

S l o a t



GARDEN CENTER



Gardener's Notebook

Volume 36, No. 2

News & Advice for Bay Area Gardeners

Fall 2023



Move over Spring...
Fall is our favorite
season for planting!

Make the most of sunny fall weather by
enhancing your outdoor space with new
perennials, trees, vines, annuals, and shrubs.
Plants thrive in fall because Bay Area soil is
still warm from the summer sun. Planting
now is a simple way to support plant growth.



Inside Fall Gardening: Grow your Own Groceries • Fall Flowers • Local Growers • Colorful Pottery • Winter Garden Care • Houseplants

Add a touch of autumn to your space with classic perennials



Grasses



Ferns



Lantana



Rosemary



Heuchera



Salvia

Turn your container or garden bed into a colorful, textured haven with our perennial staples. We love these for fall: *Salvia*, *Rudbeckia*, *Echinacea*, *Rosemary*, *Lantana*, *Heuchera*, *Ferns*, and grasses like *Festuca glauca*, *Carex*, and *Ophiopogon*.



Ocean Blue Pots

Plentiful pottery

We have Northern California’s most extensive pottery collection. From small indoor houseplant pots to large outdoor statement pottery, we stock high quality containers for all your plants. Stop by and check out our many pottery colors, styles, and sizes.



Native Achillea

Fall is for planting California natives. They’re already adapted to the Bay Area’s Mediterranean climate. Once established, many can survive on rainfall alone.



Gems in the ground or in a container, our fresh stock of **Japanese Maples** (arrives first week of October) will light up your garden with changing foliage through the seasons. Plant your new specimen along with easy companion perennials like *Bacopa*, *Carex*, *Liriope*, and *Lysmachia* (Creeping Jenny), *Vinca minor*, or *Ajuga*.



Stop in for specialty squash, whimsical pumpkins, and gourds that are perfect for fall decorating



“Mums are a great choice for fall color in pots or in the ground.”
— Christina,
Sloat Designer



Some plants need acidic soil to thrive; Blueberries, Citrus, Rhododendrons, and Azalea are just a few. Acidifying the soil helps release micronutrients so that they become available to the plants. Supplement soil with **Greenall FST** to help these acid-loving plants stay green.



For garden beds



For containers

Planting in garden beds? **Sloat Organic Planting Mix** is best for in-ground plantings. If you’re gardening in a container, use a well-draining mix like **Sloat Organic Potting Soil**. Sprinkle in **E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start** at planting time to get your plants off to a great start.



Ornamental Cabbage

In stock: We carry locally grown fall planting essentials for easy autumn color and holiday celebrations. Decorate your containers, balconies, porches, and doorways with ornamental Kale, Mums, Pansies, Violas, Iceland Poppies, Snapdragons, Stock, Dianthus, and Heuchera for waves of autumnal color. *Coming soon: Cyclamen!*



Madd Capp Jigsaw Puzzles at Sloat

We carry one-of-a-kind **jigsaw puzzles**! Unique shapes and cool themes make for family fun, whether you’re challenging yourself or your friends and family. Terrific for holiday gifts!

Grow your Own Groceries this Fall

Fall is the “second season” for growing vegetables and herbs. Warm soil and abundant sunshine will help you grow the groceries you want to eat this fall and winter.

Each week we restock our supply of fresh, locally grown organic vegetable and herb starter plants that will thrive in your microclimate.

This fall all Sloat Garden Center locations are filled with organic vegetable and herb plants like broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, kale, lettuce, onions, garlic, peas, spinach, parsley, rosemary, oregano, marjoram, and thyme. We also carry an excellent selection of herb and vegetable seeds (grow turnips, parsnips, carrots, radishes, beets, and rutabagas by seed).



Salad greens



Feed growing plants with E.B. Stone Organics Tomato & Vegetable Food



Thyme, Marjoram & Oregano

Freshen up Recipes with Homegrown Herbs

Tired of buying expensive packages of fresh herbs? Plant a bowl of organic Thyme, Oregano, and Marjoram to keep close to the kitchen or in a sunny window. These perennial herbs are delicious to cook with, plus they nourish pollinators when they flower. In garden beds they can be interspersed with ground covers to create a beautiful and edible landscape.



Vegetable Planting Timeline

Use our Bay Area planting chart to discover the right time to grow your favorite veggies.

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

* Wait until Oct. 1 to plant in the East Bay

* If you garden in the East Bay, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and kohlrabi should be planted in early October.

Locally owned and grown!

For decades we’ve sourced plants and products from other small businesses throughout Northern California. It’s time to meet some of our local producers & growers.



- 1. Pacific Northwest Organics, Crescent City. Ocean based fertilizers.
- 2. Maxsea, Humboldt. High quality plant foods.
- 3. Matsudas (by Green Acres), Sacramento. Deciduous trees and shrubs, perennials, and houseplants.
- 4. E.B. Stone Organics, Suisun City. High quality soils & fertilizers.
- 5. Blooms Wholesale Nursery, Glen Ellen. Perennials and annuals.
- 6. Tappin’ Roots, Santa Rosa. High quality plant fertilizers.
- 7. Sweetwater Nursery, Sebastopol. Organic vegetables.
- 8. Sunborne Growers, Richmond. Houseplants.
- 9. Cal Color, Morgan Hill. Annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, colorful fall and winter plants.
- 10. Soquel, Soquel. CA Natives, perennials, Mediterranean plants.
- 11. Monterey Bay Nursery, Royal Oaks. CA Natives, succulents, and Mediterranean plants.
- 12. Four Winds, Watsonville. Our primary grower of citrus shrubs and trees.

Fool Proof Fall Planting Recipes

We’ve designed three full-sun plant combinations to adapt to your garden space or large container. Pick one (or all three) and experiment with what you can grow!

Favorite Mediterranean plants: Grevillea, Salvias, Olive, Lomandra, Phormium, Anigozanthos, Lavender, Acacia ‘Cousin itt’.

Popular Edible Landscape plants: Citrus, Blueberries, Chard, Thyme, Lacinato kale.

Successful CA Native choices: Artemisia, Eriogonum, Achillea, Baccharis pilularis (Coyote Bush), Mimulus, Ceanothus, Manzanita.



Spring flowering bulbs, California poppies, wildflowers, and sweet peas (available from seed) should all be planted now!



Winter Soil & Plant Preparation

This fall we recommend top dressing plants with **Sloat Forest Mulch Plus** and feeding them with **E.B. Stone Organics Ultra Bloom** fertilizer (0-10-10) monthly until bloom. Forest Mulch Plus breaks down slowly to make spring soil preparation a breeze, plus it reduces winter weeds. Ultra Bloom increases winter hardiness and disease resistance. It also stimulates bud formation for winter & spring bloom, and helps develop a hardier root structure.



Anticipate cold weather

When temperatures dip, protect sensitive and cold tender plants from damage. All outdoor plants should be watered before the expected cold because a hydrated plant is less likely to suffer cold damage (succulents are the exception; they can freeze and turn mushy if watered beforehand). Container plants should be moved inside or under a covered area.

Utilize **N-Sulate frost protection blankets** and **Wilt-Pruf** plant protector. While an application of Wilt-Pruf will protect up to 1-2 degrees temperature drop (which can be critical for tender plants), a combination of this product and a frost protection blanket can limit damage further. Wilt-Pruf also helps keep Christmas greens and wreaths fresher for longer.



Fall Decor & Garden Prep



Looking for a carving pumpkin? They'll arrive at Sloat in late September. These are extra special pumpkins...not just your average supermarket varieties! Grown by our lovely neighbors in Oregon.

Our new rustic bowls were created specifically for herbs, succulents and trailing foliage.

These low bowls have a weathered appearance and are perfect for creating an antique, patina-vibe in your home or patio.



Our jumbo Terracotta Urns will dramatically transform entryways, decks, and patios.



Colorful tough totes in stock. Our colorful containers excel at fall gardening jobs. Popular for hauling plants, holding leaves, or mixing soils.

Want to make indoor spaces feel more alive? Add fresh plants and watch them thrive!

Fall is the ideal time to brighten inside spaces with houseplants. Plants bring life indoors and make perfect study and home office buddies! We stock plenty of your favorite, easy-care, low-maintenance houseplants that can be grouped to create layers of lush foliage and vibrant tones. Plus, our colorful pottery and expert advice will set you up for growing success.



Dracaena are elegant, hardy, tree and palm-like plants that will elevate any living space. Loved for their vibrant striped leaves and colors, Dracaena are popular for good reason!

There are many varieties but **Pilea peperomioides** (aka Chinese money plant or pancake plant) really stands out with its unique, round foliage.

Tradescantia is a hardy (and forgiving) trailing plant that will spill over your beautiful pottery. The burgundy stems and leaves look gorgeous in a sunny room.



3 Houseplant Care Tips

- Sloat Indoor Potting Soil.** Start plants off right with this exemplary growing medium.
- Tappin' Roots.** Your plants need food! Feed them with our high-quality plant foods.
- Pottery.** Houseplants grow best in the right pots for their shape and size. Re-pot if your plant needs a larger space.



Display your beloved indoor plants in our handsome plant stands. Made from environmentally harvested rubberwood, they'll add a modern feel to your home paired with our cylinder pots.

Available in standard and flared. Natural, medium stain or dark stain. 10", 12", and 15" sizes. Stop by to see our full line of pottery in so many colors, styles, and sizes.

New Fall Gardening Webinars

Join us for free online gardening webinars taught by our skilled professionals and local experts. Zoom in live or visit our video library to view past webinars and quick tip planting videos.



Sign up for Webinars

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Fall is for Planting (Joan Pont) Saturday, Sept. 16th, 10am | Hydrangea Care & Pruning (Elizabeth Ruiz) Saturday, Oct. 21st, 10am | Shade Gardening 101 (Emily Hatfeld) Saturday, Nov. 4th, 10am |
| How to Plant Fall Bulbs (Dan Alexander) Wednesday, Sept. 27th, 5pm | Growing Low Light Indoor Plants (Taylor Pochron) Wednesday, Oct. 25th, 5pm | Preparing your Garden for Winter (Suzanne Bontempo & Charlotte Canner) Saturday, Nov. 11th, 10am |
| Succulent Gardening Tips (Shannon Fitzpatrick) Saturday, Oct. 14th, 10am | Gardening with Azaleas, Camellias, Rhododendrons (Dan Alexander) Saturday, Oct. 28th, 10am | Create a Tillandsia Wreath (Jen Strobel) Saturday, Nov. 18th, 10am |

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We'll help you grow the plants you love!

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

Fall Garden Checklist

Plant

- ☐ Welcome Autumn by planting pansies, violas, mums, ornamental kale and cabbage, stock, Iceland poppies, and cyclamen for pops of color in containers and garden beds.
- ☐ Fall is for planting! Get shrubs, perennials and trees into the ground now. This is a great time to select and plant California native plants.
- ☐ Grow your own Groceries: Plant kale, collard, spinach, arugula, peas, herbs, and lettuces. Plant garlic and shallots to harvest next summer.
- ☐ Plan landscaping projects this fall. Talk to our expert design team 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.
- ☐ Amaryllis and paper white Narcissus can be planted now for the coming holidays.
- ☐ 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.

etables and Sloat Forest Mulch Plus for perennials and shrubs. Use mulch to inhibit weeds.

- ☐ Divide the roots and rhizomes of perennials like Agapanthus, Achillea, and Iris.
- ☐ Select and plant Japanese maples (now is the time for fall color). Lightly prune established trees while still in leaf.
- ☐ It's time to fill your bird feeders for winter. Try a suet feeder!

Fertilize

- ☐ Fertilize perennials with E.B. Stone Organics Ultra Bloom Fertilizer (0-10-10) to stimulate bud formation for winter/spring bloom and to develop a hardier root structure.
- ☐ Containers: summer annuals, and cool season annuals will enjoy monthly feeding at this time of year; use Maxsea All-Purpose fertilizer.
- ☐ Feed citrus with Maxsea Acid Formula. Supplement with E.B. Stone F.S.T to keep them green all winter.
- ☐ 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.



California Sister
Butterfly