

What to do in the Bay Area garden

August

S l o a t
Garden Center



Butterflies & Fall Flowers



Feed Vegetables & Flowers



Mulch Your Plants!

- **Have your indoor plants grown** too large for their pots? Repot now to acclimate them through the fall.
- **It's time to start planning your** fall vegetable garden! Broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, celery, kale, collards, peas, and chard can be planted now in the West Bay. **Wait until September in the East Bay.**
- **Select and plant fall** blooming perennials: asters, Rudbeckia, Japanese anemone, and salvia.
- **Don't forget to feed** vegetables and flowers with a steady-release fertilizer such as E.B. Stone Organics All Purpose Plant Food.
- **Make sure** all tall and vining vegetables are supported by cages, stakes, or trellises to avoid crop loss.
- **Time to summer-prune** fruit trees to control height, maintain shape and eliminate suckers. Stop by Sloat Garden Center for a good pair of high quality loppers or gloves.
- **Choose drought tolerant plants** that attract butterflies! We have a large selection in our stores. Remember to plant some for nectar like lantana (adults) and some for feeding like native milkweed, Ceanothus, Buckwheat or dill (caterpillars).
- **Feed container plantings** with Maxsea. Replace spent plants with something new to keep them fresh. Company's coming!
- **Mulch vegetables and flower** beds now to conserve moisture. Use Hydretain on lawns, beds, and in containers to reduce your need to water.
- **Check your mature plants** to be sure they are not water-stressed. Your 30+ year old plants are valuable!
- **Check** Brugmansia, Lantana, tomato and Verbena for whitefly. Put out yellow sticky traps to monitor. Use organic Rosemary Systemic 209 to control.
- **Remove runners** from strawberries to promote buds for next year, and to have a stronger mother plant. Then, plant rooted runners.
- **Plan out your vegetable** garden for crop rotation to avoid re-planting the same types of plants in the same area two seasons in a row.
- **Be pro-active** about insects. To reduce the number of flies: remove pet waste and fallen fruit from the ground. For fleas: use nematodes in outside breeding areas.
- **Time to cut back tropical milkweed** (Asclepias curassavica) in your garden to encourage Monarch migration. Cut plants back to 6" and strip foliage.



Hummingbirds in the Garden

Hummingbirds are a delight in the garden as they flash about in their jewel tone plumage. They are quite brazen for their size and often curious about other living things in “their” space. They have been seen “buzzing” the cat or chasing a songbird out of its territory. It is not uncommon for a hummer to stare at you through a window and silently demand that the feeder be refilled. Hummingbirds will call your garden home if you encourage them with nectar plants and a feeder.

Hummingbirds will regularly visit a feeder once they know it is there. Be patient. You may have to move it once or twice till you find the best spot for it. We have 3 predominant species here, the Rufous, Anna's and Allen's. The Allen's may or may not migrate south in the winter. It is a myth that you should remove your feeder in the winter to “force” the hummingbirds to migrate to a warmer location. Migration is dependent on photoperiod, *not* food. As a matter of fact, your feeder is a salvation in late fall and winter when nectar plants have died back or stopped blooming. The packaged foods contain sugars best suited for the birds but in a pinch, you can make your own. Bring 4 parts water and 1 part sugar to a boil. Allow to cool completely. You do not need to add red coloring .

Nectar plants are the real draw for hummingbirds. You will find that butterflies are attracted to many of them as well! In general, the flowers tend to be tubular like a foxglove or they have what is called a nectary or spur at the rear. Think about the columbine or nasturtium. The favored colors are **red** and **orange**. We have put a sample list together for you.

"CA" denotes California native plants.

PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS

Agastache
Aloe
Alstroemeria (Peruvian lily)
Antirrhinum majus (snapdragon)
Aquilegia sp. (columbine)
Crocsmia (iris family)
Delphinium sp.
Digitalis sp. (foxglove)
Fuchsia sp.
Gladiolus
Heuchera **CA**
Impatiens sp. (especially balfouri)
Justicia (shrimp plant)
Kniphofia uvaria (red hot poker)
Lantana
Leonothus (Lion Tail)
Lobelia sp.
Mimulus sp. (monkey flower) **CA**
Monarda (bee balm) **CA**
Nicotiana sp.
Penstemon sp. (beardtongue)
Phlox sp.
Rosmarinus (rosemary)
Salvia sp. **CA** (some)
Zauschneria (California fuchsia) **CA**

SHRUBS AND VINES

Abelia grandiflora
Abutilon (flowering maple)
Arbutus unedo (strawberry tree)
Arctostaphylos sp. (manzanita) **CA**
Buddleja (butterfly bush)
Callistemon sp. (bottlebrush)
Campsis radicans (trumpet vine)
Ceanothus sp. (California lilac) **CA**
Cestrum sp. (jessamine)
Erica sp. (heather)
Correa sp. (Australian fuchsia)
Feijoa sellowiana (pineapple guava)
Grevillea sp.
Hibiscus sp.
Ipomoea sp. (morning glory vine)
Lavandula (lavender)
Ligustrum sp. (privet)
Lonicera sp. (honeysuckle)
Ribes sp. (currant) **CA**
Syringa (lilac)
Tecomeria capensis (Cape honeysuckle)
Vaccinium ovatum (huckleberry) **CA**
Weigela florida

