



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 8

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How Quickly Seasons End!

It seems like the older we get the faster the seasons change. Weren't we just sitting in front of the fireplace and planning the spring planting season? Hopefully, all your beds are planted and you are beginning to see the "fruits of your labor" with your gardens beginning to produce. There is nothing like eating that first batch of new potatoes, squash, green beans & tomatoes freshly picked from your own back yard.

For those procrastinators who didn't quite finish all they needed to do this spring, you can still add a little more color to your garden & save money also. Come check out our end of season sale prices on all 6-pack annuals (33% off) and most hanging baskets (25% off). Also the hybrid tea rose bushes are on sale for 25% off the regular price.

Grower tips

With the warm season also comes all sorts of insects ready and eager to munch on all your new tender plants. Some insects are easy to detect, such as aphids and caterpillars. They can usually be controlled with any general purpose insecticide such as malathion or diazinon. For your vegetable garden use a spray labeled for food, such as sevin or rotenone.

Some insects are much harder to

detect. One of the most devastating insects to your plants is Spider Mites simply because they are so hard to detect until you have a major infestation. They live on the under side of leaves and are the size of red pepper. They suck the sap out of the leaves and give the leaves a "sandblasted" look. One way to find spider mites is to hold a white piece of paper under a leaf and lightly tap the leaf onto the paper. Examine the paper for tiny dots crawling around. If you have a really bad infestation you may see tiny spider webs on the leaves and stems of your plants also. Mites can be controlled early with insecticidal soap. Make your own by adding 1 tablespoon of epsom salt to a gallon of soapy water. For a really bad infestation you may need to purchase a miticide such as Kelthane. Spider Mites hatch every 5 to 7 days, so you will need to continue spraying once a week for several weeks.

What's in Season?

Tropical plants can really add lots of color to your garden. Hibiscus and Bougainvillea are very heat tolerant and will bloom in the brightest sunshine. Alamanda and Thunbergia are other lesser know plants that thrive as well. Cannas & Gingers can be planted now for all summer color.

For your shady spots try Bromeliads. Even when they are not in bloom, some have very colorful foliage.

To Do List:

I am sure by now you all have the water hoses handy. With our dryer than normal Spring you have already experienced the not so fun part of being a gardener. However, sometimes communing with nature and feeding your garden what it needs can be a relaxing experience. But, sometimes, if you are like me, you just can't fit it into your busy day. That's when soaker hoses and sprinklers come in handy. You should also consider purchasing small timers that fit on your faucets and control the amount of time the water stays on.

Something Extra

Hummingbirds are here to stay now for the Summer. You should keep your hummingbird feeders clean and replace the sugar solution every 3 or 4 days as the weather warms up to keep it fresh. If you can't seem to remember, plant flowers that will feed them for you. Salvias, sages, shrimp plants come in a large range of colors that the hummingbirds can't resist. Just make sure you have enough to go around as they are very territorial and will fight for what is theirs.

Contact us

Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Ph-385-4892 E-mail-
bettysbloomers@cyberscope.net

HAPPY GARDENING!