

URBAN DIRT

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HOT, HOUSTON, HUMIDITY

by Pam Libby

Sometimes when I
read those seed

catalogs, I wish that there were a category telling you more than just heat information (like zone 8 or zone 9), but one that would tell you something about a plant's ability to survive a certain area's humidity. They could call it the "humidity zone."

Of course, then you'd want to know about the ability of a plant to survive other problems like: coastal conditions, city smog, sudden severe temperature changes, etc. I know, they could have an alphabetic symbol such as "S" for smog or "H" for humidity and follow it by a numerical gauge, say 1 to 15 and then follow that by another environmental symbol, such as T for temperature, followed by a numerical gauge from 1- 15 and so on. The code next to a plant would read H10, T8, S6, etc.

Would the seed industry really use it? I don't know, it's hard enough to find an indicator like zone 8 listed on a catalog, much less something that would really be helpful, although rather complex. Yes, Yes, I know about the "Keep it Simple" theory. Everyone thinks that the public is ignorant, but what about the new phone company's area code systems, they don't think the public is too ignorant to use the phone codes! Come to think of it, I am having a wee problem with dialing my phone. Perhaps it's just the heat...and the humidity. Oh well, I'll leave greater minds to think of a workable system, until then, ask the nursery man or dig out your Master Gardener books to find out what will grow here. As for me, I think I'll step inside, have a glass of lemonade and ponder my garden from the air conditioned comfort of my home.

Those of you still out there might consider putting in these old Houston standbys for the late summer: Begonia, Cockscomb, Coleus, Four-O'Clock, Gerbera, Marigold, Portulaca, Salvia, Verbena and Vincas. You can sow : Cosmos, Marigold, Moon Flowers, Morning Glories, and Sun Flowers.. Some bulbs may be planted now: Amaryllis, Caladium, Canna, Dahlia, Gladiolus, Hemerocallis, and Water Lilies.

Late summer gardening tasks: cut off dead seed pods on crepe myrtles to encourage blooms, gather herbs for drying, mulch, water Azaleas well, cut lawns high to prevent burning, and finally get out to the pool!

JULY: 7/21/98

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: "FIRE ANTS"

Speaker: Pam Traylor, Co. Ext. Agent
IPM

AUGUST: 8/21/98

Executive Board	5:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 p.m.
General Meeting	7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: "To Be Announced"

Speaker: to be announced