

## 'Sunnyside Up'

August 2011

### August Class

'Attracting hummingbirds & butterflies' - Sat, Aug 13th  
w/ professional landscape designer,  
Marti Civarra



*Class is free and begins at 10am.  
Advanced registration is appreciated.  
Visit [our website](#) for more details.*

## Yep, it's huge.

### Announcing our **SUMMER SALE!**

A lot of great plants, etc., will go fast. Got your eye on something special? Don't let a few bucks stand in your way. We'd love to see you in early August, too!

**40% OFF** Aug 18th - 24th

**50% OFF** Aug 25th - 31st

**PLANTS, CONTAINERS,  
BIRDBATHS, BENCHES, STATUARY,  
GIFTS, TRELLISES, ARBORS,  
FOUNTAINS & GAZEBOS**

e-Club members will have a pre-sale.  
Few select items will be excluded from the sale.

## Yes, Virginia, it's OK to plant in August

Contrary to popular belief, summer is an excellent time to plant. All you need is a little more attention to watering, which starts on planting:

Follow good planting practices w/compost & fertilizer, soak your hole before planting, loosen your root ball\*, build a berm above the soil level for a summer watering well & fill it several times for a thorough initial watering. With the wet season, soil may not require much soaking.

As water is taken in by a plant's roots, they need attention, as well. Repeat after me: '*Roots can be pruned, too.*' \*If planting roots bound in the shape of a pot, LITERALLY CUT OFF the bottom of the root system & score the sides to break the pattern of growth before planting. You can soak the root ball in water to help loosen roots, too.

Water deeply and less frequently vs quickly and often to encourage deeper roots & a more self-sufficient garden. And, don't be fooled by short showers. We have 10 lovely testing mechanisms (or most of us do) called fingers. Check soil moisture 2-3 inches down. And, check sheltered plantings, like those under awnings and in containers, more frequently. If it's dry, water.



Follow plantings w/an inch of compost topdressing for mulch. This reduces evaporative water loss dramatically. See ['The Whistling Gardener's' July 28, 2011 column](#) for detailed summer planting instructions. And feel confident in your ability to cast aside the bad advice, 'summer is a bad time to plant'. In fact, it's a great time to plant!

## Greetings from '*The Whistling Gardener*'

August is usually a month of relaxation in the garden, but I'm 99% sure most of us have let things slide this year, so there will be a little more doing.

Renovate: Still have mostly dead stuff not growing from the November freeze? Plant. And don't forget to feed. If plants are looking tired & off color chances are they're hungry. Feed them & they will grow.



Install: Get rid of mushy grass. Put pathways in where mucky foot trails exist. Expand your beds. Take out plants you've never liked & put in ones you do. And, [add something for the hummingbirds & butterflies](#).

Prune: Remove suckers from fruit & flowering trees. Reshape hedges. (We only got to the topiaries at the nursery in the last couple weeks.) Shrubs & trees can have a light pruning if needed. Take out diseased or damaged wood prevalent from the long cold spring.

Lawns: An inch of water a week will be in order this month. You may want to compensate for the lack of summer dormancy this year w/another fertilizing.

Edibles: It's time to start pigging out on raspberries, blueberries, cherries, [fresh herb pastas](#) & salad dressings.... Herbs should be cut & drying in your house. Cut off flowers on plants to extend harvest time; they don't render herbs inedible but do take away flavor. Jealous? You can still plant perennial herbs & fruits. Our blueberry bushes are loaded. We still have a good selection of fruit trees. And there are many [veggies to start from seed this month](#). Keep growing!

Roses: Remove old blooms, i.e. deadhead, regularly. Fertilize every 6 weeks. Use 'Rose RX' or another fungicide to control mildews, rust & black spot. Regular clean-up & removal of infected leaves helps, too.

Bugs: Let the ladybugs take care of the aphids. Know what the young ones (lady bugs) look like? [Find out](#). Keep 'Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew' close at hand and an eye out for tent caterpillars & fall webworm. Pear slugs, the little non-slug slugs, may be eating your leaves. And the list goes on. Got questions? Bring samples. Get answers.

Finally, relax & enjoy the garden and our Summer Sale!

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