

Happy Father's Day!

What do dads like to do in the summer? Grill! Well, at least mine does.

Why not plant him his very own barbecue 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 barbecuing. I have also planted squash, okra, onions, and watermelon to enjoy on a hot summer day.

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.

June is our hottest and driest month

here in the nursery, almost every issue I am seeing lately is from not enough water. Make sure you are keeping your plants just as hydrated as your self! I have my irrigation running slowly every day for a couple



hours to thoroughly soak the root system. My potted irrigation line is running 3 times a day. I don't fertilize in the hottest part of the summer, if plants are stressed adding fertilizer to them will stress them further. All they need right now is WATER!

Check out a special pollinator plant giveaway on page 3 from Monrovia!

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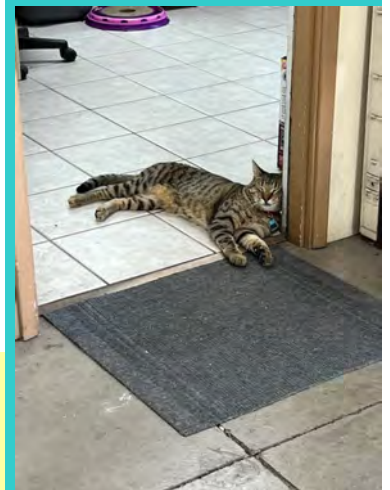
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Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



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!

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 plant purchase!

One use only. Some restrictions may apply.



“Bee a Winner” with pollinators

June is National Pollinators Month and Monrovia is wanting to celebrate with a giveaway of a pollinator plant! The idea is to introduce pollinator friendly plants into landscapes to help support our beautiful Earth!

Starting June 1st, 2024 one of our growers, Monrovia, is starting a giveaway campaign. Their idea behind the campaign is for everyone to plant more pollinators in gardens to attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other types of birds.

Entries will close June 16th at 12pm EST.

We will create a display right inside our front gate with a QR code that you can scan from your cell phone and click on the entry link.

The link can also be found online by visiting

<https://go.monrovia.com/bee-a-winner>

It is very important to try to create an environment that supports birds, bees and other pollinators because almost every single plant needs to be pollinated in some way.

Pollinators will play an extremely important role within our ecosystem and are an essential part to where our food comes from, and the gardens that we all enjoy.

This program is a fantastic way to encourage

more gardeners to plant more pollinator plants and plant the seed per say for all garden designs to incorporate some type of pollinator plant.

Plants for pollinators come in all different shapes and sizes, from cactus (yes even cactus are pollinator plants) all the way to fruit trees.

Cactus will provide night time blooms for nocturnal animals like bats and moths.

Fruit trees provide sweet nectar for bees and hummingbirds but even as far as the fig tree. Figs are a very unique plant because they are not technically a fruit, the part of a fig we eat is a flower, and all flowers need to be pollinated. So what

pollinates a fig? Wasps.

Don't wait and enter this great giveaway! Each garden center will have 10 winners! Be sure to enter for a free plant.



Theme of the month: Pollinators!



Plant Profile: Aloe sp.

Size (H x W): 2'x2'

Blooms: Orange/Yellow

Exposure: Morning sun afternoon shade

Minimum Temperature: 25* F

Water: Moderate-Low

Pruning: N/A

Growth: Slow

Fertilizer: N/A



Plant Profile: Pentas

Size (H x W): 2' x 2'

Blooms: Red, Pink and White

Exposure: Full Sun

Minimum Temperature: 40 degrees F

Water: High

Pruning: Dead heading as needed

Growth: Fast

Fertilizer: 16-16-16 Maxsea All Purpose water soluble fertilizer.





Staff Picks: Tuberosa Milkweed, Butterfly weed

Picked by: Brian B

Planting Milkweed is essential to creating a habitat for the beloved Monarch butterfly's survival, as they are the only plants on which Monarch caterpillars will feed. Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is considered one of the best varieties for an ornamental garden

The butterfly weed gets its name from providing the main food source for butterflies, specifically monarch's, who use the butterfly weed as a host plant during their caterpillar and butterfly stages. The monarch, however, is not the only pollinator that is attracted to butterfly weed. Butterflies of all kinds, as well as honey bees, bumble bees, and hummingbirds, are all frequent visitors of the butterfly weed. Butterfly

weed also attracts swallowtails, painted ladies, hairstreaks, and fritillaries.



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: Balsamic Green Bean Salad

In the summer months I like easy and cool recipes. The last thing I want to do is turn on my oven in the summer. I found this refreshing sounding recipe from Taste of Home.

Ingredients:

2lbs fresh green beans, trimmed and cut into 1 1/2 inch pieces
1/4 cup olive oil
3 tablespoons lemon juice
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon ground mustard
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 large red onion, chopped
4 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup crumbled feta cheese

Directions:

1. Place beans in a 6-qt stock pot; add water to cover and bring to a boil. Cook, covered for 8-10 minutes or until crisp tender. Drain and immediately place in ice water. Drain and pat dry.
2. In a small bowl, whisk oil, lemon juice, vinegar, salt, garlic powder, ground mustard and pepper. Drizzle over beans. Add onion and toss to coat. Refrigerate covered for at least 1 hour. Just before serving, stir in tomatoes and cheese.

