

S l o a t



G A R D E N C E N T E R

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 20, No. 4

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

July/August 2006

DIVINE SUMMER GARDENS



Citrus Pottery Mulch Watering Tools Hot Summer Flowers and More!

Summer Garden Care: The Miracles of Mulch

Chances are, you are ready to dry out and feel the heat of summer after one of the wettest winters and springs on record! But your plants want to stay cool, at least underground, so their roots can thrive.

Topdressing and mulching are two of the most beneficial gardening techniques to protect plant roots from the hot sun and drying winds. They can also help condition soils and even slow the growth of weeds.

There is a wide variety of topdress-

ing and mulch products, and here are three of our recommendations:



GreenAll Micro Bark: The most decorative of the group, Micro Bark offers a vital layer of insulation that can reduce moisture evaporation. This beautiful ground cover is also a great product for weed containment. By covering the soil with mulch, you cut out the light to the soil below, seriously inhibiting weed growth.

Sloat Forest Mulch Plus: This variety of mulch contains 85% composted fir bark and 15% chicken manure, which not only provides a water-conserving mulch, but a topdressing designed to amend and add nutrients to the soil. A 2-cubic foot bag will cover an area of about 12 square feet when applied in a 2-inch layer surrounding your plants.



GreenAll Shredded Cedar Bark: A decorative ground cover known for its rich color and matting ability, this product is also loved for its ability to repel fleas and other pests. Often seen in dog parks, this is an excellent mulch for the high traffic areas such as walkways and dog runs.

Gardening Guide

July

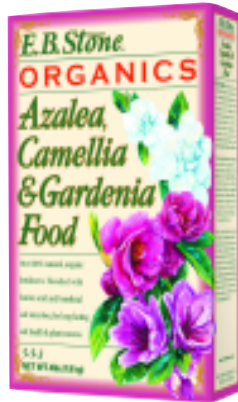
PLANT

Plant heat tolerant vegetables such as beans, squash, and cucumbers.

Summer flowers abound! Fill your garden with color that will carry you through until fall such as vinca, daisies, salvias, and zinnias.

FERTILIZE

Feed vegetables, perennials and annuals with a water-soluble fertilizer such as **E.B. Stone Fish Emulsion** or



Maxsea All Purpose Fertilizer. Avoid feeding during the heat of day.

Fertilize camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons with **E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia and Gardenia Food.**

PRUNE/MAINTAIN

Cut or pinch off spent flowers to promote more blooms. Finish pruning all spring-flowering shrubs.

Spray evergreens and shrubs for insects and disease.

Mulch all garden beds with **Sloat's Forest Mulch Plus** to protect from summer heat and keep garden maintenance down.

August

PLANT

Time to plant fall vegetables including broccoli, cabbage, spinach and lettuce.

Select and plant bearded irises for spring. Dig up and divide existing irises.

FERTILIZE

Don't forget to feed vegetables and flowers with a slow-release fertilizer such as **Osmocote 14-14-14.**



PRUNE/MAINTAIN

Make sure all appropriate vegetables are supported by cages, stakes, or trellises to avoid crop loss.

Summer prune to keep fruit tree height in check, maintain shape, and eliminate suckers. Stop by Sloat for a good pair of high quality **Bahco Loppers.**

Water lawns deeply. Two shorter watering periods with a 10-15 minute period in between reduces runoff, saving water and creating a healthier lawn. Set your timers.

Beautiful Landscapes Start at Sloat's Garden Design Department

No matter your gardening skills, the size of your garden, or your budget, our Garden Design Department will help you plan and design the perfect outdoor retreat. We develop an informal "bubble diagram" and a complete plant list with quantities and sizes of plant materials, soil requirements and pruning, feeding and care information.

Every design is completed according to your needs, be they deer resistance, native plants, or low-water use gardens.

All Sloat garden design consultations come with a 10% discount on plants and garden supplies for an entire year!

To schedule an appointment with our Garden Design Department, please telephone (415) 388-3754 or email us at design@sloatgardens.com.



GARDENING FOR CHILDREN

Summer is a great season to take your children into the garden and introduce them to all the wonders of nature. With so many interesting plants, flowers, vegetables and of course, creepy-crawly critters, the garden is a wonderland of learning for your child.

So, lather on the sunscreen and get ready to get down and dirty in the garden. Our pint-sized tools are sure to excite your little gardener. With a selection of brightly colored shovels, rakes, hoes, pails, and watering cans, your little ones will feel like grown-up

gardeners. For our smallest gardeners we have the Little Farmer's three piece tool-set



designed especially for little hands. We've got all the summer time gardening fun for your tiny tots such as seed-starter kits, root labs and butterfly and bug houses. Summer time at your local Sloat Garden Center has never been more fun!



SUMMER CHILDREN'S GARDEN ARTS SERIES



Announcing our first ever children's seminar series. All activities are geared towards children 5 to 12 years of age. Parental supervision is required during the seminars. Attendance is limited. Please call ahead to the seminar location to reserve a seat. Materials fee is \$10. (Gardener's Reward members \$5).

BUGS & BUTTERFLIES

Children will make a bug project as we explain the role of bugs & butterflies in the garden.

- July 8 - San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.
- July 8 - Kentfield, Sat., 12 noon
- July 9 - Danville, Sun., 11 a.m.
- July 16 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 11 a.m.

SUMMER MEMORIES JOURNAL

Make leaf prints for your own journal of summer adventures.

- July 30 - Danville, Sun., 11 a.m.

MAKE A FOSSIL

Children will use leaves, shells and garden objects to create their own fossil to take home for their garden.

- July 22 - San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.
- July 22 - Kentfield, Sat., 12 noon
- Aug.6 - Danville, Sun., 11 a.m.

For fun children's activities and articles check out our "Little Gardener's Corner" section of our website at: www.sloatgardens.com/around/corner

LIFE ON THE POND

Create a fish project and learn about the busy life in and around the pond.

- July 23 - Danville, Sun., 11 a.m.
- July 30 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 11 a.m.

FLOWERS

Children will learn the role that flowers play in our gardens and world as they create a unique flower project.

- Aug.16 - Danville, Sun., 11 a.m.

LADYBUG RELEASE PARTY

Learn about these bug-eaters and how to attract them to your garden.

- Aug.12 - San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.
- Aug.12 - Kentfield, Sat., 12 noon
- Aug.13 - Danville, Sun., 11 a.m.
- Aug.13 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 11 a.m.

SLOAT SEMINARS

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

SUCCULENT CONTAINER WORKSHOP

Cindy Bonilla and Dawn Smith demonstrate how to use these colorful low-maintenance plants in containers. Take your creation home the same day. \$55 Materials Fee, Gardener's Reward Members \$45

July 9 - Sonoma, Sun., Smith, 11a.m.

July 12 - Novato, Wed., Smith, 6:30 p.m.

Aug 2 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., Bonilla, 6:30 p.m.

BATS!

Pat Winters of the California Bat Conservation Fund brings slides and her furry friends. Learn how to protect their habitat and about their very important role in insect control.

July 12 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed, 6:30 p.m.

DEER RESISTANT GARDENING

Bob Tanem, local author and KSFO's Happy Gardener, offers ways to curb the deer invasion.

July 15 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 a.m.

July 19 - Kentfield, Wed, 6:30 p.m.

July 29 - San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.

IRRIGATION FOR BEGINNERS

Tom Bressan, one of California's irrigation experts and founder of the Urban Farmer Store, explains how to 'do it yourself'.

July 19 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

July 22 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 a.m.

EASY SUMMER COLOR CONTAINERS

Gerry O'Donoghue, CCN Pro/design consultant, will share creative combinations for sunny or shady spots specifically in SF.

July 26 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

CUTTING GARDENS

Dinah Sims, CCN Pro, discusses the easy-care plants that provide cut flowers for summer and fall.

Aug. 2 - Kentfield, Wed. 11 a.m.

Aug. 5 - San Rafael, Sat., 10 a.m.

SUMMER ROSE CARE

Dawn Smith, rose expert, will explain pruning and fertilizing to extend the blooming season of roses and how to prepare for fall care.

Aug. 6 - Sonoma, Sun., 11 a.m.

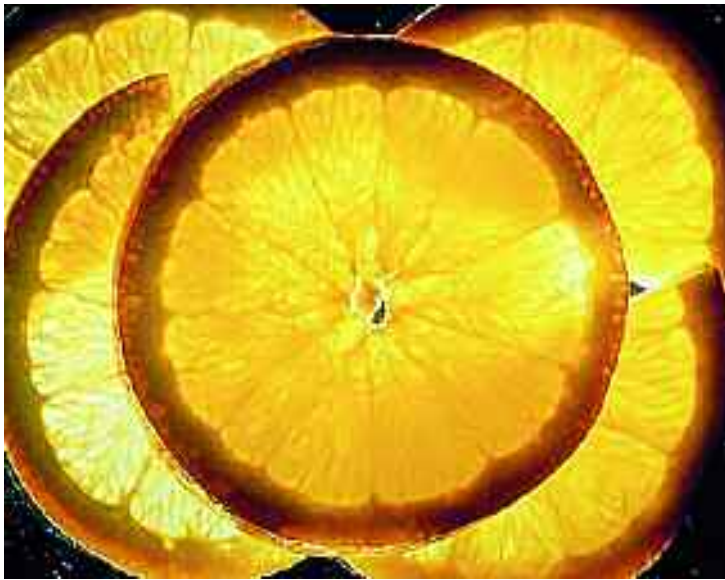
Aug. 16 - Novato, Wed., 6:30 p.m.

BENEFICIAL BUGS

Sloat's own Helen Winkler, Plant Pathologist, shares how to use less chemicals and keep the bad guys under control.

Aug. 16 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30 p.m.

See our website for more information on Seminars!



LUSCIOUS & DELICIOUS: CALIFORNIA CITRUS

The rich tropical appearance of lime trees, the seductive smell of orange blossoms, and the taste of lemonade on a hot summer day, all of these wonderful visions can be a reality in your backyard or on your porch. This summer we are offering a wide variety of citrus trees from Monrovia and Four Winds Nursery. Stop in today and create a citrus paradise in your garden!

Meyer Lemon



The most popular citrus variety in the Bay Area, the Meyer lemon is known as much for its ornamental fragrant flowers as for its

juicy fruit. Producing fruit and flowers year-round, it is the perfect addition to your garden and your lemon meringue pies (try our recipe to the right!).

Bearss Lime



It may not be the bartenders' lime but this variety will flourish in our climate. The Bearss produces juicy, seedless, large

limes that are almost yellow when ripe. Plant in a sunny spot near the house or as an accent in a container planting.

Trovita Orange



The Trovita is a great option for our coastal climates as it requires less heat to produce

sweet fruit. Known for its thin skin, this orange is great for juicing and delicious as an afternoon snack. A quickgrowing variety, this citrus tree will grow well along the sunny edge of your garden.

Minneola Tangelo

This unique variety, the result of crossbreeding, is a hybrid between a white flesh grapefruit and a Dancy tangerine. With a taste similar to a tangerine the orange-red fruit is best left to ripen on the tree through late spring and summer. As with most citrus the best storage is leaving the fruit on the tree.



“Meyer” Meringue Pie

- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 3 lemons, juiced and zested
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 egg yolks, beaten
- 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked
- 4 egg whites
- 6 tablespoons white sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Lemon Filling: In a medium saucepan, whisk together 1 cup sugar, flour, cornstarch, and salt. Stir in water, lemon juice and lemon zest. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until mixture comes to a boil. Stir in butter. Place egg yolks in a small bowl and gradually whisk in 1/2 cup of hot sugar mixture. Whisk egg yolk mixture back into remaining sugar mixture. Bring to a boil and continue to cook while stirring constantly until thick. Remove from heat. Pour filling into baked pastry shell.

Meringue: In a large bowl, whip egg whites until foamy. Add sugar gradually, and continue to whip until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue over pie, sealing the edges at the crust. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes, or until meringue is golden brown. *Enjoy!*



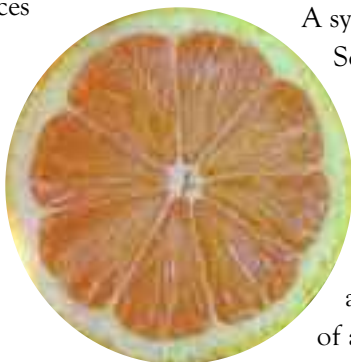
Pink Variegated Lemon



A distinctive addition to any garden with creamy-white and green leaves and fuchsia-tinted new growth and flowers.

This beautiful

lemon tree produces juicy fruit once a year. The lemons have a pinkish flesh and a traditional acidic flavored juice – perfect for pink lemonade!



Owari Satsuma Mandarin



This seedless fruit with its bloated, puffy skin, boasts a sweet and delicate flavor. It is the easiest of mandarins to grow and is loved by children. The earliest mandarin to ripen, this variety should be picked by April as the fruit will overripen if left on the tree. The weeping green foliage and slightly odd-shaped fruit make this a wonderful and eye-catching option for a sunny patio.

Nagami Kumquat

A symbol of prosperity and good luck in its native Southern China, the kumquat is an interesting addition to any garden. Small enough for containers and patio gardens, this attractive tree has showy evergreen foliage and produces bright orange oval fruit that ripens in February. The kumquats can be eaten whole and unpeeled with an intriguing combination of a sweet rind and a tangy pulp.



Citrus Care Guidelines

Here are a few suggestions to help ensure success with your citrus garden:

Climates

Lemons and limes require the least amount of heat and will be content growing almost anywhere including San Francisco's coolest climate. Oranges, mandarins, and tangerines require more heat to flourish, so the northern Marin, Sonoma, and East Bay climates are perfect.

Location

Depending on the size of your variety (dwarfs grow 6-10 ft high and standards can grow 20-30 ft) allow space for the tree to mature and develop. When selecting a location it is best to choose a place in your garden that is wind-free with a southern exposure. For cooler climates it is advantageous to plant near a wall or structure for heat reflection. Citrus are also a great option for container gardens.

Watering

Make sure your citrus trees have ample drainage regardless of planting in a container or the ground. Keeping the soil moist but not soggy is essential and mulching is encouraged (see article on page 2). Citrus trees have

feeder roots so it is important to water the ground along the drip line (edge of the branches) versus the trunk to guarantee absorption.

Feeding

There are three tried and true options for feeding your citrus and they truly depend on your gardening appetite! The overall rule is to guarantee that your citrus receive the following minerals:

Zinc - thins out the rinds and sweetens the fruit.

Nitrogen & phosphorus - essential for fruiting plants and fruit production.

Sulfur - keeps soil acid levels in check and leaves green.

For the gardeners with ample time the best option is **Maxsea Acid**. This water-soluble fertilizer is gentle enough for your houseplants but strong enough for citrus. To apply, sprinkle fertilizer solution along the drip line every 2-3 weeks to ensure absorption.

If you are a busy gardener who would prefer a fertilizing plan every 1-2 months **GreenAll Citrus and Avocado**

Food is the solution for your citrus. This granular fertilizer has everything your citrus plants need for a healthy season and is also a great option for all your fruiting plants and trees.

For the natural gardener the best option is a combination of **E.B. Stone Citrus and Fruit Tree Food** with **GreenAll F.S.T.** E.B. Stone Citrus and Fruit Tree Food is a blend of select natural organic ingredients focused on encouraging new growth, lush green foliage and bountiful crops. F.S.T. is a natural supplement containing sulfur, iron, manganese and zinc - all the essentials for citrus and low pH soil. This natural combination is sure to please your citrus plants and your "green" garden.



Begonia Exclusive!

We are so excited to introduce you to Cottage Garden's private collection of rare and exclusive Rex and Cane Begonias. These beauties are well suited for our foggy Bay Area climate as they crave humidity and filtered sunlight. The striking foliage of these plants is guaranteed to add an exotic touch to your garden this summer and they make great houseplants too! Check out these attractive, unusual and unique begonia varieties at your local Sloat Garden Center!



Rex Begonias

Summer Watering Ways

Summer is here! And with summer comes heat, dried out gardens and the discussions about water conservation. With this in mind we have searched the industry for the best options for keeping your garden lush and healthy without wasting water!

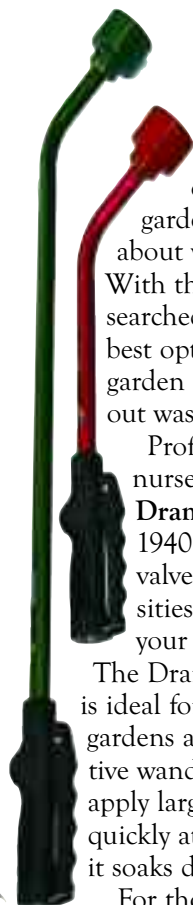
Professional growers and nurserymen have been using Dramm products since the 1940's and with shut-off valves and adjustable intensities they are the answer to your watering worries.

The Dramm Rain Wand (left) is ideal for watering flowerbeds, gardens and shrubs. The innovative wand design enables you to apply large quantities of water quickly at the plant base, where it soaks deep into the soil.

For those of you who love accessories, Dramm offers a variety of options. Dramm's Touch 'N Flow Revolver (abover right), has

nine different spray patterns. Each pattern is obtained by simply revolving the turret on the spray gun. As with many of the Dramm products the Revolver comes in a multitude of sunny colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and berry.

For the 2006 watering season Dramm has added a Fan Nozzle (below right). Featuring an ergonomic rubber grip and quarter-turn valve. This accessory makes watering plants and flowers a breeze. With all these great options it is guaranteed to be a healthy and well-watered summer for your plants!



DRAMM

Medicinal Remedies in the Garden

With summer colds and sunburns around the corner we are showcasing two plants famous for their medicinal characteristics - Echinacea and Aloe!

Echinacea is one of the most popular medicinal herbs, mainly used to alleviate the symptoms of the common cold. Named for its prickly center's resemblance to the spines of an angry hedgehog (echinos is Greek for hedgehog), the appearance of this plant alludes to its protective nature. The echinacea that you might purchase at

the drugstore is actually manufactured from the roots and rhizomes or seed heads from a 3 to 4 year old plant.

For your garden delight we are featuring **Monrovia's** new variety - **Pixie Meadowbrite Echinacea**. This adorable mini coneflower plant is truly a dwarf and promises a profusion of pink blooms with yellow-brown centers. The foliage is denser than most echinaceas and has a stunning blue tint. Native to the plains states echinacea requires fast drainage, full sun, and little summer water.

Aloe has been famous for centuries for its amazing healing properties. The appearance of the plant alone gives a sense of calmness. Rubbing a sliced *Aloe vera* leaf over a cut will help prevent infection and speed the recovery process. Aloe is also a fantastic moisturizer especially for sunburned skin. As with echinacea, there are many species of aloe, actually more than 200! The *Aloe vera* species is definitely

the most popular but unlike most aloes, it prefers a part sun location. This herbal perennial is most commonly known for its drought tolerant behavior and its fleshy, thick, spiky green leaves. An outstanding addition to any container garden.

These are just two of the many medicinal plants found in gardens throughout the Bay Area. All you need is a container or a small garden and you can create your own garden pharmacy - basil for insect bites, rosemary for gingivitis, calendula for digestion and verbena for skin irritations, just to name a few garden solutions!



Pixie Meadowbrite Echinacea

MONROVIA
HORTICULTURAL CRAFTSMEN SINCE 1926



Aloe Vera

Summer in the City - Hot Plants for 2006!



Assistant Manager Cindy Bonilla and Bedding Buyer Gerry O'Donoghue, of our Sloat Blvd. store combine their years of experience and love of gardening in this hot list for summer in San Francisco. Please be aware of the plant requirements to ensure a successful garden.

Calibrachoa

A slender-stemmed relative of the petunia, commonly called Million Bells, it's available in a multitude of colors as both mounding and trailing varieties. Great for hanging baskets, flower boxes and any sunny garden spot.

Heuchera

The compact evergreen clumps and dainty blossoms of this plant are fabulous in rock gardens or as ground cover. There are also many varieties with gorgeous foliage and less floral attention. Please note that this plant flourishes in cooler climates and loves the shade.

Penstemons

With over 250 species, this California native plant is known for its bell-shaped flowers and low maintenance needs. Attractive to hummingbirds, it is available in a variety of shades.



Passiflora

The climbing vines of this South American native are famous for their vibrant and showy blooms. A great option for trellises and walls. This is a vigorous grower that requires thinning and untangling. A crowd pleaser for its uniqueness, the passion vine is divine!

Echeverias

A Mexican native succulent that forms rosettes of grayish-green leaves outlined with deeper tints, often reddish. Great in sunny rock gardens and containers.

Coreopsis

An easy-to-grow member of the sunflower family, this plant produces an abundance of flowers in a variety of warm colors from yellow to maroon. Drought tolerant and a sun lover, the only maintenance

this plant needs is dead-heading to ensure continuous bloom.

Perovskia

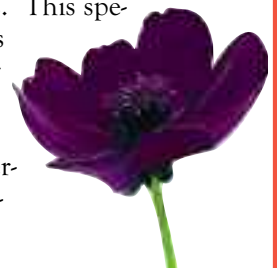
A shrubby perennial that showcases a range of blue blooms atop vertical stems. Very attractive along walkways and as a border. This is a low-maintenance plant that is extremely resistant to drought and deer.

Euphorbia

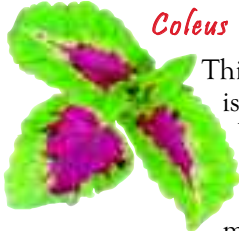
With a large genus of about 2,000 species, including the poinsettia, the options are endless. The "flower" of this plant is actually a cyathium, fused bracts that form a cup around the actual flower. This is a great deer resistant plant. Be aware that the sap can be irritating to the skin.

Chocolate Cosmos

These daisy-like plants are great along walls and walkways. This specific variety blooms late in the summer with gorgeous brownish-red flowers and a strong perfume of chocolate - hence the name!



Coleus



This tropical shade-lover is famous for its brightly colored foliage from chartreuse to orange. The more red pigment the

leaves have, the more sun-tolerant the variety tends to be. Fantastic in summer borders and container gardens.

Diascia

Native to South Africa, this plant enjoys the cooler coastal climate but will tolerate inland heat if

given partial sun. Similar in appearance to the snapdragon, it blooms throughout the summer and into fall and is attractive to bees and butterflies. Perfect for container gardens.

Lamium

Commonly called "Dead Nettle", this vigorous plant is native to Europe and parts of western Asia. The heart-shaped leaves come in silvery green, chartreuse, and silvery white and make a beautiful backdrop or ground cover. Make sure you plant in a shady area and water this plant regularly.

Salvias



A well-known Bay Area staple, most members of the *Salvia* genus enjoy full sun and attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds and are resistant to deer! There are over 900 species throughout the world with flower colors ranging from scarlet to pale lavender.

Ensure a beautiful garden by amending the soil with Sloat Planting Mix or Forest Mulch Plus (depending on your garden). Mix in E.B. Stone Sure Start to guarantee good root establishment and better uptake of nutrients.



Fuchsias

This tropical plant is a haven for hummingbirds. Perfect for San Francisco's cool and foggy summers as moisture is the key to its success. The vibrantly colored blossoms bloom in late spring and

throughout the summer and are great in hanging baskets

Lotus - Parrot's Beak

The silvery gray leaves that cover the stems are the perfect backdrop for the scarlet or golden sweet-pea shaped blossoms. Wonderful in a sunny hanging basket or even as ground cover.

Dahlia

Available in a multitude of flower shapes, sizes, and designs, the dahlia is a wonderful summer addition to any garden! With the full color spectrum available, this sun-lover is an expression of diversity!



Locations in San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Contra Costa & San Mateo

Richmond District

327 3rd Avenue
(415) 752-1614

Sunset District

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

San Bruno

675 Camino Real
(650) 869-6000

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
454-0262

Sonoma

23566 Arnold Drive
(707) 939-9400

Danville

828 Diablo Road
(925) 743-0288

Garden Design Department

401 Miller, Mill Valley
388-3754

Visit Sloat on the Web: www.sloatgardens.com

COMING TO THE SAN FRANCISCO MARINA THIS FALL!

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

Danville- Sunday 9:00 to 5:00
Sonoma- 9:00 to 5:30 (everyday)

S l o a t



G A R D E N C E N T E R

420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428

Printed on
recycled paper



Pre-Sorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
StrahmCom

Great plants and great advice to help them grow!

8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK July/August 2006

RENEW YOUR GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!!

Would you like to continue to receive our famous *Gardener's Notebook*? You need to let us know! There are now two options for delivery of our bi-monthly gardening publication: via mail or via email. That's right, we are now able to offer online delivery of the *Gardener's Notebook*! But, in order to continue to receive the *Gardener's Notebook* you must renew your subscription! For the next few months we will be offering two easy ways to renew your subscription:

Online Renewal - Please visit: www.sloatgardens.com/notebook/update or look for the Update my Subscription icon (pictured below) throughout the website. Fill out the quick form and submit!

In-Store Renewal - During your next visit to one of our stores please look for the "Update my Subscription" sign or ask one of our friendly staff for a renewal form. Fill out the form and give it to a Sloat Garden Center Professional.



YOU CAN UPDATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IN-STORE OR ONLINE

FACTORY SAMPLE SALE!

GARDEN POTTERY 2007

Your once-a-year opportunity to see and purchase the latest trends in garden pottery design.

JULY 16, 17, 18

Kentfield store ONLY!

700 Sir Francis Drake - 8:30 am to 6:30 pm

Sale Selection will include:

Pottery from around the world

New styles and old favorites

Prototype and one-of-a-kind pieces

Trendsetting styles and colors

Shop Early for Best Selection

Sample quantities are limited!

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.