



Rainbow Bridge Nursery

MARCH 2018 | NEWSLETTER

Hello friends, customers and neighbors,

Spring is just around the corner and the weather has warmed up nicely. It is now time to start planning your gardening and yard projects.

- ⇒ If you haven't already done it, this is the time to trim and prune your shrubs. If they were affected by the cold weather, cut the damaged portions off down to where the plants show signs of life and are still green.
- ⇒ Fertilize your plants and lawn now, using a well balanced fertilizer on both. A good fertilizer for your plants would be one such as a 14-14-14 time release fertilizer and for your lawn a 6-6-6 standard fertilizer.
- ⇒ It is now time to plant your vegetable, tomato and pepper plants. Various flower seeds can also be planted at this time. You can sow them directly into prepared beds or plant them in seed trays until they are large enough to transplant into the garden.
- ⇒ Indoor plants should be taken outside and given a good cleaning if they are not too large to be moved. Be sure to keep them away from direct sunlight as the hot sun could burn and damage your plants.



We should be having our first annual **'FREE PLANT GIVE-A-WAY'** sometime in the next few weeks. We will offer it to all our friends on our email list FIRST. Please watch for our email informing you of the time and dates. The plants offered will be totally FREE and there is no requirement to purchase anything. If you would like to inform your family, friends and neighbors, they can also take advantage of the **'FREE PLANT GIVE-A-WAY'**, but they must be either accompanied by you or register on our website (www.adeniumplumeriaplants.com) in order to receive our monthly newsletters and take advantage of our **Plant Give-A-Ways**. The week following our FREE plant promotion, we will offer the FREE plants we have left to the general public.

If you have any questions regarding your gardening needs, please feel free to contact us with questions or simply come visit us at our location. Thanks and happy gardening.

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DON'T FORGET TO BATHE YOUR PLANTS

Among the many benefits they bring to your home, plants help clean the air. Are you returning the favor?

Yes, you should be cleaning your plants. You think to dust your bookshelves and chocks (I hope), and your plants are sitting there collecting all the same dust. They're alive, but that doesn't make them self-cleaning. Plants not only need to take in sunlight through their leaves, but that's where their respiration happens, too. Dusty leaves are bad news.

You can wipe down your plants' leaves with a damp cloth, and for stubborn dust, add a drop of castile soap to a big bowl of water. Wipe leaves gently—no need to scrub—and while you're at it, remove any dead leaves that may have fallen around your plant. (If dropped leaves linger on top of the soil, they can provide cozy hiding places for bugs, or even rot.)

Twice a year, give your hardier plants a full spa treatment in the form of a lukewarm shower.

Nothing is better for cleaning leaves and stimulating growth than a nice, long lukewarm shower. We recommend rinsing your plants in the yard or the shower for 2 to 5 minutes, twice a year (ideally in the Fall and Spring before the extremes of the summer and winter seasons).

Just make sure to let your potted plants sit for a while afterward so they can drain, lest you bring a shower's worth of runoff to your windowsills and tables.

'NATURAL PLANT REMEDIES & TIPS'

CAYENNE PEPPER

Uses:

- Cayenne is a great safe and effective natural pesticide for almost all chewing insects.
- (Mix 2 tablespoons per quart of water, add 2 tablespoons of orange oil, Neem oil or dishwashing liquid, & spray the top & bottom of the foliage thoroughly. Repeat weekly for two weeks in order to kill the insect eggs as the hatch)
- Help keep small animals such as: squirrels, rabbits, moles, gophers, etc. away. (Simply sprinkle it around flower beds and other areas where you want to keep animals away.)
- GREAT NATURAL PESTICIDE. Mix ½ cup of vinegar – 2 tablespoons of cayenne pepper – (allow to marinate in refrigerator for 4 days) then add 1 tablespoon of garlic powder – 2 tablespoons canola oil – 1 teaspoon dish soap – 16 oz water) Strain to keep it from clogging your sprayer. Put in spray bottle and apply directly to your plants.

NOTE: You can also use fresh garlic cloves – fresh cayenne or habanero peppers – mint oil to make a stronger concentrate that can be mixed with water.

CINNAMON POWDER

Uses:

- Acts as a natural Hormone to help start rooted cuttings. Dip cuttings in water and then dip in the cinnamon powder covering the lower ¼ inch of the cutting with the powder. Make a

hole in the potting soil you are using to root your cuttings and insert the cutting. Keep well watered until the roots form—about 3 to 6 weeks.

- Great as a Fungicide. Sprinkle dry powder around base of infected plant all along 4 to 5 inches from the center.
- Helps seeds survive and germinate sooner. Sprinkle dry powder on the top of the soil where seeds are planted. Water seeds as usual. No need to worry about applying too much as it will not damage seeds or seedlings.
- Helps kill pathogens and prevent seeds from 'Damping-off'. (dust on soil)
- Great for plant wounds. (1 tablespoon per quart applied to wounds or dust directly on wounds)
- Helps prevent fungal wilt.
- Great as a paste to prevent fungus from infecting plants where you cut or trim them. (Make a thick paste using 1 tablespoon of Hydrogen Peroxide and enough cinnamon powder to form a thick paste. Apply it to wounds and/or cuts.)
- Helps with gnats, mold & mildew.
- Great as an ANT deterrent.
- Helps stimulate root growth. (Sprinkle around base of the plant)
- Keeps snail away. (Dust on soil)
- Combine with 'NATURAL' honey to help with rooting 'hard wood cuttings'.
- Dust wild mushrooms with powder to make them disappear and keep them from returning.

ANSWERS TO SOME GARDEN PROBLEMS

Do you have climbing roses that have become extremely overgrown and leggy?

If the leaves and flowers are only on the very ends of long horizontal shoots and strong vertical shoots that have grown up from them, there is still hope.

Roses are determined to live and normally regenerate well from old wood. You can cut them back and re-train it if necessary. Make sure it is NOT being shaded out by trees and aiming for the light. It may well just be too vigorous for this spot it is in. If it has left the confines of a fence or other area in order to join the trees, perhaps a smaller rose would be better there, such as a patio climbers. If you replant it to a different location, You need to take steps to avoid rose replant disease.



GARDENING FOR KIDS

Gardening is the teacher of many of life's lessons. The garden can teach a child compassion, by the observation and preservation of living things. Teaching children that living things have great value. It can teach the philanthropic lessons of giving. By giving flowers to a sick neighbor, or sharing crops with other little gardening buddies. Math, science and critical thinking are all lessons learned while planting, especially counting seeds or petals on a bloom. But most of all, the garden teaches a child that good things come to those who wait. Patience.

HOW TO WATER YOUR PLANTS

The weather has been hot and gardens are now quite dry after no rain since for several days.

It is suggested that you check the soil in your gardens and look at using sprinklers and 'weeping' soaker hoses as the weather heats up. If you can keep your garden moist, plants will grow and perform well in the heat. Water in the early morning and evening to avoid scorching your plants. We are lucky to have a good water supply without many restrictions.

The golden rule to watering is to water less often, but to water more deeply; this will encourage roots to go further down giving them more resilience in future dry spells. Light watering on the surface every day has the opposite effect. For most gardens, a couple of times a week for a long period is much better than every evening for a short time.

Another way to keep plants strong during dry periods is the use of mulching. This product is designed to improve soil structure & retain moisture. Watering and mulching your garden will give the plants in your garden health and resilience ensuring that plant growth continues at a rapid rate.

You can plant out spring bedding (flowering) plants and create a colorful and magnificent show. Petunias, marigolds, verbena and gazanias are popular for hot sunny spots and impatiens and lobelia will grow where there is shade. There are lots you can choose from.

Garden borders, containers and hanging baskets can be rejuvenated. Remove weeds and fork in liberal amounts of compost and fertilizer into garden plots as preparation for planting. Mulch roses and other shrubs to help conserve soil moisture as hotter conditions dry plants out. Hanging baskets and containers have a better chance of surviving summer if they are filled with potting mixes that have storage and re-wetting granules and controlled slow release fertilizer added. In addition feed every 10-14 days with liquid fertilizer. Please read container labels carefully and follow directions given. It is time to stake taller herbaceous and perennial plants and tie in climbing plants to their supports or frames.

The warm temperatures that are promoting good growth in the garden could also result in a rapidly expanding population of aphids, whitefly, caterpillars, scale, potato/tomato psyllid and other attacking insects. A good 'bee friendly' natural insect spray works on contact with the insect, but you need to follow up in order to kill the new insects that will hatch from the eggs that the current ones will have already laid. This means that to break the life cycle of an infestation a few sprays in quick succession will be needed to knock back the population. Follow all packet directions carefully when spraying pests and diseases, care should be taken so that the spray reaches both sides of the leaves to get an effective result. An organic product, Naturally Neem Oil, can be used for aphid, whitefly, thrip and mealy bug.

Other natural insect sprays to use include cayenne pepper and garlic powder mixed with orange/citrus/spearmint oil can also help combat insect problems. This weather has been great for the bugs - beat them to the draw!

HOUSE PLANTS

Most houseplants should be repotted by now. If you have not done this yet, it should be given some urgency so that your plants grow well this summer. Use a fresh new potting mix with long-term fertilizer and wetting agent added. Apply a supplementary soluble houseplant feed every 2 – 4 weeks during the growth season. If your houseplants don't require repotting apply slow release fertilizer such as 'Osmocote'.



For The Convenience of Our Customers

We will be featuring a host of items to assist you with your gardening needs

- ◆ Seed Soak
- ◆ Seed Starting Soil
- ◆ 3cf Bales of Peat
- ◆ 50lb Bags of White Sand
- ◆ Seed Starting Trays
- ◆ Free Mulch (limited quantity)

and Much More



PLANT TREES ... PLANT THEM RIGHT OR NOT AT ALL!

Dollar for dollar, trees are one of the most dynamic improvements that can be made to any home, business, neighborhood or city.

Trees add economic and aesthetic value, and they assist in climate control in both hot and cold weather. Leaf canopies provide shade during the warm months, thereby reducing the need for air conditioning.

During the winter, deciduous trees shed their leaves allowing the sun's rays to warm our homes. They are very effective wind barriers, and are vital in establishing privacy.

Trees improve the quality of the air we breathe by filtering out carbon dioxide and replacing it with oxygen. The many variations of tree sizes and shapes, the colors and textures of bark, shapes of branches and leaf colors give us four seasons of interest and beauty in the landscape.

Since a tree is usually a major commitment due to space, cost, and longevity, placement should be considered very carefully.

Planting a tree involves much more than just digging a hole in the ground and dropping it in.

Here are some points for tree planting.

1. Identify the trunk flare, which is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted. Most tree deaths are due to being planted too deeply.
2. Dig a wide shallow planting hole. The hole should be 2-3 times as wide as the root ball, and only as deep as the root ball. This is NOT the time to dig a deep hole! Most new root development occurs in the top 10-12 inches of the root ball.
3. Carefully remove the container, wrappings or wires, and loosen any outside roots, unwrap any circling roots.
4. Set plant in hole on firmly packed soil so that the base is at or just above ground level.
5. If staking is necessary, use 2 opposing stakes with flexible ties.
6. Water thoroughly, and keep watered while plant is getting established.
7. Put about 2-4 inches of mulch around tree, but do not pile it up against the trunk. Absolutely avoid the "volcano" mulch method. This will cause rotting and death.



Given the right location and correct planting technique, a tree will give pleasure and economic benefit for many years.



Green Thumb Tip

*Treat your plant as soon as you notice any fungus or pest infestation.
Insects reproduce quickly and will invade other plants, carrying any disease from plant to plant.*

HOW TO RECOGNIZE SIMPLE PLANT DEFICIENCIES

ON NEW GROWTH:

Calcium: New leaves may be misshaped or stunted while remaining leaves remain green.

Iron: Young leaves are yellow and white with green veins. Mature leaves are normal.

ON OLD GROWTH:

Nitrogen: Upper leaves are light green where lower leaves are yellow. Bottom or lower leaves are yellow and shriveled.

Phosphate: Leaves are darker than normal and loss of leaves.

Potassium: Yellowing at the tips and edges, usually in younger leaves. Dead or yellow patches develop on leaves.

Carbon Dioxide: White deposit on leaves. Stunted growth and plants die back.

Manganese: Yellow holes and/or elongated holes between veins.

Magnesium: Lower leaves turn yellow from the outside going in, veins remain green.

Don't forget to "Spring Forward" Sunday March 11, 2018 on your clocks/watches for daylight savings.
Spring 2018 starts March 20th 2018.



Caterpillar Attacks Allow Aphids To Sneak Up On Plants



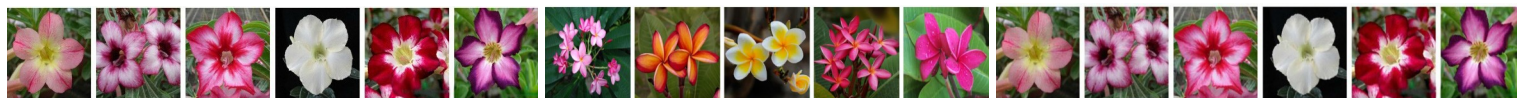
Aphids of *Brevicoryne brassicae* and the aphid parasitoid *Diaeretiella rapae* on *Brassicajuncea* flowers. Credit: Dani Lucas-Barbosa.

A New *Phytologist* study indicates that plants prioritize the protection of flowers over leaves and that simultaneous attack by aphids, caterpillars and bacteria leaves plants vulnerable to aphids but more pro-

tected from caterpillars.

When plants come under attack, they often build up defenses by increasing hormonal concentrations and producing defensive compounds that can make them less palatable to attackers. In experiments on flowering plants with different dual combinations of caterpillar, aphid, and microbe attackers, concentrations of typical plant hormones, such as jasmonates, were higher in flowers than in leaves, showing that plants prioritize their reproductive organs when under attack. Researchers also found that dual attack by caterpillars and bacteria left plants less able to defend themselves against attack by aphids.

The study shed new light on inducible defenses of flowering plants if compared with most of the other research that addressed plants in the vegetative stage. This study was also innovative in its approach because it quantified several phytohormones involved in plant defense and reproduction, and used multivariate analyses to examine changes in the phytohormone profile upon exposure of flowering plants to single and dual attack.



Homemade Spray to Control Rust on Plants

Rust diseases affect a plethora of fruit, nut and ornamental trees and shrubs. Rust is often a problem with roses, but can also attack carnations, sunflowers and other flowering plants. Rust may cause leaf spots or turn the entire leaf yellow or brown. Rust also causes premature leaf drop, curling and withering of foliage. Cankers, galls and stunted growth can also be a result of rust disease. Fungicides may be used during the plant's dormant period, when no foliage is present, or in early spring, to help prevent rust diseases from developing. Pre-formulated fungicides are readily available commercially, but you can also purchase the basic ingredients and make fungicide sprays at home.

Aspirin Mixture

The simplest homemade fungicide is simply mixing two aspirin per quart of plain water. For example, a gallon of spray requires eight aspirin tablets. Use uncoated, 325mg aspirin tablets. Thoroughly mix the dissolved aspirin and water, then pour the mixture into hand-held spray bottles or a pump sprayer. This mixture may be used in early spring. Thoroughly spray the foliage, including the undersides of the leaves. Make sure no rain is forecast for a day or two, or the fungicide will wash off the plant.

Baking Soda Mixtures

Baking soda makes a good fungicide base, but can cause salts to build up to toxic levels

on the plants. Monitor treated plants for signs of excess salts and irrigate thoroughly to help wash excess salts away. The University of Florida IFAS website recommends adding 1 ounce of horticultural oil and 4 teaspoons of ordinary baking soda to a gallon of water to make an effective homemade fungicide. Mix well and pour into a sprayer. Treat plants weekly in early spring to help prevent rust from invading the garden or to control the spread of rust and other diseases already present. Another recipe, which includes oil to help spread the fungicide and keep it from accumulating so quickly in the soil, calls for mixing 1 tablespoon each of baking soda, light-colored vegetable (cooking) oil and mild dishwashing detergent in 1 gallon of water.

Bordeaux Mixture

According to the University of California at Davis Integrated Pest Management website, Bordeaux mixture effectively controls both fungi and bacteria that invade the garden. Bordeaux mixture contains copper sulfate mixed with lime and water, which is then sprayed on the plants to control rust and other maladies. Copper sulfate and hydrated lime are readily available at nurseries and garden centers. Bordeaux is best used as a dormant spray on trees in winter, due to its ability to injure the leaves after the trees break dormancy. To make 1 gallon of Bordeaux, mix 3 1/3 tablespoons of copper sulfate and 10 tablespoons of hydrated lime in 1 gallon of water. Shake well to blend the mixture thoroughly, and pour into a spray bottle

or pump sprayer. Saturate the plants and also spray the soil around the plants.

Sulfur Mixtures

Used for centuries as a fungicide against rust and other diseases, sulfur is readily available and easily mixed at home for use in the garden. Sulfur must be applied before rust develops, so use it as a preventive in early spring, before the temperature reaches and stays above 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Some plants, such as cucurbits and some berries are sensitive to sulfur. Sulfur is available in liquid, wettable powder or as a dust, and mixing directions are different for each type. Check the label for mixing and application directions, and to make sure the product is appropriate for your plants. Lime-sulfur compounds smell like rotten eggs and should not be used on foliage. Mix this fungicide up to use as a dormant spray.

Considerations

Bordeaux mixture can leave a bluish discoloration on plants and nearby surfaces, so spray on windless days. Unlike many other fungicides, Bordeaux mixture generally does not wash off in the rain. Always test homemade fungicides on a small portion of the plant to be sure the mixture will not injure the plant. Spray a couple of leaves and wait at least 24 hours, then check for adverse reactions.

Happy Gardening!