

Tips for Mountain Gardening

Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club



- The U.S.D.A. Climate Zone for the upper canyon is Zone 7, lower canyon is Zone 8. If you're referring to the Sunset Garden Book, we are in Zone 3.
- Forest Falls has three microclimates: Upper Canyon, Mid-Canyon and Lower Canyon (aka the banana belt). The growing season may differ by two weeks between each microclimate, in other words, you can plant earlier, and plants will last longer in the Lower Canyon than in the other areas of the canyon.
- Much of our soil is more rocky or sandy rather than rich and ready for planting. Build up your planting beds with manure, peat moss, leaf mold, and bone meal (a slow-acting fertilizer).
- Always look for HEARTY (frost or freeze tolerant) bulbs, ground cover, plants, scrubs, etc.

- If you are going to compost, remember we have bears and other forest critters. It is important to use discretion when adding kitchen scraps. Chop, use an electric blender or freeze the scraps. Kitchen scraps can draw unwanted vermin which will, in turn, draw snakes to your yard.

- Transplant in the fall while the soil is still warm enough for the root system to get its hold in the ground.

- Put your garden "to bed" by raking fallen leaves over your planting beds to prevent winter damage.

- New plantings do better if you wait until after Mother's Day to plant them outdoors.

- "Mountain Gardening, A Short Cut to Insanity" can be purchased at Jessica's Treasures.

- Always be vigilant about snakes and other critters in your garden as you're working in it. They can hide under leaves and go unseen until it's too late.