

Merry Christmas!

I can't believe that it is already December. Here we are at the last newsletter of 2023. I think we will all be happy to ring in 2024!

It's time for: Christmas cactus, poinsettias, and Christmas Trees!

We have a large selection of beautiful gifts to get that special person in your life. If you are having trouble choosing we offer gift cards of any denomination!

We have a lot of pottery, art, wind chimes, hummingbird feeders, gloves, and much more!

To protect plants from frosty

nights, we have frost cloth in stock. In order to fully protect plants make sure the frost cloth is tucked under a pot or have

something to weigh it down otherwise a chilly wind can get underneath it. Uncover the following morning when the sun comes out to warm us all up. Holiday hours calendar posted on the very last page! Please reference before arriving, we have different

hours this year and will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

Wishing all a Merry Christmas!
And Happy New Year!



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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



December Garden Checklist

Grass: Over seeded rye grass should be established by now. Watering can be decreased to once every 5-7 days. More often if soil seems too dry. Sandy soils can dry out faster. You can now start fertilizing monthly.

Trees and Shrubs: Remember limes and lemons are frost tender, on freezing nights they should be protected for the night and uncovered during the day to enjoy the warmer air. Lemons and oranges should be ripe soon. You can start harvesting now, and leave fruit on the tree that you won't get to right away as the fruit can get sweeter when left on the tree longer. Trees are the best for storing fruit!

Living Christmas trees are here! They will make a wonderful tree for decorating then make an even better shade tree in the yard to plant afterwards!

Flowers: Annuals can still be planted for great winter color.

Poinsettias are here. Make sure to take the foil sleeve off to water so the water drains away rather than the plant sitting in the water. Plant wildflowers seeds for best chance of spring bloom.

Vegetables and Herbs: Now is still a good time for planting seeds for lettuce, carrots, radishes, beets, and turnips. It is better to plant sets for

broccoli, artichoke, cauliflower, onions, and shallots. As they take longer to germinate and grow.

Switch out basil for cilantro. Basil doesn't like the cold but loves the summer heat, where cilantro loves the winter cold but doesn't like the summer heat.

Fertilizing should now wait until Spring as we do not want to promote too much new growth during the cooler night time temperatures.

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.



Bare root Roses step by step

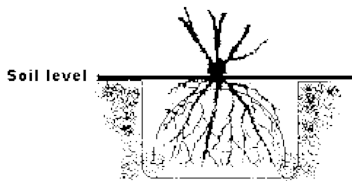
Every December we receive somewhere between 700-800 bare root roses this year we are getting 760! It is the most exciting time of year, at least for me. I love roses, I treat them as my babies every year. When we get them they are referred to as a "bare root rose". What makes them so special is they 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 1-2 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 spray the canes of the roses every hour to keep the moisture in the plant. Misting the canes will help your rose to leaf out faster.
5. We will release our roses to go home 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!

These will sell very fast this year! If you want a particular color or variety place your pre order mid January! Also be on the look out for our rose seminar coming back January 2024!

Color of the month: Red



Fairy Duster



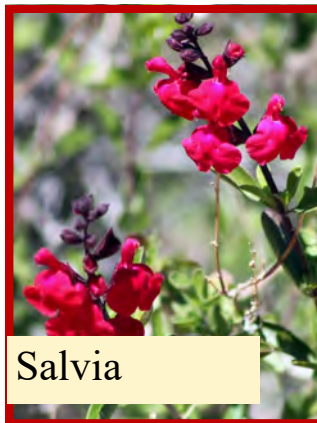
Bottlebrush



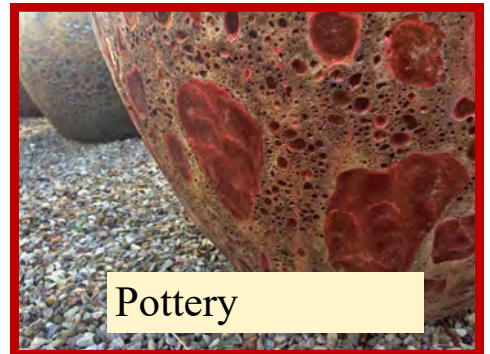
Pyracantha



Hummingbird Feeders



Salvia



Pottery



Nandina



Geraniums



Camellia

Plant Profile: Pyracantha

Size (H x W): 8-10'

Blooms: White in spring, red berries in winter

Exposure: Full Sun

Minimum Temperature: 0-10 Degrees F

Water: Moderate once established

Pruning: N/A

Growth Rate: Moderate

Fertilizer: Ferti-lome Tree and Shrub Food in spring



Plant Profile: Fairy Duster

Size (H x W): 4-6'

Blooms: Red

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 25-30 Degrees F

Water: Moderate

Pruning: N/A

Growth Rate: Moderate

Fertilizer: All Seasons Plant Food monthly. Skipping December and January.





Staff Picks: Blue Palo Verde

Picked by: Brian B.

Blue palo verde tree is easily distinguished by its blue-green bark and brilliant yellow flower display. It can grow to 25 feet tall with a 25 foot spread. Its tiny leaves will drop off in cold and extended periods of drought, however, due to its blue-green color, it looks evergreen from a distance.

Blue palo verde tree is naturally multi-trunked with a low hanging canopy. Known for its fantastic mid-spring flower display, it is native to Southern Arizona.

Blue palo verde tree should be planted in full or reflected sun and in soil with good drainage. This tree requires substantial pruning in the early stages to develop a “walk under” canopy



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 Cheesecake

I found this recipe because I love my Meyer lemon tree and I am always looking for new recipes. I found this recipe from a Le Cordon Bleu trained Chef in Rome. Fancy huh? Here are a few tricks to make the perfect cheesecake:

It's important that the cream cheese is at room temperature before creaming it, or you may have lumpy instead of creamy cheesecake. Cook the cheesecake in a water bath to help it bake more evenly and prevent cracking and browning on top.

Don't over bake the cheesecake, it should still jiggle slightly in the center when you remove it from the oven. The cake continues cooking even after it's removed and will set once it's cooled.

For the Crust:

1 3/4 cups graham crackers crumbs
3 tablespoons granulated sugar
7 tablespoons butter, melted

For the Cheesecake:

2 1/2 pounds Cream cheese, at room temp
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
3 tablespoons lemon zest (from about 4 lemons)
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1/3 cup heavy cream, at room temp
3 eggs, at room temp
2 egg yolks, at room temp
1/2 cup meyer lemon juice, at room temp
About 1 cup lightly sweetened whipped cream, optional for garnish
4-5 lemons slices, halved, optional for garnish
***If using regular lemons, reduce the zest to 2**

tablespoons and the lemon juice to 1/3 cup.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F and butter the bottom of a 10 inch spring form pan.

Mix together the graham crackers crumbs, sugar and melted butter. Press into the spring form pan, going up the side on 1/4 inch. Bake about 8 minutes, until lightly browned. Cool completely.

Decrease oven temperature to 325.



In a stand mixer, cream the cream cheese until smooth. Add the sugar and lemon zest and mix together. Add vanilla, cornstarch, and heavy cream and stir until combined. Add the eggs and yolks one at a time; mix each in before adding the next. Stir in the lemon juice. Pour the cheesecake filling into the spring form pan on top of the cooled crust.

Bake in the water bath for 60-70 minutes. The outer edges should be set and the center will still jiggle a little when you move it. (The cake continues cooking after it's removed from the oven).

Cool for 15 minutes, run a knife along the edge of the pan. You can remove the spring form sides or place in the fridge with the sides on. I left the sides on to keep it all in place to set. Cool cake completely then place into the refrigerator for at least 8 hours, overnight is best.



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						