

THINGS TO DO LIST AUGUST 2019

PRUNING –Prune anything that will cause damage to your house in high winds. Poinsettias should get their last trim this month. For more flowers, remove spent blooms to improve plant appearance and stop seed production. Cut and throw away all diseased leaves. Shape up hedges and plants now so they look good for the holidays. Prune back roses. 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. Pull out old coleus and flowering plants and take cuttings 6 inches long. Root them in a clear water glass on an east or west windowsill until the roots are over 1 inch long. Do not keep leaves in the water, the stems will rot. Change water if it gets cloudy. There is a rotten one in the bunch. Transplant 5 or 6 cuttings in a 4 inch pot in soilless mix until the roots grow out the bottom. Transplant several of these plants into a larger pot and place them around the garden. Slowly move them from shade to partial sun, so they don't burn. To reduce the population of nematodes in the soil, solarize. Add compost and manure then cover with clear plastic for 6 weeks or more. If a potted plant has to be watered everyday put a saucer at the bottom and move it into more shade. Increasing the pot size by 2 inches will help also. Use Miracle-gro soil. Plants take oxygen out of the soil so don't keep them wet all the time.

INSECTS – Co-exist unless damage gets to unacceptable levels. For indoor insects spray a chemical barrier around your home's foundation. SNAILS – Use Sluggo Snail Bait. ANTS – Place powder bait outside and Raid ant bait trays inside, put the date on them and replace every three months. Try spraying rubbing alcohol 71% on bugs or washing off insects with a hard spray of water. Oil base sprays will burn plants in the heat of summer.

PLANTING – See EDIS Florida Vegetable Gardening. The following bulbs can be planted now: spider lily, walking iris, crinum, canna, caladium, Easter and day lilies. Bedding plants to plant are wax begonias, vinca, coleus, salvia, zinnia, gazania, celosia, marigold, torenia, gaillardia, verbena, sunflower, and penta. Fruit trees should be planted to have a head start on rooting before the cooler weather. The fishtail fern is one of my favorite groundcovers because the weeds don't grow under them. 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. High moisture created by mulch increases the chances of stem rot, which can result in plant death. 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. I am waiting until the rains hold off more before I replace my small pine bark mulch.

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, Purple Queen. BLUE – Plumbago, Ageratum, Scaevola, Pentas, Blue daze, Agapanthus. RED – Wax begonia, Geranium, Impatiens, Petunia, Salvia, Ixora, Hibiscus, Crown-of-thorn, Kalanchoe, Passion flower, Vinca. ORANGE – Impatiens, Geranium, Petunia, Clivia, Day lily, Azalea, Marigolds, Gazania. YELLOW – Buttercup, Lantana, Marigold, Melanpodium, Golden globe, Day lily, Calendula, Purslane, Alamanda. WHITE – Vinca, Buttercup, Pinta, Begonia, gardenia, hibiscus, ixora, crinum, spider lily, frangipani, jasmine, candle stick, mussaenda.

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