

# 10 Gift Ideas for everyone on your list!

## 1. Feed the birds.

We have everything from basic suet feeders to hummingbird feeders to deluxe birdfeeders that will attract birds who sing the sweetest songs. (We also carry songbird food for winter feeding and different flavors of Suet).



## 2. Fun aprons & totes

Kid's & Mom's matching gardening aprons, lunch bags and totes in vibrant frog & lady-bug prints.



## 3. Gardening Books

We carry a wide selection of gardening books you can devour over rainy winter days: Greenopia Guide, the latest Sunset Garden Book, Young Gardener, Lone Pine Books (Bugs & Birds) and California Native Plants Guide.



## 4.

### Orchids!

Lovely orchids make beautiful holiday gifts for every home.



## 5. We'll help design it

Sloat Garden Design Consultations make a great holiday gift. Call our Design Department for details! **415-388-3754**

## 7. Bulb forcing Kits

Start a garden indoors with amaryllis & paper whites.



## 8. Custom holiday planters

Let us create a colorful holiday arrangement of flowers for your table or entryway.



### Holiday gift cards

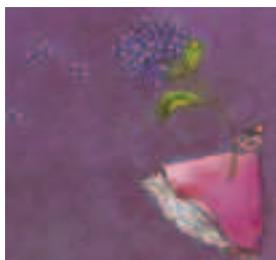
Sloat Garden Center Holiday gift cards: \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations.



## 9.

### Greeting cards

Our new line of French greeting cards will send holiday cheer near and far.



## 10. Organic gift package!

Choose from your favorite organic seeds (we have 140 varieties of Botanical Interests organic seeds), Sloat organic potting soil and E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start fertilizer.



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

**Richmond District**  
327 3rd Avenue btwn  
Geary & Clement  
(415) 752-1614

**Marina District**  
3237 Pierce Street  
Chestnut & Lombard  
(415) 440-1000

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

**Kentfield**  
700 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
at Wolfe Grade  
(415) 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.  
(415) 566-4415

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

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

**Danville**  
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro  
(925) 743-0288  
Sunday hours: 9 to 5pm

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

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

Visit Sloat on the Web: [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com)

**Open 7 days a week**  
**8:30am to 5:30pm at all locations**  
(except Danville, as noted above)



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Sausalito, CA 94965-1428



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## Great plants and great advice to help them grow!

6 SLOAT NOTEBOOK December 2008/January 2009

### December

#### Plant:

- ☞ Decorate your home with greenery and festive plants for the holidays.
- ☞ Create beautiful winter entryways by planting cyclamen, pansies and violas in Sloat's one-of-a-kind pottery.
- ☞ Select and plant dormant roses to ensure a fragrant summer rose garden. **See pg. 2 to view our new rose varieties.**
- ☞ 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



### December & January Gardening Guide

will promote lush spring growth.

#### Prune/Maintain:

- ☞ Coat trees, wreaths and greens with **CloudCover** or mist with water daily. Keep trees and greens away from hot sunny windows and heat sources.
- ☞ Clean up the garden and remove diseased plants to avoid over-wintering diseases.
- ☞ Prune evergreen shrubs and trees. Give them the proper shape and size to help accommodate next year's growth and prevent winter damage.
- ☞ We carry replacement parts for felco pruners. Get a new blade for spring!

### January

#### Plant:

- ☞ Plant bare root flowering cherry and plum fruit trees. January is also a *great* time to plant dogwood and maple trees!
- ☞ The first of our summer bulbs (gladiolas, dahlias and lilies) arrive in select stores this month. Call ahead for info.

#### Fertilize:

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

#### Prune/Maintain:

- ☞ Prune roses, shrubs and trees. **See pg. 4 to view our pruning seminars.**
- ☞ Prune and cut back perennials & ornamental grasses.

- ☞ Keep up on cleaning 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. Sad, but true!
- ☞ Deadhead flowering plants to encourage additional blooms.



*About this Newsletter:* The Gardener's Notebook is published 4 times each 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, visit us online: [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com)



# Gardener's Notebook

Volume 22, No. 4

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

December 2008/January 2009

## Wishing you peace, joy and good gardening

2008 was quite a year here at Sloat Garden Center. We kicked off a campaign for gardeners to grow their own heirloom and organic vegetables, worked with new schools in our Adopt a Garden and Growing up Green programs, brought new flower varieties into our nurseries and celebrated 50 years of serving Bay Area gardeners. Whew - what a year! And now that the holiday season is upon us, it's time to welcome back some of our favorite tree and wreath growers.

### Carols of Joy deluxe Wreaths

In business for over 20 years, Carols of Joy of Oregon uses noble fir, incense cedar, juniper, cones and holly to hand-make one-of-a-kind wreaths in small batches. They're thicker and fuller than other wreaths and are all made within 10 days of arriving at our stores.

### Silver Mountain Christmas Trees are truly elegant

For over 20 years, Jim Heater and his family have been growing the highest quality Noble fir trees at their Oregon farm. The trees are delivered to Sloat stores the week they're harvested and are kept in water stands at each of our lots, where they remain fresh, vibrant and beautiful. These trees have an intoxicating fragrance, beautiful symmetry, strong branches, soft needles and a vibrant color - they really are the ideal Christmas tree for every living room.

Jim has three tips for keeping trees fresh, "Water, water, and water. There are home reme-

dies that say to add aspirin or soda. I suggest you fill the base with water and then take the aspirin yourself!"

Preserve your Christmas tree and wreath with non-toxic CloudCover. Spray the trunk and needles thoroughly to the point of dripping, let dry and set the tree in a tree stand.

### Permanent, pre-lit trees to warm up the holidays

These exquisite and easy-to-care-for permanent trees are perfect for your home this Christmas and for years of holidays to come.

They're produced using patented Permalit light technology, so the lights won't burn out as quickly...and they stay lit even if multiple lights burn out. Additionally,

Permalit's cooler burning light bulbs are safer for children. They are very easy to assemble and look amazingly real. Available this month at select Sloat Garden Center locations! See [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com) for details.

Also: We have lush and vibrant red, white and bi-color poinsettias in 4", 6" and 8" sizes as well as living trees, rosemary cones, cyclamen, garland, ornaments and tree stands at all Sloat Garden Center locations.

Happy 2009...and good gardening next year!



Clear the air with houseplants   Winter Orchid Festival   2009 rose selection   our Holiday gift picks

# Our 2009 selection of *Roses*

Every year at Sloat Garden Center, our horticulturists carefully select the roses that we will showcase the coming spring. These four new roses thrived during two years of comprehensive testing in 23 Weeks Roses gardens nationwide. In fact, they flourished in 15 categories including the ability to resist disease, overall beauty and general ease of maintenance. We are proud to offer **Legends**, **Carefree Spirit**, **Pink Promise** and **Cinco de Mayo** as ideal roses for the Bay Area...read on!



**Legends** - This robust hybrid-tea has monstrous buds that open to enormous blossoms of rich ruby red. The flowers hold their durable brilliance from beginning to end, on the plant and in a vase. Immense petals (just one can cover a child's palm) start off as a classic urn-shaped bud, slowly spiraling open to a ruffled whopper of a traffic-stopping bloom. The unusual, attractive reddened-green color of the large leaves creates a perfect backdrop for the ruby red flowers, gracefully enhancing the long, sturdy cutting stems. 'Legends' will grow and bloom all summer long, and for many summers to come. It just takes one to make a whole bouquet.

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**Carefree Spirit** - Recognizing that gardeners want roses that are easy to care for, in 2004 AARS stopped spraying fungicides on all shrub roses in its nationwide test gardens. From that test, Carefree Spirit emerged as the best disease resistant landscape shrub rose. This mounding rose produces deep red blossoms with white centers and the blooms finish pink. With more than ten years of hybridization improvement, the abundant glossy, dark green foliage and blooming power will perform well in your yard.

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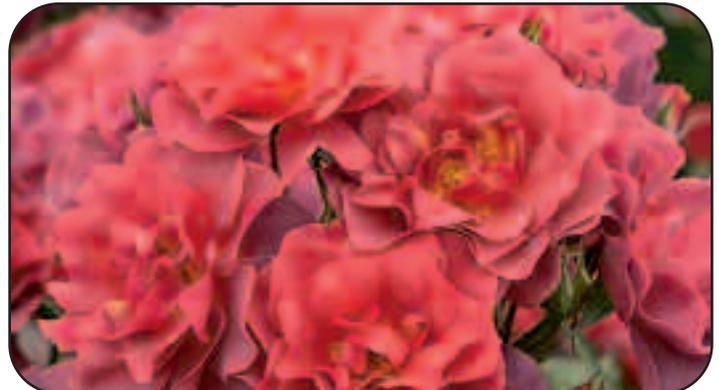


**Pink Promise** - a highly fragrant rose that is a graceful bloomer with long stems for cutting. This hybrid tea's beauty is enhanced by the contrast of its large pink blossoms set against lush dark green foliage. Along with its stunning appearance, Pink Promise has good disease resistance and flourishes even in cooler climates. For every Pink Promise sold, Weeks Roses will donate a percentage of sales to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

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**Cinco de Mayo™** - Imagine a rose that looks like a blend of smoked lavender and rusty red-orange. Cinco de Mayo is a festive rose that may be impossible to describe but you'll love the endless bounty of multi-colored clusters sitting amongst clean, glossy green foliage and dark red new growth. This floribunda has fantastic disease resistance and has performed exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. Ideal for use as a hedge or border with mixed perennials.

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**Please [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com) or ask your local Sloat Garden Center to let you know exactly when this season's rose shipment will arrive. We offer nine rose pruning seminars this January and February. See pg. 4 for details.**

# Clear the air: Lighten your mood and improve air quality

## Plants that will improve indoor air quality:

- Palms (Chrysalidocarpus, Rhaps, Chamaedorea and Phoenix)
- Fern (Nephrolepis)
- Corn Plant (Dracaena)
- Rubber Plant and Weeping Fig (Ficus)
- Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum)
- Gerbera Daisy
- Dumb Cane (Dieffenbachia)
- Schefflera (Brassaia)
- Orchids (Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis)
- Spider Plant (Chlorophytum)
- Philodendron
- Arrowhead Plant (Syngonium)
- Golden Pothos (Epipremnum aureum)
- Dwarf Banana (Musa)
- Chinese Evergreen (Aglonema)
- Snake Plant (Sansevieria trifasciata)



Spider Plant

In addition to their de-stressing and mood-altering properties, did you know that houseplants are the best filters for removing common volatile organic chemicals (VOC) from the air?

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

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

### CARE

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

probably bright enough for most houseplants.

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

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



Dieffenbachia

## Winter Orchid Festival

February 1-15, 2009

at all Sloat Garden Center locations

February is the month we celebrate orchids! Stop in during our Winter Orchid Festival and take part in orchid seminars, orchid giveaways, and specials on orchids and orchid pottery. See [www.sloatgardens](http://www.sloatgardens) for information.

We  orchids!

### Orchids 101

Glenn Smith, of the Marin Orchid Society, discusses the care of these exotic beauties.

Feb.4-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm

Feb.8-Novato, Sun., 10 am

### Orchid Centerpieces

Learn how to make show-stopping centerpieces using living orchids.

Feb.8-Mill Valley (Miller), Strobel, Sun., 10 am

Feb.10-S.F. (Pierce St.), Jackson, Tues, 5:30 pm

Feb.12-Danville, Strobel, Thurs., 11 am

**FEBRUARY**

San Francisco Botanical Garden,  
Horticulture Magazine &  
Sloat Garden Center present:  
**2009 WINTER SYMPOSIUM**  
"Water-wise Gardening"

**Saturday, Feb. 7 & Sunday, Feb. 8**

at the San Francisco Botanical Garden

For information call: (415) 661-1316 x400

Symposium participants will receive 10% off coupons to shop at Sloat Garden Center.

# SLOAT GARDEN CENTER SEMINARS

Each month we select gardening experts to discuss garden solutions for 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.

## Holiday 2008 Special Wreath Workshop

Make your own beautiful holiday wreath Workshop fee: \$35 for a small wreath, \$45 for a medium wreath. Space is limited to 20.  
12/3 - S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30pm

## Rose Pruning

Learn how to correctly prune your roses and encourage more blooms on roses. The Marin (MRS), San Francisco (SFRS), San Mateo Rose Societies (SMRS) demonstrate.  
Jan.4-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), SFRS, Sun., 10 am  
-Kentfield, MRS, Sun., 10 am  
Jan.11-Novato, MRS, Sun., 10 am  
Jan.17-San Bruno, SMRS, Sat., 10 am  
Jan.18-S.F. (Third Ave.), SFRS, Sun., 10 am  
Jan.25-S.F. (Pierce St.), Staff, Sun., 10 am  
-San Rafael, MRS, Sun., 10 am  
Feb.7-San Bruno, SMRS, Sat., 10 am  
Feb.8-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), SFRS, Sun., 10 am

## Clean Up the Environment...Inside!

Jen Strobel discusses air-purifying plants for the home and office.

Jan.25-Kentfield, Sun., 10 am  
Jan.28-S.F. (Sloat Blvd), Wed., 5:30 pm

## Fruit Tree Pruning

Learn to encourage fruit production of your fruit trees - Elizabeth Ruiz & Julie Gates.  
Jan.4-San Bruno, Ruiz, Sun., 10 am  
Jan.10-Danville, Ruiz, Sat., 10 am  
Jan.18-Kentfield, Gates, Sun., 11am  
Feb.21-San Rafael, Ruiz, Sat., 10 am

## Plants that Use Less Water

Marin Master Gardeners & the Marin Municipal Water District discuss plant selection and irrigation aimed at water reduction.  
Jan.11-Kentfield, Sun., 10 am  
Feb.21-Mill Valley (Miller), Sat., 10 am

## Fuchsia Pruning

The San Bruno Fuchsia Society demonstrates how to repot and prune fuchsias.  
Jan.14-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm  
Jan.24-San Bruno, Sat., 10 am

## Does Your Garden Look Old and Tired?

Award-winning designer Mary Te Selle shares how give your garden a make-over!  
Jan.21-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm  
Jan.24-San Rafael, Sat., 10 am

## Orchids 101

Glenn Smith, of the Marin Orchid Society, discusses the care of these exotic beauties.  
Feb.4-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm  
Feb.8-Novato, Sun., 10 am

Feb.22-Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am  
Feb.28-Danville, Sat., 10 am

## Orchid Centerpieces

Learn how to make show-stopping centerpieces using living orchids.  
Feb.8-Mill Valley (Miller), Strobel, Sun., 10 am  
Feb.10-S.F. (Pierce St.), Jackson, Tues, 5:30 pm  
Feb.12-Danville, Strobel, Thurs., 11 am

## Japanese Maple Pruning

Marie Miller, aesthetic pruner, discusses how to prune the different maples.  
Jan.18-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Sun., 10 am  
Jan.24-Kentfield, Sat., 10 am  
Feb.7-San Rafael, Sat., 10 am  
Feb.28-Mill Valley (Miller), Sat., 10 am

## No More Mowing!

Bob Hornback discusses ornamental grasses as lawn alternatives with less effort & water.  
Feb.7-Mill Valley (Miller), Sat., 10 am  
Feb.15-Kentfield, Sun., 10 am  
Feb.25-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm

## Tool and Gadget Talk

The Sloat senior staff discusses tool care and tools to make gardening a lot easier.  
Feb.18-S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Wed., 5:30 pm  
Feb.22-San Bruno, Sun., 10 am

## Hungry Owl Project

Trinka Maris discusses owl habitat rodent control. Trinka will bring an owl!  
Feb.22-Kentfield, Sun., 10 am

Locally  
owned for  
50 years!  
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Roomy at Sloat Garden Center in Danville: Greg Luna and Manager Linda Alexander at our Danville location show off beautiful custom planters.



**The Pottery Color of the Month for December is Barley (left).**

**The Pottery color for January and February is Blue Jeans (below)**

