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Let's Get Growing - August 8, 2011

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Heat Tolerant Tomatoes

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During this time of year things really slow down in the home vegetable garden, but not to say we cannot do some gardening. You should have your heat tolerant tomatoes planted by now: Heat Wave, Solar Set, Sun Master, Sun Leaper, and Phoenix, just to name a few. Also, if your plants from the spring still exist nurse them into the fall. By cutting them back, re-fertilize, take care of insects and disease and you be amazed if the production this fall. The same thing can be done to your bell / hot pepper plants and eggplants.



Tomato Plants (photo - www.en.wikipedia.com)

Around in the Yard - Roses

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Prune your roses now – Now is a good time to prune your roses to encourage fall blooms. Remember do not prune as heavy as in February, but prune to remove dead, disease and weak canes to about 2.5 to 3 feet. You may also remove any debris, weeds from the beds. You can fertilize the roses with a slow release fertilizer that will provide uniform growth for a large amount of roses in October.

Late summer is a good time to plant roses. The low-maintenance roses like the Knock Out and Home Run are good varieties to plant. Good floribundas roses include: Hot Cocoa, Julia Child, Easy Does It, Easy Goin' and Cinco de Mayo.



Pruning Roses (photo - www.rosegardenstore.org)

Crape/Crepe Myrtles

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Are you having problem with aphids/plant lice on your plants, which results in a black covering on the foliage called sooty mold? Keeping aphids off with Acephate, Malathion or Talstar will prevent the sooty mold from forming, resulting in a healthier looking plant.

Finally, there is a product that will suppress the growth of suckers on crape/crepe myrtles. Prune suckers all the way back – not leaving any stubs. Weed trimmers or mechanical damage may also stimulate sucker growth, so make sure all suckers are removed properly and spray the cut over with something called naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA-an organic auxin) that will control the suckers. Some products available with the above mentioned ingredient are: Sucker Stopper from Monterey Lawn and Garden Products and Fertilome Prune Smart Sprout Inhibitor.



Sooty Mold (photo - www.msucare.com)