

S l o a t



Garden Center

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 31, No. 2

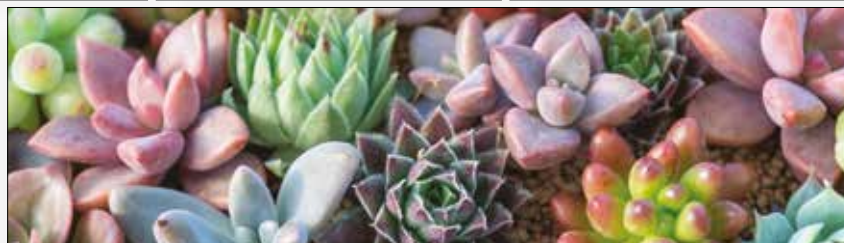
News & Advice for Bay Area Gardeners

May/June 2017



hot summer color

Flowers, foliage, and fun for late spring
and summer magic in the garden



Inside: Butterfly attracting plants, garden solutions, vegetable growing checklist, aeonium, and more

Attract butterflies with Agastache Kudos in a range of colors

Agastache is an aromatic, summer blooming perennial with spike-like clusters of colorful flowers that are intensely loved by pollinators. This series is very hardy and nearly impervious to downy mildew. Great form and longevity, and will re-bloom if deadheaded. They are true standouts in mixed containers or as a border plant. Grows best in full sun to part shade



Join us:
Butterfly Wing Ding
May 12 - 18



Agastache 'Kudos Gold'

Gold flowers in large compact spikes start blooming in late May and continue through the season. If they look tired, just shear the plants back and they'll continue blooming all season.



Agastache 'Kudos Ambrosia'

Creamy coconut, pale orange and light rose pink spikes are charming and airy in containers or mass plantings. Flower colors change constantly, blending with almost any other color.



Agastache 'Kudos Coral'

Amazingly free flowering and easy to grow. Kudos 'Coral' has an impeccable habit. Long lasting, glowing, warm, coral colored plumes have a sweet honey-mint scent.



Agastache 'Kudos Mandarin'

Cheery, bright orange plumes that last and last. This plant has a "neat as a pin" appearance for many months. As with all Agastache, this is a butterfly and hummingbird attractor.

Hummingbirds love colorful Fuchsia Windchimes



Need a tropical plant that blooms late spring through summer and provides nectar havens for hummingbirds? Choose light and heat tolerant Fuchsia Windchimes. These are small, upright, bushy deciduous shrubs with dark-green leaves and vibrantly colored blossoms. They'll look beautiful in mixed containers or as a landscape plant. Fuchsias grow best in full sun to part-shade.



Rose Purple



Red White



Dark Eyes



Neon White

Did you know?

San Francisco was once known as the fuchsia capital; our cool, foggy summers were found to be key to their success. Fuchsia plants were all the rage throughout the city, including Golden Gate Park. In 1940 the "Fuchsia Dell" was planted in the park, but had to be removed in the 1980's when an invasive mite decimated the collection. A decade later the Dell was re-planted with fresh specimens after mite-resistant varieties were discovered. Drop by the Dell this spring, and see the magical fuchsias outside the Conservatory of Flowers.



Back to basics: four locally made, single ingredient fertilizers support plant health



E.B. Stone Organics Kelp Meal is derived from cold-water kelp, rich in natural minerals. Helps promote root development and resistance to stress and disease.



E.B. Stone Organics Bat Guano is a fast acting stimulant for early growth and enhances color of plant foliage. Bat Guano has a long history as a natural source of plant nutrients – it was popular with farmers and gardeners alike until the advent of chemical fertilizers.



E.B. Stone Organics Blood Meal is ideal to encourage growth and improve leaf color in vegetables, perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs and trees. It can also be used as a nitrogen source in compost piles and to repel squirrels and deer.



E.B. Stone Organics Bone Meal is an ideal transplanting fertilizer. It is an excellent natural source of phosphorous which is essential for plant growth. It helps stimulate root formation, top growth, and flower, fruit & seed development.

Lightweight pottery for the win this spring

Japi planters are large, lightweight pots that will add crisp, modern style and function to your deck, yard, patio or indoor spaces. The planter material is non-toxic, UV protected, and 100% recyclable. It will not chip or crack when exposed to weather conditions.

Fiberlight planters are a high quality and stunning pottery made from fiberglass and resin. And did we mention light? The same pots made from clay would weigh four times as much! Gardeners, decorators and designers looking for large, distinctive, statement pieces will love Fiberlight's modern design.



Japi planters



Fiberlight planters

Streptocarpus hybrida 'Ladyfingers' provides non-stop indoor color

Streptocarpus are African violet relatives known for their trumpet shaped flowers which bloom for months on end. Easy color for indoor spaces, or on a patio. Prefers bright, indirect light. We're carrying the dazzling Ladyfingers collection.



Blue White Center



Yellow Pink Cap



Yellow Purple Cap



Yellow Blue Eye

Save the Dates

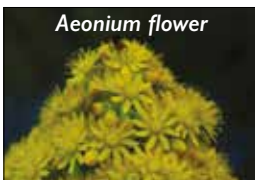
Butterfly Wing Ding
May 12 - 18

Herbal Magic
May 26 - June 1

Join the Buzz
Pollinator Week
July 7 - 13

Use our "no-poo" vegan compost for planting and mulch

Amending your garden soil with compost at planting time adds organic matter, which leads to healthy plants. **Sloat Organic Compost** is an all-purpose outdoor planting mix that will improve vitality in all soil types. Our compost is OMRI certified and made with genuine, "no-poo" (non-manure) vegetative compost. *Recommended for:* planting vegetables, annuals and perennials. Mix 50/50 with existing soil. Can also be used as a mulch.



Aeonium flower

Awesome Aeonium and enchanting Echeveria

Aeonium are among the most magnificent succulents for gardens and containers. Round and elegant with showy leaves, their blooms are sometimes the main show. The conical clusters of yellow, star-shaped flowers (contrasted against dark foliage) can be cut and used in flower arrangements with zinnias or celosia. Or use the foliage stalk itself in an arrangement. Similarly, Echeveria Blue Wave can be planted in containers and produces a lovely pink flower.



Aeonium Cyclops



Aeonium Schwarzkopf



Aeonium Chocolate



Echeveria Blue Wave

This beautiful, tall succulent has rosettes of dark, reddish-bronze leaves on stems up to 3 to 4 feet tall with emerging green leaves that give the rosette a green eye. Greener in part-sun.

A striking succulent that forms clumps of 3-4 ft tall gray-brown stems. The long, bare stems hold large terminal rosettes of very dark purple (seemingly black) leaves.

Dark chocolate colored leaves give this shrub its name. Produces offsets around a mature base. A delicious show stopper!

Features 10 inch wide rosettes with blue-green leaves. Beautiful color and form – good for contrasting with narrow or smaller foliage plants. Produces pinkish flowers.

Abutilon are graceful, colorful, hummingbird attracting plants

Loved for their continuous bloom, fantastic ability to attract hummingbirds, and gorgeous colors, Abutilon (also known as flowering maple) is a favorite in Bay Area gardens. This hibiscus relative can be grown in containers or in the landscape; its downward facing, pendant-shaped flowers are elegant planted en masse or in a mixed border. Main bloom season is spring, but some seem to flower continuously throughout the year. Between their prolific showy flowers and heavy nectar production, Abutilon is irresistible to hummingbirds. *Care notes: Abutilon does well in full sun but requires partial shade in very hot areas. It definitely will benefit from good drainage. Pinch back buds and prune for a fuller plant.*



Nabob Abutilon

Features large, very dark maroon red flowers. A fast, vigorous, robust shrub, growing 8-10', with large, very dark green leaves and a strong central leader.



Sunset Abutilon

Nice repeating combination of deep red and yellow/apricot pendant flowers held on long, wiry peduncles. Excellent as a staked, trellised, or hanging basket plant. Grows 6' to 10'.



Mardi Gras Abutilon

This vigorous abutilon features large leaves boldly splashed with gold, and much more humble, narrow, light orange flowers. Grows 10' by 10'.

Multi-use Plant Halo helps with pests, larger harvests, and faster growth



The **Plant Halo** is a multi-use garden tool. It defends plants from insect damage while improving growth and yield through better utilization of light and moisture. The result is bigger, healthier plants that can produce more flowers, fruit or vegetables without chemicals.

How it works: Plant Halo's refractive holographic film repels aphids, whiteflies, leafhoppers and other insects by confusing their senses. The reflective properties promote beneficial visits by bees in pollination. The adhesive band traps crawling ants, earwigs, silverfish and more. The copper band repels snails and slugs. The halo itself creates a physical barrier for vertical movement up the plant by any insect. The holographic film reflects the sun's light back onto the plant to increase exposure to the sun and accelerate photosynthesis, which stimulates growth and yield. It also acts as an evaporation shield, trapping moisture in the soil.

Fixtures in the neighborhood: on location at our Martinez store with Pete Doyen

Sloat Garden Center in Martinez originated as Navlet's Garden Center and joined the Sloat Garden Center family in 2016. Set back from the road and nestled in a residential neighborhood, the store is filled with flowers, foliage, succulents, vegetables, and pottery. Manager Pete recently took time out to answer questions about the location.

What kinds of plants do you carry?

We're known for our vegetables, fruit trees, and succulent selection. I think we have the best succulent selection around. We have a lot of perennials and bedding plants, too.

What is unique about the Martinez location?

Frankie! He's a neighborhood cat that goes to work every day at Sloat Garden Center. A lot of customers come to see him and are disappointed when he's not here. He's adorable and a good hunter. We're all cat people here.



Frankie the cat

What's your best gardening advice for customers?

Use Sloat Compost and E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start when planting new plants, and make sure you have everything you need to get the job done.

What is the staff's favorite plant, and also, the staff favorite tool?

Overall everyone is really into cactus and succulents here. We use a Hula hoe because that's the easiest way to weed in gravel beds.

How long have you been working at the store?

For a long time (23 years), and team member Karen has been here even longer (30!). It's almost like we live here. We're kinda fixtures in the neighborhood. I walk into Safeway and run into guests and end up answering gardening questions there. Everyone knows us. We're just your friendly neighborhood garden center.



Martinez staff: Adam, Karen, Pete, Anne, and Brandon

Garden Solutions: tools to help with water conservation, pests, grubs, and more



Hydretain

Water Saver

Hydretain reduces watering on lawns, landscapes, and gardens

Hydretain is made from sugar-based molecules that attract and condense water vapor from the air and soil so that plants can take in water, even under heat and drought stress. Its use in the garden is fairly recent but has long been used in commercial settings, from golf courses (reduces need to irrigate) to horse arenas and construction sites (used to keep the dust down). First it is applied by hose-end, then watered again to push the product into the root zone and off foliage and flowers. Last year our senior horticulturist used Hydretain on all her large container plantings (including hydrangeas), perennial beds, and container tomatoes. Even during heat waves, when "emergency" watering was necessary, her plants were not burned, scorched or otherwise stressed, other than simple wilting. It saved her water and time, and produced healthier, more vigorous greenery. Highly recommended! Covers 5,000 sq ft. Child and pet friendly.



Yard Gard

Critter Control

Organic critter control to get rid of unwanted pests

The Yard Gard works by emitting ultrasonic soundwaves that irritate unwanted pest animals, forcing them to go elsewhere. These soundwaves are silent to humans.

Sounds can be set to either constant or motion-activated, and adjusted to target specific pests. The Yard Gard is the best solution for safely and humanely eliminating pests without traps, chemicals, poisons, or other dangerous pest control methods. Will not harm children, indoor pets or wildlife. Ideal for use in small outdoor spaces including gardens, lawns, backyards, patios, porches, barns, farms, boats, koi ponds, garages, greenhouses, balconies, and more.



Azatrol

Grub Controls

Ecologically sound grub alert: Use Azatrol and Nematodes

Azatrol Insecticide is a botanical product used for controlling insects on indoor and outdoor plants including ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, and garden vegetables, and also controls grubs in lawns. Formulated to provide broad spectrum insect control with very low environmental impact, it's non-toxic to honeybees and many other beneficial insects. OMRI listed for use in organic production.

Beneficial Nematodes are microscopic worms that seek out and destroy over 200 kinds of soil dwelling insects, including grubs, flea larvae, cutworms, weevils, fungus gnat larvae, termites, root knot nematodes and many others.



Beneficial Nematodes

Hydrangeas are an easy-care, colorful shrub with lush foliage



Change the color! Hydrangeas have the unique role of nature's pH tester. Flower heads are pink / red when soil is alkaline (high pH), and blue when it is acidic.

This presents a creative opportunity to change flower color by adjusting the soil's pH prior to the bloom period. Turn it pink, or keep it blue, it's up to you!



Agricultural Lime is ideal for adjusting the pH of acidic soils. It is a natural source of calcium and magnesium, which increases pH levels.



Striking ruby-black stems support big mophead flowers on this exquisite re-blooming hydrangea. This superb border shrub is blue in acidic soils and pink in more alkaline soils. Flowers age to a vintage cream-splashed green color. Prized for cut or dried flower arrangements. Deciduous. Grown by Horticultural Craftsmen.



A new classic for small spaces! Hardy, repeat blooming machine with big, mophead flowers, extra-dark green leaves, and a neat, mounded form. Harvest blooms for long-lasting cut floral arrangements. Blue florets in acidic soils, or pink in neutral to alkaline soils. Deciduous. Grown by Horticultural Craftsmen.



Charlie's **checklist** for vegetable growing success

Sloat Pleasant Hill team member Charlie recommends six steps to successful vegetable gardening. See the steps at right, and Charlie's famous ghost pepper jelly recipe at www.sloatgardens.com

May & June are ideal months to grow your own groceries! Now is the time to plant warm weather plants like tomatoes, peppers, melons, pumpkins, and basil.

Charlie's 'Feed the Soil' Checklist

- ☑ **E.B. Stone Organics Agricultural Lime (Dolomite)** Adds calcium and magnesium to soil.
- ☑ **Sloat Loam Builder & Sloat Organic Compost** Adds organic matter
- ☑ **FST or Soil Acidifer** To adjust (lower) soil pH
- ☑ **Actinovate** A biological fungicide approved for organic gardening. Controls fungus and diseases in the soil that could affect plant health.
- ☑ **E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start** Get your plants started correctly. Encourages root development and adds beneficial mycorrhizae to the soil.
- ☑ **Beats Peat Coconut Coir** For soils that dry out too quickly, especially in raised beds. Only needs to be added once to improve aeration and drainage.

Plant Health Solutions

Essential Grow

Fertilizer is tailored to help plants develop a strong foundation – it was designed to trigger and accelerate maximum plant growth, naturally. Essential Grow produces plants that have strong branching, larger leaf sets, deep-green foliage, increased plant health, and the structure for higher yields. This 100% natural, water soluble formula quickly delivers three types of naturally sourced nitrogen, concentrated guano, essential minerals, and a wide spectrum of targeted nutrients.



Argyranthemum will fill spring, summer, and fall with butterfly attracting flowers

Build a landing pad for butterflies and other pollinators with Argyranthemum. Also known as marguerite daisy, Argyranthemum is a perennial with delicate, lacy green foliage and showy daisy-like flowers that bloom through summer. Easy to grow, deer resistant, and looks tidy in containers and garden beds, Argyranthemum mounds larger and larger throughout the summer. This staple summer plant produces masses of colorful flowers that butterflies and pollinators LOVE.



Dwarf White



Comet Yellow



Comet Red



Crested Merlot

Plant Salvia for bursts of long-blooming, bright color

These beautiful, long blooming and low-maintenance perennials love sun and produce dozens of petite, colorful flowers that attract beneficial insects and hummingbirds all season.



Salvia Mirage Pink



Salvia Mirage Burgundy



Salvia microphylla Hot Lips

The **Salvia Mirage series** is a compact salvia that grows 1-2' high and wide. It starts blooming early and goes through fall. Very heat tolerant in a full range of intense flower colors: pink, burgundy and (not-pictured) rose neon and deep purple.

Hot Lips features the same color and vibrant flowers as the Mirage series, but grows to 3ft tall.



SPRING/SUMMER gardening seminars

Each season we select local gardening experts and designers, as well as our knowledgeable senior staff, to teach seminars & workshops in our popular gardening education series. Unless otherwise noted, seminars are free for Rewards Members (Workshop fees are additional), and \$10 for non-members (membership is free!). 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.

Seminar: Plant a Butterfly Habitat

Create a beautiful garden using plants that attract butterflies. Our staff will show you how to plant a habitat that butterflies (and larvae) love.

Wednesday, May 10, Sloat Blvd., noon (Suzanne Bontempo)
 Saturday, May 13, Danville Camino, 10am (Doug Hecox)
 Saturday, May 13, Pleasant Hill, 10am (Tim Nash)
 Saturday, May 13, Concord, 10am (Dustin Strobel)
 Saturday, May 13, Miller Ave, 10am (Jen Strobel)
 Saturday, May 13, Danville Diablo, 10am (Alex Friedman)
 Wednesday, May 17, Kentfield, noon (Suzanne Bontempo)

Seminar: Rose Pruning with Buzz Bertolero, The Dirt Gardener

Buzz is back to demonstrate what to do with roses now that we're heading into summer. Pruning them back now can promote a longer flowering season, and healthier plants through the fall and early winter.

Saturday, May 20, Martinez, 10am
 Saturday, May 20, Danville Camino, 2pm
 Saturday, May 27, Concord, 10am
 Saturday, May 27, Pleasant Hill, 2pm

Seminar: Summer Monthly Vegetable Talk in Concord

Join us monthly for a guided vegetable growing group. Our staff members will check in with you each month to offer tips, and help troubleshoot vegetable growing challenges. Bring samples and questions. Come to as few or as many check-in seminars as you'd like.

Sunday, May 21, Concord, 10am
 Sunday, June 11, Concord, 10am
 Sunday, July 2, Concord, 10am
 Sunday, August 27, Concord, 10am

Seminar: Herbal Magic - Growing Herbs 101

Herbs are beneficial to us and to our gardens. Learn how to incorporate them into your existing garden or landscape. Our experts will show you how to design with herbs, plant and care for them, and which herbs are best for attracting bees, birds, and butterflies.

Wednesday, May 24, Sloat Blvd., noon (Jen Strobel)
 Saturday, May 27, Danville Diablo, 10am (Alex Friedman)
 Sunday, May 28, Miller Ave, 10am (Dan Alexander)
 Sunday, May 28, Concord, 10am (Dustin Strobel and Susie Nolte)
 Sunday, May 28, Pleasant Hill, 10am (Brad Sheehan)
 Wednesday, May 31, Kentfield, noon (Jen Strobel)

Seminar: New Plants & Garden Gadgets for 2017

Curious about upcoming gardening trends and new plants? Join us for this fun and unique seminar for every level of gardener -- stay up to date on the newest trends in plants and tools in the horticultural industry.

Saturday, June 3, Pleasant Hill, 10am

Walk-In Clinic: The Plant Doctor Is In!

Our Plant Doctor is here to help solve plant problems. Bring in your plant specimens or pictures during a special two hour clinic with the Plant Doctor. Join us for this drop-in event anytime between 10 and 12.

Saturday, June 3, Danville Camino: 10-12 (staff)
 Sunday, June 4, Sloat Blvd: 10-12 (Staff)
 Sunday, June 4, Concord: 10-12 (Staff)

Seminar: Summer Watering with Buzz Bertolero, The Dirt Gardener

Buzz is back with his ever popular (and valuable) class on water and gardening. He'll answer: What is the most efficient way to water your garden? Does time of day matter? What are garden tips for saving water?

Please join us for this informative discussion!

Saturday, June 3, Danville Diablo, 10am
 Saturday, June 10, Martinez, 10am
 Saturday, June 10, Pleasant Hill, 2pm
 Sunday, June 11, Sloat Blvd., 10am
 Sunday, June 11, Kentfield, 2pm
 Saturday, June 24, Concord, 10am
 Saturday, June 24, Danville Camino, 2pm
 Saturday, August 12, Danville Diablo, 10am
 Saturday, August 12, Pleasant Hill, 2pm
 Sunday, August 13, Sloat Blvd., 10am
 Sunday, August 13, Miller Ave., 2pm

Seminar: Growing Citrus & Subtropicals

Join us for a great beginner course on growing Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Trees in the Bay Area. See you there!

Saturday, Jun 24, Pleasant Hill, 10am

See www.sloatgardens.com
 for Summer seminars



Bye-bye squirrels!

It's frustrating when squirrels dominate bird feeders, creating a mess and eating all the seed meant for birds. **Sizzle N' Heat** is filled with high quality ingredients that birds love and squirrels don't. Studies show it to be a very effective squirrel deterrent. Squirrels may still visit

and attempt to feed at feeders, but once they get a taste of the hot seeds in Sizzle N' Heat, most will look for other sources of food.

Bite-Burn Beater by Skeeter Beater is a natural, fast, effective relief spray for jelly fish stings, sunburn, minor cuts & burns, fire ants, itching, wasp & hornet stings, and sea lice (divers and ocean swimmers take note). Also helps repel mosquitoes and fleas. It's made from geraniol, rosemary oil, lemon grass oil, and Isopropyl alcohol.

"I was bitten by a spider on my big toe and given Bite-Burn Beater to try. I sprayed it 2 or 3 times in the afternoon, by early evening, I had no pain and swelling was gone. I also had the opportunity to use it on a bee sting. Immediate results: no pain and no itch." -- Sloat team member Katy



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

San Francisco

327 3rd Ave between
Geary & Clement
(415) 752-1614

2700 Sloat Blvd.
46th & Sloat Blvd.
(415) 566-4415

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

Hours: 9-6:30

Novato

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

San Rafael

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

Kentfield M-F: 8-6:30
Sat & Sun: 8:30-6:30

700 Sir Francis Drake Bl.
(415) 454-0262

Mill Valley

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

Pleasant Hill

2895 Contra Costa Blvd.
(925) 939-9000

Martinez

6740 Alhambra Ave
(925) 935-9125

Both locations:
M-F 8-6:30
Sat/Sun
8:30-6:30

Danville

800 Camino Ramon (in the
Rose Garden Center)
(925) 837-9144

828 Diablo Road

at El Cerro
(925) 743-0288
M-Sat hours: 8am-6:30pm
Sun hours: 9am-5pm

Concord

1555 Kirker Pass Rd.
(925) 681-0550

Garden Design Department

401 Miller Ave.,
Mill Valley (415) 388-3754

Bulk Soils

828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 820-1273
(East Bay delivery only)
M-Sat hours: 8am-4pm

*Currently
available
in Marin
& SF only*

Visit us on the web: www.sloatgardens.com Open 7 days per week 8:30am to 6:30pm

(or as noted above)

Don't forget Mother's Day (May 14th)
& Father's Day (June 18th)

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8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK May/June 2017

Bay Area Gardening Guide: May & June

MAY

Plant

- Plant petunias, marigolds, begonias, lobelia, salvia, zinnia and coleus. Re-seed radishes, carrots and beets.
- Plant late summer edibles: pumpkins, sunflowers, peppers, basil and melons.
- Select garden-ready dahlias, perennials, hydrangeas and hanging baskets.

Fertilize

- Fertilize rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias with **E.B. Stone Organics Azalea, Camellia & Gardenia Food**.
- Boost vegetables with **E.B. Stone Organics Tomato and Vegetable Food**.
- Use a time-release fertilizer such as **Osmocote/Foxfarm Marine Cuisine** for your container plants.

Prune/Maintain

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after their bloom is past.



- Mulch vegetable and flower beds with **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus** to control weeds and conserve moisture.
- Freshen up containers and replace spent annuals with colorful 4-inch perennials such as verbena, calibrachoa, bacopa and ipomoea.
- Release ladybugs and other beneficial insects to help control aphids, mites, whiteflies, and other garden pests.

JUNE

Plant

- Warm season annuals are here! Plant zinnia, salvias, cosmos & portulaca.
- Plant herbs for use in the kitchen. Re-seed or transplant salad greens, green beans and kales.



Fertilize

- Your spring plantings are getting hungry. Feed them with all-purpose fertilizers such as **E.B. Stone Organics** and **Maxsea**.
- Feed your lawn with **Nature's Green Lawn Food**.

Prune/Maintain

- Continue to deadhead roses, shrubs and other flowers with **Felco** pruners to encourage new blooms; for smaller jobs, such as grooming your container creations, use **Fiskars Micro Tip Snips**.
- Mulch shrubs and beds to conserve moisture. Try **Sloat Mini Bark** for its beauty and utility.
- Make sure vegetables are supported with cages, stakes, or trellises.
- Check early-bearing fruit trees for heavily laden branches. Thin fruits now to increase their size and prevent branches from breaking. Harvest vegetables as they ripen so plants continue producing.

