

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 36, No. 2

News & Advice for Bay Area Gardeners

Fall 2022

INSIDE:
Our
Best Fall
Gardening
Tips!

Fall is the Second Season for Growing Organic Vegetables

The Bay Area's three vegetable planting seasons (spring, summer, and early fall) offer ample opportunity to grow food year-round...and early fall is one of the best! Cooler weather not only speeds up vegetable growth, but a light frost improves flavor. Also, many common pests (we're looking at you caterpillars and leaf miners) are less abundant in fall. Best of all, planting cool season vegetables now ensures a tasty supply of homegrown, organic food all winter.

Our 7 Best Tips for a Better Organic Vegetable Garden this Fall!

Whether you're gardening in the ground or planting up veggies in colorful pottery, you CAN grow your own groceries. Follow along for our expert tips on premium soils, fertilizers, and tools for successful fall planting:

1. Soil refresh. In each vegetable growing season, soil nutrients need to be replenished and soil tilth restored. For this job we recommend Sloat Loam Builder blended 50/50 with native soil, or one bag for every 25 square feet. Be sure to work the soil to at least a 1-foot depth if you're planting root crops.

2. Start your plants right. Incorporate E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start when planting to give them a boost. It's blended with humic acid and beneficial soil microbes to help plant roots utilize available nutrients. Gentle, organic, and easy to use.

3. Choose quality soil. When growing in containers or raised beds, use Sloat Organic Potting Soil. During growth, feed plants every 4 weeks with Maxsea All Purpose if planting in containers or E.B. Stone Organics Tomato & Vegetable Food if planting in the ground.

4. Water. Be sure to keep young plants hydrated. Water maturing plants regularly to keep them growing. Bitterness develops in greens that are not watered enough.

5. Always add flowers. Enhance the appearance and performance of your vegetable garden by interplanting fall annuals like Alyssum, Pansies and Violas. Alyssum does double duty by attracting syrphid or hover flies. These beneficial insects are always on the lookout for aphids (a common lettuce / Brassica crop pest) and will lay eggs that hatch into voracious pest eaters!

6. Keep critters away. Protect young plants with a lightweight row cover - we carry the brand *Haxnicks*, available as micro-mesh sheets or seed tunnels. Some critters (caterpillars, birds, aphids, slugs, etc.) are notorious for eating seedlings.

7. Implement WaterWise tools for a healthy and beautiful garden. Use soaker hoses to let water seep in, and apply a 1" – 3" layer of mulch over soaker hoses and exposed soil in planting beds, containers, and shrub borders. Mulch reduces moisture loss from soil, moderates soil temperatures to keep roots cool, and controls weeds that compete for water.

Visit our stores this month for organic vegetable and herb starts from local growers like Upstarts, Sweetwater, and, Kelly's Nursery.



Favorite Cool Season Vegetables

- **Greens:** arugula, chard, endive, escarole, lettuce, mache, spinach.
- **Root crops:** beets, carrots, radishes, rutabagas, turnips
- **Brassicas:** Brussels sprouts, broccoli, bok choy, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi
- **Leafy Brassicas:** collards, kale, mustard greens. *Note: Agricultural Lime is especially important to feed growing Brassicas.*
- **Other fall favorites:** celery, fava beans, leeks, peas, spring onions. Herbs: parsley, rosemary, sage, thyme.

Vegetable Planting Timeline

Best Time to Plant Cool Weather Vegetables

Note: if you garden in the East Bay, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and kohlrabi should be planted in late September or early October.

Crop	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Broccoli *	●			
Cabbage *	●			
Carrots	●	●		
Cauliflower *	●			
Celery	●			
Chard & Kale	●	●	●	
Cilantro & Parsley	●	●		
Lettuce	●	●	●	
Parsnips	●			
Peas	●	●		
Radishes	●			
Rutabagas	●			
Spinach	●	●	●	●

* Wait until late Sept to plant in the East Bay



Plant leafy greens
in our roomy half
wine barrels!

September Garden Checklist

"Fall is about the changing of the seasons and giving your garden, patio, roof deck, or front door a fresh look. It's a chance to switch out summer annuals with fall annual color."

-- Gerry, Manager, Sloat Blvd SF location

Plant

- ☐ Welcome fall in containers and garden beds. Plant Pansies, Violas, Mums, ornamental kale and cabbage, Stock, Iceland Poppies, and Cyclamen for pops of fall color.
- ☐ Grow your own Groceries this fall: Plant kale, collard, spinach, arugula, peas, and lettuces.
- ☐ Fall is a great time to plant and plan for landscaping projects. Stop in and talk to our expert staff about flower and vegetable beds, container design, and adding focal points to your space.
- ☐ Plant cover crops like fava beans and clovers to fix nitrogen in the soil and improve soil structure.
- ☐ Adopt a houseplant this month to relieve stress and elevate the mood indoors.
- ☐ Plant garlic and shallots to harvest next summer.

Prune/Maintain

- ☐ Mulch to inhibit weeds and conserve moisture.
- ☐ Need help diagnosing a problem? Enclose bugs or diseased plant samples in a sealed plastic bag and bring them in for help with a diagnosis.

Fertilize

- ☐ Fertilize perennials with E.B. Stone Organics Ultra Bloom Fertilizer (0-10-10) to stimulate bud formation for winter/spring bloom and develop a harder root structure.
- ☐ Containers: summer annuals, and cool season annuals will enjoy monthly feeding at this time of year; use Maxsea All-Purpose fertilizer.

Back to Basics: Fall is the right time for Planting

Perennials, trees, vines, and shrubs are best planted (or replaced) in fall when the soil is still warm from the summer sun. Take advantage of fall weather to add new plants to your space.

WaterWise Choices: Fall Planting

Go WaterWise this season by choosing California natives. They are adapted to our dry summer climate. Native plants need time to get established, but once they do, many need minimal irrigation beyond rainfall. Some staff favorites: Achillea, Erigeron, and Ceanothus. Scattering California Wildflower seeds is another wonderful WaterWise option. Stop by Sloat Garden Center to find a diverse selection of WaterWise plants and seeds that are already adapted to the Bay Area's Mediterranean climate.

Read more about the diverse world of California native plants at [CNPS.org](https://www.cnps.org) and [Calscape.org](https://www.calscape.org).



Bring the garden closer to your door



WaterWise Planter Tips

Containers are an easy way to adapt your garden to the season while staying WaterWise. Read our best WaterWise container gardening tips by Jennie Strobel, Sloat Design Department Manager:

- Mix Soil Moist into the container's potting mixture. This will help reduce how often you'll need to water.
- Water less frequently but more thoroughly. Plants will thrive with deep waterings, allowing some water to drain through. Always water the whole surface area and drain saucers if they fill up. The top first inch of soil should dry out between waterings.
- Use a top dressing such as moss, mulch, or gravel to help retain moisture.

Nurture your knowledge with our popular, in-depth Plant & Garden Care Guides. Scan to read!



Whether your garden is a large backyard, or a small patio, planting in containers brings pollinators nearby for easy viewing, extends your growing areas, and creates an impactful, nature-filled outdoor space. Just about anything can be planted in a container (including WaterWise native plants).

5 ways to use our glazed & clay pots in your container composition

1. Combinations of mixed annuals create gorgeous planters with seasonal interest.
2. Group pots together to create layers of lush foliage and colorful tones.
3. Add planters to stairs, retaining walls, and shelves where they'll provide depth and contrast.
4. Entryway topiaries greet guests and bring nature closer to your door.
5. Herbs and fruiting shrubs can be planted in containers for a convenient kitchen garden.



Shrub Love: Our Selections for Fall

Have a bare spot in the backyard? A patio with room for a large and beautiful pot? Shrubs can complement the space! In the ground or potted up in a large container, we have your locally grown favorites in stock!



Camellias have it all; beautiful flowers and foliage. They're also WaterWise. Our best selection is in October!



Plant fragrant Daphne in a pot at the front door so its sweet perfume and gorgeous foliage can be appreciated.



Fall is when we have the best selection of late winter and spring blooming shrubs like Azaleas, Japanese maples, and Rhododendron. These, as well as Pieris, thrive in cooler weather grown in the ground or containers. Pictured: Azalea in glazed blue pottery, Japanese Maple in dark clay, Rhododendron in Bubble Glaze. All are available at Sloat Garden Center!



Locally made Sloat Organic Potting Soil provides excellent drainage and is compaction-resistant. Nutrient rich and perfect for all container gardening or raised beds. It can be used right out of the bag!



Shrub Care tip: Top-dress Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons, and other spring blooming shrubs with Sloat Forest Mulch Plus and feed them with EB Stone Organics Ultra Bloom fertilizer (0-10-10) monthly until bloom.

Complete Pruning Tasks with our best-selling tools



Fall is an important time to begin pruning shrubs and trees. We have four options all gardeners will appreciate.

Sloat Best Seller: *The Barnel Bypass pruner.*

Perfect for heavy duty pruning. It has a shock absorbing cushion in the handle for fatigue-free, day-long use. High quality at an economical price!

Our Top pruners

Felco #2 and Felco #6 (for smaller hands): These "top of the line" pruners are the most imitated worldwide. Made in Switzerland for over 75 years and preferred by landscape professionals for durability. Worn parts are replaceable.

Special Pruners: Barnel Ratchet Pruner Requires less strength to complete cuts. Ergonomic non-slip grip for comfort and reduced hand fatigue. Ideal for the occasional gardener for light pruning.

Zenport Z102: a classic bypass pruner for small hands. Ideal for intensive, professional pruning.

Not sure how to prune? Watch our webinars for step-by-step tutorials!

Fall Garden Education

Each season we select plant and garden topics to present in our popular webinar series, taught by our skilled team members and local gardening professionals. Webinars are free to attend. Please join us!

Fall is for Planting

Saturday, Sept. 10th, 10am

Preparing your Fall Veggie Garden

Saturday, Sept. 17th, 10am

Nature's Best Hope: Enhancing Local Ecosystems

Saturday, Sept. 24th, 10am

Plants in Art vs. Plants as Art

Saturday, October 1, 10am

Hydrangea Care & Pruning

Saturday, October 8th, 10am

Create a Party Pot Planter

Saturday, October 22nd, 10am

Houseplant Care 101

Saturday, October 29th, 10am

Water Smart Gardening Series: Rethinking the Lawn

(in partnership with Marin Water)

Saturday, Nov. 5th, 10am

Fall Pruning Basics

Saturday, Nov. 12th, 10am

Holiday Succulent Wreaths & Centerpieces

Saturday, Nov. 19th, 10am

What to Do in the Garden this Month

Saturday, December 3rd, 10am



View our
Webinars

October Garden Checklist

Plant

- ❑ Fall is for planting! Get shrubs, perennials and trees into the ground this month. Also, grow your own groceries by planting herbs and greens!
- ❑ Plant Cyclamen and Primrose in October or early November. It's also a great time to plant ground covers and sweet peas. Violas and Pansies will create mass color in containers and flowerbeds to cover dormant spring bulbs.
- ❑ For a hardy alternative, consider planting ornamental grasses. Grasses require little upkeep and can create a beautiful screening effect against a house or fence.
- ❑ It's time to plant Daffodils for spring. Also, Amaryllis and paper white Narcissus can be planted now for the coming holidays.
- ❑ This is the perfect time to select and plant California native plants.
- ❑ Adopt a new plant from our large selection of houseplants. We have plants and pottery to brighten your home this fall and winter.

Prune/Maintain

- ❑ Prepare planting beds for winter: Clear weeds and rocks, then amend soil with Sloat Loam Builder for vegetables and Sloat Forest Mulch Plus for perennials and shrubs.
- ❑ Divide the roots and rhizomes of perennials like Agapanthus, Achillea, and Iris.
- ❑ Lightly prune Japanese Maples while still in leaf. Select and plant maples (now is the time to see fall color).
- ❑ Treat Hydrangeas with Espoma Organic Soil Acidifier or E.B. Stone Naturals True Blue in order to keep blue Hydrangeas blue. Treat with Agricultural Lime to turn Hydrangeas pink.
- ❑ It's time to fill your bird feeders for winter. Try a suet feeder!

Fertilize

- ❑ Feed citrus with Maxsea Acid Formula. Supplement with EB Stone F.S.T to keep them green all winter.



Plant daffodil bulbs now
for blooms next spring!



We carry a vast assortment of unique indoor pots in a range of shapes, colors, and sizes so you have room to grow the plants you love.

No-fail Easy Care Indoor Plants in San Francisco



Dracaena

Orchids

Monstera

ZZ Plant

Our Pierce Street, SF location, tucked between Chestnut and Lombard in the Marina, is a vibrant green boutique filled with lush houseplants, colorful annuals, beautiful pottery, and quality soils. Since 2006, this plant paradise has been home to one of the most popular selections of houseplants and indoor gardening supplies in the city. Jason and his team are always ready to help you select your favorites. Stop by and visit this hidden gem!

Our Staff's Selected Houseplant Essentials: Good food + Good soil for your Plants



Houseplants Get Hungry. Feed them! Be sure that houseplants are fed this fall before winter dormancy. Locally made Tappin' Roots All Stages organic plant fertilizer will keep them vigorous and strong. This formula also helps houseplants overcome failing health and neglect.

Sloat Garden Center stocks an overflowing collection of your favorite, easy care, low-maintenance indoor plants at all 12 of our locations. Stop by for locally sourced plants, beautiful pottery, and our expert growing advice!

Houseplant Favorites

Low light & Easy care
ZZ, Sansevieria, Pothos

Medium to high light & Easy care
Ficus Elastica, Schefflera, Monstera

Low light & Medium care
Dracaena, Spathiphyllum, Kimberly Queen Fern

Medium/high light & Medium care
Ficus lyrata, Ficus benjamina, Calathea

High light
Hoya (the hip houseplant of the year!)



Sloat Indoor Potting Soil is blended to provide excellent aeration, drainage, and water retention so that indoor plants thrive. It's ready to-use right out of the bag. Locally crafted by E.B. Stone Organics in Northern California!



Lightweight Japi Pots
planted with Sansevieria

Protect surfaces. Natural Dotchi cork mats prevent staining beneath planters. The mats create a barrier to help contain excess moisture from condensation.

We also carry moss poles for climbing plants, moss trellises for vines, and a host of specialized indoor plant foods.

Visit our stores: Twelve 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

Pierce: 9am-6:30pm

Novato

2000 Novato Blvd.
(415) 897-2169

Kentfield

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

Mill Valley

657 E. Blithedale
(415) 388-0102

401 Miller Ave.
(415) 388-0365

Pleasant Hill

2895 Contra Costa Blvd.
(925) 939-9000

Martinez

6740 Alhambra Ave
(925) 935-9125

Concord

1555 Kirker Pass Rd.
(925) 681-0550

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

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

Open 7 days a week

8:30am to 6:30pm
(or as indicated above)

Visit us on the web: sloatgardens.com

S l o a t



Garden Center

420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428



We'll help you grow the plants you love!

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Join our **FREE** Gardener's
Reward Program

- Earn points toward "dollars off" coupons
- Subscription to this Gardener's Notebook newsletter, filled with the best local seasonal gardening advice
- Automatic sign-up bonus of 200 Gardener's Rewards points
- Invitations to our expert gardening webinars and events

Get more gardening tips!
Sign up for our free
email newsletters:

sloatgardens.com

In stock: locally grown plants for easy fall decorating and holiday color



Violas & Pansies



A giant supply of decorative gourds
& pumpkins to greet the new season



Colorful Cyclamen



Cheerful Iceland Poppies are our fav!



Ornamental kale



Mums, Stock, and ornamental
grasses for waves of autumnal color