

Ten Locations in San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo and Contra Costa

Richmond District
3rd Avenue between
Geary & Clement
(415) 752-1614

Marina District
3237 Pierce Street
Chestnut & Lombard
(415) 440-1000

San Rafael
1580 Lincoln Ave. just off
Hwy. 101
(415) 453-3977

Kentfield
700 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
at Wolfe Grade
(415) 454-0262

San Bruno
675 El Camino Real
(650) 869-6000
3 blocks south of I-380

Sunset District
2700 Sloat Blvd.
46th & Sloat Blvd.
(415) 566-4415

Novato
2000 Novato Blvd. at
Wilson
(415) 897-2169

Mill Valley
657 E. Blithedale at Lomita
(415) 388-0102
401 Miller Ave. at La Goma
(415) 388-0365

Danville
828 Diablo Road
(925) 743-0288

Garden Design Department
401 Miller, Mill Valley
(415) 388-3754

Open 7 days a week 8:30 am to 6:30 pm

Visit Sloat on the Web: www.sloatgardens.com

Visit our new San Francisco store on Pierce Street!



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Sausalito, CA 94965-1428

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Great plants and great advice to help them grow!

8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK May/June 2007

Don't Forget Mother's Day (May 13th)
& Father's Day (June 17th)
Stop by Sloat for great gift ideas!

May & June Gardening Guide



MAY

PLANT

- 🌱 Plant annuals including petunias, marigolds, begonias, paludosum, coleus and other summer color.
- 🌱 Good time to plant pumpkins, squash, sunflowers, and melons.
- 🌱 Select garden-ready blooming roses and perennials.

FERTILIZE

- 🌱 Feed your lawn with **Nature's Green Lawn Food**.
- 🌱 Fertilize rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias with **E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Gardenia Food**.
- 🌱 Give vegetables a boost with **E.B. Stone Organics Tomato and Vegetable Food** plus **E.B. Stone Agricultural lime** to add calcium.
- 🌱 Use a time-release fertilizer such as **Osmocote** for your container plants.

PRUNE/MAINTAIN

- 🌱 Prune spring-flowering shrubs after bloom is past.
- 🌱 Mulch vegetable and flower beds with **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus** to control weeds and conserve moisture.
- 🌱 Freshen up containers and replace spent cooler-weather annuals with blooming 4-inch perennials such as verbena, calibrachoa, bacopa and nemesia.
- 🌱 Release ladybugs and other beneficial insects to help control aphids, mites, whiteflies, and other garden pests.

JUNE



PLANT

- 🌱 Warm season annuals abound. Plant zinnia, salvias, cosmos, lisianthus, portulaca and more.
- 🌱 Plant herbs in pots for use in the kitchen.

FERTILIZE

- 🌱 Your spring plantings are probably getting hungry. Feed with all-purpose fertilizers such as **EB Stone Organics** and **Maxsea**.
- 🌱 Feed your lawn with high nitrogen fertilizer like **Nature's Green Lawn Food**.

PRUNE/MAINTAIN

- 🌱 Continue to deadhead roses, shrubs and other flowers with a new pair of **Felco pruners** to encourage new blooms.
- 🌱 Mulch shrubs and beds to conserve moisture. Try **GreenAll Microbark** for its beauty and utility.
- 🌱 Make sure vegetables are supported with cages, stakes, or trellises.
- 🌱 Check early-bearing fruit trees for heavily laden branches. Support or thin trees now to prevent branches from breaking.

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.

S l o a t



G a r d e n C e n t e r

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 21, No. 3

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

May/June 2007



Have you ever been thrilled to the very edges of your soul by a flower in spring bloom? – Audra Foveo

hydrangea

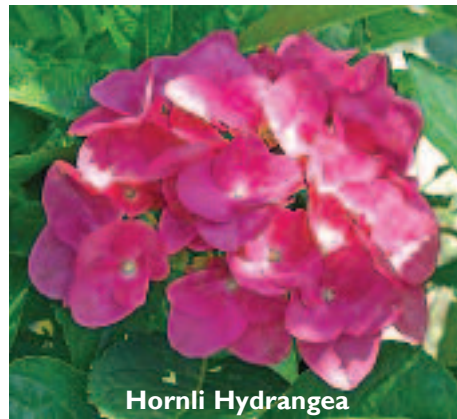
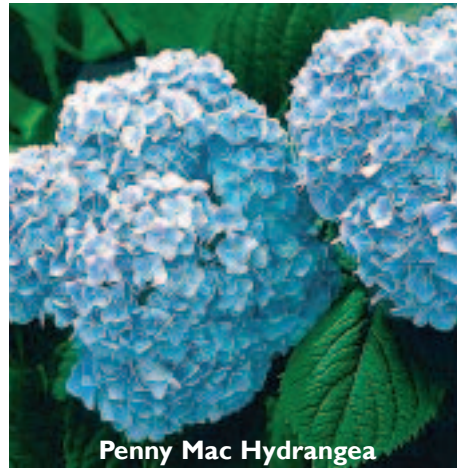
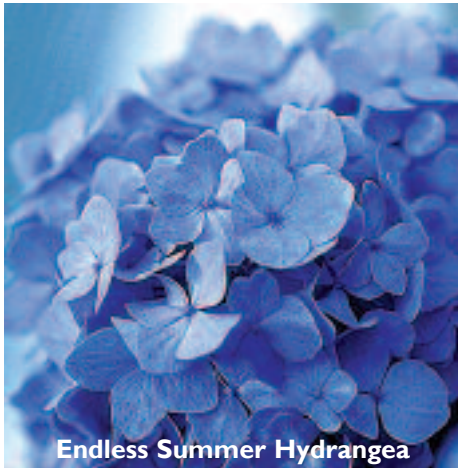
rain gardens

outdoor living

basil basics

hydrangea hydrangea hydrangea hydrangea

Oh, how we love your beautiful blooms each summer



If you're looking for a fast-growing, long blooming shrub that will put on a big show throughout the summer and fall (a quiet time for many woody plants), don't leave hydrangea out of your garden. Plus, the blossoms are great cut flowers and the leaves are a beautiful addition to arrangements.

Whether you use them in shrub borders or as single plants, when hydrangea bloom you've got color! Shades of blue, red, pink, and white stand out on large clusters of flowers enhanced by equally beautiful glossy green oval leaves.

Luckily for Bay Area gardeners, hydrangea love our climate, especially the coastal areas of Marin and San Francisco. They thrive even in average soil, about the only requirement being regular watering. Big-leaf hydrangea come in two different but equally beautiful flower forms. Hortensia blooms are dense and dome shaped, resembling pom-poms. Lacecap flowers are flat and open.

... you can change the color!

Hydrangea have the unique feature of being nature's pH tester. Flower heads are pink or red when the soil is alkaline (high pH), and blue when it is acidic. This presents a creative opportunity to change the flower color by adjusting the soil's pH prior to the blooming period.

FOR BLUE: Use Greenall's True Blue to lower the pH. **FOR RED/PINK:** Use EB Stone's Agricultural Lime to raise the pH. This color manipulation doesn't work with white varieties.

Hydrangea can be massed for impact in sun or partial shade. Their full form is ideal for pairing with other shrubs or trees, and the flower clusters work well with other bloomers.

Sloat Garden Center has a tremendous selection of hydrangea varieties. Plant some this May and you won't be disappointed!

 **MONROVIA**
HORTICULTURAL CRAFTSMEN SINCE 1926

Endless Summer Hydrangea: An exciting hydrangea that flowers on new wood to extend color throughout the season. Deadhead for repeat bloom. Clear blue mop-head blooms that may turn pink in alkaline soils are 8 inches in diameter. Deep green foliage is lush and mildew resistant. An excellent cold hardy addition for dappled shade under canopies. Moderate grower to 5 ft. tall and wide. Deciduous.

Penny Mac Hydrangea: Large rounded clusters of deep blue flowers appear repeatedly throughout the warm months. Blooms appear on new growth and are beautiful in fresh arrangements. Combine with evergreen shrubs in border foundation plantings. Deciduous.

Mini Penny Hydrangea: Large pink to blue mop-head flowers appear continuously on this exceptional dwarf hydrangea. A wonderful container plant, low flowering hedge, or highlight of a flowering border. Highly disease-resistant foliage. Deciduous.

Hornli Hydrangea: Dwarf in size, this plant is ideal for containers, as an accent, or border use in semi-shaded areas. Numerous colorful bright crimson flower heads from spring through summer for long lasting enjoyment. Compact grower 20" tall by 2 ft. wide. Deciduous.

Add a rain garden to your yard

This spring and summer as you consider long range garden planning, consider adding a rain garden. They are easy to install, attract beneficials and are good for your home and the planet.

The concept of using rain gardens in the landscape began on the east coast and in the mid-west in the 1990's and is now one of the fastest growing landscaping tools. It is an efficient infiltration technique that reduces polluted runoff from treated lawns and roofs and gives gardeners the opportunity to feature native plants and encourage butterflies, birds and beneficial insects.

"The main purpose of a rain garden is to let the earth absorb and filter water before it hits the sidewalk, runs down storm drains and enters waterways," explains Sloat horticulturist Katy Thompson. "On the West Coast we have the same concerns of polluted runoff entering bays and streams as gardeners do on the East Coast, and this is one way to counteract that."

The traditional front yard planting space is a mounded or bermed garden, filled with blooming annuals and perennials. The concept of a rain garden turns that same area from a raised planting space into a depression in the ground. Many of the same blooming perennials will be able to live there, though plants selected for a rain gar-



den should be able to tolerate both saturated and dry soil.

Creating a rain garden does not require technical experience or heavy equipment. Rain gardens can be located near a house to catch roof runoff, or in an area that will collect runoff from the lawn or driveway. Rain gardens are perfect for urban gardens as well as suburban.

"Building a rain garden in your yard is probably the easiest and most cost efficient thing you can do to reduce your contribution to storm water pollution," explains the Rain Garden Network. "By capturing rainwater and diverting it into a rain garden where it can slowly soak into the ground, filtering contaminants and keeping quantities of clean water from going down the sewer system, you'll have a great looking garden that puts water in its place." More information on building rain gardens can be found at www.raingardennetwork.com

Plant list for Rain Gardens

Butterfly bush

Grasses

Iris

Asclepias

Rushes

Penstemon

Echinacea

Monarda

Liatris

Aster



Pesto Presto!

A recipe for your early basil harvest

- 2 cups fresh basil from your garden
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup hard cheese, grated (Parmesan, Romano, etc)
- 1/2 cup roasted, salted pine nuts or cashews
- 2-3 T water
- Kosher salt, fresh ground pepper

Mix ingredients in a blender adding water bit by bit to help blend. Process until mostly smooth and season to taste with kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper. Serve over pasta, on pizza, or spread in sandwiches. Keeps in a container in the fridge for 2-3 days.

Basil Basics

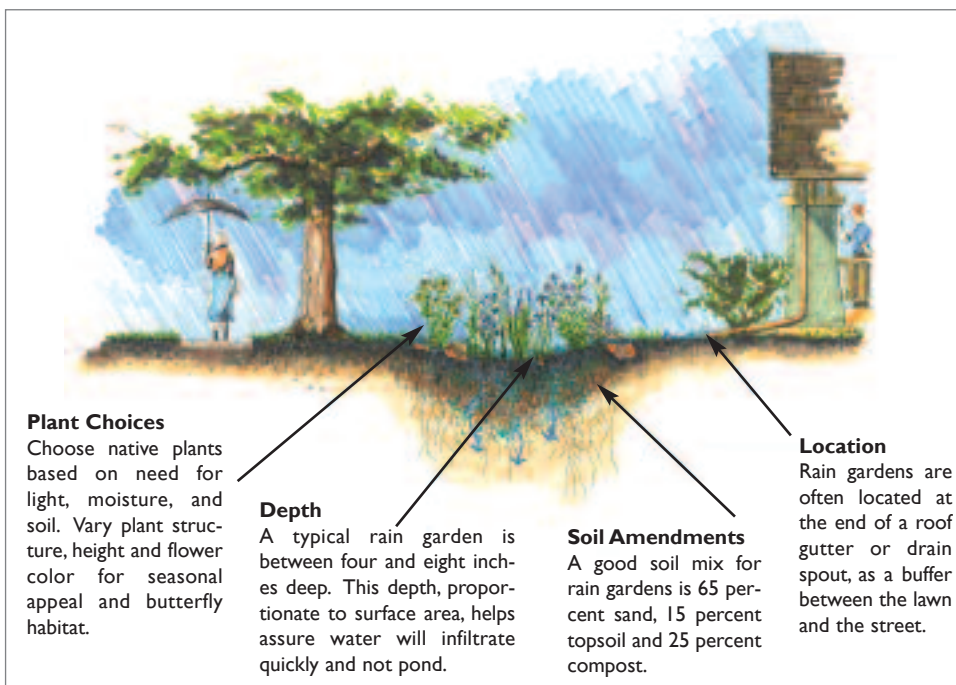
Basil's aromatic qualities makes it one of the most popular and easy to grow plants. Sloat Garden Center carries a range of varieties this summer. Here are a few growing tips:

1. Water basil deeply as opposed to giving it frequent, light waterings. Deep watering creates big leaves. Too much water encourages disease.

2. Basil is a full sun plant and they love the heat. Pick a hot spot for them in the garden.

3. Provide loamy, well-draining soil for basil and feed with a complete fertilizer like **E.B. Stone Organics All-Purpose**.

5. Pinch back flowers to prevent bolting (going to seed).



Plant Choices

Choose native plants based on need for light, moisture, and soil. Vary plant structure, height and flower color for seasonal appeal and butterfly habitat.

Depth

A typical rain garden is between four and eight inches deep. This depth, proportionate to surface area, helps assure water will infiltrate quickly and not pond.

Soil Amendments

A good soil mix for rain gardens is 65 percent sand, 15 percent topsoil and 25 percent compost.

Location

Rain gardens are often located at the end of a roof gutter or drain spout, as a buffer between the lawn and the street.



Colorful Pottery Party!

Flood porches, walkways and outdoor living areas with color. Sloat's beautiful pottery for Spring 2007 is here in 30 fabulous colors!

Clockwise from left: Antransit & Sugarcane, Kiwi Green and Classical Green.

Celebrate National Pollinator Week

June 24–30, 2007



The last week of June has been designated National Pollinator Week by the Senate and the Department of Agriculture. The Postal Service is commemorating the occasion with a Pollination stamp series.

To give pollinators (which are vital to food production and human life) a helping hand, we've compiled a few suggestions.

- Plant in masses to make it easier for pollinators to find the plants they need. It also gives visual punch to your design.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use. **Ask Sloat how!**
- Plant for pollinators. Create pollinator-friendly habitat with native flowering plants that supply pollinators with nectar, pollen, and homes.
- Stop in to Sloat for a list of plants that attract & support these birds and insects!

New in the Garden Design Department



This month, Gloria Sanchez re-joins Sloat Garden Center to lead the Garden Design Department.

Gloria is a lifelong gardener who worked for Sloat in the Mill Valley/East Blithedale nursery from 2000–2003 while enrolled in UC Berkeley's Landscape Architecture program.

After graduating she went on to work for a landscape architect designing small neighborhood parks and new developments. Happily back at Sloat, Gloria says her new role in the design department is a good fit.

"I really enjoy working with clients to create environments that are pleasant to be in and that fit their varied opportunities and constraints," she explains. "I feel like I'm contributing in a positive way to my community."

Since her office is right next to Sloat's Mill Valley/Miller Avenue location, Gloria never has to wander far for brainstorming help.

"It's so nice when I'm stuck for a plant to be able to take a break and walk through the nursery to get some ideas. It's also nice to have the resources of the people there, such as store manager Sharon McGettigan, with whom I can discuss ideas and plant options. That's really helpful. Sloat has a lot of knowledgeable people."

As Gloria begins working with new Sloat customers, she has suggestions for homeowners as they consider a design for their garden.

1. Look at the architecture of your home. How can your landscaping help to frame or accentuate special features or if the architecture is nondescript, how can you use your landscaping to

bring more drama?

2. Consider what views you want from the inside of the house...What do you want to look out at in the garden?

3. Your new landscaping can do more than just look good. Do you want it to screen out poor views? Create privacy? Frame a nice view?

4. Keep in mind that not all of the plants you use need to be your favorite. Each plant has a role and should be chosen for its specific qualities of color, texture or form.

5. Your garden is a living thing that grows, changes and dies, don't be afraid to add, move or remove plants if they're not doing the job you intended for them, or if you just don't like the way they look.

Finally, remember that Sloat Garden Design is available when you need help, with short on-site consultations or a full planting plan.

If you have questions about the department, email or call Gloria: 415-388-3754 or design@sloatgardens.com

Company Spotlight: Burley Clay creates handcrafted garden accents

Burley Clay's handcrafted birdbaths and planters can be found at Sloat this spring. We asked the company a few questions about their business and their creative garden accents.



Lavender birdbath by Burley Clay

How was Burley Clay founded?

Brothers Zane and Samuel Burley founded the Burley Clay Products Company in Zanesville, Ohio in 1923. The Zanesville/Roseville, Ohio area is world famous for its stoneware clay. Originally, Burley produced large stoneware crocks and jugs for home use. Since 1933, Burley has focused on the production of garden pottery & birdbaths.

How do you create new products?

Burley's art department is headed by Pam Ballard. Pam, a skilled artist and designer, also operated a greenhouse and nursery for over 20 years. She constantly researches trends and works with our in-house die-and-mold department to create unique designs exclusively for Burley Clay Products. The production method used to make our birdbaths, pedestals, planters and crocks is a rarely found lost art-form known as jiggering. Jiggering, an acquired skill using a drill that operates with a jerking motion, is abundant at Burley Clay, as many of the local families have worked in area potteries for generations.

Does Burley Clay have a mission?

Burley Clay is proud to offer beautiful, American-made products. They are dedicated to offering fresh, unique designs; quality craftsmanship and unparalleled customer service.

Why is the Lavender birdbath special?

Lavender symbolizes devotion and loyalty. Burley's Lavender birdbath design shows beautiful detail with a hand-painted finish. This birdbath is the perfect gift for weddings, Mother's Day, birthdays or any special occasion.

MAY & JUNE SEMINARS

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

Create a Butterfly Garden!

Mary Te Selle, of Quite Contrary Gardening, shares plant combinations that welcome butterflies and hummingbirds.
May 9—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.
May 30—Novato, Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Pruning Azaleas, Camellias and Rhodias

Marie Miller, aesthetic pruner, shares techniques for enhancing these lovely ever-green bloomers.
May 12—Mill Valley (Miller), Sat., 10 a.m.
May 19—San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.
May 27—Novato, Sun., 10 a.m.
June 13—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Hanging Basket Workshop

Fee \$45, \$35 for GRP members
Make your own colorful creation and take it home the same day.
May 16—Novato, Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Bee Friendly!

Mike Stefanos, owner of 'Hometown Honey', talks bees and shares safety tips.
May 19—Danville, Sat., 10 a.m.

Container Gardens 101

Sara Willard demonstrates how to make colorful creations for every season.
May 19—San Bruno, Sat., 10 a.m.

Debbie Does Entertaining!

Debbie Epstein and Edwin Olson, local caterers, demonstrate dishes that are sure to be the stars of your next party.
May 20—Mill Valley (Miller), Sun., 11 a.m.
May 23—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.
May 27—S.F. (Pierce St.), Sun., 11 a.m.

Veggies 101

Richard Avery, CCN Pro, discusses growing vegetables in a coastal environment.
May 26—San Bruno, Sat., 10 a.m.

Tool Care 101

Drew Kellner demonstrates how to clean and sharpen tools & discusses tool safety.
May 26—Mill Valley (Miller), Sat., 10 a.m.

Pruning Flowering Perennials

Marie Miller, aesthetic pruner, demonstrates how to keep perennials good-looking and encourage flower production.
Jun. 3—Mill Valley (Miller), Sun., 10 a.m.
Jun. 24—San Rafael, Sun., 10 a.m.

Fertilizer 101

Rebecca Vandiver (V), Helen Winkler (W), and Karen Lopez (L), CCN Pros, discuss different types, when & how to fertilize.
Jun. 6—Novato, (V), Wed, 6:30 p.m.
Jun. 16—Mill Valley (Miller.), (L), Sat, 10 am
Jun. 27—S.F. (Sloat Bl.), (W), Wed, 6:30 pm
Jun. 30—San Bruno, (W), Sat, 10 a.m.
Jun. 30—San Rafael, (V), Sat, 10 a.m

Creating Garden Rooms

Mary Te Selle discusses design techniques to define spaces in your garden.
Jun. 9—San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.
Jun. 30—Kentfield, Sat., 10 a.m.

Debbie Does BBQ!

Caterers Debbie Epstein & Edwin Olson demonstrate some fun ideas for your next barbecue.
Jun. 10—San Bruno, Epstein, Sun., 11 a.m.
Jun. 17—Mill Valley (Miller), O, Sun., 11 a.m.
Jun. 24—S.F. (Pierce St.), Epstein, Sun., 11 a.m.

Enjoy an outdoor livingroom this

It's that time of year again...when Bay Area residents migrate outside because being indoors just feels confining – outdoor living makes sense right about now.

This spring and summer, take advantage of your home's outdoor space and invest in beautiful furniture, arbors, rugs and garden accents that will accentuate outdoor rooms with comfort and beauty for years to come.



Furniture: At Sloat Garden Center we have beautiful eucalyptus furniture that will help get the season in gear.

Eucalyptus is a tropical hardwood that is dense, durable and resistant to rot. It grows very fast, so it is a more affordable and durable option than Teak but has the similar luster of Teak. It resists water and moisture, making it an ideal choice for outdoor furniture.

The Eucalyptus used in our furniture is specially harvested using responsible forest management techniques and is FSC certified. This certification guarantees that forests are managed in a way that will assure the long-term availability of wood while protecting the health of forests and the natural resources they contain and support.

Arbors: What better way to show off prized climbing roses or bougainvillea this summer? Arbors are an old fashioned manner of welcoming summer into the garden. We love both our Garden Arbor with Vines and Garden Arbor with Lattice.

Outdoor rugs: This summer Sloat has a fantastic selection of super soft DURAcord outdoor rugs. These beautiful and durable rugs are easy to care for, and are stain, mildew and soil resistant, lightweight, colorfast and offered in two styles: machine-woven or hand-hooked by skilled craftsmen.

Dreaming of patio furniture

←
Left from Top: Verona two seater, Florida arm chair, coffee table and folding chair, bistro set, banana bench

is summer with easy patio accents

Interesting Arbors



garden arbor with vines



garden arbor with lattice



The Garden Arbor with Vines or Lattice offer unique styling with the strength and durability to ensure that these arbors will be around for many years to enjoy. Both offer a square tubular frame with top bars and side panels that provide a classic look. The arbor is a focal point for any garden and is suited for the many occasions that take place there throughout the year.



DURAcord rugs are available in a selection of motifs to coordinate with outdoor settings: pesto solid, algodon (tan) and choco eclair.

Durable outdoor rugs