



Happy Holidays from everyone at Sloat!

S l o a t



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

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 20, No. 6

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

December 2006/January 2007

Festive Holiday Decorating...7 Simple Ideas

Bring winter indoors with sweet-smelling greenery and colorful plants and flowers. Here are 7 ideas to make the holidays bright.

1. Put your family's unique touch on Sloat's selection of fragrant evergreen **boughs, wreaths, mixed bunches, garland and swags**. Adorn with leaves of eucalyptus, bay, ivy or rosemary. Or, embellish from your garden with bark, twigs, seed pods, driftwood, rosehips and berries. Our wreaths arrive in two styles: decorated with cones and holly, or unembellished for you to decorate yourself – both in a variety of sizes. **Sloat Tip:** Use non-toxic **Cloud Cover** to keep all your greens fresh.

2. Create beautiful centerpieces. Fill a vase, bowl, jug or Mason jar with cut greens and accent with greens from your garden: camellia, nandina, magnolia and pittosporum.

3. Decorate gifts with sprigs of evergreen, holly or rose hips. Place them under bows.

4. Establish new holiday traditions with **holly, rosemary topiaries** and **ivy topiaries**. In many cultures plants are used to symbolize prosperity, luck and health during holidays. Holly is thought to bring good luck and protection, evergreen symbolizes the continuity of life and there was a time when rosemary – along with an orange stuck with cloves – was offered as a gift to celebrate the New Year to come.

5. 'Tis the season for **Poinsettias**. Poinsettias are actually tropical plants native to Mexico

that grow to be 10-foot tall shrubs. Here in the Bay Area, these lovely (and much shorter) seasonal plants can be easily damaged by cold and must be kept indoors. Sloat has traditional red as well as white, pink and variegated bract colors. Cluster poinsettia pots inside doorways and decorate with moss and tuck in bits of greenery.

6. Fragrant indoor bulbs remind us of spring. **Paperwhites** and **Amaryllis** make great gifts and are simple to grow indoors in a beautiful bowl or wide vase (see Sloat's **pottery** for great selections). The large, decorative flowers of Amaryllis will look spring-like indoors perched at a window. Sloat carries red, white, pink,

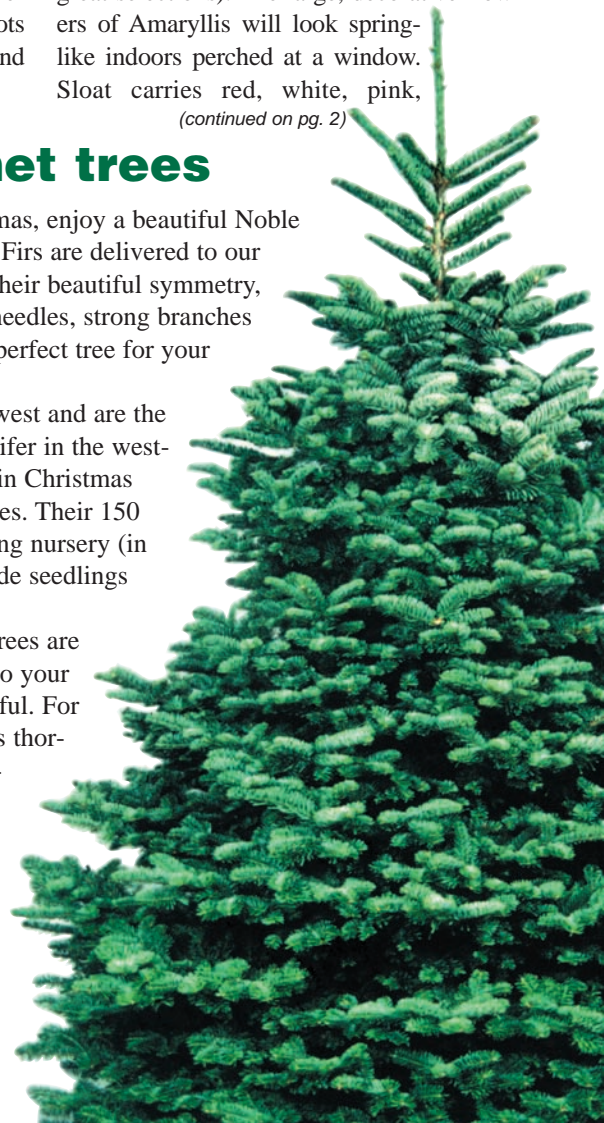
(continued on pg. 2)

Beautiful, gourmet trees

Back by popular demand! This Christmas, enjoy a beautiful Noble Fir tree. Our selection of majestic Noble Firs are delivered to our stores the week they're harvested. With their beautiful symmetry, rich fragrance, lush green color, silvery needles, strong branches and open growth pattern, they make the perfect tree for your home.

Noble fir trees are native to the northwest and are the most highly regarded and sought out conifer in the western region. Our suppliers, Silver Mountain Christmas Trees, are known for their top-quality trees. Their 150 year old family farm has a conifer seedling nursery (in addition to growing trees they also provide seedlings for state reforestation companies).

When you get your tree home: Our trees are kept in water stands at each of our lots, so your tree will remain fresh, vibrant and beautiful. For a lasting tree, spray the trunk and needles thoroughly to the point of dripping with non-toxic **Cloud Cover** and set the tree in a water stand (we have tree stands available for purchase). Coat wreaths and greens with **Cloud Cover** once or mist with water daily. Keep trees and greens away from hot sunny windows and heat sources.



Festive holiday decorating, cont.

picotee (two colored) and salmon. The blooms will be a beautiful winter treat.

7. Holiday in a pot. Decorate porches, tables and walkways by planting up one of Sloat's bright and colorful **pottery** finds. Try white and red or blue and white pansies and add red or yellow winter twigs (cornus), primrose or stock. Cluster pots to create an entryway of color. Two additional plants to pot up are:

Cyclamen...a colorful winter staple. This easy to grow and dependable Mediterranean plant will continue flowering through winter and into spring as long as the weather stays cool. Sloat has a rainbow of colors to decorate your winter; lavender, rose, pink, salmon, red, burgundy, yellow, red and bi-color in mini and standard sizes.

Christmas Cactus. Sloat carries a number of varieties of bright flowering **zygocactus**. This tropical plant shows off its pink and white blooms this time of year with just a little care and a LOT of decoration. Will look beautiful in a glazed pot!



Winward Silks Christmas Tree Collection

Looking for the perfect pre-lit tree with the look and feel of a living tree? Search no further! We have a terrific one for you. Winward Silks produces some of the industry's highest quality Christmas trees.

Winward Silks uses patented *Permalit* light technology along with *Soft Tip* construction so the lights on their trees won't burn out as quickly.

Other companies offer two year guarantees, but Winward Silks stands behind their trees with a ten year warranty on all materials and workmanship.

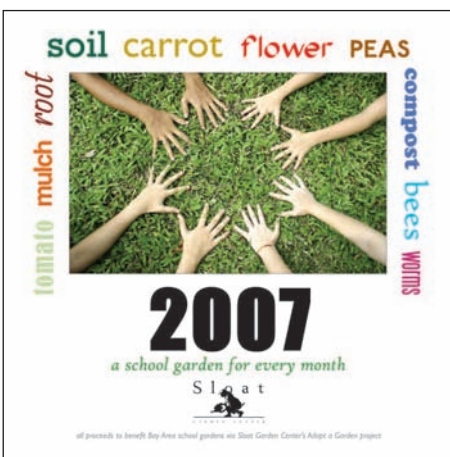
Still not convinced? *Permalit* trees will stay lit even if multiple lights burn out. A smart chip on each light socket helps balance voltage and controls the functions of the light sets – this prolongs the life of the light. Additionally, *Permalit's* cooler burning light bulbs are safer for children, and all Winward Christmas trees are easy to set up and flame retardant.



Beautiful Winward Silk pre-lit trees are available in the following locations:

- Sloat Blvd, San Francisco
- E. Blithedale, Mill Valley
- San Bruno
- Kentfield
- Novato

School Garden of the Month Calendar



This fall, Sloat Garden Center gathered images and stories from 13 school gardens around the Bay Area to produce a 2007 School Garden of the Month calendar. Our hope is to illustrate the positive impact that gardening at school can have on children and their communities.

All proceeds from the calendar will benefit Sloat Garden Center's *Adopt a Garden* project. This project will offer four schools per school year the opportunity to receive a grant to either start a school garden, revive an existing garden or support ongoing gardening efforts. A variety of resources will be available to each school to fulfill this grant. We at Sloat are thrilled to support school gardening in this highly effective manner.

In addition to the *Adopt a Garden* project, Sloat Garden Center's *Growing up Green* program offers schools the flexibility and motivation to raise a range of gardening funds throughout the school year. Additional information on both programs can be found at www.sloatgardens.com

The 2007 calendar is available at all Sloat Garden Center locations. Purchase a copy today and support school gardening!

Sloat Garden Center to sponsor Winter Garden Design Symposium at Strybing Arboretum

To celebrate the opening of our third San Francisco location (on Pierce Street in the Marina), join Strybing Arboretum and Sloat Garden Center for a day of gardening inspiration geared to the city dweller

Urban Oases: Creating Garden Sanctuaries in the City

Friday, January 26, 2007. Strybing members \$95, non-members \$115

This day-long event attracts gardeners from around Northern California with unique seminars that utilize the urban palette as a resource for creating exciting city gardens. Join us for *Lots of Pots: Designing Container Plantings, Creating Intimate Space, Green Roof Plants and Collector's Plants for City Gardens.*

Sloat Garden Center's 2007 Rose Collection



Introducing Burgundy Iceberg

This beautiful floribunda is one of the best landscape roses around. Extremely disease resistant, vigorous, terrific flower production, bushy habit, lovely buds, showy clusters, glossy green foliage and nearly thornless stems. Perfect either en masse or standing alone. Great for hedges. Performs exactly like its famous parent, **Iceberg**, in every way.

Choosing a rose for your garden is a lot like ordering dessert: Do you like warm hues with a spicy note or intoxicating and intensely sweet? With all our varieties, Sloat Garden Center has a delectable selection on hand. Whether you're a seasoned rose grower or thinking about introducing roses into your garden for the first time, you'll be thrilled with this extraordinary collection!



Sky's the Limit

One of the most beautiful climbers around, *Sky's the Limit* has lots of large-flowered, colorful, but-tery yellow

clusters. Will rebloom well in the first season and skyrocket in growth to quickly establish that perfect climbing effect on a trellis, fence or wall. Unusually hardy and full of clean green leaves.



Night Owl

Large-flow-ered climber. Dark wine-purple with bright yellow s t a m e n s . Clusters of s h o w y ,

sweetly fragrant blossoms appear quickly, are very long-lived and hold that dramatic deep claret color to the end. Repeat flowering in the very first season, this vigorous rose sends out long canes covered with clean grey-green leaves.



Strike it Rich

This gorgeous rose has a spicy fragrance and very long elegant buds of deep golden yellow, polished with rosy orange pink. The beauti-

ful, long-lasting tones of this award winner are rich and opulent. Naturally disease resistant and strong vigor. Very dark green leaves & unusual red stems set off the many showy clusters of blossoms .

Two terrific rose care recipes

Growing roses doesn't have to be intimidating. To help de-mystify rose care, we've created two recipes to help every rose lover enjoy their roses.

For both recipes, start with winter pruning. Cut rose shrubs back half their original size and prune canes or growth that crosses through the middle, are dead or diseased, or are smaller than a pencil. When pruning canes, prune to an outward-facing bud. (For detailed pruning directions, sign up for our *Rose Pruning Seminars* in January).

Fussy Rose Care Recipe: Mulch in February with chicken manure and a topdressing of alfalfa meal. At the end of the month, apply an application of *E.B. Stone Sul Po Mag* (Epsom salts) to promote strong cane production. In March, feed with either *Maxsea Regular* or *E. B. Stone Rose & Flower*. When canes start to grow, consider applying *Bayer All in One* or *Bayer Systemic Rose food*. Feed with your choice of flower food.

Easy Rose Care Recipe: Rose care is fairly simple. The general idea is to allow the rose to flower, then cut growth back and then feed. Specifically we recommend applying *Osmocote Slow Release* or *Bayer All in One* every six weeks in January/February (this will feed the rose through to fall). After it flowers, cut it back.



Roses 101

1. Roses need a minimum of six hours of sun each day. Plant in south facing sun.
2. Roses can thrive in containers but the container must be large enough (18"-20") for the roots to have room on the sides.
3. Water container roses up to 3 times per week. Water roses planted in the ground 1 to 2 times per week. Water deeply and mulch whenever possible.
4. If a rose in your garden isn't performing well or if you're unhappy with the color, don't be afraid to switch to a variety that works in your garden. Not all roses do well in all climates. If you're constantly

(continued on page 4)

Gardening with kids this winter

Bulbs, worms and bugs...oh my!

Rainy days are perfect for learning about gardening, measuring and even a little botany by observing the way plants grow. We recommend bulb planting as a simple and fascinating project for ages 5 through 12, and worm composting and butterfly kits for older children.

Recipe for a rainy afternoon

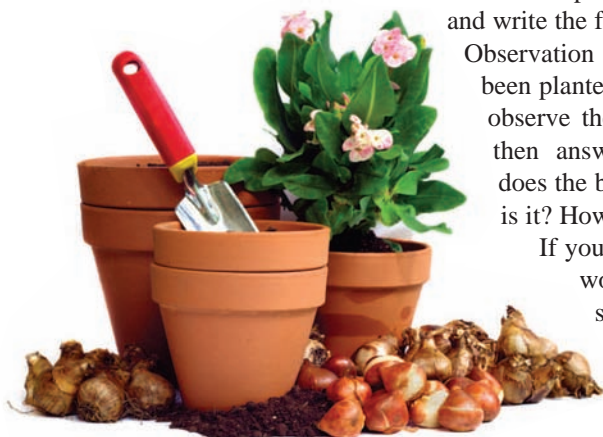
Have amaryllis or paperwhite bulbs ready, along with a pot, soil, rocks and gloves.

Plant the bulb in a pot, and then get a sheet of paper and write the following categories: Date, Size,

Observation and Week. After the bulb has been planted for 5 days, have kids begin to observe the pot to watch for growth and then answer the following: How much does the bulb grow each day? What color is it? How tall is it? Does it have a scent?

If your child wonders about bugs and worms, they can watch worms squiggle and create compost in a worm composter. You can learn more about vermiculture (worm composting) at:

www.wormdigest.org



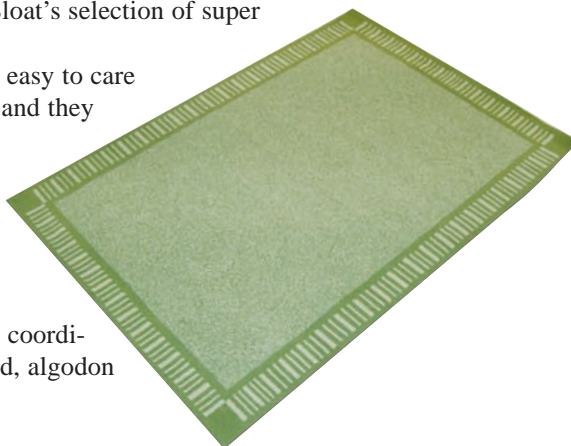
Luxury is an outdoor rug

Get comfortable this winter with Sloat's selection of super soft DURAcord outdoor rugs.

Our beautiful and durable rugs are easy to care for, stain, mildew and soil resistant...and they dry lickety-split.

These 5' x 8' outdoor rugs are lightweight, colorfast and offered in two styles: machine-woven or hand-hooked by skilled craftsmen.

Available in a number of motifs to coordinate with outdoor settings: pesto solid, algodón (tan) and choc oclair.



SLOAT SEMINARS

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

Orchids 101

Glenn Smith, from the Marin Orchid Society will discuss basic orchid care such as watering, fertilizing and lighting.

Jan.6 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.) Sat., 10 a.m.

Rose Pruning Basics

Join our San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo Rose Societies and local experts as they demonstrate the best pruning techniques for hybrid teas, floribundas, tree roses, etc.

Jan. 13 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.)

MRS, Sat., 10 a.m.

San Bruno, SMRS, Sat., 10 a.m.

S.F. (Sloat Blvd.) SFRS, Sat., 10 a.m.

Danville, Sat., 11 a.m.

Jan. 20 – San Rafael, Sat., MRS, 10 a.m.

Jan. 27 – Kentfield, Sat., MRS, 10 a.m.

S.F. (Third Ave.) Sat., SFRS, 10 a.m.

Jan. 28 – Novato, Sun., 10 a.m.

KEY -- SMRS: San Mateo Rose Society

MRS: Marin Rose Society

SFRS: San Francisco Rose Society

Making the Switch to Growing Roses Naturally

Annie Joseph, CCN Pro, discusses how to reduce powdery mildew, rust, aphid and the dreaded rose slug problems before they begin by using environmentally friendly techniques and products.

Jan. 20 – San Bruno, Sat., 11 a.m.

Jan. 21 – S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Sun. 11a.m.

Air Purifying Plants

Stuck inside? Dinah Sims, CCN Pro, shares how to care for the indoor plants that care for us.

Jan. 14 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.) Sun., 11 a.m.

Brighten Those Winter Nights

Learn how easy it is to install your own low-voltage lighting outdoors with lighting expert Tom Bressan from the Urban Farmer store.

Jan. 17 – S.F. (Sloat Blvd.) Wed., 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 – Mill Valley (Miller Ave.) Sat., 10 a.m.

Pruning Japanese Maples

Marie Miller, aesthetic pruner, demonstrates how to accentuate your plant's natural beauty with proper pruning.

Jan. 20 – Kentfield, Sat., 10 a.m.

Jan. 27 – S.F. (Sloat Blvd.) Sat., 10 a.m.

(continued from pg 3)

battling rust or black spot, find a variety that won't give you as many headaches. Don't worry... your rose won't be mad!

6. Each Sloat Garden Center features roses that are perfect for the microclimate the store is located in. From Burgundy Iceberg to Julia Child, we have the perfect rose for everyone.

7. For detailed rose care information, see our rose pruning handout available at the front of all Sloat locations.

Sign up for Sloat's January & February Seminars:

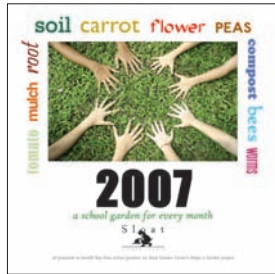
- *Rose Pruning Basics*
- *Making the Switch to Growing Roses Naturally*

STAY TUNED

February Seminars will include additional rose pruning, orchids and Japanese maple seminars!

Sloat Garden Center's Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for gift ideas? We have solutions!



2007 School Garden Calendar
To benefit Bay Area school gardens



Felco Pruners!



Birdfeeders!



Sloat Gift Cards
Available in a variety of denominations



Beautiful Rose Varieties
Our 2007 collection of dormant roses are easy to grow, intensely beautiful and ready to plant in containers or in the ground



Fragrant Paperwhites
For beautiful winter flowers



Books
From *Local Birds of the Bay Area* to *Sunset Western Garden*, we have excellent gardening books in stock



For Kids

Schylling Tools and much more! We have a wide selection of gifts for children



Windchimes!



Citrus
Give the gift of lemons, limes and oranges



Gloves
West County Gloves & Atlas Gloves



Gorgeous Pottery
Sloat's one of a kind imported pottery

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

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

Marina District
3237 Pierce Street
Chestnut & Lombard
440-1000

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

Kentfield
700 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
at Wolfe Grade
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.
566-4415

Novato
2000 Novato Blvd. at
Wilson
897-2169

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

Danville
828 Diablo Road
(925) 743-0288

Garden Design Department
401 Miller, Mill Valley
388-3754

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

Visit Sloat on the Web: www.sloatgardens.com

Visit our new San Francisco store on Pierce Street!



420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
StrahmCom

Printed on
recycled paper



6 SLOAT NOTEBOOK December 2006/January 2007

Gardening Guide

December

PLANT:

- Decorate your home with greenery and festive plants for the holidays.
- Select and plant dormant roses to ensure a fragrant summer rose garden. **See pg. 4 for Sloat's new rose varieties.**
- Create beautiful winter color in your entryway by planting cyclamen, pansies and violas in Sloat's one of a kind pottery.
- Take advantage of all that rain! If you missed out on fall planting, it's still a great time to plant perennials, shrubs and trees to get roots established. Developing strong root systems over the winter months will promote lush spring growth.

FERTILIZE:

- Feed indoor plants with Maxsea All Purpose Food.

PRUNE/MAINTAIN:

- Clean up the garden and remove diseased plants to avoid over wintering plant diseases.
- Prune evergreen shrubs and trees. Give them the proper shape and size to help accommodate next year's growth and prevent winter damage.



January

PLANT:

- Plant roses, berries, asparagus and fruit trees. January is also a great time to plant dogwood and maple trees!

FERTILIZE:

- Top dress roses and tender plants with Sloat Forest Mulch Plus.

PRUNE/MAINTAIN:

- Prune roses, shrubs and trees **See pg. 4 for Sloat's pruning seminars.**
- Prune and cut back perennials & ornamental grasses.
- Keep up on cleaning out winter debris from beds and containers.



- Stop the weeds! Weeds that begin with winter rains go to seed in March & April. But the clever gardener never lets them get that far. Pull weeds now before they go to seed.

- Now is the time to remove plants that aren't thriving to make room for healthier plants. Also, divide and thin plants that have become overgrown and are crowding out their neighbors.
- Deadhead flowering plants to encourage additional blooms.

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.