

Nine Locations in San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa

Richmond District
327 3rd Avenue btwn
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

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: 8:30 to 6:30pm
Sun hours: 9am to 5

Bulk Soils, Danville
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 820-1273 *East Bay deliv. only*
M-Sat 8-4:00

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

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

Visit us on the Web: www.sloatgardens.com



420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428



Open 7 days a week – 8:30am to 6:30pm
Fall/Winter hours begin Sunday, November 1st
8:30am to 5:30pm, 7 days a week
(Please note different hours
for Danville & Marina locations)

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based inks!

Great plants and great advice to help them grow!

8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK October/November 2009

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/early 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 and plant **maples** for fall color.

☞ 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 a lawn fertilizer and pre-emergent to control and prohibit annual bluegrass, crabgrass, and other weeds in your lawn and flower beds. Also, aerate and fertilize the lawn with **E.B. Stone Nature's Green**.

☞ 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 dianthus.

☞ 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!



About this Newsletter: The Gardener's Notebook is published 3 times per year 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 or via email to sloat@sloatgardens.com

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 23, No. 3

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

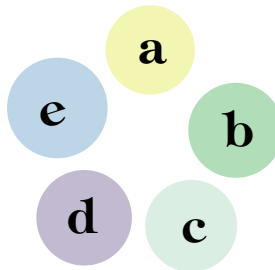
October/November 2009

Make your
fall garden
SPECTACULAR!

Pumpkin selections this fall:

- ★ Howden carving pumpkins
- ★ Assorted gourds
- ★ Miniature pumpkins
- ★ Unusual, warty, striped & spotted pumpkins

Autumn container cool: pretty purples & yummy yellows.



- a. Purple stock
- b. Flowering kale
- c. Purple viola
- d. Yellow viola
- e. Parsley

1. Use pottery at least 10" wide and put a keeper stopper screen over the hole at the bottom. Fill the pottery 2/3 to the top with *Sloat Organic Potting soil*. Use a fertilizer to give your plants the best start possible. We always have excellent results with *E.B. Stone Sure Start*.

2. Remove each plant from its container and then loosen the roots before placing into the soil (the root-ball shape will become rounded). Place each plant into the pot, and then tuck soil around each plant. Fill with additional potting soil as needed. Firm in gently.

3. Cover with moss for a finished look.

4. Water the container thoroughly.

** Substitute different colors of viola and stock for variety. These plants will thrive in partial to full sun. Replace plants as they are spent with fresh color. Water thoroughly when dry, and do not over water.

Sloat online: Are you a fan?

We've added some robust information to our website over the last 18 months. Now in addition to our blog, we feature expanded plant care topics, and a monthly "to do" garden calendar.

We've also expanded the content in our two monthly newsletters. On the first of each month, our **Gardener's Notebook Online** newsletter lists the newest plants to arrive, sale events, our Plant Pick of the Month and our Pottery Color of the Month. It also features 10 new answers from the Garden Guru.

Our **Kitchen Gardener** newsletter is sent out in the middle of each month and considers the art of growing and cooking garden fruits, herbs and vegetables. In recent issues we discussed berries, melons, tomatoes and summer herbs. This fall we'll tackle the weighty subject of holiday cooking from the garden, as well as using citrus in savory and sweet dishes. Yum!

Sign up for special offers!
go to: www.sloatgardens.com



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Become a
Sloat Garden Center
Facebook fan or follow us
on Twitter. Check out our
homepage for details!



FoxFarm handcrafts micro-brewed fertilizers that use the finest ingredients from the earth.



BIG BLOOM PLANT FOOD

Ideal for all flowering and fruiting plants. Enjoy healthy, vigorous flowers and dramatically improved fruit and vegetable flavors. Helps extend fruit and flowering season.



GROW BIG PLANT FOOD

Get your garden going with Grow Big for lush, vegetative growth. Use early in the season when young plants need an extra boost.



TIGER BLOOM FERTILIZER

Helps sustain healthy, vigorous growth during flowering. The low pH ensures that micronutrients will be available when plants need them.

Over the last 12 months our managers have received positive reports from customers about FoxFarm fertilizers. With that in mind, here is an introduction to this small, family owned and operated business.

Based in Samoa, California (Humboldt County), FoxFarm was started on FoxFarm Road (hence the name) by founder and owner Willy Winer.

His vision was to create an organic and natural soil and fertilizer company. Because organic ingredients play such a large role at Foxfarm, Winer and his staff handcraft all the formulas in small batches. "We are known as the microbrewery of premium plant

foods and soil mixes," he says.

"Our fertilizers are built around the use of earthworm castings, nature's finest soil amendment," says Winer. "Not only the end product, but the complete process of caring for the earthworm cultures is under our direct supervision."

"FoxFarm is run by a group of dedicated gardeners who are making a difference in how we treat the Earth and each other. Using FoxFarm in your own backyard helps make a conscious choice to improve the environmental well-being in the garden, your family, and generations to come."

cheap, fast & easy.

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



So simple: 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



**Start
your
spring
flower
garden
now.**

Many flower seeds can be planted now for spring bloom. Check out our 2010 selection. We recommend: poppy, sweet pea, stock, pansy, viola, forget me not and perennial seeds.

SLOAT GARDEN CENTER SEMINARS

Each month we select gardening experts to discuss garden solutions in our seminar series. The fee is \$5 (Gardener's Reward Program members are free) and all seminar 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.

Grow your own winter vegetables

Dinah Sims and Cindy Bonilla show how to grow fresh vegetables through the winter.

Oct.3—Novato, Sims, Sat., 10am

Oct.4—Kentfield, Sims, Sun., 10am

Oct.7—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Bonilla, Wed., 6:30pm

Oct.11—Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sims, Sun., 10am

Oct. 17—Danville, Sat., 10 am

Oct.18—S.F. (Pierce St.), Sun., 10am

Fall is the time to Plant -- Plant It Now!

Marie Miller and Gus Broucaret discuss the advantage of fall planting and good planting techniques.

Oct.10—Novato, Miller, Sat., 10am

Oct.17—Kentfield, Miller, Sat., 10am

Oct.21—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Broucaret, Wed., 6:30pm

Oct.24—Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10am

Adding Edibles to Your Garden Design

Mary Te Selle describes how to have your garden and eat it too.

Oct.14—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 6:30pm

Gifts From Your Garden

Leslie Pizzino shares her favorite recipes for making delicious gifts.

Oct.18—Mill Valley, (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10am

Oct.25—San Rafael, Sun., 10am

Nov.4— S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30pm

Healthy Soil 101

Melinda Rose and Marie Miller share techniques for improving the health of your soil.

Oct.28—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Rose, Wed., 6:30pm

Nov.7—Novato, Miller, Sat., 10am

Nov.14—Kentfield, Miller, Sat., 10am

Nov.21—Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Miller, Sat.10am

Winter Tasks: Rain Barrels and Outdoor Lighting

Tom Bressan shows how to save the rain for next year and how to enjoy your garden in winter.

Nov.1—Kentfield, Sun., 10am

Nov.18—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed. 5:30pm

The New California Victory Gardens

Galen Fultz, local designer, discusses how to set up your own Victory garden.

Nov.8—Kentfield, Sun., 10am

Nov.15—Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10am

Rooftop Gardens in San Francisco

Jason Hiller, local designer, shows how to create a rooftop oasis.

Nov.11—S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30pm

Make a Wreath

Terri Hiatt demonstrates making a wreath with foliage and berries from your own garden.

Nov.14—Danville, Sat., 10 am

Stay tuned for these seminars in January, February and March of 2010. Check our website for details!

- Rose pruning
- Maple pruning
- Fruit tree pruning
- Fragrant gardens
- Winter Orchid Festival
- Veggies 101
- Adding edibles to your garden design

SAVE the DATE!



Winter Orchid Festival

at all Sloat Garden Center locations

February 2010

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

Grow your own fruit trees

Ultra dwarf patio fruit trees are perfect for containers or small spaces. Order now for sweet, delicious summer fruit!



Special order **PREVIEW** for 2010

In addition to our regular fruit tree collection, we are excited about our ultra dwarf line. They 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), low chill, and produce an abundant harvest. 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 small or container garden. Quantities are limited, but if you're interested in any of the trees listed to the right, contact the Sloat Garden Center of your choice to preorder yours. Trees will arrive in January.

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

Peach and 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, 2009. Please contact your local Sloat Garden Center for details.

Welcome Winter with citrus...

Listed in order of cold hardiness:

- * Kumquats- can tolerate the low 20s
- * Owari Satsuma Mandarin
- * Minneola Tangelo
- * Navel Oranges Robertson
- * Spring/summer ripening oranges (Trovita, Lane Late)
- * Spring/summer ripening mandarins (Kara)
- * Dancy Tangerine
- * Lisbon Lemon
- * Eureka Lemon
- * Meyer Lemon
- * Bearss Lime
- * Mexican Lime - will drop foliage at 32 degrees

Now is the time for citrus! Available year round at all Sloat Garden Center locations, it fruits in the winter months and the flowers smell so sweet. The fruit is colorful when ripe...a lovely way to welcome the cold. Not sure which will grow well in your neck of the woods? We've assembled a list at left...





Our 5 new rose selections for 2010

These beauties will be available starting
Christmas week 2009



Ch-Ching!

This vigorous bushy clean rose flowers like a weed and smells up a storm. Long-lasting, even-glowing yellow. Very deep red new shoots & dark green leaves set off the many showy clusters of blossoms.

Bloom / Size: Large, double, informal
Fragrance: Strong sweet spice & fruit
Comments: A fragrant yellow bloom



Easy Does it

Delectable colors of mango orange, peach pink & ripe apricot. So disease resistant, vigorous, flowerful and fabulous, you just can't say no. This is the one & only AARS award winner granted for 2010...it's just delightful.

Bloom / Size: Medium-large, double, ruffled
Fragrance: Moderate fruity
Comments: Perfect in every climate



Over the Moon

This opulent, warm Hybrid Tea has deep-apricot buds that spiral open to slightly-softened caramel-sugar tones. Rounded, bushy & vigorous.

Bloom / Size: Large, classical form
Fragrance: Moderate fruity



Pumpkin Patch

A color so scrumptious, it looks good enough to eat. Buttery-rich coppery buds open into clusters of fragrant orange held tightly against shiny green leaves.

Bloom / Size: Medium, in large clusters
Fragrance: Moderate fruity
Comments: Appreciates a little afternoon shade.



Drop Dead Red

So velvety, jaw-dropping red... set against high-glossed deep green leaves. This killer color is truly a 'stop 'em dead in their tracks' kinda red.

Bloom / Size: Medium-large, double
Fragrance: Mild tea
Comments: Best flower size in cooler conditions



Sure, 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 for the latest in holiday decorating.





Fall is the right time to plant.

WE REPEAT...

Fall is the right time to plant.

If you've ever gardened on the east coast, the concept of fall planting may seem strange.

Here in the Bay Area, October & November are truly the most advantageous months of the year to get perennials, trees, vines, shrubs and cool season vegetables into the ground. Planting now will allow roots to become well established for much stronger, more vigorous plants come springtime. Fall and winter rain mean nature does the weekly watering for you, plus most gardeners see fewer pest and disease problems in the fall.

Fall is for planting. Now get out there and PLANT!

Happy worms = healthy soil, healthy plants



It's no secret that we're big proponents of worm composting. If you want to recycle your vegetable scraps into finished compost, we have the ideal solution for you. *Can o' Worms!*

This ingenious product from Australia is incredibly easy to use and can convert a massive amount of kitchen and yard scraps into pure earthworm castings in a relatively small area. It's simple to maintain and odor-free. The bin is recycled plastic!

Can o' Worms comes with everything you need (except the worms -- though we sell them in all our stores) to start making your own compost. It features a base unit that allows you to collect the excess liquid from your scraps to use as a liquid fertilizer around the house and yard. Three trays sit in the base and provide a home for as many as 20,000 worms that can consume as much as 20 lbs of kitchen scraps every day.

Because the Can o' Worms is odor-free, you can keep it in the garage or basement, even

in the house! Just be sure to pick a spot where it won't bake in the hot sun or be exposed to freezing wind in the winter.

Start with a single tray on top of the base and add about half of the coir (coconut) fiber brick that comes with the Can o' Worms. The instructions will recommend using the entire brick but we find the worms "luxury feed" on the coir and are slow to get into the kitchen scraps. Add a pound or two of worms per person in the household—use a bit more if you are vegans or raw foodies and produce a lot of vegetable scraps every day.

Give the worms a day or two to settle in and then start feeding them your daily vegetable waste. You can feed the worms all things vegetable—lettuce leaves, potato and carrot peelings, even avocado skins, though those may take longer to break down and be eaten by the worms. Keep a moist thin layer of pre-wetted newspaper or cardboard over the top tray in use to encourage upward movement. After you fully fill one tray with castings and scraps, stop adding materials for one

week to let them finish that tray, and then just add the next tray. As you fill one tray with castings and scraps, add another tray. Once you are using the third tray and seeing castings building up in that tray, the worms will be living in the middle tray and the bottom tray will be ready to harvest.

Other than feeding your worms your kitchen scraps there's very little to do. Add paper strips from time to time and dust the surface with the occasional handful of Agricultural Lime. The worms will happily adjust to your needs. If you have a lot to feed them, they increase their population to the food supply. If feeding less, the population adjusts accordingly.

While there are other worm bins on the market, few compare to the ease of use and the quality of the Can o' Worms. Can o' Worms is so well designed that the components fit tightly together which prevents nuisance pests like fruit flies from getting into the food scraps. The base unit makes it very easy to harvest the nutrient-rich water that comes from the food scraps, and the tray system makes it incredibly easy to harvest finished worm castings.



Healthy soil is integral to FALL PLANTING

Q: What's the recipe for gorgeous flowers, vegetables & ornamentals?

A: Healthy soil with lots of organic matter.

Whether you're amending soil with compost, worm castings (see article at left), or purchasing our formulations, start any garden project with the right foundation. Healthy plants begin from the roots on up!

What's in the bag?



SLOAT ORGANIC POTTING SOIL

Fir Bark, Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss, Mushroom Compost (Wheatstraw, Cottonseed Hulls, Canadian Peat Moss, Cottonseed Meal, Chicken Manure and Gypsum), Volcanic Pumice Stone, Earthworm Castings, Sand, Feather Meal, Bat Guano, Green Sand, and Kelp Meal.



SLOAT FOREST MULCH PLUS

Fir Bark with 15% Chicken Manure

SLOAT ORGANIC PLANTING MIX

Fir Bark, Mushroom Compost (Wheatstraw, Cottonseed Hulls, Canadian Peat Moss, Cottonseed Meal, Chicken Manure and Gypsum), Perlite and Gypsum.



SLOAT LOAM BUILDER

Chicken Manure and Mushroom Compost (Wheatstraw, Cottonseed Hulls, Canadian Peat Moss, Cottonseed Meal, Chicken Manure and Gypsum).



Definitions. *3 ingredients common to many of our soil formulations*

Fir bark - is the cadillac of wood soil ingredients. It's long lasting, so it aids soil structure for an extended length of time and doesn't consume a lot of nitrogen from the soil. The shape of fir bark is porous, so it creates extra air and water space in soil.

Peat moss - is excellent at retaining moisture in soil mixes. It also holds more oxygen than most other soil ingredients.

Mushroom compost - adds organic material that helps stimulate microbial growth. Has beneficial bacteria and microorganisms.

Did you know?

We have bulk topsoil available at our Danville nursery.

**828 Diablo Road
at El Cerro Blvd., Danville
925-820-1273**

Delivery available to our East Bay customers. Call for more info!