

THINGS TO DO LIST AUGUST 2017

PRUNING – Roses can be cut back. Prune anything that will cause damaged in high winds. Poinsettias should get their last trim this month. Bougainvilleas should have ONLY the awkward or unwanted growth trimmed now because; the showiest blooms grow in the winter. Pinch back and remove spent blooms to improve appearance and stop seed production. Remove diseased leaves. Cut and throw away all curled leaves. Shape up hedges and plants now so they look good for the Holidays. Replace all plants that aren't doing well after years of pampering.

PROPAGATION - Air layering should be done now before the slow growing winter season. Take out old coleus and throw them away, root the tip cuttings. If they had nematode damage on the roots, do not plant new plants there. Plant them in pots and move them around. Prepare your soil for veg. planting. Solarize; cover the soil with black plastic to kill weed seeds. Leave in place till next month. To start seeds, use unfertilized soil or seed starter.

INSECTS – Co-exist unless damage gets to unacceptable levels. For indoor insects spray a chemical barrier around your homes foundation. Snails can be controlled by the use of Sluggo Snail Bait. ANTS-Raid ant bait trays. Try rubbing and washing off insects with a hard spray of water. To prevent spray burn in hot weather, do not use oils.

PLANTING – See, EDIS, Florida Vegetable Gardening. These bulbs can be planted now, spider lily, walking iris, crinum, canna, caladium, Easter and day lilies. Bedding plants to plant are vinca, coleus, salvia, zinnia, gazania, celosia, marigold, torenia, gaillardia, verbena, sunflower, pinta and caladium. Fruit trees should be planted this month to have a head start on the winter weather. Ferns make great ground covers, weeds do not like to grow under them. Fishtail is my favorite. Purchase a blooming plant every month and your garden will be in bloom year-round.

FRUITING – The trees in season now include avocado, carambola, mango, fig, muscadine grape, guava, jaboticaba, longan, monstera, papaya, passion fruit, sapodilla, sugar apple, atemoya, jackfruit, banana, velvet apple, Barbados cherry, egg fruit, lemon, mamey sapote, miracle fruit, natal plum, pineapple, rose apple, and sea grape.

MULCH – Use mulch to suppress weeds and keep the soil at an even temperature. It should not come into contact with the plant stems. A high moisture environment created by mulch increases the chances of stem rot, which can result in plant death. Organic matter added to the soil minimizes erosion and improves the nutrients. Cuttings of the plants and trees should be left underneath them, as mulch. This puts some of their nutrients back into the soil that they used while they were growing. Pine bark mulch works the best for me. It doesn't break down fast. Melaleuca mulch has chemicals that inhibit seed germination; eucalyptus mulch repels any insects including termites.

FERTILIZE – Use time-released fertilize, while it's hot. Feed palms and landscape plants that show nutritional deficiencies. Use Lesco palm fertilizer. Don't look for the cheapest fertilizer; you get what you pay for. Use Epsom salts for yellowing of the fronds. Coffee grounds can be used as fertilizer and to increase the acidity in soil. Leaving mowed grass clippings on the lawn is equivalent to one fertilizer application per year. Grass clippings do not result in thatch build-up. Thatch is a stem and root over growth caused by over-fertilization and over-watering.

BLOOMING – Bougainvillea, alamanda, mussaenda, water lilies, African tulip tree, heliconias, ginger, royal poinciana, geiger tree, plumbago, ixora, hibiscus, rose, penta, periwinkle, orchids, portulaca, purslane, Mexican bluebell (ruellia), shrimp plant and desert rose, are just a few.

COLOR LIST - PURPLE – Torenia, Lantana, Vinca, Verbena, Salvia, New Guinea impatiens, Setcreasea.

BLUE – Plumbago, Ageratum, Scaevola, Pentas, Blue daze, Agapanthus.

RED – Geranium, Impatiens, Petunia, Salvia, Ixora, Hibiscus, Crown-of-thorn, Kalanchoe, Passion flower, Vinca.

ORANGE – Impatien, Geranium, Petunia, Clivia, Day lily, Azalea, Marigolds, Gazania.

YELLOW – Lantana, Marigold, Melanpodium, Golden globe, Day lily, Calendula, Purslane, Allamanada.

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