

July To-Do-List for Cameron County Yards and Gardens

Time to plant:

Flowers: night and day purslane, moss rose, vinca, Ice plant, Joseph's coat, salvia, Mexican heather, ruellia, gerbera daisy, dusty miller, gazania, coreopsis, caladium, coleus, celosia.

Trees: Plant container grown trees only! But if must buy trees with root balls wrapped in burlap, make sure the tree is green and healthy.

Natives: Mountain Laurel, guayacan, guajillo, live oak, anacua, Rio Grande ash, mesquite, retama, wild olive, black willow.

Non-native: Cottonwood, crepe myrtle, weeping willow.

Shrubs: Natives manzanita (barbados cherry), lantana, hachinal, coral bean, yucca, butterfly bush (buddleia), wild petunia (ruellia), chilipiquin, dwarf-youpon holly.

Non-native bougainvillea, plumbago, hibiscus, butterfly weed, cape honeysuckle, pittosporum, ligustrum sage.

Note: most of these shrubs, especially the native shrubs, attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden.

Vegetables: Cauliflower, cucumber, eggplant, okra, peppers, pumpkin.

Herbs: Thyme, rosemary, rue, anise, borage, basil, bay, garlic, parsely, Mexican mint marigold (tarragon).

Remember:

-When planting trees, shrubs, flowers and herbs use mulch around the base of the plant to conserve moisture.

-Water recently planted materials once or twice a week and water deeply.

-Watch for grub worms in your lawns and gardens Use a granular insecticide, like Dursban, or Diazion.

-Keep all flower beds and vegetable garden areas free of weeds so they don't compete with your plants for moisture and nutrients.

-Add 1 inch of organic matter to your gardens and beds, work it in.

-Regularly check for whitefly and aphids, control with soapy water spray. Be sure to spray under the leaves.

(Information source: Successful Gardening in the Magic Valley of Texas, Dist. VI, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Native Trees- and Native Shrubs-of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas Landscape Uses and Identification, Native Plant Project, PO Box 1433, Edinburg, TX)