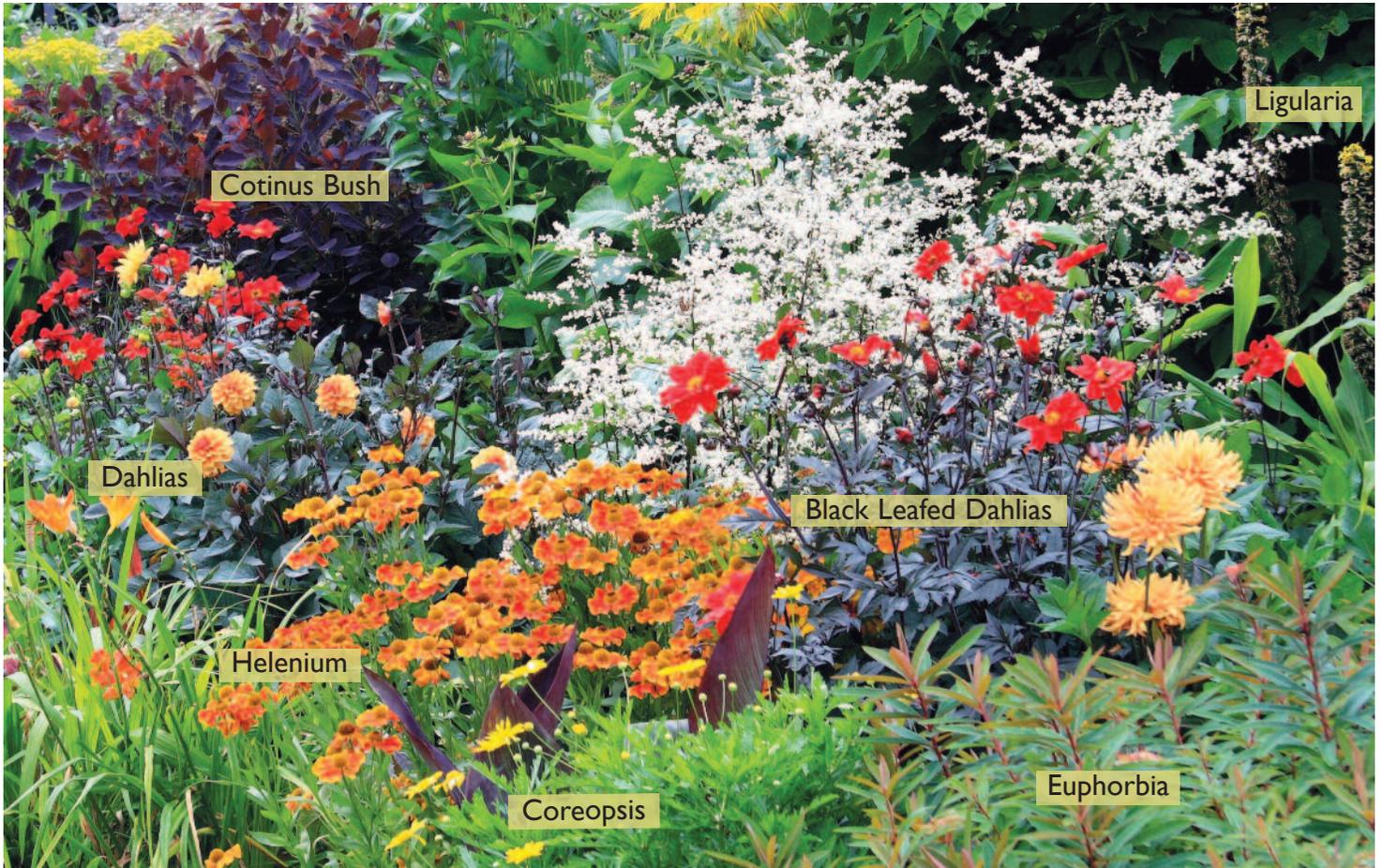


Gardener's Notebook

Volume 26, No. 3

News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners

FALL 2013



Plant perennials this fall to enjoy throughout the year

Conditions are perfect for planting perennials in fall, since the soil is still warm from the summer sun and the winter rains are just around the corner. In our mild climate, delightful perennials can thrive and bloom throughout the gardening year.

Fall is when Aster, Anemone, Lantana, Gaillardia, Echinacea and Rudbeckia are happily flowering away. Then winter brings magical Hellebores, Cyclamen, Primrose and Euphorbia. Once spring rolls around, fairy-

esque perennials like Foxglove, Delphinium, Dianthus, Clivia, Echim and Columbine steal the show. In the summertime, Blue-eyed Grass, Lavender, Penstemon, Marguerite and Shasta Daisies, Fuchsia, Begonia, Pelargonium and Salvia shout bold summer color across the garden.

Perennials are herbaceous or evergreen plants that live more than two years. Some die to the ground at the end of each growing season, then re-appear at the start of the

next. Many perennials are deer resistant (see our list on page 7) and some, over time, need to be divided (which is nifty because you'll end up with more plants than you started with).

Whatever your perennial plans, visit Sloat Garden Center this fall to get your fall, winter, spring or summer perennial garden started. We carry a perennial plant, for every one, in every season. See you in the stores!

Inside: 18 favorite Perennials, new Amaryllis, Deer resistant plants, fall clean up and Bromeliads

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 (near 101)
401 Miller Ave. at La Goma
(415) 388-0365 (near downtown)

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

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

Fall/Winter hours begin Sunday, November 3rd
8:30am to 5:30pm, 7 days a week

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Sloat



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1958!

Garden Center

420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428



We'll help you grow the plants you love!

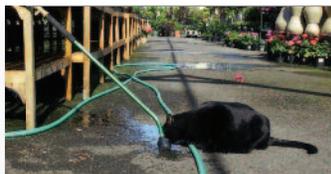
8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK Fall 2013

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On LOCATION in Kentfield with Sloat Garden Center Manager Greg Bernard



Mt. Tamalpais, Phalaenopsis orchid, Azriel the nursery cat and sun loving perennials in Kentfield.

Q: What makes the Kentfield Sloat Garden Center location special?

A: One of the amazing things about the Kentfield store is the location; we're at the foot of Mt. Tam. We get bright sun, which makes it just gorgeous. Also, since we have so much room we have the ability to carry a large variety of plants. The depth of perennials we have alone is amazing. Customers return 1 to 2 times a week just to see what's new; some come from the city and take advantage of our great parking. And, we have the largest pottery selection in all of Marin.

Also special -- we have a nursery cat here in Kentfield. Azriel is this wonderful creature who is not intimidated by dogs, people or anything. He's an amazing cat. People come here with their kids just to see Azriel. Petting the cat, while being soothed by the plants, adds a whole dimension to the experience here. He's almost a therapy cat.

Q: What is planted in your garden at home?

A: I have lots of veggies in the garden. Tomatoes, swiss chard, green onions, carrots, leeks and a full array of lettuce and herbs.

Q: What is your favorite plant?

A: I love Phalaenopsis orchids. I learned how they work and what triggers the bloom (*hint: cool temperatures*). I can get an orchid to bloom for over a year. Orchids are easy to take care of and are less expensive than a bouquet of flowers. They last for months instead of days.

Q: Tell us about the Kentfield staff.

A: Customers constantly tell me that they love the people who work here. The diversity of plant knowledge, from landscaping to design to botanical knowledge, is immense. We have a great staff; from top to bottom, they are a great crew.

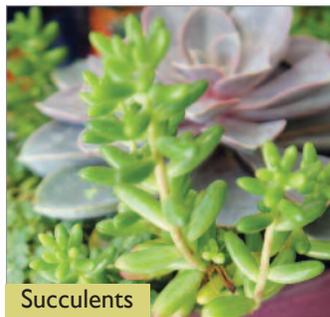


Greg (center) and the Kentfield Team

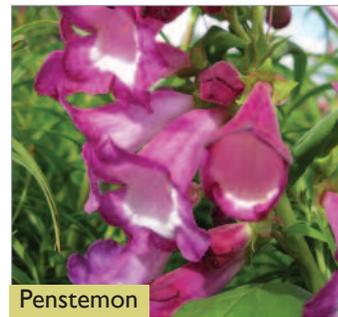
About this Newsletter: The Gardener's Notebook is published three times a year by Sloat Garden Center for the education and enjoyment of Bay Area gardeners. Information is collected from Sloat's expert staff, current horticultural publications and Sunset's Western Garden Book. Send address corrections to: 420 Coloma Street, Sausalito, CA 94965 or via email to sloat@sloatgardens.com

18 perennials *perfect for fall*

We chose 18 terrific plants for our fall perennial spotlight. All will be happy to get planted this autumn. Enjoy!



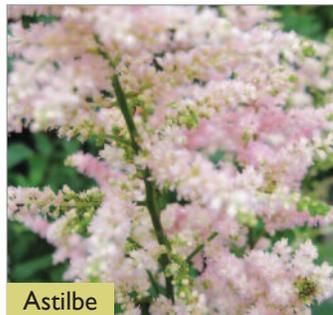
Succulents



Penstemon



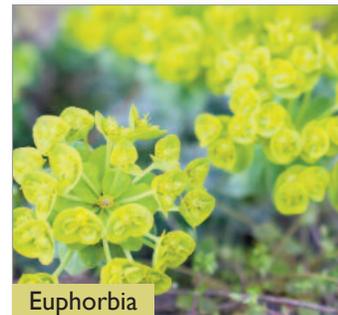
Aster



Astilbe



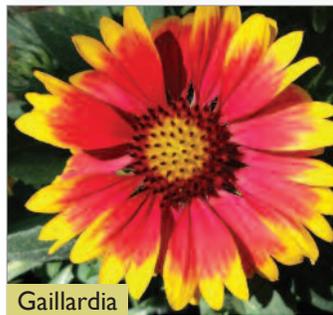
Rudbeckia



Euphorbia



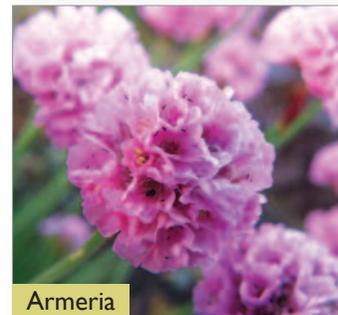
Lantana



Gaillardia



Salvia



Armeria



Yarrow



Lavender



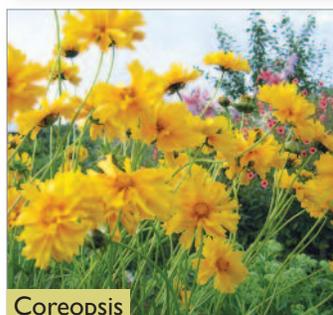
Japanese anemone



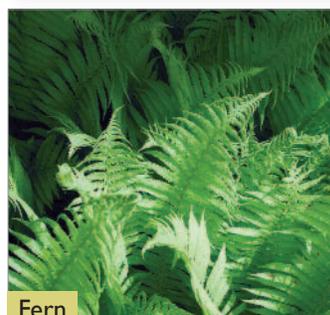
Verbena



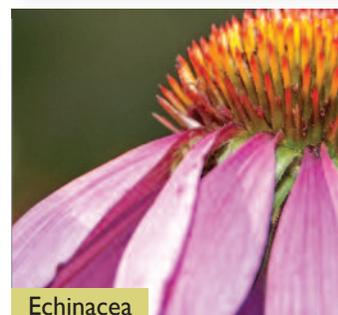
Gaura



Coreopsis



Fern



Echinacea



PERENNIAL MAINTENANCE:

Fall is a great time to rejuvenate spring and summer blooming perennials by dividing them. You'll know a perennial clump is ready for division when its leaves become pale and flowering stems get thinner; the bloom is reduced and the plant "dies out" in the middle. *Tip: Avoid dividing perennials on a hot sunny day. A cool or overcast day is ideal.*

Bay Area Gardening Guide: Fall



Plant

- ☞ Plant it Now! Fall is the best time to plant **foxglove**, **canterbury bells** and other biennials. Look to plant **cyclamen** also. And, it's a great time to plant California poppies, wildflowers, groundcovers and sweet peas.
- ☞ Plant **ornamental grasses**. Grasses require little upkeep and 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.
- ☞ Don't forget to chill spring bulbs that need an artificial winter: **Tulips**, **freesia**, **crocus** and **hyacinth** need 4–6 weeks of refrigeration before planting.
- ☞ Decorate for fall! In October we'll have **pumpkins**, **gourds** and **mums** to set the autumn stage. Sow fall vegetables: radishes, beets, carrots, peas and lettuce.

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, camellias, and rhododendrons with **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus**. Feed spring blooming shrubs with 0-10-10 fertilizer.

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.
- ☞ Feed the birds! Don't cut back dead flower stalks; allow rudbeckia, sunflowers, and other flowers with seeds and berries to feed the birds in your neighborhood all winter. It's also time to fill your bird feeders for winter. Try a suet feeder.

Fall is color

Plant ornamental kale, mums, Iceland poppies, snapdragons and ornamental grasses now for waves of autumnal color. Violas and pansies make perfect groundcovers for blooming spring bulbs.

Stop by for pumpkins at Sloat Garden Center this fall. Then, carve something ghoulish for Halloween!



Spring bulbs are ready for planting!

Now is the time to plan next spring's colorful **bulb display**. Take one afternoon to plant amaryllis, daffodils, iris, tulips, crocus and hyacinth in flower beds and containers...then watch the burst of spring color next year! Garlic and onion bulbs can be planted now, too. For detailed bulb planting information, visit www.sloatgardens.com



Garden Design by Sloat

If you're thinking about ways to improve your garden space, call the **Sloat Garden Center Design Department**. We can develop simple, success oriented low maintenance planting plans for gardens, decks, and terraces, as well as provide indoor plant consultations. But most importantly, we can help you brainstorm garden ideas and solutions. **To schedule an appointment, call:**

415-388-3754
design@sloatgardens.com

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 seminar 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. **Check our website for seminar additions and drop in clinics. Workshop fees are additional.***

Lose Your Lawn!

We welcome the Bay-Friendly Coalition for an insightful discussion on shrinking your lawn space. Bay-Friendly Qualified Landscape Professionals will offer practical solutions and design ideas for how to easily transform your lawn into a beautiful, eco-friendly garden using the sheet mulching method. The discussion includes a hands-on demonstration of sheet mulching

Saturday, September 28th, 12 noon, Danville
 Sunday, September 29th, 10:30am, Kentfield
 Wednesday, October 2nd, 6:30pm, Sloat Blvd, SF
 Saturday, October 5th, 10:30am at Miller Ave, Mill Valley

Holiday Planter Workshop

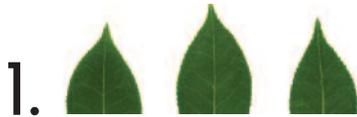
Come join us for some pre-holiday fun creating festive planters. Jen Strobel will be your coach as you build a living bouquet that can be used as a centerpiece, gift for a friend, or gift for yourself. 8" pot, plants, succulents, moss, and whimsical trimmings are included. Cost \$30.00. Limit 15 people.

Wednesday, November 13th, 1pm, Kentfield
 Friday, November 15th, 10:30am and again at 1pm, Sloat Blvd., SF
 Saturday, November 16th, 10:30am, Miller Ave., Mill Valley

8 simple steps to put your garden to bed this fall and winter

Let's be honest. The glory of gardening is usually found in growing and harvesting vibrant flowers, herbs, fruits and vegetables. The clean-up and winter prep aspect of gardening (while incredibly necessary), is sort of, well, "meh".

That being said, we want to encourage you to take an afternoon or two to clean and prepare for the cold and rainy months ahead. Follow our list of 8 simple steps, and voilà, you'll be finished in no time!



1. **Clean out** leaves and dead plants from gutters, walkways, containers and raised beds.

2.



Use Forest Mulch Plus on perennials and vegetable beds to enrich the soil for next spring.

3.

Stock up on frost blankets. Protect plants from freezing temperatures with lightweight garden fabric that acts like a miniature "green-house" when frost is expected.

4.



Clean garden tools to get them ready for next year. Shovels and pruners can be sprayed with Bahco Clean Spray to keep them from rusting over the winter months. Cleaning your tools now can also help keep diseases from getting into next year's garden.

5.



Stake newly planted trees to support them through their first winter. We offer a wide variety of stake lengths and widths.

6.

Use **E.B. Stone Organic Ultra Bloom**.

It helps build immunity to disease and supports better root and bud formation for spring bloomers like Rhododendron, Azalea, Camellia, flowering plum and Magnolia.



7.

Cloud Cover is multifaceted. It's not just a go-to for protecting plants from frost damage, Cloud Cover also:

1. Protects against moisture loss when propagating or transplanting new plants.
2. Protects plants from hot and drying Bay Area winds.
3. Does a great job keeping Christmas greens fresh.

8. We receive multiple inquiries each fall about how to prevent disease and insects from taking over fruit trees, nut crops, citrus, vegetables and ornamentals. We recommend two products to ensure a disease free harvest next year:

Monterey Horticultural Oil: To help prevent scale and overwintering eggs from mites, aphids and other insects, we recommend a fall application of Monterey Horticultural Oil. It's a spray oil emulsion made with highly paraffinic-based petroleum oils. Monterey Horticultural Oil should be applied while trees are dormant.

Monterey Liqui-Cop (Liquid Copper): Helps prevent disease infestations such as peach leaf curl, brown spot and scab. Dormant sprays are traditionally applied in the fall once leaves have fallen, and again in mid-winter, then in spring as the buds begin to swell. Liqui-Cop is widely used in agriculture and is very rain resistant.

Note: Monterey Horticultural Oil and Liqui-Cop can be applied at the same time.





Popular bromeliads like Guzmania, Aechmea and Neoregelia are easy to care for and will look fantastic in any setting.

Colorful bromeliads make great plants at home and in the office

Looking for the perfect houseplant? We wholeheartedly recommend bromeliads. They require very little care and are extremely hardy; many will retain their bright hue for 6 to 8 months. And while the original "mother plant" does not re-bloom or send up more colored bract spikes, it will produce 2 to 3 "pup plants" at its base that can be removed and transplanted.

LIGHT. Bromeliads will tolerate a wide range of light intensities, including low light. Generally, plants with hard, thick, grey, grey-green and fuzzy leaves will take the highest light levels: Aechmea, Tillandsia, Anana (Pineapple) and Billbergia are examples. Those with soft, green, thin leaves, such as Guzmania, Neoregelia and Vriesia, do best under lower light levels. If the leaves become yellowish or pale green, the light level is too high. If the plant becomes very dark green or the colored bracts darken, the light is too low.

HUMIDITY. A relative humidity of 40% to 60% is best for bromeliads. Unfortunately, the humidity in the average home is well below 40%, especially in the winter when the heat is on. Humidity around bromeliads can be improved by placing the pots in saucers filled with gravel or pebbles. Do not allow the pots to stand in water because this will waterlog the soil, possibly causing root rot. Misting is also helpful.

WATER. Bromeliads are tolerant of low moisture conditions. Most problems are usually associated with rot caused by overwatering. Plants grown in pots should be watered thoroughly until water runs out the bottom. Do not water again until the soil surface feels dry. Every 10 days to 3 weeks should be sufficient.

If the leaves start to curl up, your bromeliad is too dry. Many bromeliads form a rosette of leaves creating a "vase". It is not necessary to keep this vase filled with water at all times. Leaving water in the vase permanently, especially in low-light areas, encourages bacteria and fungal problems. The best method is to fill this vase after watering the soil. Empty out the



stagnant water after a couple of weeks, and then wait a week before refilling. It is also helpful to hose or shower plants off every month to remove dust from leaves.

AIR CIRCULATION. Bromeliads are epiphytes (plants that grow on another plant but are not parasitic), so they require good air circulation. Fresh air supplies them with carbon dioxide and moisture. Plants in stagnant air are more susceptible to scale insects and fungal diseases (opening a window on days that are not too cold is enough to improve air circulation.)

FERTILIZER. Feeding should only be done in the late spring and summer. During the winter or under low light, bromeliads need no feeding. Use a water-soluble fertilizer at 1/3 the recommended dosage -- applied to the soil only. *Do not fill the vase of the plant or apply at all to Tillandsias;* the fertilizer salts can burn newly emerging leaves. We recommend Maxsea 16-16-16 or Schultz Cactus Food once a month (May through August) for your tillandsias.

THE FLOWER IS FINISHED. Even when conditions are perfect, nothing you do will prevent the colorful "bloom" from fading and eventually looking rather ugly. It may not have any color, but you can continue to grow the plant so it produces new pup plants. With a sharp pair of clippers, snip off the flowering stalk as far back into the vase as you can. You will have to do this with Guzmanias, Vriesias and Aechmenas. It is advised to place the plant in a brighter location if it was in low light.

★ HOW TO: add shine to bromeliads, pothos + philodendron

Bonide Leaf shine is made from an all-natural formula that brings out shine and prevents moisture loss on hardfaced foliage (most bromeliads, ivy, philodendron, pothos and rubber plants are examples), and also, hard-surfaced artificial plants. It is perfect for plants with high moisture requirements because it reduces water loss associated with dry air. Leaf Shine dries in minutes for a beautiful, clean, lustrous shine that lasts. Also great for use on cut Christmas trees.



deer and gopher *resistant seeds + plants*

Cute to look at but devils in the garden, deer seem to know when plants are perfectly ripe or in full bloom. It's so frustrating! To help gardeners who are besieged by deer and gopher visitors, we've compiled a list of plants and seeds that will usually not get nibbled by gopher and deer. However, please note that deer-proof plants do not exist. Deer vary from location to location and from herd to herd. Very hungry deer and fawns may cause damage to any of the below "deer resistant" plants. Young foliage, flowers and newly planted landscapes are most at risk. We recommend treating new plantings (even deer resistant plants) with a deer repellent such as Liquid Fence.

Deer resistant perennials + shrubs, trees, vines and groundcovers

Perennials	Perennials	Shrubs, Trees, Vines & Groundcovers
Armeria maritima – Sea Thrift	Lantana sp. - may eat the flowers	Coleonema pulchrum – Breath of Heaven
Artemisia spp.	Lavandula sp. – Lavender	Correa pulchella – new growth eaten
Cacti and Succulents	Perovskia- Russian Sage	Echium – Pride of Madeira
Daffodils and Narcissus	Rudbeckia sp. - Black Eyed Susan	Sarcococca
Echinacea sp. – Cone Flower	Zauschneria – CA Fuchsia	Westringia sp.
Erigeron sp.	Salvia – sage	Solanum jasminoides - Potato Vine
Euphorbia sp. – Spurge	Santolina sp.	Rosmarinus- Rosemary
Gaillardia sp. – Blanket Flower	Tagetes lemmonii-Mexican Bush Marigold	Thymus sp. – Thyme
Grasses-most Fescue, Carex	Tulbaghia violacea – Society Garlic	
Irises		

Deer resistant seeds

We've picked a selection of deer resistant seed varieties that have been successful for many gardeners. Although we cannot assure the same success for all gardeners because of the variation in habitats, these Lake Valley Seeds are a good place to start.

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ageratum | Echinacea | Ornamental Grass |
| Alyssum | Evening Primrose | California Poppy |
| Aster | Forget-Me-Not | Iceland Poppy |
| Baby's Breath | Foxglove | Oriental Poppy |
| Balloon Flower | Geranium sp. | Rudbeckia |
| Black Eyed Susan | Globe Amaranth | Salvia |
| Butterfly Plant Orange | Larkspur | Scabiosa |
| Calendula | Lavender | Statice |
| Castor Bean | Lobelia | Strawflower |
| Cleome | Lupine | Creeping Thyme |
| Columbine | Moonflower | Verbena |
| Coreopsis | Morning Glory | Yarrow |
| Cosmos | Nasturtium | Zinnia |



Liquid Fence stops deer and rabbit damage. Guaranteed.

Most repellents work as taste deterrents, requiring deer and rabbits to take a bite to be effective. But Liquid Fence works on scent, so animals don't even have to nibble in order to be repelled from grazing on flowers, trees, plants, shrubs and vines. Deer and rabbits have a natural aversion to the scent of Liquid Fence.

We recommend Liquid Fence because it works year round, is rain resistant, easy to use, safe for people, pets and the environment and it is also biodegradable.

Deer are creatures of habit; they'll return to munch in your garden every season. So apply Liquid Fence Deer and Rabbit Repellent to stop the foraging cycle before it begins.

Special this year: Amaryllis belladonna hybrids



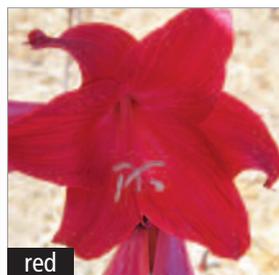
pink



mix of colors



white



red



bi-color

This year we're carrying special Amaryllis belladonna hybrids. They've been bred from the common, old-fashioned pink "naked lady" amaryllis and crossed with related South African bulbs. Each bulb is a genetically unique, seed-grown plant from Bill the Bulb Baron's renowned hybridizing program. Bill is a hybridizer of narcissus and amaryllis bulbs in Moss Landing, CA.

Amaryllis belladonna are deer and gopher-resistant, easy to grow, and will thrive in any type of soil. They are happy in sun or part shade and are one of the few summer and autumn flowering bulbs that can grow without being watered.

In the winter and spring rainy season, lush shiny green leaves (some-what like those of clivia or agapanthus) form fountain-like clumps about a foot off the ground.

Then, as summer wanes, 2 to 3 foot stalks rise in a cluster of 4 to 12 fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers. (During blooming they have no leaves, hence the name "naked ladies.")

Plant each bulb by itself (so there is room to multiply). Place them 8 to 12 inches apart, and only deep enough to cover the bulb and the necks; the soil surface after planting should be even with the top of the neck. Cover the top with mulch: 1-2 inches of wood chips, bark or compost since the large, branching root systems are actively absorbing moisture all year long.

If the spring is unusually dry and/or hot, there can be a significant reduction in flowering that summer; so it's a good idea to give them a good soaking once a month. Plant them in among other flowers so that they get watered all year long.

Ultra fragrant narcissus bulbs are as easy to grow as weeds; plant them, then forget them!



Plant Tazetta narcissus bulbs this fall.

Bill the Bulb Baron's narcissus bulbs are ideal for problem soils and very dry conditions. They are easy to grow in either sun or part-shade, and they are deer, gopher and squirrel resistant, as well as drought resistant.

These narcissus bulbs grow in the worst soils: clay/adobe, rocky, gravel, sandy, dry. The bulbs can be planted anywhere (except full shade) and will multiply and spread over the years.

Plant narcissus bulbs in outlying areas such as by a mailbox, roadside or driveway, hillside, waste area, or anywhere that is not full shade.

Bulbs can be left permanently in the ground if planted 5 or 6 inches deep (soak hard ground first to make it dig-able). Try scattering California poppy or alyssum seeds over the area for masses of color during the dormant season. Narcissus will bloom from October to February depending on variety. All are very fragrant!

These bulbs do not require refrigeration or winter cold, but can survive to at least zero degrees Fahrenheit. Separate holes for each bulb are not required. Just a few large holes are needed so they can be planted in groups.

★ HOW TO: *become a Master Gardener*

If you love to garden, are interested in lifelong learning, enjoy sharing knowledge, and like the idea of community service, contact your county's Master Gardener organization to attend the next training program to become a Master Gardener:

To locate your county's Master Gardener organization, start here:
<http://camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

Jumbo Amaryllis (Hippeastrum) coming in October



Love amaryllis? We'll have jumbo South African amaryllis bulbs in our stores this October. Each bulb will produce 4 to 5 beautiful flower spikes. Stay tuned!

Did you know...

We carry bulk topsoils & ammendments at our Danville location.
 828 Diablo Road at El Cerro Blvd., Danville • 925-820-1273
 Delivery available in the East Bay only. Call for more information!