



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 2

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Harvest Time!

Fruit Stands and Grocery Stores are stocked full of fall season fruits and vegetables. But they do not compare to fresh picked out of your own back yard. Try planting Citrus Trees in a sunny well drained area of your yard. Most need 8 to 12 feet of growing room and will grow 10 to 15 feet tall. Satsumas and kumquats are the hardiest for cold weather in our area, but with a little protection on cold winter nights, Lemons, Oranges, and Grapefruit also can be grown.

Citrus trees grown on dwarf root stock can be successfully grown in large containers or placed in a small yard with good results.

What's in Season?

Cool season annuals can be planted now for color during Winter months and early Spring. Pansies are the most popular type of bedding plants, but Dianthus, Snapdragons and Foxgloves are also worth trying. Adding compost to flower beds before replanting replenishes nutrients used up by Spring and Summer annuals. To prevent transplant shock, water the bedding plants with a liquid fertilizer after planting. Blood Meal added to the soil helps deliver Nitrogen in a slow release form feeding the pansies all season without burning them.

Daffodil & Narcissus bulbs can be planted now for early Spring blooms. But, because we often do not have enough cold weather for Tulip and Hyacinth bulbs to perform well, they will need to be prechilled in the refrigerator for 6 weeks before planting. Place newly purchased bulbs in the vegetable crisper in a paper bag until you are ready to plant. Place a layer of chicken wire or mesh over the newly planted bulbs to discourage Squirrels from digging them up and eating them.

To Do List:

Gather seed from annual vines such as Cypress Vine, Coral Vine, Morning Glory Vine, or Perennial Sweet Pea Vine for replanting next year. Most of these seed will reseed without any help from us, but not always in the right places. Cypress vines are very pretty unless they are tangled up in your Azalea bushes!

Zinnias, Marigolds, Vinca, and Purslane make seed that can be gathered for next Spring. Make sure the seed pods are mature by letting them turn brown on the plant. Pick them & let them air-dry. Store in an airtight container or zip-lock bag in the refrigerator until ready to plant. Make sure you label them with the name and the year.

Planting shrubs and trees now and throughout the winter months allows

their roots to become well developed before Spring and Summer growth. Planting now means you will not have to water plants as much next Summer during dry weather because their root system will be well established and they will be feeding themselves.

Something Extra

Spring & Summer flowering vines are not looking their best now, but instead of pulling them up by their roots and throwing them away, cut them back partially and sow Sweet Pea seeds under them. As the new vines grow they will use the old vines as a ready made trellis and will help guide them up your fence or trellis. Be sure to add new soil or compost for the seeds to germinate in. The Sweet Peas will grow all Winter and bloom late Winter and Early Spring and will be fading out late Spring when your Summer Annual vines are just getting started.

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!