

Fall is coming..

Well August is here, I don't know about you, but I am ready for fall. The best time for planting here in the desert is fall. The winters are not as harsh on the plants as the summers are, so the plants have a good amount of time to get established and used to their growing conditions before summer hits.

We have had a crazy monsoon season so far, and it has kept the plants looking better, just don't forget to keep the irrigation running unless we get long soaking rains over a couple hours. We are coming into the best time of year to be planting if you have trees or plants to replace after this summer.

We do offer delivery and planting of any of the plants that we

sell if you are wanting a larger size and do not have the capabilities to transport it home!



**Fall is coming,.
Page 1**

**August Garden
Checklist
Page 2**

**Gardens for bees and
bats
Page 3**

**Theme of the month:
Pollinator Garden
Page 4**

**Plant profile: Cereus,
and blue palo verde
Page 5**

**Staff pick: Skyflower
duranta
Page 6**

**Recipe from the
garden: Jalapenos
poppers
Page 7**



Rillito Nursery & Garden Center

6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995

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



August Garden Checklist

Trees/ Shrubs: Keep trees and shrubs well watered giving them a deep soak every day to help keep salts from building up around the root ball. Applying mulch around the root ball will help keep roots cooler and slow down the evaporation process. When applying mulch do not build it up against the trunk as that could suffocate the tree and harm it.

Native and heat tolerant plants can still be planted just make sure to keep up on the watering schedule through the heat. They will need to be watered on a regular basis then decrease the frequency in fall.

Help protect newly planted trees from heavy winds and storms by staking.

It is still a good time to plant bougainvillea, tecomas, oleanders, acacias, cassias, mesquites and palo verdes.

Flowers: Water roses deeply twice daily when temperatures are over 100 degrees. Summer flowers such as: vinca, zinnias, angelonia, and pentas can still be planted. Dead heading a couple times a week will help to keep the flowers stimulated to re-bloom. Fertilizer will also help to keep them blooming abundantly.

Vegetables: Second round of tomatoes should start arriving towards the end of the month to have a chance for a small crop before winter. Corn can still be planted by seed. Melons will have another growth spurt, as they continue producing. Now is the time to also prep the

garden for fall and winter crops, by starting seeds for brassicas (cabbage, brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower), and peas.



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.



Gardens for bees and bats

While we all know bees are very important to pollination, it is less realized by many how important bats can be as well.

Bats pollinate flowers that open at night. These flowers usually are cream to purple, large and bowl or trumpet shaped, and have a strong fragrance. Plants that are pollinated by bats include saguaros, cereus, agaves, yuccas, bananas, and guavas.

While these plants can be pollinated by other creatures like moths, these plants have still developed a co-evolutionary dependence on each other. Bats are also excellent for reducing night flying insect populations, including many agricultural pests. Like bees bat populations are drastically declining across the US, so the next time you get bit by a mosquito, or look wondrously at the night blooming cereus remember the bat and plant accordingly.

Unlike bats, bees are seen regularly and have a strong support system to help keep their populations healthy. However, bees in the southwest United States are actually in good shape, not having population declines like elsewhere. This is thought to be caused by smaller scale farming practices that tend to use less pesticides. Still, many of us want to ensure pollination of our vegetables and fruit, so we look to include plants that will help draw in bees.

There are as many as 1000 species of bees in our region, most of which are solitary and either dig borrows or use existing holes in dead limbs. Like bats, many bees have evolved a codependent relationship with our diverse native plants but when thinking of inviting bees to your food garden, there are plants that work very well. Herbs, especially with multiple tiny flowers work excellently for this.



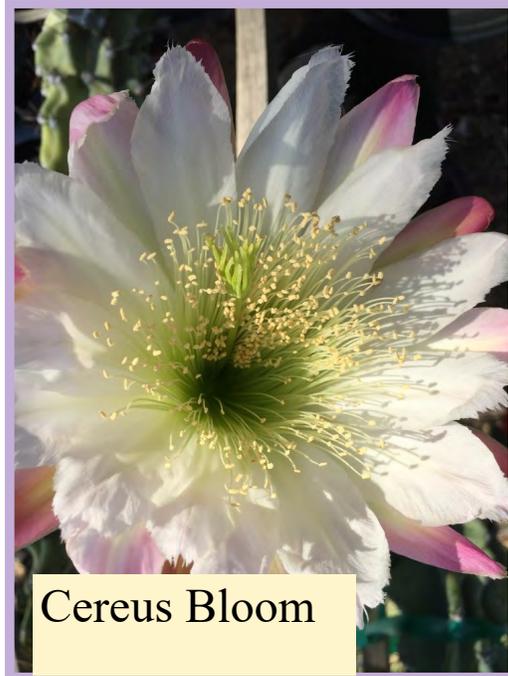
Things like thyme, mint, lavender, sage, rosemary, and basil. Some flowering perennials to include would be Russian sage, bee bush (aloesia), and the native Daleas. So consider leaving a few dead branches on a tree and let some herbs go to flower and you should

see more bees in your garden.

Bee and bat pollinator garden



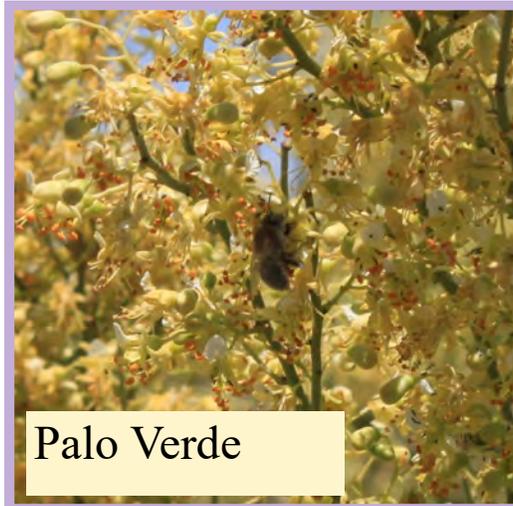
Agave



Cereus Bloom



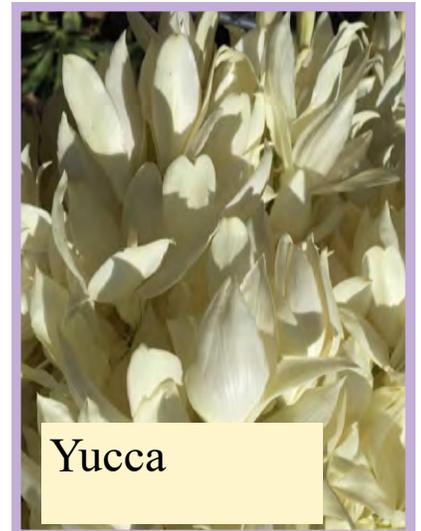
Mesquite



Palo Verde



Ocotillo



Yucca



Saguaro

Plant profile: Cereus

Size: (H x W) : 8'-15' depending on variety

Blooms: White-light pink

Exposure: Full Sun

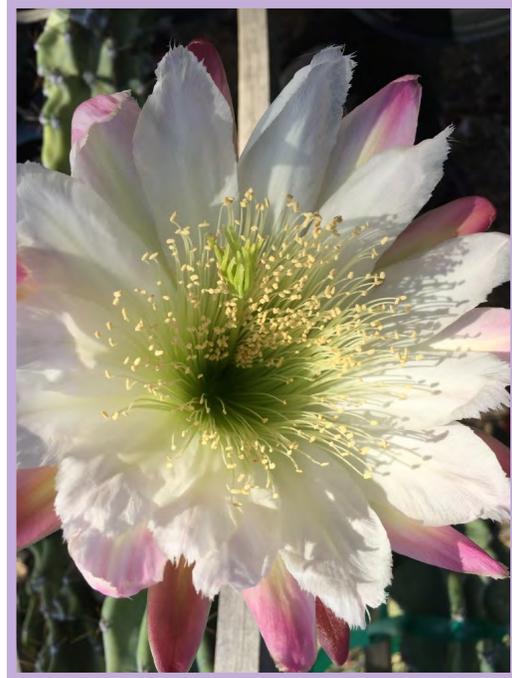
Minimum Temperature: Tips can get frost damage at 30 degrees or lower

Water: Moderate– low

Pruning: None

Growth Rate: Moderate– slow

Fertilizer: None



Plant Profile: Blue Palo Verde

Size: (H x W) : 25'x25'

Blooms: Yellow

Exposure: Full sun

Minimum Temperature: 20 degrees

Water: Moderate– low when established

Pruning: Thin annually

Growth Rate: Moderate—slow

Fertilizer: Ferti-lome tree and shrub fertilizer in spring and fall.





Staff Picks: Skyflower duranta

Picked by: Matt F

Duranta plant prefers a full sun location and moist but well-drained soil, but it will tolerate some shade, albeit with reduced flowering and a lankier growth habit. In our Tucson warm-winter it grows as a perennial, however, you will want to protect from hard freezes and give it annual pruning to keep the plant tidy and well-shaped.

Common characteristics of the *Duranta erecta* species are attractive evergreen foliage with rounded or oval leaves about 2 inches long; some varieties have gold or variegated leaves. It gives beautiful pale blue, white, or violet blossom clusters for the entire growing season and develops drooping clusters of yellow or orange berries in the fall. Birds eagerly eat the berries. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds visit the flowers for their nectar. However, the plant is toxic to other animals if ingested, take care when planting in an area frequented by dogs or other domestic animals.



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: Cheesy Bacon Jalapeno Poppers

I found this recipe from Missy Rakes of gracefullittlehoneybee.com.

Ingredients:

- 18 fresh medium sized jalapenos
- 1-8oz cream cheese package
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar
- 2 green onions sliced thin
- 18 halved slices of bacon
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp onion powder

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325. Wash peppers and remove ends
2. Wearing gloves, cut peppers in half lengthwise, remove seeds and white part in the middle of pepper.
3. In a medium bowl, mix together cream cheese, shredded cheese, green onion, garlic powder and onion powder.
4. Fill peppers with cheese mixture.
5. Wrap bacon around jalapeno (not too tight) and secure with toothpick if desired.
6. Cook for 1 hour.

