



# Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 35

February 15, 2008

## We're Getting Ready for a Great Spring Season!

Warm, sunny days make new seedlings and rooted cuttings begin to grow and bloom; Trees and shrubs with buds swelling and bursting into bloom sure make us think Spring is just around the corner. However, it probably does not mean that all our cold weather is over just yet.

## What's in Season

For anxious gardeners who just can't wait, cool weather bedding plants can be planted now. Petunias, Dianthus, Snapdragons, and Calendulas can withstand a light cold snap with out much damage but will bloom for several months more.

Shrubs or Trees benefit from being planted early in the Spring. The roots become established before the hot dry weather of Summer stresses them.



We have just received a new shipment of rose bushes, with many

different colors and varieties to choose from. So, come see us while we have a good selection. Planting rose bushes while they are still dormant gives them a head start, and they will reward you with blooms practically year round.

Potatoes and onion sets can be planted now when the ground is dry enough to till your garden. Sugar snap peas and cool weather vegetables can still be planted. However, I have found that planting cabbage and broccoli attract too many caterpillars and bugs to the garden, and it is better to save those crops until fall.

## To Do List:

If you haven't already done so, prune dead or damaged limbs from trees and shrubs. Generally if an ornamental tree or shrub is planted in the correct location, it will need very little pruning. So, make sure before you plant you have enough space for the mature height and width of your plant.

Most rose growers recommend pruning rose bushes on Valentine's Day and Labor Day. Hybrid Tea and Grandiflora Roses need to be pruned back by half of last years growth. Remove all of the small branches leaving several main canes preferably in a vase shape. Shrub Roses can be pruned into a bush shape, removing dead or damaged

branches.

Now is the time to prepare the soil in the garden and flower beds. Tilling and digging is not as much fun as planting but we all know how much better and faster plants grow in good soil, so, go to those compost piles or get those bags of potting mix and start tilling.

## Something Extra

Everybody wants to try the newest and best new plants on the market. I am also guilty of looking at the "new items" page in the seed catalogs, and sometimes a new color or different size is a good thing. However, we must not forget about the old tried and true plants that have always been around. You can't beat a Purple Formosa Azalea for always putting on a show in the spring. Or old garden roses that will bloom with no care at all. The same Verbena or Lantana that our Grandmothers grew still grows and blooms without fail. So, try a little bit of the old with the new when you plan your garden this year.

## Contact us

Betty's Bloomers Nursery

6776 FM 418, Silsbee, Tx 77656

Phone- 409-385-4892

E-Mail

[bettysbloomers@sysmatrix.net](mailto:bettysbloomers@sysmatrix.net)

Happy Gardening!