

Hot Weather Tips

By Kathy Robinson

It's almost too hot to garden.....you notice I said almost. Each day we have customers coming into Robby's with questions. Here are some tips that might help to answer your question based on what we're hearing. When temps reach into triple digits some of our normal habits must change or at least they become more important. Here's a quick check list.

1. Water once a day. Long and deep in the early morning (before dawn).
2. Mulch beds with organic matter to help retain moisture. Be careful though not to mulch right around the trunk.
3. If planting new plants hand water each plant every day in addition to sprinklers.
4. Fertilize once a month with a slow release organic fertilizer.
5. Check sprinkler coverage.
6. If spraying insecticide or weed killers use a surfactant then spray before 7AM. Never spray if the root zone of the plant is very dry.
7. Watch for worms.... they love petunias, geraniums, liquid ambers, redbuds and grapevines to name a few.
8. Spidermites will do a lot of damage to evergreens this time of year.
9. Summer visit to the nursery will show you what thrives in Bakersfield this time of year.
10. Summer color includes vinca, zinnias, moss rose, salvia, statice, begonia and impatiens.

If you have particular problems and can't figure out what to do, bring in samples in a plastic bag. We'll be glad to try and help you figure out what's going on!
I am quite sure we will have lots of time to help you, after all it's B'field and it's Summer!