

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 25, No. 3

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

October/November 2011



fall decorate and fall garden
with Sloat Garden Center



We have beautiful pansies
in every color... Stop in!

Plant it now!

Fall vegetables: plant broccoli, kale, lettuce, spinach, and peas to grow your own groceries all winter

Fall color: iceland poppies, mums, pansies, snapdragons, violas, ornamental grasses

Shrubs: azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, native plants

Bulbs: amaryllis, daffodils, iris, tulips, crocus and hyacinth. Garlic and onion bulbs can be planted now, too!

2012 Roses

Indoor Gardening

New Camellia

Indoor Houseplants are cool!

Visit our stores: Nine Locations in San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa

Richmond District
3rd Avenue between
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

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
(415) 454-0262

Danville
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 743-0288
M-Sat hours: 8 to 6:30pm
Sun hours: 8am 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

Visit us on the web: www.sloatgardens.com • Also find us on...

S l o a t



Garden Center
420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428

Open 7 days per week 8:30am to 6:30pm
(or as noted above in Danville & SF Marina)

Fall/Winter hours begin Sunday, October 30th
8:30am to 5:30pm, 7 days a week



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8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK October/November 2011

Bay Area 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/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 shrubs, perennials,

vines and trees into the ground this month while the soil is still warm. Winter rains will help establish your plants.

- ☞ Decorate for fall! We will have **pumpkins**, **gourds** and **mums** to set the stage on your doorstep.
- ☞ 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 **E.B. Stone Nature's Green** lawn fertilizer and **Concern Weed Prevention Plus** pre-emergent to green up your lawn and control and prohibit annual bluegrass, crabgrass, and other weeds in your lawn and flower beds.
- ☞ Top-dress perennial beds, azaleas,

October & November

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. Add soil amendments.
- ☞ Divide the roots and rhizomes of perennials such as agapanthus, yarrow and iris.
- ☞ 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!
- ☞ Feed the birds! Don't cut back dead flower stalks. Let rudbeckia, sunflowers, and other flowers with seeds and berries feed the birds in your neighborhood.

Ornamental Grasses: blooming, waving, fall color combined with easy care and simplicity

Fall is the time when grasses and grass-like plants offer a perfect reflection of the season; they blend so well with the prevalent Mediterranean and natural oak landscapes.

Miscanthus (also known as Maidengrass) is a perennial blooming grass that's among the showiest of ornamental grasses. The ranges of size make them ideal for seasonal containers, perennial borders, as a landscape screen or in hillside plantings. All look stunning in every situation.

Miscanthus needs very little care and will tolerate drought (but looks best with average or occasional watering). They will survive in almost

any exposure or soil type except for deep shade.

In fall and winter, foliage turns shades of golden, orange or reddish brown. (If you're looking for year-round ornamental grass, choose evergreen grasses like fescue and carex).

Make a note on your February calendar to cut foliage back to 6" above the ground before new leaves sprout. This will allow new blades to sprout anew in the spring. Divide every 2 or 3 years to limit clump size and prevent decline in vigor.



NEW INTRODUCTION! Dixieland Miscanthus

A striking bold plant for borders or containers. Its long arching blades are green with broad streaks of ivory. In late summer to fall, plants produce tall, upright stems topped with feathery rose-hued plumes that soften and curl as they dry. This plant reaches 2 to 3 feet tall...an excellent landscape specimen!



Miscanthus Morning Light

Green blades have highlights of creamy-white margins and mid-veins creating a shimmering silvery appearance. Adds visual excitement wherever used. Accepts dry conditions. Deciduous.



Miscanthus Zebrinus

Green foliage is highlighted by dramatic horizontal golden bands. Reddish bronze plumes above foliage in summer.



Variegated Japanese Silver Grass

Arching grass with silvery white plumes. Dark green blades highlighted with a white stripe.

Prevent garden damage from critters

Every season our Garden Guru receives emails asking how to safely keep critters out of the garden. It's a real challenge! We feel Animal Stopper products do a great job and would like to recommend them to you.



Cat Repellent

Messina Wildlife's Cat Stopper is an effective repellent that prevents most cat damage to garden beds and planting areas, while preventing scratching, bedding down, spraying and other damage in outdoor areas. Pleasant to use formula dries clear and works by smell, taste and feel. Safe for use around fruits and vegetables, made of organic ingredients. Lasts for 30 days regardless of weather.



Animal Stopper Animal Repellent

Messina Wildlife's Animal Stopper is an effective granular repellent for use in garden beds to prevent low level damage caused by deer and rabbits. Pleasant to use formula works by smell, taste and feel. Safe for use around fruits and vegetables. Made of organic ingredients. Lasts for 30 days regardless of weather.

FALL gardening seminars

Each season we select local gardening experts and designers, as well as our knowledgeable senior staff, to speak in our seminar series. The class fee is \$5 (Gardener's Reward Program members attend for free) and all 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.**

Building Soil for Better Gardens!

Join local Soil Sisters, Linda and Norma Novy, for a very enthusiastic 2 part discussion on all things dirt.

Soils Part 1: Understanding Your Soil: microbes and more

Oct. 1 - Novato, Sat., 10 am

Oct. 1 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 1:30 pm

Oct. 12 - Sloat Blvd., Wed., 6:30 pm

Soils Part 2: How To Build Soil: Compost, Cover Crops, and Tea

Oct. 8 - Novato, Sat., 10 am

Oct. 8 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 1:30 pm

Oct. 19 - Sloat Blvd., Wed., 6:30 pm

Bees Again!

Join Mea McNeil, Master Beekeeper, for a discussion on how to get started keeping your own bees. Mea will also teach us the bee's needs and habits as well as the most desired pollinator forage plants.

Oct. 9 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am

Native Plants: Their Care and Pruning.

Join us in welcoming back Elizabeth Ruiz, aesthetic pruner and owner of a local landscaping firm, Go With Nature. Elizabeth will instruct us on the do's and don'ts when it comes to maintaining, shaping, and invigorating native plants in our landscapes. Native plants **do** need some clipping and the beginning of our rainy season is the ideal time to do it.

Nov. 5 - Kentfield, Sat., 10 am

Nov. 5 - Novato, Sat., 1:30 pm

Nov. 6 - Sloat Blvd., SF, Sun., 10 am

"Make and Take" Terrarium Workshop

Jen Strobel, our wonderful container designer, will guide you in creating your own terrarium. Your creation will make a terrific gift for someone you care about (or even yourself). All materials, including the glass vessel, will be supplied. Choose from succulents or foliage as your taste dictates. FEE: \$25.00. Sign up early. Space is limited to 15 attendees.

Nov. 12 - Kentfield, Sat., 10 am

Nov. 12 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 1 pm

Nov. 13 - Sloat Blvd., SF, Sun., 10 am

Training and Pruning Small Garden Trees

Once again, Elizabeth Ruiz will enlighten us on how we can create focal points of interest and beauty in our gardens. She will discuss various pruning techniques used to attain the desired form in smaller trees such as Magnolia, weeping cherry, and Angel Trumpet.

Jan. 14 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am

Jan. 14 - Novato, Sat., 10 am

Jan. 15 - Sloat Blvd., SF, Sun., 10 am

Our Annual Rose Pruning Demonstrations

Roses are back and cool again! Come learn about pruning roses for best performance. Learn tips on feeding and preventing diseases from the experts of the San Francisco and Marin Rose Societies.

Jan. 22 - Novato, Sun., 10 am (Marin Rose Society)

Jan. 29 - Sloat Blvd., SF, Sun., 10 am (SF Rose Society)

Feb. 12 - Kentfield, Sun., 10 am (Marin Rose Society)

Feb. 19 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am (Marin Rose Society)

Keeping our Houseplants Looking Good and Healthy

Join local houseplant expert Saram Singh of San Francisco Foliage, purveyor of fine indoor plant specimens, for a discussion on foliage plants. Learn how best to pot, repot, feed and even prune your indoor garden. Get useful tips for dealing with potential insect and disease problems too!

Feb. 4 - Kentfield, Sat., 10 am

Feb. 4 - Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 1 pm

Feb. 5 - Sloat Blvd., SF, Sun., 10:30 am

Feb. 19 - Novato, Sun., 10:30 am



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

It's simple to create a bulb display that's ready to bloom next spring. All you need are bulbs, a pot, bulb food and Sloat Potting Soil. For detailed bulb planting info, visit our website!



www.sloatgardens.com

Fall & Winter notes

- Fall is for planting; now is the best time to plant natives, as well as wildflowers, sweet peas and poppies.
- Christmas wreaths and trees will be available in our stores Thanksgiving weekend. Call for details.
- Roses arrive in stores the third week of December.
- We will have lots of holiday gift ideas in our stores starting Thanksgiving weekend. Stop in!
- **NEW** for indoor gardening this winter...hydroponics!



Pink Yuletide: This new, easy care pink camellia with dark green leaves will grow eight to ten feet tall and wide. The showy flowers are fragrant and wonderful for cutting. Perfect to use as espalier, hedge, or privacy screen.

Pink Yuletide needs partial sun and regular watering (weekly, or more often in extreme heat), especially during the first growing season in order to establish a deep, extensive root system. Provide well drained soil that's rich in organic matter. Feed with an acid fertilizer after bloom. Keep roots cool with a thick layer of mulch.

Winter Fruit Tree Care



Many of the challenges backyard gardeners face with fruit tree success are related to common Bay Area fruit tree diseases like peach leaf curl, brown rot blossom blight, fruit rot, canker, and fire blight. These all can hamper fruit production and the overall health of trees. Fruit

tree diseases are best controlled with Bonide Copper Fungicide spray applied during a tree's dormancy period.

The dormant period starts at leaf drop (fall) and runs through the early leaf and blossom (early spring) periods. Every

year's weather pattern is different, so gardeners should pay attention to the season and spray accordingly.

This fall, after 80% of the leaves on your fruit tree have dropped, spray the tree until dripping (being sure to include the branches and trunk). If it rains within 24 hours, re-apply. During the winter rains, it is recommended that you re-apply often; the tree will not be harmed if mixed and applied accordingly.

Spraying at the right time is critical to disease control and may require spraying at delayed dormant (bud swell), popcorn (bud color), bloom, petal fall (as the blossoms fall) and as the fruit first develops. Being aware of timing is important, so just ask us if you have questions.



Bonide Copper Fungicide can also be used on roses and flowers, vegetables and ornamental plants up to the day of harvest and all season long. It's an all-purpose fungicide that works as a dormant spray. Listed "For Organic Gardening" and meets the need of our "all natural" gardening fans.

We also recommend Bonide All Seasons Oil sprays for overwintering insect control. Copper Fungicide and All Seasons Oil should be applied separately. Watchful eyes and correct seasonal timing will bring you greater success against age old fruit tree disease and insect problems.

Fresh fruit from your backyard

Available:	Fuji Apple
	Yellow Delicious Apple
	Royal Blenheim Apricot
	Compact Stella Cherry
	Self-Fertile Bing Cherry
	Bartlett Pear
	D'Anjou Pear
	20th Century Pear

Ultra dwarf patio fruit trees are perfect for containers or small spaces. 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), they don't require cold winters, and they produce an abundant harvest of full-sized fruit. It is not unheard of to harvest 30+ apples, 40+ apricots, 30+ pears, 90+ cherries, or 50+ plums from one small potted fruit tree! Trees will arrive in January, 2012. *Order now for sweet, delicious summer fruit next year!*



PLEASE NOTE: To be sure you get your tree from our limited supply, we will be happy to take orders for Ultra Dwarf fruit trees through October 15th, 2011 and will set them aside for you after they arrive. Please contact us for details!

Incredible new bold roses!

All are available starting late December



Take a look this December: we've chosen a new crop of AARS winners for Bay Area Gardens! AARS (All-America Rose Selections) runs the world's most challenging horticultural testing program to recognize roses that are easy to grow and require minimal care. To be chosen as an AARS winner, roses need to thrive during two years of comprehensive testing in 23 gardens nationwide. Look for the AARS red-rose seal at all Sloat Garden Center locations starting in **late-December**.



Koko Loco
floribunda

Milky chocolate-colored buds open tan (or beige) and mature to a solid soft lavender blossom. Early to bloom, every lovely bud spirals open with impeccable show form. The flowers last long on the plant and in the vase. Rounded, bushy...chock full of clean green leaves.



Ketchup & Mustard
floribunda

Very shapely and bushy rose with glossy green leaves and attention-getting red petals with a deep yellow reverse. Repeat blooms. Tidy enough to tuck into a landscape, accent a container or top a rose tree. This rose is for those who love bold color in the garden!



Stormy Weather
climber

Deep smoky purple blues with just a touch of cloudy white on the reverse. Flowers and repeat blooms in the very first season. This climbing rose's uncommon color contrasts oranges, yellows and whites.



Sugar Moon
hybrid tea

White roses exude elegance and fragrance. Sugar Moon has a powerful perfume and big pointed buds spiral open to broad petals of pure white. Dark-dark green leaves make the white flowers pop. Good rebloom, natural vigor.

From vertical gardening, terrariums and houseplants, you CAN improve indoor air quality with indoor gardening!

Did you know that houseplants are the best filters for removing common volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) 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 in unventilated areas. *Please see our houseplant list at the bottom right for specific varieties.*



Houseplant Care & Tips

- 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. When you pot up a plant, leave 1-2" at the top for watering.
- 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 a haven for harmful insects (mites).
- Dealing with houseplant insects: We love to recommend our line of Bonide products in smaller, indoor use sizes to combat insect issues. Bonide Mite-X, Systemic Houseplant Granules, and Insecticidal Soap Houseplant.

SEMINAR: Keeping our Houseplants Looking Good and Healthy

Join local houseplant expert Saram Singh of San Francisco Foliage, purveyor of fine indoor plant specimens, for a discussion on foliage plants. Learn how best to pot, repot, feed and even prune your indoor garden. Get useful tips for dealing with potential insect and disease problems too!

See pg. 7 for location details.

Tools for Indoor gardening...



Colorful pottery

Our beautiful pottery comes in a range of colors. (Don't forget the saucers!)



Maxsea Fertilizer

This plant food feeds houseplants throughout the growing season.



KeeperStopper

This fine grid keeps soil from seeping out of holes but doesn't block water flow. Keeps insects out.



Potting Soil

Our potting soil is perfect to use in any houseplant planting!

Houseplant Helper

Who among us hasn't watched a beloved houseplant meet an early death because of root disease? Actinovate solves this issue.

Actinovate helps roots grow and fights fungal disease or fungus (the leading cause of houseplant death).

Plants treated with Actinovate are hardier, more vigorous, and attain a robust and protected root system.

Actinovate can also be applied as a spray to protect leaves and stems from disfiguring "spots." It is effective against a wide range of fungal diseases and listed organic by OMRI (Organic Raw Materials Institute).



Also:

- 2 oz treats 550 plants or covers up to 5,000 sq. ft. of turf.
- Contains Streptomyces lydicus, a natural bacteria.
- Easy to apply

terrarium fun!

Terrariums are a sweet way to bring the beauty of miniature landscapes into your home. When properly planted and located, you will be able to grow plants in a terrarium with minimal care. Below are terrarium care instructions and an ingredient list so that you can make your own terrariums.

(We also have terrariums available pre-made in a variety of vases and ornaments.)



succulents and tillandsia



small African violet



neanthe bella palm



reindeer moss



pepperomia



dracaena



sand, rock, stones



selaginella moss



pilea

Terrarium ingredient List:

- Soil, stones, gravel, crushed glass, river rocks, reindeer moss, charcoal, plus glass receptacles or vases
- Succulents
- Small African violet
- Neanthe bella palm
- Pilea
- Pepperomia
- Dracaena (young)
- Small ferns
- Tillandsia

"Make and Take" Terrarium Workshop

Jen Strobel, our wonderful container designer, will guide you in creating your own terrarium. Your creation will make a terrific gift for someone you care about (or even yourself). All materials, including the glass vessel, will be supplied. Choose from succulents or foliage as your taste dictates. FEE: \$25.00.

Sign up early. Space is limited to 15 attendees. See page 7 for details!

Terrarium care: All terrariums require moderate light (setting them too close to a window could cook them, so middle of a bright room is best). Feeding with fertilizer is unnecessary for succulents in a terrarium, but foliage terrarium plants appreciate a 1/2 strength liquid feeding in spring (we recommend Schultz Plant Food).

Watering of succulent terrariums: 1x per week so that only the upper sand/gravel layers are moistened.

Foliage terrariums: also 1x per week, but the entire soil/sand/gravel column should be moistened. Water should not collect at the bottom. Misting of foliage plants 2x per week is beneficial.

Houseplants are the best natural air filters.

We recommend these plants for improving indoor air quality:

Palms (Chrysalidocarpus, Rhapsis, Chamaedorea and Phoenix)

Fern (Nephrolepis)

Corn Plant (Dracaena)

Rubber Plant & Weeping Fig
(Ficus)

Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum)

Dumb Cane (Dieffenbachia)

Schefflera (Brassaia)

Orchids

(Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis)

Spider Plant (Chlorophytum)

Philodendron

Arrowhead Plant (Syngonium)

Golden Pothos

(Epipremnum aureum)

Chinese Evergreen (Aglaonema)

Snake Plant (Sansevieria trifasciata)