

POTTERY FIESTA

JULY'S 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. Keep faded blooms pruned. Remember that roses need ample irrigation. Remember to deep water every day throughout the hot summer months.

Plant summer annuals such as angelonia, calibrachoa, celosia, lisianthus, periwinkle, and pentas. For shady spots, try planting begonias, impatiens, pink splash, or coleus.

There is still time to plant summer vegetables such as cucumbers, melons, and squash. Plant peppers now for a fall crop. You can hand pollinate squash and melon flowers in the early morning or increase pollinator habitat and they'll do the work for you. Start tomatoes, peppers, eggplants inside. If you want, some folks now prune their tomato plants by 2/3. Most herbs can be planted now, but avoid planting cilantro and parsley, which will bolt in the heat.

Adequate irrigation is extremely important during the hot summer months. The key to proper irrigation is the slow deep soaking of the entire root area of the tree or shrub. Most established trees and shrubs will need weekly irrigation.

The onset of monsoonal rains will bring more weeds. Consider using a pre-emergent to prevent weeds before they appear. If you are already seeing signs of weeds, spray with an appropriate weed killer, while weeds are still small. With the monsoon rains you can plant tepary beans, devil's claw, and corn.

Watch for cochineal scale on prickly pear cactus, which will appear as fluffy white blobs. Try spraying the affected cacti with hard blasts of water. If this is unsuccessful, treat with insecticide.

Palo Verde beetles emerge from the ground, creating holes around Palo Verde trees. Treat with Systemic Insecticide or granules.