



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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## Fall is the Second Season for Color

Most people think Spring is the best time of the year for flowering plants and vegetable gardens, but the shorter days, cooler nights and promise of rain that our fall season brings make it a great time for garden activity. Many perennials and annuals will reward you with a new show of color with a little bit of fast-acting liquid fertilizer and light pruning.

Also, think about the nutritional value of home grown greens such as Collards, Turnips, and Spinach. They can easily be grown from seed or transplants this time of year. Make sure you keep them well watered on warm sunny days.

## What's in Season?

Confederate Rose plants really make a show this time of year, with large pink or white blooms on large 8-12 foot bushes. They are members of the mallow family and are related to Hibiscus and Cotton. The Confederate Rose thrives in an open Sunny area with good drainage. Just give them plenty of growing room because in a few years they can spread 12 -15 ft. wide.

The Cassia plant is also a showy shrub that is easy to grow. They make clusters of bright yellow

sweet-pea type blooms on the tip of each branch. They may need to be planted next to a fence for support until they develop strong enough branches.

Try using large containers of Crotons and Chrysantemums for instant Fall Color on a partially sunny porch. We also grow several low-light Philodendrons that have bright orange leaves and stems for Fall decorating indoors.



## To Do List:

Divide daylilies, irises, and shasta daisies now and through the rest of the fall season. Plants that did not bloom well for you in the Spring may be too crowded and will benefit from giving them more growing room. You can be a good neighbor by sharing what you can't use. Spring bulbs such as Amaryllis, Daffodils, & Crinum can be divided now also.

Caladiums will soon be beginning to fade and lose their leaves. Dig them and store them for the winter and they will have much better chance

of survival for next Spring.

Caladiums are Tropical bulbs and will freeze with a cold Winter or they will rot if left in the ground in wet Winter. After digging the bulbs, remove any old leaves and wash off any remaining soil. Let them dry and then store them in a cool dark place away from freezing temperatures for the winter.

Plant herbs or vegetable plants in empty spaces in your flower beds this winter. Mixed varieties of lettuce, swiss chard, or kale will give you different colors and textures all winter and you can add them to salads or soups too. Curly parsley is very cold hardy and adds lacy foliage background for pansies and snapdragons

## Something Extra

Provide food for migrating Hummingbirds on their long journey to South America. Make sure you keep plenty of nectar in your feeders if you do not have their favorite flowers blooming in your yard.

## Contact us

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Happy Gardening!