

## Spring has sprung!

We are in full swing around the nursery here! Roses and citrus are blooming and flying out the door, our garden beds have been planted for spring/summer gardens. Veggies are thriving and loving the not too hot and not too cold weather and so are we! Come take a peek at our vegetable garden beds here to get some ideas on how to get yours going!

Are some of the native trees or plants that are flowering playing with your allergies? We have some of the raw local honey to help combat allergies!



We do offer delivery and planting of the plants we sell, if you like some of our larger shade or fruit trees but you are worried about how to plant. Just sit back and let us do the work for you! Our landscape crew led by our landscape foreman, Kenneth, get high compliments from our customers!

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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



## April Garden Checklist

As the weather warms up you'll want to begin increasing the amount of water. Plants will indicate when they need water by drooping, or wilting. Note the time interval; this will tell you just how many days your plants can go between watering. With warm weather, expect to see more aphids on vegetables, shrubs, and trees. The best control is natural predators such as ladybugs or praying mantids. If these are not available, there are several organic and chemical insecticides that we sell to do the job.

**Grass:** Begin Bermuda grass seeding when nighttime temperatures are consistently 65 degrees or higher. Covering with mulch keeps keep birds from eating the seed.

**Trees/Shrubs:** As the weather warms, adjust your irrigation timer to water more frequently. Deep, infrequent watering is much better than a daily sprinkle. Tree water use increases rapidly during this period of leafing out and gradually higher air temperatures.

If the normally upright leaves of agaves or yucca look wilted, the snout weevil may be the culprit. Apply a systemic insecticide in spring as a preventative measure.

**Flowers:** Allow your wildflowers to go to seed. They will produce a natural healthy feast for birds as well as reseeding themselves to come up again next year. Spring annuals can still be planted, we do still have gazanias, bacopa, alyssum, million bells, marigolds, and many

more! As well as summer annuals starting to arrive such as vinca, angelonia, zinnia, salvia and purslane.

**Vegetables:** It is time to redo your soil for spring/summer gardening. The garden at the nursery has been tilled already and Happy Frog has been added to it for a more organic base. Seeds you can plant now are: beans, cucumber, melons, okra, summer squash, and green beans. Next week (wk of 4/12) we will have the starts for: eggplant, melons, cucumber, squash, artichoke, tomatoes, peppers, and asparagus. For best germination on seeds keep the soil moist. Garden beds are going to need water daily and as we get warmer watering a couple times a day may be necessary.



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.

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# Get back in nature

Fall of 2019, my husband and I built a garden bed in our back yard. The idea behind this was to hopefully save on our produce bills. While the initial cost of the construction and soils to fill it were high, over time I believe this has saved us some money at the grocery store. I plant it twice a year so we can have fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables.

We built the garden bed at a size of 4' wide 8' long and 16" tall. We filled it with a base of just native dirt halfway, and the rest I mixed in Happy Frog Soil Conditioner and Happy Frog Potting Soil. I also added some worm castings, azomite and bone and blood meal for extra nutrients.

Twice a year when I remove the old seasons plants and before I plant for the next season I amend the soil and add more Happy Frog Soil, azomite and worm castings to replenish what was taken by the plants.

There are two very important factors into gardening here, soil and water. Starting with a rich soil gives the plants the nutrients they need to sustain production of fruits and vegetables. Water gives them the energy they need to withstand the production. My garden bed is on an irrigation system, I have watched it carefully to find out how often I need to water for my



yard. In the winter my system runs once a day and in the summer it runs up to 4 times a day. It only runs for about 7-10 minutes at a time, however, I do have several emitters that spray water out to cover the whole bed and give it a thorough drink until I can see the water coming out from the bottom of the bed.

My garden bed is in full sun. As long as you are planting the right crops at the right time of year they can handle our Tucson full sun. There is no need for shade cloths draped over the plants.

Every summer I am so over run with squash, I give it away by the bucket loads! I scaled back what I planted this year because we are taking a long vacation this summer and I don't want to come home to a jungle!



I planted have planted a salsa garden this year! Complete with a few different types of roasting and hot peppers and sauce tomatoes.



# Color of the month: Yellow



Palo Verde Bloom



Desert Marigold



Tombstone Rose



Brittlebush



Agave



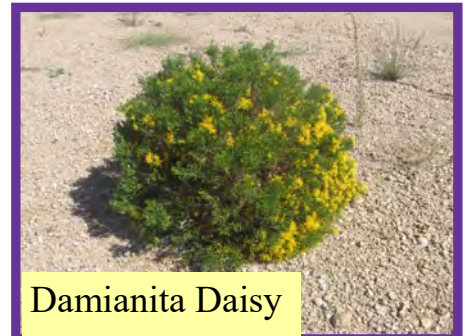
African Daisy



Roses



Gazania



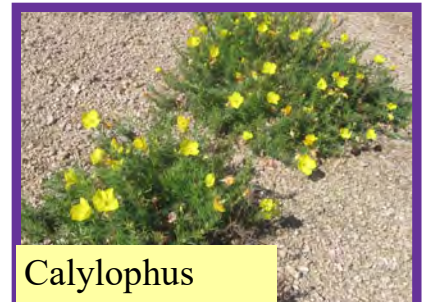
Damianita Daisy



Gopher Plant



Yellow Daisy



Calylophus



# Plant Profile: Desert Marigold

**Size (HxW):** 1'x1'

**Blooms:** Yellow

**Exposure:** Full sun

**Minimum Temperature:** -10 degrees F

**Water:** Moderate-Low

**Pruning:** N/A

**Growth:** Fast

**Fertilizer:** N/A



# Plant Profile: Gopher plant

**Size (HxW):** 2'-3' x 2'-3'

**Blooms:** Yellow

**Exposure:** Full sun

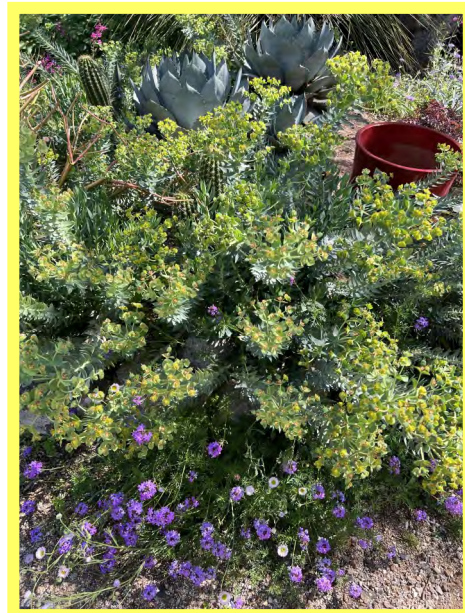
**Minimum Temperature:** -20 degrees F

**Water:** Low

**Pruning:** N/A, this is a plant that you do not want to prune. They contain a white milky sap that is a skin irritant.

**Growth:** Moderate

**Fertilizer:** N/A





## Staff Picks: Roses

Picked by: Olivia

Rose are one of the most well known and favorite plant in the world today. There are over 100 species of rose, cultivation of roses started in 500 BC. And resulted in the creation of over 13,000 varieties of roses.

Roses have a long and colorful history. They have been the symbol of love, sorrow, and beauty for many years. Roses were in such high demand in the 17th century that royalty considered roses or rose water legal tender and the were often used and bartered for payments.

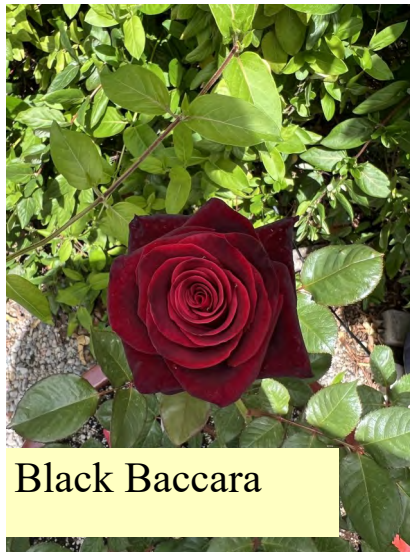
We have a large selection of roses in the middle section of our nursery now! Roses are one of my favorite plants. Their smell and color variety makes me want to plant one of each.



WWII Memorial



George Burns



Black Baccara

**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: Blackberry Cobbler

I am really hoping my new blackberry bush will produce enough for me to use this recipe! It came across on my Instagram from Camila Hurst of piesandtacos.com

## Ingredients:

### Blackberries:

- 1/2 tablespoon melted butter
- 4 cups fresh or frozen blackberries
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

### Biscuit topping:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup cold unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup cold buttermilk
- 1 egg (for egg wash)
- 3 tablespoons crystal sugar (option for topping)

## Directions:

### Blackberries:

1. Pre heat the oven to 350 degrees F
2. Grease a 2-quart baking dish, or an 8"x8" pan with melted butter.
3. Place the blackberries in a large bowl, add sugar, cornstarch, nutmeg and lemon juice to the bowl and stir to combine.
4. Pour the blackberry mixture into the baking dish and bake for 15 minutes stirring half-way. Remove and then set to the side.

### Biscuit topping:

1. Place all purpose flour, sugar, baking pow-

der, baking soda, and salt into a large mixing bowl. Mix to combine.

2. Add chopped cold butter to the bowl, using a fork or pastry blender to incorporate the butter into the dry ingredients, until you can't see any large pieces of butter, and you have coarse flour mixture.

3. Pour buttermilk into the bowl and stir with a spatula until a thick dough forms and all dry ingredients are incorporated. Drop spoonful's

of the dough onto the blackberry mixture, using your hands or spatula pat the dough down gently, until the blackberries are covered with the dough.

4. Whisk the egg and brush it on top of the dough. Sprinkle coarse sugar on top if desired. This will help give a crispy texture.

5. Bake cobbler for about 35 minutes or until the top is entirely golden brown and blackberries are bubbling on the sides.

6. Let cobbler cool for about 30 minutes so the blackberry mixture thickens and best to serve warm with vanilla ice-cream.

