

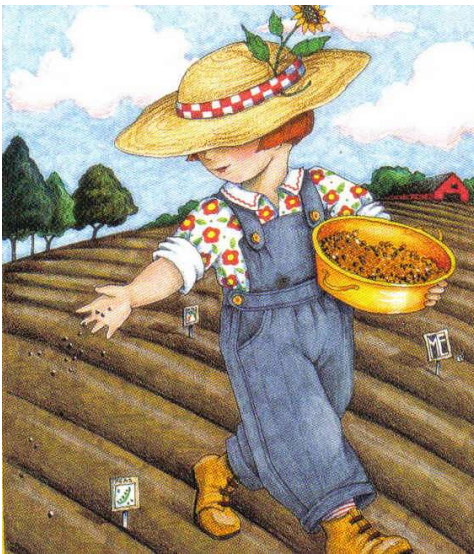
Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 16

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Happy Easter!

There is perhaps nothing better than Nature in the Spring time that reminds us of the true meaning of Easter. When we sow seeds in the ground, that seed dies in order for a new plant to grow, and the revival of a new cycle of life begins again. So, get outside and enjoy this season when you can.



What's in Season?

Warm season annuals and perennials are available in the nurseries now. Easy to grow Vinca, Marigolds, Cosmos, Portulaca and Zinnias will reward you with season long color with a little "TLC". Everyone knows to plant the perennials Mexican Heather, Verbena,

& Lantana for your sunny flower beds, but how about trying Coreopsis, Katie Ruellia, & Foxglove.

Also try adding height to your perennial beds by using Butterfly bush, Hamelia Patens (Firebush), Cat's Whiskers, & Lions Head.

For those of us who still have a little bit of shade, plant hardy ferns and Hosta. Add color with impatiens, begonias, caladiums, and coleus.

To Do List:

Prune Azaleas now after the last of their blooms are gone. For a more natural look, avoid pruning them into a formal hedge. Revitalize old azalea bushes by cutting the largest and oldest limbs to the ground. This allows new sprouts plenty of room to grow and they will replace the old limbs soon with lots of new growth. Place fresh mulch around the roots, because azalea roots are very shallow and very fine, so they dry out fast in a drought. A good way to fertilize is to use an Azalea Food specially formulated for Azaleas and other acid loving plants.

Gardeners have discovered how easy and versatile the new Sun-loving coleus is. These annual plants come in a rainbow of colors and work equally well as a spot of color in your shady or sunny flowerbeds or as a good color pot for your porch or deck.

Something Extra

Don't forget about our garden "friends" that make our outdoor experience so much nicer. Who doesn't like the sound of birds chirping and watching butterflies, bees and hummingbirds working in our flowerbeds and gardens. They also help us garden by eating unwanted insects and pollinating our fruit and vegetable plants.

Attracting and keeping these friends around is easy if you provide them with what they need: Food, water and habitat. Keep bird feeders filled with a variety of food, and provide bird baths or ponds with fresh water. Some birds like bird houses, but others prefer making their own in your trees and large bushes. To attract butterflies and hummingbirds, plant flowers that they prefer. Butterflies like flat flowers they can perch on, such as daisies, lantana, and verbena. Hummingbirds are attracted to red tubular flowers.

Frogs, toads, lizards, dragonflies, and snakes may not be as lovely, but they also help to keep unwanted critters away. Make a home for them with a broken clay pot turned upside down in a shady spot.

Contact us

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