

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 17, No. 1

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

February/March 2003

New "Renaissance Daisies"

*Proven Winners
for your garden*

Everyone loves daisies, and so they should. They are the first to flower and the last to fade in the garden. Like a favorite author with a new book, we are confident about what we are getting with these new daisies and have certain expectations. In this case, fast growth and abundant blooms.

Three new daisies you'll want to read about (and bring home) are White Star, Creme and Summer Angel. The hybridizer calls each variety a Renaissance Daisy and the name rings true. The exciting colors and shapes of these plants will bring a revival of interest to a garden staple.

'Summer Angel' is a sun-loving Renaissance daisy that will add beauty and interest to your beds, window boxes and containers. This Australian marguerite is sensational with pure white, semi-double petals and yellow flower centers. The silvery-green foliage adds a nice backdrop to this everblooming, very heat and sun tolerant plant.

Sloat Tip: Growing Daisies

A single daisy can fill a large container or produce an impressive 3-4 foot mound in a single growing season. Older plants do not respond well to heavy pruning, so consider replacing your daisies every 2-3 years.



White Star is the most heat tolerant daisy yet.

'Creme,' like the other Renaissance daisies, will flower early and keep blooming well into summer and fall.

Its large cream-colored flowers will pour from containers and window boxes, and its sun-tolerance is among the best for marguerites.

Finally, you must consider 'White Star', one of the latest offerings from our grower. A top performer and a sun worshiper, this lovely variety offers willow-like silvery foliage that is especially nice.

The new daisies are part of the **Proven Winners** collection that has offered some very exciting plants over the last decade.

Well-behaved grasses: a new wave in the garden

Just ten years ago grasses meant lawns to most gardeners.

Even five years ago, according to John Greenlee, author of *The Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*, the term "ornamental grasses" was just reaching the lips — and the grasses meeting the trowels — of only the savviest landscape designers.

Today gardeners are discovering the wonderfully diverse range of colors, forms and textures offered by easy-to-grow grasses and their ability to add what Greenlee calls "whoosh" to a garden design.

"Grasses not only combine brilliantly with colorful annuals and perennials in garden beds and containers, but provide movement in the garden," says Greenlee.

(continued on back page)



Elijah Blue Fescue



Snail season approaches rapidly. Protect your garden now!

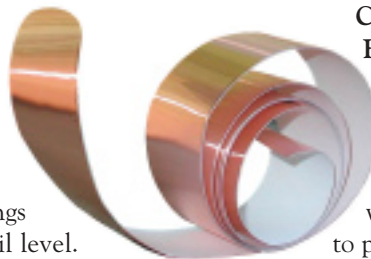
It's hard to imagine that we have to hurry up and protect our gardens from a pest that literally moves at a snail's pace, but the fact is we do. Snail and slug season is here, and thousands of snail eggs are busy hatching in the average garden.

There are few more destructive pests than snails and slugs. They eat flowers, fruits, lawns, vegetables and more. While they operate at night and may go unnoticed, they are voracious eaters and

evidence of their presence is clear in the light of day.

Typical damage includes everything from holes in leaves to the complete consumption of vegetable seedlings right down to soil level.

Two very safe and environmentally sound ways to slow them down



and stop them fast should be considered:

Copper Snail Barrier Tape is a tried and true deterrent. By applying this adhesive tape with a copper face to planters, potted plants, tree trunks, and other structures, snails and slugs are repelled. Apparently, the copper reacts with their slime and gives them an electric shock.



Sluggo is an easy-to-use granular snail bait that is tough on snails and slugs, but will not harm pets, wildlife or the environment.

Sluggo is a favorite of our staff because it is ideal for use around vegetables, fruits, berries, lawns, ornamental plants and more. The active ingredient, iron phosphate, stops snails and slugs from eating anything once ingested. Iron phosphate occurs naturally in soil and when it breaks down, provides nutrients for plants.

Act fast and stop these slow moving but fast eating pests!

Gardening Guide

FEBRUARY & MARCH

Plant:

- Choose an ornamental tree or fruit tree for your garden and plant it now before spring. Sloat has beautiful maples, magnolias, flowering cherries, birches, and much more.

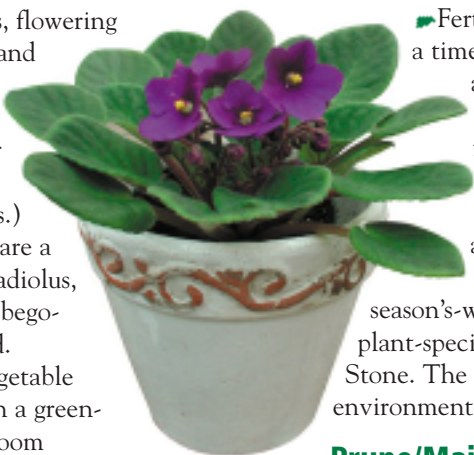
(Fruit tree selection is only in our Novato and Danville locations.)

- Summer bulbs are a must. Get your gladiolus, dahlias, lilies and begonias in the ground.
- Start spring vegetable seeds indoors or in a greenhouse. Tasty heirloom varieties, seed trays and everything else you need are available at Sloat.

- Dormant roses are ready to wake up and fill your garden with fragrance and beauty. Each Sloat location has specially selected roses for your neighborhood.

- Rhododendrons are budding and blooming. We have a magnificent selection for you to consider.

- You can start planting spring and summer annuals soon. Check with your local Sloat to see what has arrived and is ready to plant.



Check Sloat's Indoor Plants for Winter

African Violet
Azaleas
Spathyphyllum
Ivy and More

Fertilize:

- Use E.B Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Gardenia Food for acid loving plants.

- Fertilize house plants with a time-release fertilizer such as Osmocote.

- Apply a lawn fertilizer with a pre-emergent to control crabgrass and other annual weeds.

- Stock up on a season's-worth of top quality plant-specific fertilizers from E.B. Stone. The new "Naturals" line is environmentally friendly!

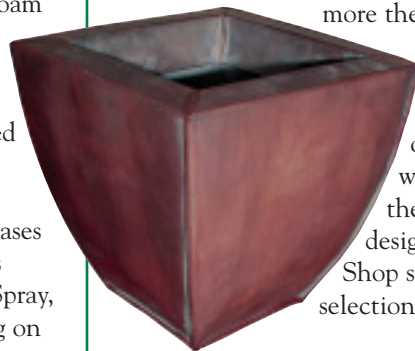
Prune/Maintain:

- Clean up and prune plants and trees to enhance their appearance and prepare them for spring growth.

- Prepare planting beds for spring by amending soil with Sloat Loam Builder, Sloat Forest Mulch Plus, and Sloat Planting Mix.

Also, add E.B Stone's Agricultural Lime to your soil, to provide needed calcium to vegetables and fruit.

- Protect fruit trees and other deciduous trees from pests and diseases by applying dormant sprays such as Cooke's Sulf-R-Spray and Kop-R-Spray, Polysul, or Ultrafine Oil depending on plant variety.



You'll love our zinc... we think!

Here's a sneak preview of the new zinc garden containers and accents that have just arrived at Sloat.

They are the result of our latest forays into Asia where we have been searching out unique pottery and garden accents for more than 30 years!

A U.S. exclusive for Sloat, we'll let you in on how and where we found these exciting designs later!

Shop soon while selection is at its best.

♥ See us for Beautiful Valentine Gifts ♥

Easy-growing summer bulbs to fill your garden and vases!

Planting gladiolas, lilies, dahlias, begonias and other summer flowering bulbs is a near effortless way to pump up the color in your garden as spring annuals and perennials fade.

For gardeners who enjoy the spring fireworks show offered by tulips, daffodils, and other spring bulb favorites, summer bulbs can easily rival their performance.

Summer bulbs tend to be bigger and bolder than their spring cousins and can provide wonderful material for breathtaking bouquets, too.

Gladiolas are available in a rainbow of colors and work nicely along fences or lin-



ing other structures where their height can really be effective. Dahlias can offer 15 to 40 flowers per plant and are wonderful in borders. Tuberous

begonias are a favorite for hanging baskets and love the filtered sun often found on porches and in entryways. Lilies are wonderful in beds where they may be admired easily for their elegant star-shaped flowers.

Finally, if you're not convinced that summer bulbs are for you, consider that they'll naturalize in the Bay Area's temperate climate for years of enjoyment.

Bulb Food Helps Deliver Blooms

Don't forget to add a bit of bulb food to your soil when planting to insure abundant growth and terrific flowers.

E.B. Stone Organics Bulb Food contains long-lasting ingredients to feed your bulbs during the growing season.

Apply about 2 cups over a 25 square foot bed and mix in to the soil to a depth of about 8 inches. If you'd like to apply it on a bulb-by-bulb basis, simply slip 1 to 2 tablespoons into the bottom of the hole and mix in a little dirt. Bulb food can also be used after the summer bloom to energize bulbs that naturalize.



Soils Products to Super Charge Your Spring Garden

If you'd like to enjoy the most successful (and easiest) year of gardening ever, make a commitment to getting and keeping your soil in tip-top shape with Sloat Planting Mix, Sloat Loam Builder and Sloat Forest Mulch Plus.

Each of these soil products has been custom blended to amend and

improve the dominant soil types found in the San Francisco Bay Area. By using these products,

you'll increase plant performance and improve soil structure, moisture retention, aeration and water penetration. These soil products are especially effective in taming heavy clay soils and holding nutrients in your soil.

Only at Sloat Garden Centers



SLOAT SEMINARS

Attendance is limited. Please call ahead to the seminar location to reserve a seat. Seminar fee is \$5. (Reward Program members are free.)

Rose Care & Pruning

Learning to prune and care for roses is essential to maintaining their health and beauty. Here are tips and techniques from members of our local rose societies.

Feb. 6 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Feb. 8 - Kentfield, Saturday, 10 a.m.

Secrets of Citrus Care

Monrovia Nursery's Heather Smith will guide you on selecting and growing citrus in your Bay Area garden.

Feb. 15 - Danville, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Pruning with Quin

Join horticulturist Quin Ellis, one of our favorite presenters, to learn the fundamentals of pruning trees and shrubs.

Feb. 16 - Novato, Sunday, 1 p.m.

Bay Area Rose Care

Insure the sweet smell of rose success by joining Sloat's Richard Avery, a California Certified Nursery Professional, when he discusses the fundamentals of rose care.

March 1 - Danville, Saturday, 9 a.m.

Superior Vegetables with Dinah

Sloat's Dinah Sims, one of Marin's top gardeners, explains how to grow award-winning vegetables in your garden.

March 8 - San Rafael, Saturday, 10 a.m.

March 27 - Novato, Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Spring Maintenance

Get your spring garden off to an incredible start with easy maintenance and care tips from local expert Elizabeth Finley.

Mar. 9 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sunday, 1p.m.

Super Soil for Gardening Success

Insure success in the garden by learning to create the perfect growing medium for your plants with horticulturist Leslie Patten.

March 13 - Novato, Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Japanese Maple Pruning

Learn the basics of selective pruning for an elegant, natural look with local horticulturist Julie Gates. You'll discover how to maximize the health and aesthetics of these lovely trees.

March 16 - Kentfield, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Composting for Everyone

Learn how to turn garden and household food waste into rich plant food with composting expert Lisa Vancleef.

March 20 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.) Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Mar. 27 - Mill Valley (E. Blithedale), Sunday, 1p.m.

Garden Design for Eichlers

A very popular seminar given by local expert Leslie Patton. Learn a variety of ways to design a garden to fit this wonderful architectural style.

March 22 - San Rafael Saturday, 10 a.m.

SLOAT BULB SEMINAR

Beautiful Dahlias

Discover the beauty of these summer performers with horticulturist Lou Paradise, then learn to cultivate, dig and store them so you can enjoy them year after year!

March 6 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

Nine Locations in San Francisco, Marin & Contra Costa

Richmond District
3rd Avenue between
Geary & Clement
752-1614
Sunset District
2700 Sloat Blvd.
46th & Sloat Blvd.
566-4415

Novato
2000 Novato Blvd. at
Wilson
897-2169
San Rafael
1580 Lincoln Ave.
just off Hwy. 101
453-3977

Larkspur
279 Doherty Drive between
Redwood High &
Downtown
924-7390
Kentfield
700 Sir Francis Drake at
Wolfe Grade
454-0262

Mill Valley
657 E. Blithedale at Lomita
388-0102
401 Miller at La Goma
388-0365
Danville
828 Diablo Road
(925) 743-0288

Open 7 days a week
8:30 am to 5:30 pm

**Garden Design
Department**
401 Miller, Mill Valley
388-3754

Visit Sloat on the Web: www.sloatgardens.com



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Sausalito, CA 94965-9971

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Great plants and great advice to help them grow!

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“Tournament” quality rose and flower care

Though you may not have enough roses in your garden for a parade float, you should consider the exclusive rose care product of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses!

Bayer Rose and Flower Care is an effective product that feeds and protects

roses and other shrubs in one easy step.

With one application every six weeks during the growing season, you'll provide an excellent food to promote strong roots and blooms while protecting against common pests such as aphids, thrips, whiteflies and more. It's rainproof, too.

See Sloat for more details!



Grasses (continued from front page)

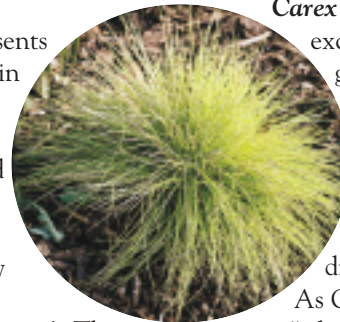
“Many of the newer varieties are very well-behaved in that they are smaller and non-invasive.”

EuroAmerican, the innovative propagators of the incredibly successful Proven Winners plant varieties, recognized Greenlee's “whoosh factor” and joined him recently to create the John Greenlee Collection.

This collection represents some of the best grasses in North America and features grasses for sun, shade, beds, borders, and containers.

Here are three excellent choices for your Bay Area garden.

Festuca ‘Golden Toupee.’ This showy fescue (above) is wonderful in a border or rock garden with its tight clumps of bright yellow foliage. A fine



compliment to conifers and evergreens. Pest and disease free, plant it in full to part sun.

Festuca ‘Elijah Blue.’ Among the best and brightest blues available, this fescue is especially well suited for borders, containers and edging. It is low-growing with soft textured tufts.

Carex comans ‘Frosted Curls.’ An exciting grass that shimmers and glows in the softest breeze. When allowed to spill over rocky slopes or walls, this variety creates the illusion of falling water! Plant in full sun to partial shade in moist, but fast draining soil.

As Greenlee enthusiastically points out, “when you consider that grasses are the most common plants on the planet, there is quite an exciting learning curve ahead for everyone.”

Sloat Tip: See John Greenlee's exhibit at this year's S.F. Flower and Garden Show.

About this Newsletter: The Gardener's Notebook is published bimonthly by Sloat Garden Center for the education and enjoyment of Bay Area gardeners. Information is collected from Sloat's expert staff, current horticultural publications and Sunset's Western Garden Book. Send address corrections to: 420 Coloma Street, Sausalito, CA 94965.