

QUALITY POTTERY

August Planting Tips

- Feed established roses with Flower and Vegetable Food or Magnum Rose Food (for potted roses) at half strength. Add Epsom salts at half strength. Continue to deep water every day. Keep faded blooms pruned. Selective pruning of unwanted or dead branches is o.k.
- Continue to plant summer annuals, especially for instant color and for containers. Popular varieties include celosia, cosmos, lisianthus, periwinkle, salvia, and zinnias.
- Prepare vegetable gardens for the fall planting season. Even though we are between seasons, August is a great time to beef up your garden with mulch or compost and soil sulphur. You can sow sweet corn again. Set out tomato, pepper plants mid-month. Direct seed cucumbers and bush beans late in the month. Set out transplants of broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower.
- Feed established citrus with Citrus Food.
- Continue to water established trees and shrubs about once a week. Water slowly and deeply, allowing water to penetrate to the entire root system of your plants.
- Be on the lookout for wasteful water use. Check for irrigation leaks and avoid watering when not necessary, and other wasteful water use practices. Water is one of our most precious resources.
- This is a great month for planting palms, which thrive in our hot climate.
- Grubs are often present in the garden at this time of year. They will appear as large, fat worms if you go digging down into the soil. If you have a plant that is suddenly dying without any apparent explanation, grubs could be the culprit. You can treat for grubs with the insecticide. For non-edible ornamental plants, you may consider using a systemic such as Long Grub Control.
- Summer rains will bring another crop of weeds. Spray with an appropriate weed killer.