

Merry Christmas!

I can't believe that it is already December. Here we are at the last newsletter of 2024. I think we will all be happy to ring in 2025!

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 ref-

erence 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

Trees and Shrubs: Remember limes and lemons summer heat.

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

Fertilizing should now wait until Spring as you 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.



Find us on
Facebook

Bare root roses step by step

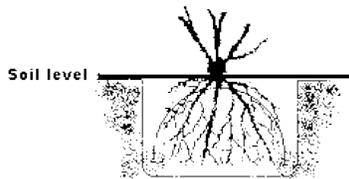
Every December we receive somewhere between 700-800 bare root roses this year we are getting 700! It is the most exciting time of year, at least for me. I love roses, I treat them as my babies every year. When we get them they are referred to as a "bare root rose". What makes them so special is they 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.

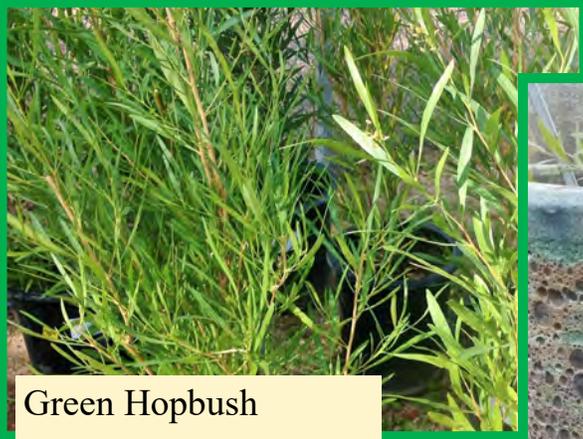
Pruning: Roses need HEAVY pruning in January.

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 January 2025!

Color of the month: Green



Green Hopbush



Jaws Agave



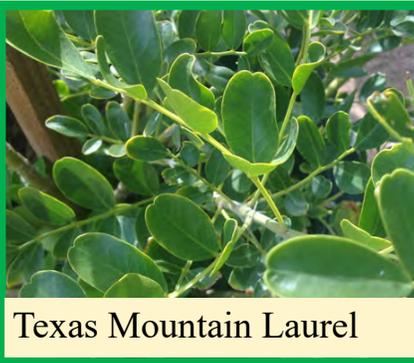
Pottery



Jojoba



Geranium



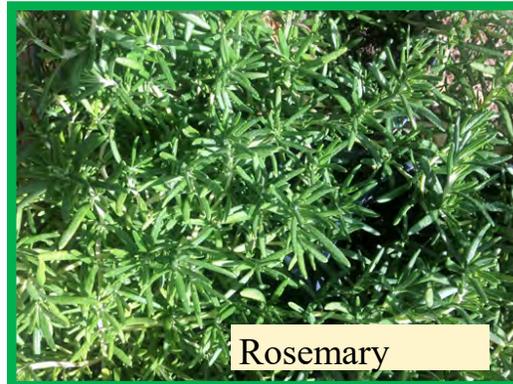
Texas Mountain Laurel



Sago Palm



Octopus Agave



Rosemary



Foxtail Fern

Plant Profile: Texas Mountain Laurel

This sculptural tree is a lovely addition to any home!

Size (H x W): 15-20 feet tall and wide

Blooms: Large purple clusters in spring, seed pods are poisonous

Minimum Temperature: 10 degrees F

Water: Moderate—Low

Pruning: N/A

Growth: Slow

Fertilizer: Fertilome Tree and Shrub food in the spring



Plant Profile: Rosemary

Even landscape rosemary can be used for culinary purposes!

Size (H x W): 3-6 feet x 3-4 feet

Blooms: Little blue flowers in spring

Minimum Temperature: 10 degrees F

Water: Moderate—Low

Pruning: Cleaning of dead wood in spring

Growth: Moderate to fast

Fertilizer: All purpose 20-20-20 monthly





Staff Picks: Turks Cap

Picked by: Brian B.

These blooms are frequently described to look like closed hibiscus blooms. They also resemble a “Turk’s cap” and that’s how the name was formed.

The Turk’s cap plant may be recognized by a few other names. Its scientific name is *Malva viscosa arborea*.

Other common names include the wax plant, red mallow, and Texas mallow.

Turk’s cap is a deciduous perennial plant that’s hardy in planting zones seven through ten. The plant is known for handling hot summers and colder winters as it can handle temperatures below freezing.

Expect Turk’s cap to grow as tall as seven feet and become as wide as five feet. It

can also grow in poor quality soil, periods of drought, or while handling periods of drenching rain.

The only growing condition you must consider is the amount of light the shrub gets. Turk’s cap can grow in full sunlight to full shade.

However, the more sunlight the plant receives, the more blooms it’ll produce. Should you desire many blooms from the plant, pick an area with full sun.

In return, Turk’s cap should bloom from May to November or until your area’s first frost. Each bloom lasts for approximately two days, but the plant produces an abundance. This is why many people grow the shrub as a way to draw pollinators to their yard.



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: Roasted pork tenderloin with kumquats and cranberries

This recipe is from my Nana, she makes it with her home grown kumquats!

Ingredients:

2 1-pound pork tenderloins
2 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary, divided
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 large shallots, chopped
3/4 cup diced dried apples
1/4 pound kumquats, quartered, seeded
1/2 cup fresh cranberries or frozen, thawed
1 1/2 cups low-salt chicken broth
1/2 cup dry white wine

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Sprinkle pork with 2 teaspoons rosemary, salt, and pepper. Heat oil in heavy large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork (cut to fit, if necessary) and sauté until brown, turning occasionally, about 10 minutes. Using tongs, transfer pork to plate. Add shallots to skillet and sauté until brown, about 4 minutes. Add apples, kumquats, and cranberries; stir until fruit mixture is heated through, about 1 minute. Add broth, wine, and remaining 1/2 teaspoon rosemary. Boil 1 minute. Return pork and any juices to skillet, turning to coat with

Place skillet in oven and roast pork until thermometer inserted into center registers 145°F to 150°F, about 25 minutes. Transfer pork to platter; let stand 10 minutes. If thicker sauce is desired, boil juices in skillet until reduced enough to coat spoon. Season sauce to taste with salt and pepper. Slice pork crosswise and spoon sauce over.



I hope you enjoy, this is always a family favorite!



Holiday Hours



November 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
18 8-4	19 8-4	20 8-4	21 8-4	22 8-4	23 8-4	24 10-4
25 8-4	26 8-4	27 8-3	28 Closed	29 9-3	30 8-4	1 10-4

December 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
2 8-4	3 8-4	4 8-4	5 8-4	6 8-4	7 8-4	8 10-4
9 8-4	10 8-4	11 8-4	12 8-4	13 8-4	14 8-4	15 10-4
16 8-4	17 8-4	18 8-4	19 8-4	20 8-4	21 8-4	22 10-4
23 8-12	24 Closed	25 Closed	26 10-2	27 10-2	28 10-2	29 10-2
30 9-1	31 9-1					