**Zinnias for Full Sun**

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The cool weather flowers decline quickly once temperatures go to 80 degrees during the day.

Snapdragons are especially sensitive to heat and contract rust disease. When you see the yellow spots on the top of the leaf and rust spores on the underside, pull the plants and dispose of them in the compost pile.

Zinnias are a great choice to replace snapdragons. There are many selections that can be planted by seed.

My favorite transplant is Dreamland. It has large rounded flowers in yellow, pink, red, lavender and white. The plants grow to about 20 inches tall.

Other transplants include the tough  *Profusion* zinnias available in yellow and pink and Lilliputs. Lilliputs are 12-14 inch tall plants with quarter-sized blooms.

Zinnias require a planting site in full sun. The large bloomed versions such as Dreamland make good cut flowers. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to zinnias.

Zinnias work very well in containers.

Zinnias can tolerate extreme heat and have the look of drought tolerance but are not xeriscape plants. Watering twice a week is the usual requirement.

In some neighborhoods, deer do not eat zinnias. It is worth a few plants to test the attitude of your deer. Spray the test planting with Liquid Fence once per week for three weeks to allow the plants to become established before the deer check them out.

**Garden Tasks**

If you have mowed your lawn two times, it indicates that is ready to be fertilized. Use a slow release lawn fertilizer such as 19-5-9.

Remember that if the wildflowers are going to reseed themselves for blooms next year, the seeds must be allowed to mature and drop.

It is not too late to plant a tomato if you can find a large plant of one of the heat setting varieties such as Phoenix, Tycoon, Tigress, Solar Fire, BHN 602 or BHN 968 (Cherry Surprise).

Water newly planted shrubs and trees at the base until they become established which may be more than two years if the weather is dry.