



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

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Fall is Here!...

If you get outside early in the morning or late in the evening you can feel the air a little bit cooler and not quite so humid. It still warms up in the middle of the day, too warm to plant cool weather annuals yet, but we can at least plan for better weather soon



What's in Season

The ground has not cooled enough for traditional fall plants such as pansies, snap-dragons, ornamental cabbage and kale (they do best when the ground is 70 degrees or lower), but you can get the look of fall with some other plants that are more tolerant of temperature extremes. Hardy perennials that bloom with the golds, oranges and reds of fall include Copper Canyon Daisy, Firebush, Red Spike, Salvia, Sage, and Dwarf Pomegranates. Tropicals can also be added to Fall displays temporarily before cold weather arrives. Crotons, Bromeliads, colorful leaf Philodendrons, coleus

and copper plants are some good choices.

Citrus Trees are available now at many garden centers and nurseries. Many of the Orange, Grapefruit, and Lemon trees are grafted to root stock of hardy, vigorous plants that will grow faster and be more cold tolerant for our area. However, not all root stock is the same. For instance, fruit trees grafted on sour orange root stock is great for the climate in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas, however, plants grown on trifoliolate root stock are more cold hardy for our area. Make sure you purchase your trees from a reputable nursery person that knows the difference.

Fall vegetable plants are available now. Cabbage, Broccoli, Collards Onions and others can be planted now and will last through the winter. Parsley, Chives and Rosemary will usually tolerate our Winter. Other herbs can be grown indoors in a sunny window during the winter.

To Do List:

Divide daylilies, irises, hosta, and shasta daisies clumps now and through the rest of the fall season. Plants that did not bloom well for you in the Spring Season may be too crowded and will benefit from giving them more growing room. Spring bulbs such as Amaryllis, daffodils, and Crinum lilies can be

divided now also. Bulbs can get buried too deep by adding too much mulch and new potting soil on a regular basis. They will reward you later if you replant in new rich soil.

Caladiums will soon be fading 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 may rot if left in the ground in a 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.

Something Extra

Continue to fill Hummingbird feeders for the rest of this month for migrating birds. Then, clean and put away until next Spring. I recently read about pouring uncooked rice into your empty feeders and swirling it around to remove algae that has been growing inside. I haven't tried that yet but it sounds like a good idea.

Contact us

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Happy Gardening!