

When to plant what in Tucson

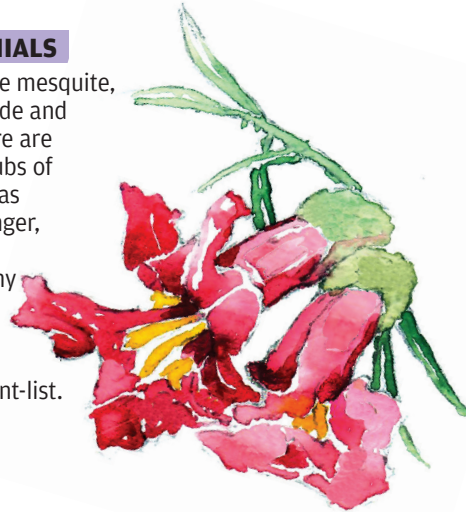
Have you had plants die on you? Every gardener has. A common reason is improper planting time. It may be too hot, too cold or too dry at any given time of year for certain plants. That's why we've put together this calendar to help you navigate the best time of year to plant veggies, fruit trees, natives and more in the Tucson area.

Please keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list of plants, and that your planting times can vary depending on your yard's location and microclimates. Additionally, if you have a plant living in a container outside, it is always better to plant it in the ground regardless of the time of year.

PLANT TYPE	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Ornamental plants												
Native perennials	[Purple bar]							[Purple bar]				
Native annuals	[Blue bar]								[Blue bar]			
Non-native perennials (drought tolerant)	[Green bar]								[Green bar]			
Non-native annuals		[Teal bar]							[Teal bar]			
Palms				[Yellow bar]								
Cacti/succulents				[Purple bar]								
Food plants												
Deciduous fruit trees	[Orange bar]									[Orange bar]		
Citrus trees			[Dark Green bar]						[Dark Green bar]			
Cool season veggies	[Light Blue bar]										[Light Blue bar]	
Warm season veggies				[Dark Purple bar]								

NATIVE PERENNIALS

Native trees include mesquite, ironwood, palo verde and desert willow. There are also perennial shrubs of varying sizes such as hopseed, Texas ranger, Baja fairy duster, beebrush, and many others. Check out the Arizona Native Plant Society at aznps.com/the-plant-list.



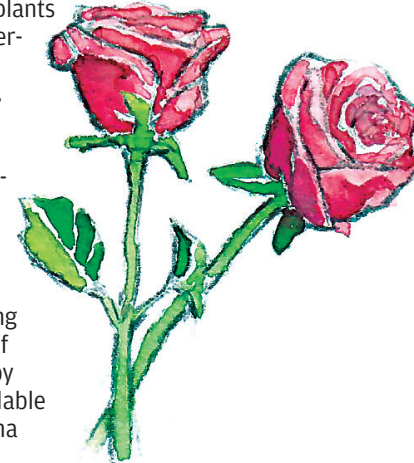
NATIVE ANNUALS

Annual wildflowers include arizona poppy, blanket flower, desert bluebell and chia. There are also annual native grasses such as Arizona cottontop. Check out the plant list of the Arizona Native Plant Society for more info at aznps.com/the-plant-list.



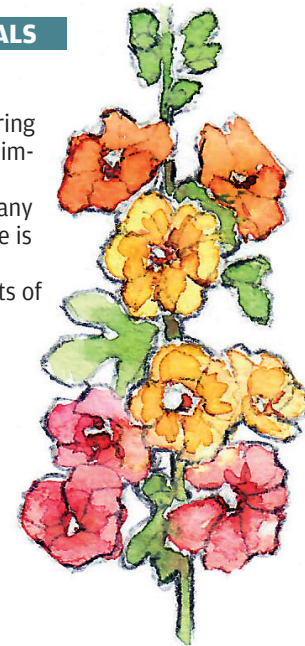
NON-NATIVE PERENNIALS

This includes any non-native perennial plant; recommended plants are drought-tolerant such as rosemary, olive, bay, Australian acacias, chaste tree, roses, myrtle and many others. A great resource is the "Month-by-month Gardening in the Deserts of Arizona" book by Mary Irish, available through the Pima County Public Library and major booksellers.



NON-NATIVE ANNUALS

Flowering annuals commonly available in nurseries in fall and spring include asters, zinnias, impatiens, hollyhock, marigold, pansy and many others. A great resource is the "Month-by-month Gardening in the Deserts of Arizona" book by Mary Irish, available through the Pima County Public Library and major booksellers.



PALMS

Native palms such as California fan palm and Mexican fan palm, as well as non-natives like date palm. For a selection of palms that grow in our area and how to care for them, check out the University of Arizona's publication "Arizona Landscape Palms and their Management" at tucne.ws/1o5b.



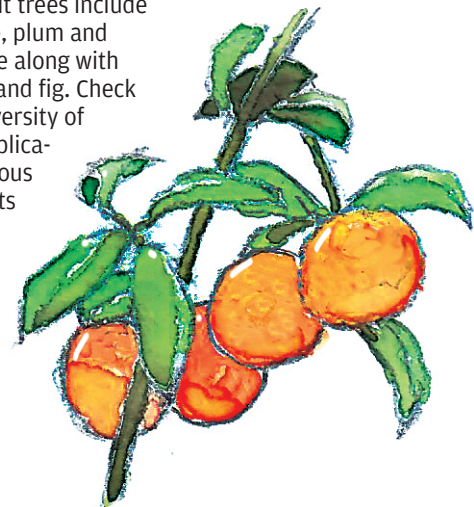
CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS

Native cacti include cholla, prickly pear, saguaro and organ pipe, plus succulents like agaves and yuccas. There are also numerous other cacti and succulents from areas such as South America and Africa. A great resource for learning more about these is the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society's website at tcss.wildapricot.org/About-Cactus.a

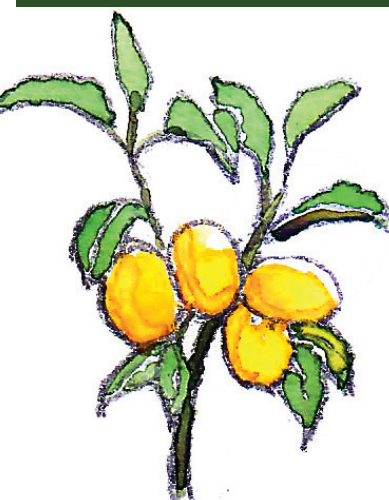


DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES

Common fruit trees include peach, apple, plum and pomegranate along with grape vines and fig. Check out the University of Arizona's publication "Deciduous Fruit and Nuts for the Low Desert" at tucne.ws/1o5c for more information.



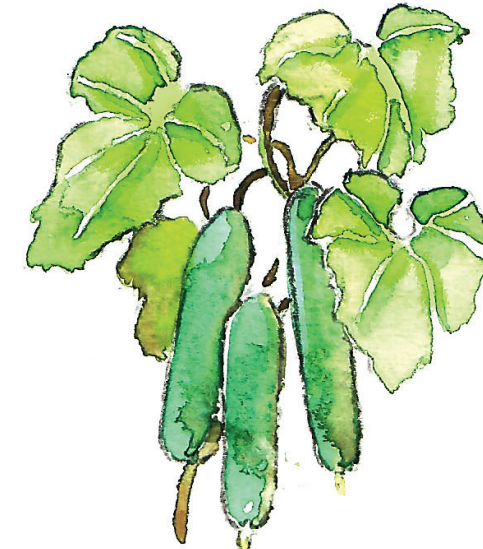
CITRUS AND OTHER NON-DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES



Oranges, grapefruit, limes, lemons and kumquats, as well as more exotic trees like loquat and pineapple guava. Check out the University of Arizona's publications on citrus at tinyurl.com/uacitrus for more information.

COOL SEASON VEGGIES

Chiefly root plants and greens including carrots, radishes, beets, rutabaga, kale, spinach and lettuce. Check out the excellent Community Gardens of Tucson planting guide for more detail at communitygardensoftucson.org/resource.



WARM SEASON VEGGIES

Melons, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, corn and many others. Check out the excellent Community Gardens of Tucson planting guide for more detail at communitygardensoftucson.org/resource.

TUCSON GARDEN GUIDE

Get the Tucson Garden Guide newsletter for the latest garden tips, tricks and styles every other Saturday via email from the Arizona Daily Star and Tucson.com. To subscribe, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link (or go to tuc.life/garden).



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