

## Visit our stores: Nine Locations in San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa

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

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

**Marina District**  
3237 Pierce Street  
Chestnut & Lombard  
(415) 440-1000  
9 to 6:30

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

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

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

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

**Danville**  
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro  
(925) 743-0288  
M-Sat hours: 8 to 5:30pm  
Sun hours: 8am to 5pm

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

**Bulk Soils**  
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro  
(925) 820-1273  
(East Bay delivery only)  
M-Sat 8-4:30

Visit us on the web: [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com)



420 Coloma Street  
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428



Open 7 days per week 8:30am to 6:30pm  
(or as noted above in Danville & SF Marina)

Fall/Winter hours begin Sunday, October 31st  
8:30am to 5:30pm, 7 days a week

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We'll help you grow the plants you love!

8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK October/November 2010

## October & November Gardening Guide

### PLANT

☞ Plant it Now! Fall is the best time to plant **foxglove**, **canterbury bells** and other biennials. Look to plant **cyclamen** in late October/November. It's also a great time to plant ground covers and sweet peas.

☞ Think fall & winter color: **Violas** and **pansies** are perfect for creating mass color in containers or flowerbeds. Available in a variety of hues, they are a terrific ground cover for spring



bulbs. **Iceland poppies** are a wonderfully vibrant option this fall, along with **snapdragons** for fall containers.

☞ For a hardy alternative, consider planting **ornamental grasses**. Grasses require little upkeep and can create a beautiful screening effect against the house or fence.

☞ Fall is for planting! Get container

shrubs, perennials and trees into the ground this month. Winter rains will help develop a strong root system.

☞ Decorate for fall! We have **pumpkins**, **gourds** and **mums** to set the stage on your doorstep.

☞ Select bulbs for spring bloom and winter forcing. Begin chilling bulbs that need an artificial winter: **Tulips**, **freesia**, **crocus** & **hyacinth** need 4-6 weeks of refrigeration before planting.

### FERTILIZE

☞ Apply **E.B. Stone Nature's Green** lawn fertilizer and **Concern Weed Prevention Plus** pre-emergent to control and prohibit annual bluegrass, crabgrass, and other weeds in your lawn and flower beds.

☞ Top-dress perennial beds, azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons with **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus** and feed with 0-10-

10 fertilizer monthly until bloom (**E.B. Stone Organics**).

### PRUNE/MAINTAIN

☞ Prepare planting beds for winter. Clear weeds and rocks. Till soil and add soil amendments.

☞ Divide the roots and rhizomes of perennials such as agapanthus, yarrow and iris.

☞ Lightly prune Japanese maples while still in leaf.

☞ It's time to fill your bird feeders for winter. You can also try a suet feeder!

☞ Feed the birds! Don't cut back dead flower stalks. Let rudbeckia, sunflowers, and other flowers with seeds and berries feed the birds in your neighborhood.



# Gardener's Notebook

Volume 24, No. 3

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

October/November 2010



*Fall Decorating at  
Sloat Garden Center  
Pumpkins are coming to our stores!*



Indoor Houseplants

Roses for 2011

Fall clean up & winter preparation

Fall is for Planting!

## Did you know that fall is the best time to plant?

**October & November** are the best months of the year to get perennials, trees, vines, shrubs and cool season vegetables into the ground because:

1. The ground is still warm (which plants love).
2. Rain will be here soon (which means mother nature does all the watering for you).
3. Plants experience fewer pest and disease issues in the fall.
4. Planting now will allow roots to become established for stronger, more vigorous plants come springtime.



### Here's what should go into the ground this month

**Fall vegetables:** broccoli, kale, lettuce, spinach, peas and more...

**Fall color:** iceland poppy, mums, pansy, snapdragon, viola

**Shrubs:** azalea, camellia, rhododendron, native plants

**Bulbs:** amaryllis, daffodils, iris, tulips



### Start your **spring flower garden now.**



Many flower seeds can be planted now for spring bloom. Check out our 2011 selection. We recommend: poppy, sweet pea, stock, pansy, viola, forget me not and perennial seeds.

### Plant bulbs this fall and enjoy a festival of color next spring!



It's simple to create a blooming bulb planter for spring. All you need are bulbs, a pot, bulb food and Sloat Potting Soil. For detailed bulb planting information, visit our website!

[www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com)

## Order your fruit trees now for 2011



**Ultra dwarf patio fruit trees are perfect for containers or small spaces.**

**Order now for sweet, delicious summer fruit!**



**Available:**

- Fuji Apple
- Yellow Delicious Apple
- Royal Blenheim Apricot
- Compact Stella Cherry
- Self Fertile Bing Cherry
- Bartlett Pear
- D'Anjou Pear
- 20th Century Pear
- Santa Rosa Plum

In addition to our regular fruit tree collection, we are excited about our ultra dwarf line. These trees allow gardeners with even the smallest spaces to grow fruit trees. Ultra dwarf trees are self pollinating (meaning, you don't need two to achieve fruiting), they don't require cold winters, and they produce an abundant harvest of full-sized fruit. It is not unheard of to harvest 30+ apples, 40+ apricots, 30+ pears, 90+ cherries, or 50+ plums from one small potted fruit tree!

Ultra dwarf patio fruit trees will quickly become the real jewels of any garden. If you're interested in any of the trees listed at left, contact the Sloat Garden Center nearest you to preorder yours. Trees will arrive in January 2011. Elberta Peach and Goldmine Nectarine varieties are also available, but we do not recommend growing them in the milder winter areas. Ask your local Sloat Garden Center for further details.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will take orders for Ultra dwarf trees through **October 15th, 2010.**

Please contact your favorite Sloat Garden Center location for details.

## SLOAT GARDEN CENTER SEMINARS

Each season we select local gardening experts and designers, as well as our knowledgeable senior staff, to speak in our seminar series. The class fee is \$5 (Gardener's Reward Program members attend for free) and all participants receive a 10% off coupon for redemption at any of our locations. **Please call ahead to the seminar location to reserve a seat. Attendance is limited.**

### Planting Up Fall & Winter Veggies

Cindy Bonilla, Julie Swift, and Brad Sheehan show how to grow your own fresh greens for the holidays.

Sept. 25 – Danville, Sat., 10 am, Sheehan  
Oct. 13 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 pm, Swift  
Oct. 17 – San Francisco (Pierce St.), Sun., 10 am, Bonilla

### Foodie Gift Ideas for the Holiday Season

Learn recipes for goodies that everyone can make.

Oct. 2 – Danville, Sat., 10 am, Sheehan  
Nov. 10 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm, Putnam

### Enjoy Fresh Produce this Winter

Nate Cofer demonstrates how to can your fresh produce to enjoy later this winter. Great for holiday gifts. We'll have samples!

Oct. 6 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 pm

### Pumpkin Decorating Party for Kids

Purchase your pumpkin with us and join our Pumpkin Decorating Party. Please register early, space is limited.

Oct. 9 – San Rafael, Sat., 10 am  
Oct. 16 – Danville, Sat., 10 am  
Oct. 17 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am

### Learn delicious pumpkin recipes!

Marie Miller shares fun pumpkin recipes to try this fall.

Oct. 9 – Novato, Sat., 10 am  
Oct. 23 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am  
Oct. 30 – Kentfield, Sat., 10 am

### Winter Pruning: Apples, Pears, Plums

Elizabeth Ruiz demonstrates correct pruning for better health and fruit production.

Oct. 10 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Sun., 10am  
Oct. 23 – Novato, Sat., 10 am  
Oct. 24 – Kentfield, Sun., 10 am  
Jan. 19 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm  
Jan. 22 – San Rafael, Sat., 10 am  
Jan. 29 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am

### Attracting Birds to your Garden 101

Alana Cardoso, Shelley Mitchell and Melinda Rose share plant choices and other techniques for attracting our feathered friends.

Oct. 10 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am, Cardoso  
Oct. 16 – San Rafael, Sat., 10 am, Mitchell  
Oct. 27 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 pm, Rose

### Chicken Coops for the Back Yard

Mark Hall, from Creative Coops, discusses how to prepare for your own microflock.

Oct. 16 – Kentfield, Sat., 10 am  
Oct. 17 – Novato, Sun., 10 am

### Learn to set up your own Rain Garden

Dave Phelps discusses methods for preventing runoff, saving water.

Oct. 24 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am  
Nov. 21 – Novato, Sun., 10 am

### Smaller Trees for City Gardens

Gus Broucuret shares his favorite choices for SF gardens.

Oct. 20 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 pm

### Garden Design Review: Great ideas from the Chelsea Flower Show

Mary Te Selle discusses slides from this year's show from a designer's point of view.

Nov. 3 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm

### Bee Supportive!

Our local bee societies share info on supporting native bees, bee keeping and peaceful co-existence with our busy bee friends.

Nov. 6 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am  
Nov. 7 – Kentfield, Sun., 10 am  
Nov. 17 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm

### Create Colorful Holiday Entrances

Terri Hiatt, Jen Strobel and Cindy Bonilla show how to create holiday containers for the front door. Come learn to make a great hostess gift!

Nov. 6 – Novato, Sat., 10 am, Strobel  
Nov. 6 – Danville, Sat., 10 am, Hiatt  
Nov. 13 – Kentfield, Sat., 10 am, Strobel  
Nov. 14 – San Francisco (Pierce St.), Sun., 10 am, Bonilla  
Nov. 20 – San Rafael, Sat., 10 am, Strobel

**SAVE the DATE!**



## Winter Orchid Festival

at all Sloat Garden Center locations

### February 2011

Join us for 2 weeks of orchid seminars, giveaways, demonstrations & specials!

### Caring for Unusual Orchids

Glenn Smith discusses caring for out-of-the-ordinary orchids.

Feb. 2 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm  
Feb. 5 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am  
Feb. 6 – Novato, Sun., 10 am  
Feb. 12 – San Rafael, Sat., 10 am  
Feb. 13 – Kentfield, Sun., 10 am

### Orchid Basics 101

Tom Perlite talks about how to fertilize and repot orchids.

Feb. 6 – San Francisco (Third Ave.), Sun., 10 am  
Feb. 13 – San Francisco (Pierce St.), Sun., 10 am

### Repotting Orchid Demonstrations

Our staff demos how to repot various orchids.  
Feb. 8 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Tues., 10 am  
Feb. 8 – San Francisco (Sloat Blvd), Tues., 10 am

Stay tuned for more seminars in January, February & March 2011

Visit [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com) for details!

- Fruit Vine Pruning 101
  - Vine Pruning
  - Rose Pruning
  - Basic Pruning
- Pruning Japanese Maples
- Beautiful Hillside Landscapes
  - Seed Starting 101
  - Save Water & Time: replace your lawn!
  - Winter Fertilizing in SF

## Those \*!#&% gophers & moles!



*Need solutions to your  
gopher & mole problem?*

**Bonide Repels All** is made from all natural ingredients that are repulsive to vermin. Repels in three ways; touch, taste and smell. This comprehensive animal repellent may also be used around edibles. **Mole Max** is part of a collection of products that are made from all natural ingredients and will repel moles, voles, gophers, rabbits and skunks. The active ingredient is castor oil. Safe around children, pets and plants.



### Mole Max Repellent 5 & 10 lb. Granules

- Biodegradable granules
- 1 lb. treats 500 sq. ft. & lasts for 3 months



### Mole Max Repellent Ready to Spray

One quart treats 10,000 sq. ft. and lasts 30 days+  
*Always irrigate plants before spraying.*



### Repels All Ready to Use

Protects plants and property, including structures, for up to 2 months per application.

## Plant care solutions for pre-winter garden prep!



### Wilt Stop Plant Protector

This natural, non-toxic product, derived from the resin of pine trees, protects plants from drying out, drought, wind burn, sunscald, winter kill, transplant shock and salt damage. Great for use year-round on deciduous trees, evergreens, shrubs, roses, transplants, vegetables and fruit. Also extends life of cut flowers and Christmas trees.



### Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil

Protect your favorite plants and trees. Kills insects by smothering them. Use all season long to control insects (including scale) on trees, shrubs, ornamentals, fruits and vegetables in your backyard or greenhouse. This is the perfect insect control product for organic gardeners.



### Rose Rx

Organically prevents and controls blackspot, anthracnose, rust, scab, blights---stops powdery mildew in as little as 24 hours! Kills all life stages of aphids, mites, scale, whitefly, beetles, leafrollers. For use on roses and flowers as well as fruit, nuts, vegetables, herbs, spices, houseplants, trees and shrubs. May be used indoors. Easy on beneficial insects. An excellent choice for organic and IPM gardens.



### Citrus, Fruit & Nut Orchard Spray

This all natural, all-in-one, insect and disease control is great for citrus, fruit and nuts, and also vegetables, ornamentals, houseplants and lawns. Truly effective and all purpose.

TRUSTED SINCE 1926  
**BONIDE**

*Bonide provides effective  
"green" solutions  
for Home, Lawn  
and Garden Pest Problems*

# 5 new ROSES for 2011



All-America Rose Selections (AARS) runs the world's most challenging horticultural testing program to recognize roses that are easy to grow and require minimal care. To be chosen as an AARS winner, roses need to thrive during two years of comprehensive testing in 23 gardens nationwide. Look for the AARS red-rose seal when selecting these roses. Available at Sloat Garden Center starting in mid-December.



**Purple Splash**  
*Climber*

This climber has wine purple striped flowers that feature large, pyramid-shaped clusters with bright white accents. Great for any fence, wall or trellis...it repeat blooms readily in the very first year. More stripes show up in cooler weather. Few thorns and moderate sweet apple fragrance. 10 to 14 feet climbing canes with medium-large, large clustered flowers.



**White Licorice**  
*Floribunda*

Unparalleled perfume...a sweet licorice and lemon blossom aroma. A bouquet-making machine-of-a-plant with wonderfully formed buds that open into big wavy wonders. Bushy and beautifully branched, it looks as good in the garden as the flowers do in a vase. Large, double, classically formed flowers. Produces more yellow when cool...more white when warm.



**Walking on Sunshine**  
*Floribunda*

Tight clusters of bright yellow buds open with an anise aroma. The super glossy, disease-resistant foliage contrasts beautifully with cheery, eye-catching flowers. It's a floribunda with fantastic bloom production and great vigor. Walking on Sunshine is easy to care for and great for beginners.



**Dick Clark**  
*Grandiflora*

Black-red buds spiral open to show off swirls of cream edged and washed with vibrant cherry pink. When the sun strikes the petals they blush burgundy, finishing as a deep dark red. Wonderful long cutting stems, easy to grow, great vigor. Cinnamon spice fragrance. Largest flower size in cooler temps.



**Colorific**  
*Floribunda*

Large pointed buds open to show shades of peach, coral and salmon. The sun gives the flowers deeper tones of orange, scarlet and burgundy. This is a colorful new rose with strong long stems. Best flower size in cooler conditions.

# Houseplants that will improve air quality this winter



Dieffenbachia

Did you know that houseplants are the best filters for removing common volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) from the air?

We know that plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen as part of the photosynthetic process, but researchers also found that some houseplants absorb benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene. These poisonous chemicals are found in synthetic carpeting, laminated coverings, plastic coated wallpaper and various materials known to "off-gas" pollutants, which can then be trapped in unventilated areas.

With this in mind, research from an indoor air quality study suggest that houseplants really are essential to good air quality. Recommendations generated from the study are that 15 to 18 flourishing medium-sized houseplants in 6 to 8 inch diameter containers can improve air quality in an average 1,800 sq. foot house.

## Houseplant Care

Most houseplants need bright indirect light. A west-facing window is too bright and hot and may burn the leaves, yet a dim corner away from a window will cause the leaves to become pale and spindly. If you can read by the natural light in a room, it's probably bright enough for most houseplants.

Don't follow a strict watering schedule, but do check your plants regularly and learn their preferences. Always water thoroughly until water drains out of the bottom of the pot, but never allow plants to sit in water.

Light but frequent applications of a liquid fertilizer such as Maxsea All Purpose during the spring and summer is advisable. Remember to dust your houseplants seasonally - dusty leaves provide haven for harmful insects (mites).



**Speaking of indoor plants... check out our Desktop Landscapes** perfect for your desk at home or in the office!

## Plants to help improve indoor air quality:

**Palms** (Chrysalidocarpus, Rhaps, Chamaedorea and Phoenix)

**Fern** (Nephrolepis)

**Corn Plant** (Dracaena)

**Rubber Plant & Weeping Fig** (Ficus)

**Peace Lily** (Spathiphyllum)

**Gerbera Daisy**

**Dumb Cane** (Dieffenbachia)

**Schefflera** (Brassaia)

**Orchids**

(Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis)

**Spider Plant** (Chlorophytum)

**Philodendron**

**Arrowhead Plant** (Syngonium)

**Golden Pothos**

(Epipremnum aureum)

**Dwarf Banana** (Musa)

**Chinese Evergreen** (Aglaonema)

**Snake Plant** (Sansevieria trifasciata)

**Yes...it's a bit early, but we wanted to remind you that Sloat Garden Center has the freshest wreaths, Christmas trees and garland in the Bay Area.**



Our premium wreaths and fresh cut Christmas trees will be available **starting Thanksgiving weekend.**

Check [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com) for the latest in holiday decorating ideas.



## Chemical free solutions for the garden



If you want to deter pests from your garden, without using chemicals, **Gardeneer** is for you!

Gardeneer, a brand of **Dalen**, is a family owned business that was started in 1975 by owner Neal Caldwell. As a mechanical engineer, Neal wanted to combine his intense interest in gardening and

inventing to develop innovative items for the home gardener.

We really like Gardeneer's landscape fabric (which reduces or eliminates the need for chemical weed killers). Also, their owl scarecrow devices and netting products protect crops from birds in a safe and humane way. Gardeneer caters to gardeners who want to avoid chemicals and invest in quality, lasting products.



**WEED SHIELD LANDSCAPE FABRIC** keeps weeds from germinating during the critical winter months. This ultimate, porous landscape fabric keeps fall and winter germinating weed seeds at bay. Patented dual-layer material with a 20-year weed-free guarantee. Use around trees, shrubs, swimming pools, permanent landscaping and gardens, under patios, decks, walkways and paths.



### SCARECROW DEVICES

Seed eating birds don't take a holiday vacation, and your garden shouldn't either! This is the safe and humane way to protect gardens. This realistic owl (a natural enemy to most birds) bobs and turns in gentle breezes to startle birds; provides maximum garden protection. 18" tall imposing presence; hand-painted. Use in gardens, decks, boat docks, rafters, barns, open porches, patios.



### NETTING

Use when planting climbing sweet peas this fall! Heavy-duty nylon netting is ideal for planting beans and peas, but it's also great to add support to tomatoes and other vine crops.

## All the right tools for fall clean up

We'd like to make a prediction of what the average rake in your garage or shed looks like right now; either the tines are breaking off or the handle gives you splinters or some part of the rake is twisted and bent. Are we close? As your fall clean up tools return to heavy rotation, it's probably time to replace the most important tool of all – your rake.

A good shrub rake is essential for fall clean up because a narrow span helps to get around shrubs. Our **Corona shrub rake** has double cribs spanning its 8-inch wide sweep. These secure the flexible tines and add great durability.

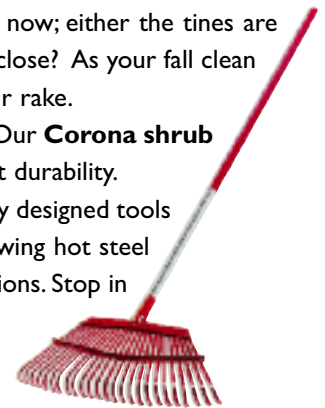
We carry Corona products (including shovels & hand tools) because they are high quality, classically designed tools that deliver superior performance. Corona Clipper Inc. began pounding, compressing and flowing hot steel into tools in the 1920's. Years later, the same hand tools are often passed on to new generations. Stop in and check out our entire Corona line!



Shrub rake



**CORONA**



### Fall Clean up TIPS

1. Stake newly-planted trees to help them make it through their first winter.
2. Spread compost on perennials and vegetable beds to enrich the soil for next spring.
3. Clean garden tools to get them ready for next year. Shovels and pruners can be sprayed with vegetable oil to keep them from rusting over the winter months. Cleaning your tools now can also help keep diseases from getting into next year's garden.