



Gardener's Notebook

Volume 18, No. 5

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

September/October 2004

Fall

Gardening Issue



*Spring Flowering Bulbs ~ Beautiful Biennials
Best Fall Berries ~ Gardening Guide ~ New Sloat for Sonoma*

Getting to know the best biennials for your fall garden

You know your annuals, you're up on perennials, but what are biennials . . . and what can they do for your fall garden?

While true biennial species are few in number, some are incredibly popular with gardeners, especially during the fall season.

The most common biennials are



Canterbury bells, foxgloves, stock, and hollyhocks. Pansies and delphiniums are considered biennials or short-lived perennials.

A biennial is a plant that takes two years to complete its life cycle. In its first growing period, it develops roots and leaves. During its second season, it produces blooms, seeds, and then dies.

Fortunately, growers offer biennials in bloom so gardeners can avoid a growing season of just foliage and can use them in their gardens just like annuals.

If you choose to grow from seed, you should plant biennials in midsummer to get them growing into fall, which in turn forces them to flower the following year.

Biennials require the same care as perennials and annuals. They will benefit from a light feeding the first year to help develop foliage. You may then cut them back before winter (like some perennials) and feed them again in spring.

Some biennials will naturalize, but may require a degree of winter coolness to produce blooms the following year.

Here is a list of flowering biennials for you to consider. Please see our nursery professionals if you need advice on planting and care.

Canterbury Bells (*Campanula*).

Known for their showy blue, violet, pink or white flowers. Grow them in full sun on the coast and filtered shade inland.

Foxglove (*Digitalis*). Plant these showy towers of flowers in light shade. They're a great companion to ferns.

Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*). These flowers grow best in partial shade and will produce tiny blue flowers and seeds profusely. They're great with daffodils!

Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*). Expect vigorous growth and dense clusters of flowers. Plant it in full sun or in some shade in hot climates.

Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*). Lovely tall stalks and plenty of colors. Grow in full sun and provide regular water.

Stock (*Matthiola incana*). Great fragrance and colorful flowers. Plant in full sun.

Pansy (*Viola wittrockiana*). One of the hardiest biennials you'll find. Fast growing in full sun in cool areas, some shade inland.

Delphinium. Spectacular flowers on tall spikes. Grow in full sun and provide regular water.



Gardening Guide

September & October

Plant:

A wonderful selection of fall flowers is ready for your garden. See a few examples in the article above and on page 3.

Time for planting trees, shrubs, grasses, and spring-blooming perennials.

Once the weather turns cool, plant cool season vegetables

such as broccoli, kale, chard, cabbage, spinach, lettuce, and more. See winter vegetable seminars on page 7.

Watch for the arrival of spring-flowering bulbs at all Sloat locations. Shop early for best selection. Irises are in stock now.

Fertilize:

Roses and summer annuals appreciate feeding at this time of the year.

Prune/Maintain:

- Pick up leaves from around trees and shrubs to keep the garden clean.
- Remove spent flowers on annuals.
- Pick up fallen fruit to avoid pests and diseases next year.
- Plan landscaping projects for next spring. Consider a design or problem-solving consultation. For more information, contact our Garden Design Department at (415) 388-3754.
- Start or refresh a compost pile.

Plant:

Look for cyclamen in late October or early November.

Plant container shrubs, grasses, and trees. Winter rains will help develop a strong root system.

Fall is a great time to plant ground covers. See our staff for recommendations.

Select bulbs for winter forcing and spring bloom. Begin chilling those that need an "artificial winter."

Select and plant maples and other trees.

Fertilize:

Topdress azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons with Sloat's Forest Mulch Plus, and feed with "0-10-10" fertilizer monthly until bloom.

Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent weeds in your lawn and flower beds.

Prune/Maintain:

- Prepare planting beds for winter. Clear weeds and rocks. Till soil. Add soil amendments and fertilizer. Install irrigation.
- Divide the roots and rhizomes of certain perennials such as agapanthus, yarrow, Shasta daisies, and dianthus. You may also dig up summer-blooming bulbs, including gladiolus and dahlias.



Sloat opens in Sonoma at Cornerstone Festival of Gardens

North Bay gardeners as well as gardeners throughout the entire Bay Area are in for a real experience when they visit the home of Sloat's newest garden center in Sonoma.

The new store is part of an innovative exhibit called Cornerstone Festival of Gardens that will feature 15 fabulous gardens created by the world's foremost landscape architects.

Sloat's new garden center is our most elaborate, complete and beautiful store yet. It is a perfect outlet for the inspiration the demonstration gardens will provide.

It offers plants from California's top growers including **Monrovia**, **Matsuda**, **Blooms**, **Suncrest**, and others. All plants have been specifically selected for North Bay's climate as well.

The garden center features a complete line of tools, fertilizers and plant remedies, as well as a great selection of gloves and hats. Like the other nine Sloat Garden Centers, customers of our newest location will benefit from over 40 years of

Bay Area gardening experience and advice from some of Northern California's most experienced nursery professionals.

Gardeners visiting Sloat for the first time are sure to recognize the exceptional value offered on our gorgeous garden pottery. For decades, Sloat has been buying directly from potters around the world so prices, design and quality are superb. Cornerstone will attract gardening



Manager John Coulston and nursery professional Sara Rey.



fans from around the country, so Sloat offers specialty gifts, houseplants, unique ceramics, books, and other garden-related items for the home.

The new store has a staff of nursery experts including Sonoma resident **John Coulston**. Coulston, who manages the garden center, is one of Sloat's top nursery professionals. He has excellent local planting knowledge to share with North Bay gardeners.

The nine and one half acre site, which currently has eight gardens planted, opened in late July. It is conveniently located on Highway 121, just six miles north of Highway 37 and minutes from downtown Sonoma.

Sloat Sonoma:
23566 Arnold Drive
(707) 939-9400



A \$2 discount off Cornerstone's admission price is available at Sloat Sonoma until 9/22/04. Ask any staff member!

Blooms' Fall Color Checklist

Keep your garden in bloom this fall and winter with top quality plants from one of the Bay Area's premier growers, **Blooms Nursery**.

Here are just a few standout plants our grower will be bringing to us over the next few months:

Rudbeckias. This great summer and autumn flower will light up any garden. Look for several varieties including 'Sonora,' 'Indian Summer' and 'Rustic Colors' beginning in September.

Osteospermum. Check out some superb Proven Winners varieties including Lemon Symphony, Orange Symphony and Vanilla Symphony.

Nemesia. A selection of these popular annuals that were featured in last year's *Gardener's Notebook* and will be available in October.

Grasses and more. There will be some wonderful grasses to consider which offer great fall color, too.

Visit us soon to learn more about our great fall selections and check back issues of our newsletter at sloatgardens.com for more fall seasons advice.



RUDBECKIA
'Indian Summer'



Spring bulbs: The backbone of a gorgeous garden

More and more gardeners are discovering that fall, not spring, is prime time for planting a garden.

What's becoming common knowledge is that the most spectacular and successful spring gardens begin with fall plantings of spring-blooming perennials including flowering bulbs.

Spring flower bulbs are the ideal backbone for a spring garden. They can begin

their bloom as early as January and continue a dependable display of color through June.

So little effort and expertise are required of the gardener and

the returns are so great, that bulb gardening continues to be one of the world's most popular forms of gardening.

Perhaps the only way to distinguish the difference between a veteran bulb gardener and a beginner is not whether the bulbs they plant come up, but rather comparing the sheer quantity of bulbs that appear! You see, a beginner's bulbs are almost sure to bloom and look fantastic, but what the experienced bulb gardener knows is that when it comes to planting a bulb garden, more (a lot more) is better!

Planting tulips, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths and other spring performers is nearly foolproof. No matter what you do, including planting a bulb upside down, it will result in a good measure of success.

Nevertheless, here are a number of tips and suggestions to consider that will make a good thing even better!

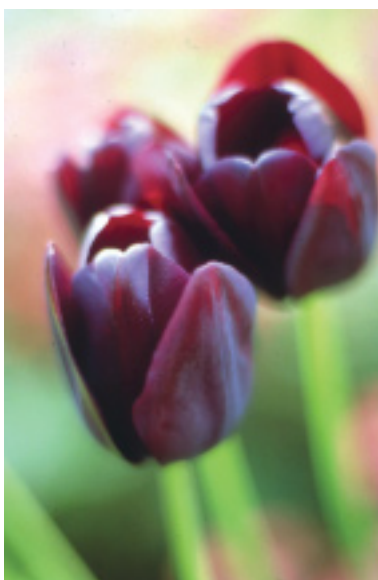
Selecting bulbs. There are three sizes of flower bulbs: small, medium and top size. A simple rule of thumb to remember is that the bigger the

bulb, the bigger the flower. When selecting bulbs, always check that they are firm, not mushy, and that there is no mold or fungus present. Both problems indicate improper storage by the grower.

To assist you, Sloat orders the largest bulbs available, then displays the bulbs in open crates so you hand-select them.

When to plant. Put your bulbs in the ground or in pots as soon as the weather cools. Once the evening temperatures get into the 50s, you're ready to plant, and plant you must. Bulbs are not seeds, and

will not keep. If by chance you discover that you have forgotten to plant some or all of your bulbs, you have nothing to lose by planting them. Nature has a way of making good things happen and chances are you'll get something.



Queen of Night



Where to plant. Bulbs can be planted just about anywhere in the garden. Most bulbs like full sun, but keep in mind that planting under deciduous trees and shrubs is often an overlooked option. When leaves drop, enough light typically gets through to the bulbs in winter and early spring for them to bloom. A bit of useful advice offered by the Dutch is "bulbs don't like wet feet." You should avoid planting where water collects such as the bottom of a hill.

Soil preparation. If you are planting in established garden beds, there probably isn't much for you to do. If, however, you are breaking new ground for your bulbs, use **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus** to add organic material to your soil and loosen up the clay that's com-

monly found in Bay Area gardens.

Feeding. Bulbs are mini storage tanks and don't need heavy fertilizing. Utilizing a boost such as **EB Stone Organics Bulb and Flower Food** is a great idea especially with naturalizing and perennializing bulbs such as daffodils. The food helps refill the tank after the bloom.

Point up. Identifying the top and bottom for most bulbs isn't hard. The pointy end goes up in most cases. Planting depth will vary so use our handy chart.

While spring bulbs should top everyone's fall planting priority list, putting your spring-blooming perennials in the ground now will result in bigger, better established plants, more beautiful foliage and, of course, more flowers.

Here's to a great spring garden!



Angelique



Consider these four winning bulb design tips

Great bulb displays are child's play, but you certainly don't need to advertise it. People will think you're a horticultural genius when they see your spring garden.

In order to receive two green thumbs up for your bulb planting technique consider these proven design tips.

1. Mass your bulbs. Go crazy. With bulbs the more the better and planting big drifts of bulbs is a surefire way to amaze everyone. Creating rich bands of solid colors is a stunning effect.

2. For bulbs that bloom at the same time, make sure you plant the low-growing varieties in front and the tall ones in back. For bulbs that bloom at



Try planting Crocus in your lawn.

different times, you might consider the reverse if you want the new bulb growth and blooms to cover the old blooms that are dying back.

3. Try a double-decker effect where smaller bulbs are planted on top of larger bulbs. When they bloom together, you end up with an interesting and beautiful effect. Mix colors that work well together like purple and yellow or red and white.

4. Plant crocus in your lawn . . . you can even spell a name. The only caveat to this cool idea is that you'll need to let the lawn go uncut around the planting until the crocus die back in order for them to return next year.

Sloat's 2004 Bulb Chart

The following chart shows nearly all of the bulbs, rhizomes and corms Sloat will offer this year along with key planting information.

FULL SUN

| | Bloom times | Planting depth | Height | Colors | Comments |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| DUTCH IRIS | May thru June | 4 in. | 22 in. | purple indigo blue yellow orange pink cream white | Naturalizer |
| IRIS RETICULATA | Feb. thru Mar. | 3-4 in. | 6-8 in. | purple indigo blue yellow | Deer resistant, naturalizer |
| IXIA MIXED | May thru June | 3 in. | 18-20 in. | yellow orange red pink cream | Deer resistant, naturalizer |
| RANUNCULUS | Feb. thru Aug. | 2 in. | 10 in. | yellow orange red pink white | Great cut flower |
| SCILLA | Late winter | 2 in. | 3-6 in. | purple indigo blue pink white | Deer resistant |
| SPARAXIS | Apr. thru May | 2 in. | 12-18 in. | purple yellow red pink white | Deer resistant |
| TULIPS | Mar. thru May | 6 in. | 10-30 in. | purple indigo blue yellow orange red pink cream white | NEW fragrant varieties |
| (includes Botanical, Bunchflowering, Single & Double Early, Triumph, Darwin Hybrid, Longstem, Viridiflora, Lilyflowering, Parrot, Fringed and Fragrant) | | | | | |
| WATSONIA | Apr. thru May | | 4-6 ft. | purple orange red pink white | |

FULL SUN/PART SHADE

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| ALLIUM | May thru July | Varies | 2-5 ft. | purple indigo blue yellow red pink white | Deer resistant, naturalizer |
| ANEMONE | Feb. thru Aug. | 2 in. | 8 in. | purple indigo blue yellow red pink cream white | Great naturalizer |
| BEARDED IRIS | May thru Aug. | 2 in. | 24 in. | purple indigo blue yellow orange red pink white | |
| CALLA AETHIOPICA | Jan. thru Apr. | 4 in. | 30 in. | | |
| CROCUS | Feb. thru Apr. | 3 in. | 5 in. | purple indigo blue yellow | Deer resistant, naturalizer |
| DAFFODILS | Feb. thru Apr. | 5 in. | 10-18 in. | yellow orange pink cream white | Deer resistant |
| FREESIA | Feb. thru Mar. | 2 in. | 12 in. | purple indigo blue yellow orange red pink white | Deer resistant |
| FRITILLARIA | Varies | Varies | 1-4 ft. | purple yellow orange red | Deer resistant, naturalizer |
| HYACINTH | April | 6 in. | 9 in. | purple indigo blue yellow orange pink cream white | Long-blooming, fragrant |
| MUSCARI | March thru May | 2 in. | 4-8 in. | purple indigo blue | Deer resistant, naturalizer |
| NARCISSUS | Feb. thru Apr. | 5 in. | 10-18 in. | yellow | Deer resistant, naturalizer |

purple indigo blue yellow orange red pink cream white

Dependable daffodils bring out the best in a spring garden

For many gardeners daffodils are the essence of spring itself. These remarkable bulbs typically surface before spring has officially sprung and light up the landscape with an inspiring display of beauty.

Once again, Bay Area gardeners are blessed as daffodils are truly at home in our Mediterranean climate.

Natives of Spain, Portugal, France and Morocco, daffodils are members of the genus *narcissus*. Gardeners commonly (and correctly) use the names "daffodils" and "narcissus" interchangeably to describe the bulb.

While some bulbs perennialize, meaning they come back each season for several years, daffodils will naturalize in your Bay Area garden.

This means that not only will daffodils bloom indefinitely in your garden, but in increasing numbers!

There are at least 25 species of



Narcissus cyclamineus 'Jet Fire.'

With a name like 'Jet Fire' it is not likely to be growing in your grandmother's garden. Developed in 1966, 'Jet Fire' has yellow petals and a red-orange trumpet. You can turn up the

creamy white flowers with a center cup that opens peachy-yellow and matures to a soft apricot are quite remarkable. Like most strong naturalizers, its leaves remain green after flowering to recharge the bulb.

added bonus, you can cool your jets by planting this bulb in the shade as well.

***Narcissus* 'Tahiti.'** Offering a long-lasting double flower, this daffodil is gorgeous (see picture at left). It is easy to see why it is ranked among the top ten best selling varieties in the world.

Daffodils are a definite plus in just about any garden. To get a feel for the magnitude of a full-blown drift of these special flowers, just check the roadside along Highway 280 down around Stanford University and you'll see some of the largest daffodil drifts in the Bay Area.

Sloat tip. After blooming, allow the leaves to turn brown before removing so the bulb can recharge. Daffodils are gopher proof as the bulbs contain poisonous crystals. With this in mind, be careful when mixing them with other flowers in vases as a release of poison will shorten the vase life of other flowers.

jets by planting them in full sun but as an

Add a rainbow of color to your garden with bearded iris

The fact that irises were named for the Greek goddess of rainbows just about says it all. This wonderfully exotic, drought

tolerant and beautiful flower comes in a magnificent array of colors.

For Bay Area gardeners, the bearded iris is

simply a must. A native of the Mediterranean region that includes Spain, Portugal, Italy, and France, the iris (like the daffodil) is at home in our similar climate, making us the envy of iris lovers the world over.

Your bearded irises will follow the same growing cycle of their ancestors by blooming in early spring, growing until early summer then going dormant until the fall

and winter rains flow.

While there are over 200 species of iris and thousands of hybrids, nearly all

irises have two features in common; sword shaped leaves and a recognizable flower form that has three upright petals called



"standards" and three outer petals called "falls," which bend down from the base of the blossom. With bearded iris, there's a fuzzy, caterpillar-looking part (that someone thought looked like a beard) that appears just above the falls.

The color range for bearded iris includes shades of yellow, lavender, purple, orange, red, pink, and even black.

(cont. on back page)



daffodils, plenty of different plant forms and a staggering 13,000 hybrids according to the **Daffodil Data Bank**.

The distinctive trumpet or cup which centers the

flower may be long, short, ruffled, and even doubled depending on the variety. Some of the more interesting daffodils are bi-colored.

Here a just a few of the many varieties that Sloat will offer this fall.

***Narcissus* 'Ice Follies.'** This daffodil was developed more than 50 years ago in a small, rugged Dutch coastal town. 'Ice Follies' has proved to be one of the all-time great naturalizers. Its flowers are long-lasting and huge with icy-white petals and a center that changes color from yellow to white as it matures.

***Narcissus* 'Salome.'** One of the finest large-cupped daffodils on the planet, 'Salome' combines eye-catching flowers and an exceptionally rugged demeanor. Its

Berries offer landscape beauty and important food for birds

Adding attractive berry bearing plants to your landscape is a sure way to spice up a fall and winter garden. What's more, berries from junipers, hollies, pyracanthas, and a number of less common plants we'd like you to consider provide



This Mahonia offers fragrant yellow blooms followed by wonderful powder-blue fruit clusters.

branches that hold smaller branchlets covered with rich green foliage.

Mahonia has wonderful light blue to blue black berries that follow dense clusters of yellow flowers. Mahonia looks great year 'round with its spiny edged leaves. It's easy to grow in full

sun to shade (depending on the variety) and birds absolutely love it.

Viburnum is a plant we touched on in the April 2004 issue of the *Gardener's Notebook*, which you can reference online at www.sloatgardens.com. Its showy fruit and many landscape possibilities make it a favorite of Bay Area gardeners.



Photo: MONROVIA

Arbutus unedo 'Compacta' delivers masses of white flowers followed by strawberry-like fruit.

a critical food source for migratory birds.

After flowering, many plants produce seeds and fruit that present gardeners with a second and often beautiful display of color that can rival the prettiest of blooms!

The red strawberry-like fruit of **Arbutus unedo 'Compacta'** that follows masses of white flowers is a fine example. This evergreen accent shrub, which is great for screens and hedges, flowers and fruits almost continuously.

Bay Area gardeners should also consider **Arbutus 'Marina,'** an evergreen tree variety with larger leaves than *A. unedo* and rosy-pink flowers in the fall.

Cotoneaster dammeri 'Coral Beauty' is another winner for you and the birds. Its profusion of lovely coral red berries is hard to miss. This variety makes an excellent ground cover. It has dense prostrate



Photo: MONROVIA

Cotoneaster dammeri 'Coral Beauty' makes an excellent ground cover.

The presence of birds in your landscape is a sure sign of a healthy garden. They bring with them song and motion which truly enhance the overall enjoyment we get from our gardens.

Add food and shelter to your garden and you'll attract plenty of birds.

Sloat tip. Along with berries and other fruit many birds appreciate seeds. Consider one of our lovely birdfeeders along with some berry plants on your next visit.

SLOAT 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.)

Winter Vegetable Gardening

Join Sloat's award-winning vegetable gardener Dinah Sims on three dates and another one of Sloat's experts at our Danville locations when they discuss how to plant an ultra productive winter vegetable garden.

Sept. 4 - Larkspur, Saturday, 10 a.m. (Sims)

Sept. 11 - Danville, Saturday, 10 a.m.

Sept. 12 - Kentfield, Sunday, 10 a.m. (Sims)

Sept. 19 - San Rafael, Sunday, 10 a.m. (Sims)

Sensational Seasonal Color with Ornamental Grasses

How to use beautiful ornamental grasses in the garden continues to be a hot topic. Join local grass expert Bob Hornback who will guide you on choosing, designing and caring for the grasses that will add so much to your landscape.

Sept. 5 - Mill Valley (Miller), Sunday, 10 a.m.

Sept. 18 - Kentfield, Saturday, 10 a.m.

Oct. 3 - San Rafael, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Oct. 10 - Larkspur, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Wildly Successful Plants

Discover the secrets to a gorgeous and successful garden with local gardener and author Pam Pierce. Piece wrote "Golden Gate Gardening" and her latest work is "Wildly Successful Plants." She will discuss choosing plants, using native plants in your garden, developing a low-maintenance landscape and much more. This seminar is great opportunity to learn from one of the Bay Area's best!

Sept. 8 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 - Mill Valley (Blithedale), Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Autumn Color Bowls

Time to tune up your container gardens with fresh and beautiful seasonal plants. Local horticulturist Gerry O'Donoghue will demonstrate how to create a variety of gorgeous fall color bowls for your home and garden.

Sept. 22 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Spectacular Azaleas & Rhodies

Join Richard Avery or Dustin Strobel, two of Sloat's top nursery professionals, and learn to grow some of the most beautiful shade-loving plants on the planet. Azaleas and rhododendrons are ideal for Bay Area gardens when given the proper care.

Oct. 2 - Danville, Saturday, 10 a.m. (Avery)

Oct. 20 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Winter or Holiday Color Bowls with Bulbs

Learn to use bulbs to create gorgeous container displays for the winter season with a demonstration by Sloat's Cindy Bonilla. Horticulturist and garden designer Elizabeth Finley will demonstrate how to use bulbs to create holiday bowls in Marin.

Oct. 6 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 16 - Kentfield, Saturday, 10 a.m.

Oct. 30 - Mill Valley (Miller), Saturday, 10 a.m.

Ten Locations in San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma & 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

Sonoma
23566 Arnold Drive
(707) 939-9400

Danville
828 Diablo Road
(925) 743-0288

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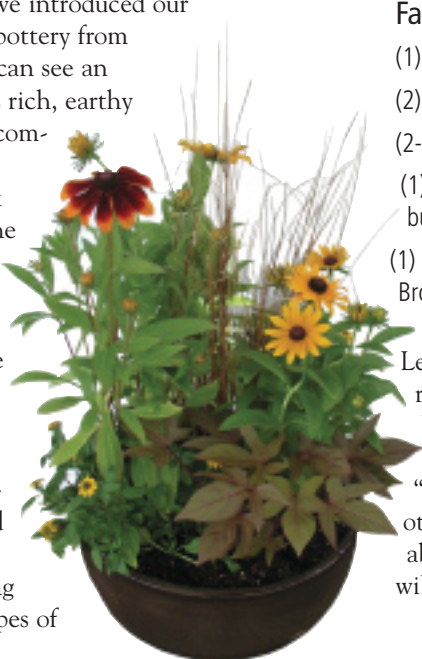
8 Sloat Notebook September/October 2004

Easy fall recipe with mink brown pottery

Earlier this year we introduced our new “mink brown” pottery from Malaysia. Now you can see an example of how this rich, earthy tone and fine glaze compliments fall colors.

Along with mink brown, Sloat is in the process of bringing in additional new pottery colors and styles that will make up our 2005 collection.

Check out the seasonal plant selections on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter and consider creating some container recipes of your own this fall!



Fall Container Recipe

- (1) 10-inch diameter Mink Brown pot
- (2) Rudbeckia hirta 'Rustic Colors'
- (2-3) Sanvitalia 'Sprite Yellow'
- (1) Leather Leaf Sedge (Carex buechananii)
- (1) Ipomoea 'Sweet Caroline Bronze'

Notes: We placed the Leather Leaf Sage in the center of three rudbeckia, surrounded the rudbeckia with the Sanvitalia and placed the Ipomoea at the “front” of the pot. There are other rudbeckia varieties available for you to consider that will look just as nice!

Bearded Iris (cont.)

Iris are grown from fleshy roots called rhizomes. Like bulbs, rhizomes need good drainage as they will not survive in wet, soggy soil. Once established, the bearded iris is a low-maintenance addition to your garden that will endure droughts and thrive in dry summer soils. (It's that good Mediterranean heritage!)

Plant iris rhizomes about 12 to 15 inches apart. It is very important that you do not bury the rhizome completely. You must be sure that the top half of it shows above the soil so it can receive needed sunlight.

Sloat will offer some 25 different bearded iris varieties. Each Sloat location orders independently to reflect the interest of local customers. If you are looking for a particular iris, feel free to contact your local Sloat for availability.

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.