

## Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Christmas and spent time with family. As we begin our journey into 2026 and a new beginning, it's always nice to look back at our gardening accomplishments. Don't let setbacks hold you down. We are all glad to see 2025 in our rear view mirror, but I hope we all continue with hobbies and self care picked up. I am so happy to see so many new gardeners, and hear of their successes!



Our annual rose seminar is coming soon! It will be held January 17th at 10 am! We will also have a pruning demonstration to follow.

The pre sale of the roses will be open starting at the seminar. This means they will be ready to be purchased, tagged with your name on it, but they are not ready to go home until around Mid March. We ask that they stay under our care so they perform at their best for you in our garden!

Rose pictured: George Burns

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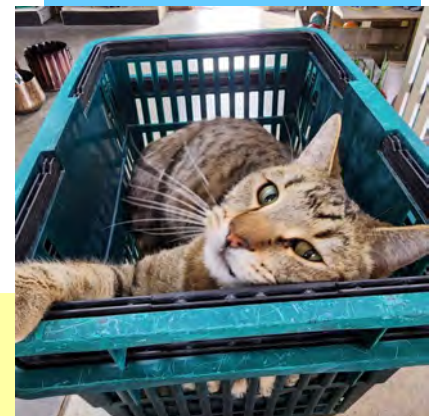
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**Rillito Nursery & Garden Center**  
6303 N La Cholla. Tucson AZ . 520-575-0995  
Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm ~ Sun 10am-4pm



## January Garden Checklist

When there is a frost forecasted, cover your frost tender plants with frost cloth ( No plastic unless there is a frame built around the plants). Plastic should not touch plants. Cover by 8p.m. and uncover the next morning by 10a.m.

**Trees and Shrubs:** Plant fruit and shade trees now, however it is best to wait to plant lemons and limes until March as they can freeze. Go ahead and plant any deciduous fruit trees or shrubs in pots or in the ground. Lightly prune any unwanted branches on deciduous vines or trees.

**Flowers:** Bedding plants can still be planted for the winter. Plant flowers in pots to help add some winter color on your patio or entry way. We have a beautiful selection of sun and shade loving flowers. Prune roses back for their annual sleep. Attend our rose seminar on January 20th to find out exactly how to cut back! For those who are unable to attend here is a brief description how to cut back: Cut canes back approx. by half, remove all dead canes or any weak canes. Strip off all leaves, then seal the fresh cuts with a wood glue to prevent a wood borer from hollowing out the canes. Fertilize after pruning for best spring blooms!

**Veggies:** It is still a great time for planting seeds for beets, bok choy, carrots, chard, collard greens, leeks, lettuce, mustard greens, green

onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, and spinach. It is best to plant transplants for: broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower. It is a little early to being the transition from winter beds to summer beds but it never hurts to start planning. Think of the Happy Frog potting soil and mulch when tilling your beds during late spring!



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.



# 4 easy steps to grow big, sweet onions

Our sweet onion bunches will arrive soon, here are some great tips to ensure you get the best sweet onions!

## 1. Prepare

When you first get the onions from a garden center they will be in a bunch like the picture to the right. While enclosed plants may appear dry, don't be alarmed; they are simply dormant. Don't worry if you can't plant them right away, spray the bundle down with water a couple times a day. They can last up to 3 weeks this way.



Onions require full sun and good soil drainage. the number one soil conditioner would be Happy Frog. This is a rich and very well draining soil you would mix 50/50 with the bed you will be planting your onions in.

The soil should be loose and crumbly, if compacted work in a little compost or conditioner to improve aeration and drainage.

## 2. Plant

Onions should be planted 4-6 weeks before the last estimated spring frost. Ours is usually March 15th so we are right on schedule.

For best growth and yield onions need fertilizer right from the start. Use a fertilizer with the middle number higher than the other 2. I used Miller's Rose & Flower food (5-8-5) this has chicken manure in it for a better nitrogen level.

If you want the onions to grow to maturity plant them 4" apart. If you prefer to harvest early as green onions plant them 2" apart and pull



every other onion during the growing season, leaving the rest to grow to maturity.

## 3. Water, Fertilize, and Weed

The better care your onions receive during the growing season, the more likely you'll have a bountiful harvest.

### Watering:

Water thoroughly after planting, and regularly afterwards. Onions have shallow roots, so don't let the soil at the base of the plants become dry and cracked. Overwatering is equally problematic. If leaves develop a yellow tinge, cut back on watering.

Closer to harvest time, the greater the need for water. However, when the onion tops start falling over, stop watering and let the soil dry out before harvesting.

### Fertilizing:

Continue using a fertilizer every 2-3 weeks until bulbing process begins. I will continue using the Miller's Rose food as the chicken manure will have the nitrogen that they require. The bulbing process begins as the grounds starts to crack as the onions push the soil away, stop fertilizing at this point.

### Weeding:

Controlling weeds is critical to prevent competition for nutrients.

## 4. Harvest

When the tops of the onions turn brown or yellow and fall over, it's time to harvest. Ideally, the plant will have about 13 leaves at this point.

These sweet onions are great on a grill!!

# Color of the month: Green



Hopbush



Foxtail Fern



Jojoba



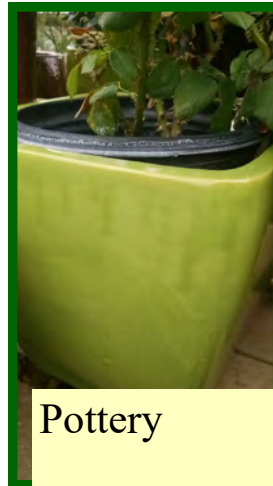
TX Mnt Laurel



Sago



Cassia



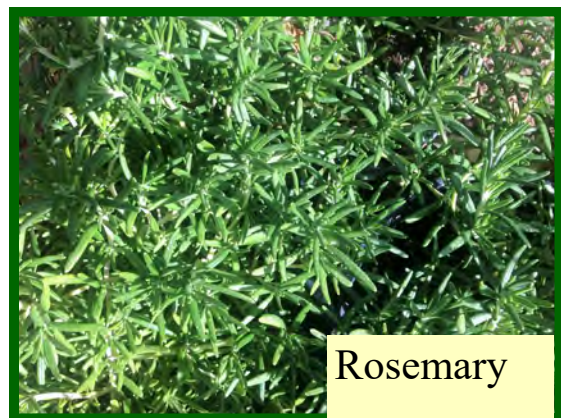
Pottery



Yucca



Octopus Agave



Rosemary

## Plant Profile: Foxtail Fern

**Size (H x W):** 2' - 3' x 2' - 3'

**Blooms:** Small white, red berries follow

**Exposure:** Morning sun afternoon shade

**Minimum Temperature:** 30 degrees F

**Water:** High

**Pruning:** N/A

**Growth:** Slow-moderate

**Fertilizer:** 16-16-16 All Purpose



## Plant profile: Texas Mountain Laurel

**Size (H x W):** 10' - 15'

**Blooms:** Purple Clusters

**Exposure:** Full Sun

**Minimum Temperature:** 0 Degrees F

**Water:** Moderate - Low

**Pruning:** N/A

**Growth:** SLOW

**Fertilizer:** 7-3-3 Organic





## Staff Picks: Azure bush germander

Picked by: Brian B

Add instant Mediterranean charm to your landscape with Azure Bush Germander.

This evergreen shrub features soft, silvery foliage that sets off a long season of vivid

blue flower that creates an irresistible draw for bees and other pollinators. Naturally drought-tolerant once established, it thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, making it a smart, low-maintenance choice for borders, hedges, and coastal gardens. A light prune after flowering keeps it neat and encourages fresh growth. Beautiful, resilient, and water-wise. Azure Bush Germander is a standout for sunny gardens.



**Common Name:** Azure Bush Germander

**Botanical Name:** *Teucrium fruticans*  
'Azureum'

**Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint family)

**Mature Size:** 3-4 feet tall and wide

**Hardiness Zones:** 7-10

**Bloom Time:** Late spring to early summer

**Light Requirements:** Full sun

**Water Requirements:** Low to moderate once established

**Soil:** Well-drained, slightly alkaline

**Native Range:** Mediterranean region

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: Lemon Poppy seed loaf

I have lemons coming out of my ears from all of my lemon trees. This is a great recipe to use some lemons with!

## Ingredients:

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1 cup plus 1 TBSP granulated sugar  
3 large eggs, at room temperature  
1 1/2 TBSP lemon zest  
2 TBSP lemon juice  
1 1/2 tsp vanilla  
1 1/2 cups plus 2 TBSP all purpose flour  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp baking soda  
1/4 tsp baking powder  
1 1/2 TBSP poppyseeds  
1/2 cup plain greek yogurt, room temperature

## Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Spray a 9 x 4 inch loaf pan with cooking spray and line with a piece of parchment paper that covers the bottom and extends past the short sides of the pan. You will use these as handles to pull the loaf out of the pan once it has cooled slightly

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Set aside

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy (about 3 minutes)  
Add the eggs one at a time and beat well after

each egg is added

Scrape down sides of bowl as needed

Add the lemon zest, lemon juice and vanilla.  
Mix until combined



With the mixer on low, add some of the flour mixture to the butter and sugar mixture and then alternate with the greek yogurt, ending with the flour mixture

Remove from mixer and stir in poppyseeds with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula

Mix until barely incorporated.  
Do not over mix  
Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 55-60 minutes until golden brown and toothpick in-

serted into center of cake comes out clean  
If cake is browned too quickly towards the end of the baking time, cover the top with a piece of aluminum foil

Remove from oven and cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes

Using the parchment paper handles, carefully lift the cake from the pan and set aside to cool on a wire rack