the pesto: add the spinach, cilantro, pistachios, pumpkin seeds, garlic, olive oil, water, lime juice, salt and pepper to a food processor and process until smooth, scraping down the sides and processing again, as needed.
4. Next cook your pasta according to the directions on the package. When done, drain and add to a large bowl and stir in the pesto so that all the noodles are coated. Finally add in the roasted pumpkin. Drizzle with honey and garnish with roasted pumpkin seeds and red chili flakes. This recipe is great with grilled chicken or bacon tossed in! Serves 4 as a main dish or 6 as a side dish.





Holiday Hours



November 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | |
| 19 10-4 | 20 8-4 | 21 8-4 | 22 8-3 | 23 Closed | 24 9-3 | 25 8-4 |
| 26 10-4 | 27 8-4 | 28 8-4 | 29 8-4 | 30 8-4 | 1 8-4 | 2 8-4 |

December 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 3 10-4 | 4 8-4 | 5 8-4 | 6 8-4 | 7 8-4 | 8 8-4 | 9 8-4 |
| 10 10-4 | 11 8-4 | 12 8-4 | 13 8-4 | 14 8-4 | 15 8-4 | 16 8-4 |
| 17 10-4 | 18 8-4 | 19 8-4 | 20 8-4 | 21 8-4 | 22 8-4 | 23 8-12 |
| 24 Closed | 25 Closed | 26 10-2 | 27 9-3 | 28 9-3 | 29 9-3 | 30 9-3 |
| 31 10-12 | | | | | | |