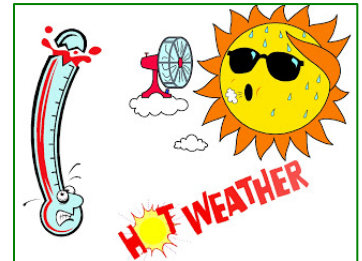




KATO'S AUGUST GARDENING REMINDERS

Feeling hot, Hot, HOT!

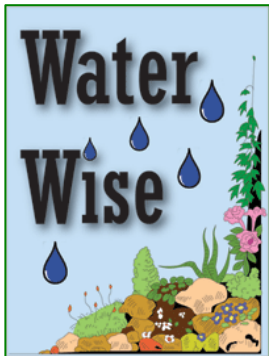
So are your plants, so remember to mulch. I use 2"-3" in shade and 3" - 4" in full sun. You can download a pdf of conversions on my website -www.dfwplanterwhisperer.com/gardenmeasurements.html. Besides keeping in moisture, mulch helps defend against scorching temperatures. I work outside as early as I can, think sunrise, and stop around 11a.m. I also work outside after 7:30 p.m. if the heat index has dropped. BE SAFE!



August Edibles:

Seed all types of squash, cucumbers and beans early in the month. Plant leafy crops late in the month; lettuce, collards, spinach... Choose organic seeds and transplants when you can!

Monitor Your Watering!



Would you believe I have diagnosed more stressed and dead plants from over-watering than under-watering? One client was watering her tomatoes THREE times per day and they were still drooping! (That's because they were drowning.) I said, "You're loving them to death." Plant's roots "breathe" in the top few inches of soil. When water goes in air comes out. This is why you can't make up for heat with water (really). It's like thinking; Are you hot? Well, let's hold your head under water!

Established landscapes need approximately 1" of water per week and 1.5"-2" inches per week in Summer. Deeper waterings, less often let you follow mandatory watering guidelines. Hand water new plants, and potted plants when the top 2" of soil has dried out completely.

Besides a water meter, you can use your finger, to the 2nd knuckle, or a pencil to check.

Begin Fall Plantings

Garden centers will begin to carry annual zinnias, marigolds, mums and celosias this month. Also, look for Fall-flowering bulbs like surprise lilies, spider flowers or lycoris.

I'm still planting perennials, when I find them. These plants are happier in well-prepared soil than in your nursery's black pots. (See *Mulch & *Water above...)



Hang in there, Fall is near. Call me if you need diagnosis help with fungus, insects or disease!

