

# 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 barbeque 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 barbequing. 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!



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**Rillito Nursery & Garden Center**  
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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!

**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, portulaca, 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!

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# Hawaiian plumeria in Tucson!

I have begun propagating and growing our own plumeria for the nursery, rooted cuttings will be available in the next 3-4 weeks!

Plumerias are a very popular plant because of their sweet smelling colorful flowers and attractive form.

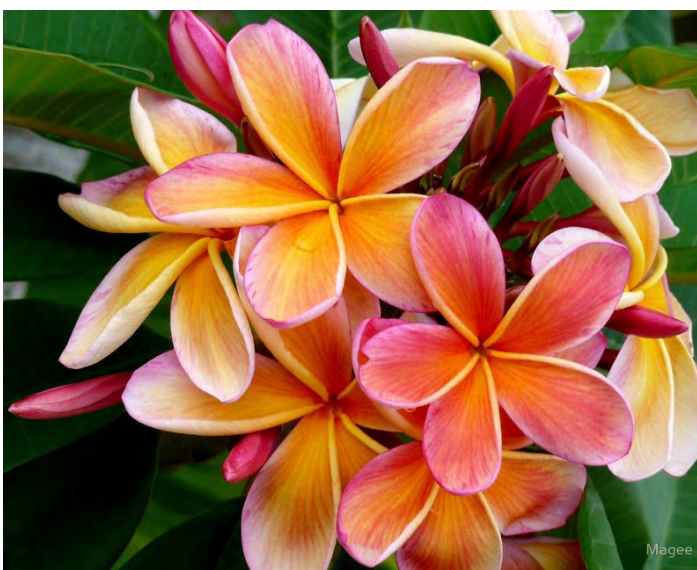
In Hawaii, the plumeria has become part of the culture and is used to make the lei necklaces used in celebrations. Although they are thought of as tropical, plumerias can handle a sub-tropical climate because they go dormant, shedding their leaves, when the weather gets cool.

They can tolerate temperatures down to freezing and possibly a little cooler for very short periods of time. Plumerias prefer being planted in a pot to allow it to be brought in and protected in freezing temperatures. Given a good microclimate, plumerias do very well in Tucson.

In spring and fall when the weather is nice put it in full sun. The more full sun it gets during nice months the more it will flower. Plumerias can take a couple of summers to start flowering. When moving the plant to a site to get more sun, the leaves will sunburn some. This is normal. Newer leaves emerging will be more adapted to the new light conditions. In the summer, when temperatures are over 90 degrees, keep your plumeria on a covered patio, on the east side or south side of your house. Place it near the edge of the patio so that it gets lots of indirect light, but is shielded from direct

sun overhead. In the middle of summer, an east facing patio will give the plant direct sun before noon, and a south facing patio puts the plant in the shade all day, because the sun is so high. If your plumeria continues to burn from the sun, not just during transition to a lighter spot, move it deeper into the patio to give it more shade. In mid summer, flowers will last longer in the shade as well.

Plumerias like to dry out between watering, number one way to kill a plumeria is by over watering. If planted in a large pot water when the soil is dry to the touch, how often can depend on your own yard. However, daily or every other day spray the leaves with water to help keep pests such as spider mites off. I am watering mine at home about every other day. They are in quite a bit of sun and tend to dry out faster.



I fertilize once a week starting when the plumerias wake up from dormancy in spring all the way through October. I use the Fame fertilizer (2-2-1). I have found this works much better on the plumerias than high numbered synthetic fertilizers.

# Theme of the month: Pollinators!



## Plant Profile: Milkweed

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

**Blooms:** Orange/Yellow/Red

**Exposure:** Morning sun afternoon shade

**Minimum Temperature:** 25\* F

**Water:** Moderate-High

**Pruning:** N/A

**Growth:** Fast

**Fertilizer:** All Purpose 16-15-16 every week in the growing season



## Plant Profile: Aloe spec.

**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





## Staff Picks: Hamelia Patens

Picked by: Cliff N

The *Hamelia patens*, also called Firebush, is a fast growing semi-evergreen in our Tucson climate. Exploding with blooms from late spring through late fall, makes the Firebush a favorite plant for hummingbirds and butterflies to feast from.

Red-orange blooms come off in clusters at the tops of the branches that will eventually turn into small black berries that birds tend to love.

The Firebush is easy to grow, low maintenance, and pest and disease resistant. Making it one of the nicest plants for all desert landscapes. The Firebush will require regular irrigation throughout the summer and frost protection.

Typically growing up to 4-6 feet tall and about as wide, in warmer climates it can get larger, however frost tends to keep overall size controlled.

Thrives in full sun and our variety of desert soils.



A great addition as a specimen plant, hedge plant, container and butterfly and bird gardens.

**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: Tomato and Cucumber Orzo salad

This recipe sounds perfect for all those gardens producing tomatoes and cucumbers like crazy! Recipe is from [sungrownkitchen.com](http://sungrownkitchen.com)

## Ingredients:

1 cup uncooked orzo pasta  
1 1/2 cups cherry tomato sliced in half (Or any tomato you prefer)  
1 cucumber chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)  
1/2 cup feta cheese crumbled  
1/8 cup red onion thinly sliced  
1/4 cup basil

## Dressing:

1 clove garlic minced  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
8 grinds fresh black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard  
3 tablespoons white wine vinegar  
3 tablespoons olive oil

## Directions:

1. Cook the orzo in boiling salted water, about 8 minutes. Drain and cool (either run under cold water before draining or set drained pasta in the fridge).
2. Add all ingredients for the dressing to a jar with a lid and shake well to emulsify.
3. Chop all ingredients. Add about half of each to a mixing bowl with orzo, including some dressing, and toss well. Toss in some chopped basil.
4. Transfer to a serving bowl, arranging the remaining ingredients and more dressing over top. Garnish with more chopped basil.

