



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2008

Serving You Since 1955

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA • www.aldenlane.com • (925) 447-0280

Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright at 7:30 am every day, repeated on Saturday & Sunday at 11 am.
- **Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club** meets Thursday, November 13, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at Alisal School, multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The program will feature three representatives from **Common Ground Education Center** in Palo Alto discussing Edible Landscaping. Topics will include edible gardens and sustainable living, and solar technologies. For more information, call Sally at 925-417-8809.
- **The Mt. Diablo Rose Society** meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call for details 829-4929.
- On Sunday, December 7th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the **Soroptimist Annual Holiday Home Tour** begins at Alden Lane Nursery. For more information contact Denise at 443-5897 or Charlotte at 449-4079.
- If you enjoy crisp slices of onions on hamburgers or in your salad then this announcement is for you. **Bare root Stockton onions** arrive in mid November. Call first to make sure they are in. Choose red, yellow or white.
- And don't forget to add some zing to your cooking. **Garlic starts are here** this month. Plant November through early January for the best results.

**Don't Forget to Redeem
Holiday Cash ...
Thanksgiving til
December 24th!**

Make Your World Taste Good at Alden Lane Nursery!

Friday, November 7th
Christmas Open House Preview
3:00 - 8:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday, November 8th & 9th
Christmas Open House
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

"Fudge Tasting" by Jerry Vargas of Bay Area Confectioners,
Friday, 6 - 8 pm; Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm; and Sunday, 12 - 3 pm
Marshmallow Treats with Kim Faulkner of Artisan Marshmallow,
Friday, 6 - 8 pm; and Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm

Come along on the sweetest of all adventures. Enjoy our magical pantry filled with classic candies and mouth-watering treats such as **Hammonds Raspberry Snaps, Chocolate Barks, Peppermint Jewels, Lemon Drops, Candy Necklaces** and over 200 flavors of **Linda's Lollies**. Take in the sweet scent of cinnamon in our **Cinnamon Roll Candles**. Experience the aromas of home baking in our **Chocolate Chip Cookie & Sprinkle Cupcake Candles**.



**25% OFF
Any One Item**

Good November 7th, 8th or 9th ONLY!

One coupon per person, per family. Excludes all other discounts or coupons.

Protect Your Tender Plants From Frost

Typically, this is the time of year we expect our first hard frost. This year we are experiencing cold early. Take the time and effort required to protect your frost tender perennials and tropical plants (such as citrus, hibiscus, some palms, bananas & bougainvillea.)

Here are some ways to help your frost tender plants weather the big chill:

- If there's room indoors bring in small potted porch or patio plants choosing an area that provides bright light.
- Wrap plants with new protective plant bags or a protective frost blanket (a spun material that breathes easily but keeps out cold air).
- For outdoor plants simply remembering to keep them well watered in between rain storms is a plus.
- Spray the leaves of frost tenders like: citrus, tropical hibiscus, philodendron, bougainvillea, with CLOUD COVER monthly through the winter. This product coats the leaves and stems providing 2 to 3 degrees of protection.
- Decorate cold sensitive plants with outdoor Christmas tree lights. The heat radiated moderates the cold air temperatures. You can maximize this heat source by draping or tenting your plants with translucent "plant blanket" material to create a greenhouse effect. The plant blanket alone will give you 2 to 3 degrees of protection and may be left on all winter.
- Go down to your local hardware store and pick up pipe insulation. It's not only great to keep water pipes from freezing but works wonders when used to protect the trunks of small trees. This pre-split foam tubing is so easy to use.
- Soil heating cables traditionally used as a plant propagation aid are helpful too when nestled in the soil near the plant stem.

Good Things To Do for Your Soil in November

It has been said that if you take care of the soil, the plants will take care of themselves. This is the time of year to do just that.

With the onset of cooler weather and hopefully winter rains, there are several good things you can spread over your soil now that winter rains will carry deep into the soil to nourish roots and promote health and vigor next spring. Some of the following items feed the plant, others provide micronutrients, and feed the soil beneficial micro-organisms. Still others improve the soil pH. The end result is a well nourished root system and a better looking landscape next Spring.

✓ **Azomite** is a mined product that provides plants with 70 micro-nutrients rarely available in one place. Spread a 50 lb bag around your landscape 3 to 4 times a year. Gardeners doing so have achieved noticeable improvements, not only in leaf color and vigor, but in fruit and vegetable flavor and production as well. Where do you suppose vegetable get their nutrient content? From the soil of course, this product replenishes and enhances the soil.

✓ **Gypsum AKA Calcium sulfate** provides a double blessing of both improving our alkaline soils & loosening heavy clay soils. Apply 3 times a year over your lawn and landscape for better color and more efficient use of fertilizers.

✓ **Paydirt** is an excellent and nutritious mulch containing 25% chicken fertilizer as well as compost. Apply 2 inches over the soil around perennial flowers or over your vegetable areas and let the rain carry organic nutrients into the roots zone. Apply over your lawn for an all natural, organic, slow release fertilizer.

✓ **Chicken Manure** can provide organic nutrition like the above mentioned Paydirt, but one bag goes further. 1/2" layer over lawn or garden provides a generous feeding, beautiful results visible in Spring.

✓ **Iron Products** such as **Iron Sulfate** or **FST** help prevent yellow leaves on citrus and keep a lawn greener with less mowing. Apply 2-3 times a year around citrus, azaleas, camellias, over the lawn or anywhere brighter green leaves are desired.



✓ **John and Bob's 100% Organic Soil Optimizer** provides a natural source of Humic acid which nurtures microbial activity in the root zone. Like adding compost without adding compost. Apply 3-4 times a year, especially noticeable improvements for organic vegetable crops.

Organic Fertilizers

A special note regarding drip systems . . . Many fertilizer products are carried into the soil with water. Drip systems concentrate the distribution of water to a few small areas. Unless the fertilizer is placed directly below the drip emitter, it won't easily make its way down into the root zone.

On the other hand, applying an organic fertilizer in the early and late winter assures that fertilizers aided by natural rains, do in fact reach the root zone. Consider an application of **E.B. Stone Organic Fertilizer** in your landscape now and also early March.

Alden Lane Growing Points

Come attend these free events!

Saturday, Nov. 15th, 10:00 a.m.

Peaches / nectarines & disease control

Sunday, Dec. 7th, 1:00 p.m.

General pruning

Saturday, Dec. 13th, 10:00 a.m.

General pruning

Saturday, Dec. 20th, 10:00 a.m.

Nut trees & dormant pruning

Notes for November Gardening

🎵 Thanksgiving signals the time when we should start **dormant spraying**. Trees and shrubs (especially fruit bearing) that are leafless in winter benefit from fall and winter applications of disease and insect controlling products. Thanksgiving, New Years and Valentine's Day are holidays around which you should consider treating. Sulfur and copper sprays coupled with horticultural oils and spray grip additives are just the prescription. All but apricots may be sprayed with sulfur to start. Apricots have an aversion to sulfur so remember to spray with copper. Seek the advice of a Master or California Certified Nursery Professional to guide you in just the right product of choice

🎵 **Keep your lawn green this winter with monthly feedings.** It is critical that you feed NOW. If your lawn is not green by Thanksgiving, it's almost impossible to green it up before spring. Most of the lawns in our area are made up of cool season grasses that include: fescue (fess Q); bluegrass and perennial rye varieties. This is their favorite time of year. Missing a "meal" in the dead heat of summer is better than the year's cooler months. Choose our Fall and Winter Fertilizer.

🎵 **Seven bulbs make a perfect circle.** Paper whites in a dish make a wonderful house-warming gift for a friend (or for you). Choose a thick, glass or terra cotta container, fill it with 7 bulbs, cover with sand, water it and watch it bloom with fragrant, white blossoms in about six weeks.

🎵 **Cut your butterfly bush back to knee-high now.** It will begin growing new foliage right away and will flush out next spring with graceful sprays of new stems followed by panicles of blooms next summer.

🎵 Thanksgiving marks the ideal weekend in our climate to **plant fall bulbs**. Select bulbs including tulips, hyacinth, and narcissus etc. and refrigerate them till Thanksgiving when the weather outside has cooled. Plant your bulbs out in the landscape to the required depth and fertilize with **Master Nursery Bulb Food**. Your investment will be rewarded with timely displays of spring color.



How *NOT* To Kill Your Orchid Tips To Grow By

Orchids don't have to be a complicated subject. Below are some tips from our *Orchids 101* class that can help you through the "growing pains" and on to bountiful blooms. To hear more practical tips, come to the Orchids 101 class every second Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. The class is \$10.00 – **and bring a friend for FREE!**

1. When in doubt, go drought! It is much better to dry an orchid out- most are designed to go through drought periods. It is worse to create an environment of slow death by killing it with kindness and drowning the roots, creating root rot.

2. Whatever you do, do it before noon!

3. Light Light , LIGHT! Most orchids will not bloom without it. We all say we have enough, but if you have had it for over a year without blooms, you don't. As much filtered light for as long as possible, without putting it in direct, midday sun.

4. Most house orchids like to be watered about once a week. Pick up the container and see how light it is. (Moisture meters don't work in bark mixtures) When you do water, don't be stingy- flood them well, let them drain, and dry them out thoroughly in between waterings.

5. Sunburn!? If you place an orchid in a very bright, hot window, leave it for 5 minutes-feel the leaf - if it is warm then you need to move it further back from the light or you will sunburn it there.

6. Going to Pot? Pick the pot you will use in repotting **AFTER** you have unpotting the orchid. You pot according to how many roots you have - not according to how big your plant is. Once you uncover the roots and do some trimming, you may decide it doesn't need a bigger pot after all. They all love to be tight in the pot with just a smidge of wiggle room - not a lot.

Winning Salsa Recipe

By Jeff Oase

1 cup	White Onion diced
1½	Fresh Jalapeno Chili chopped
4-5 cloves	Garlic minced
2-3#	Tomatoes, peeled, diced
½ Bunch	Cilantro chopped

Sautee onions, garlic & pepper in olive oil until tender.

Add diced tomatoes simmer to salsa consistency. Add cilantro, 2 tsp. sugar and salt to taste. Cool. Stir in the juice of ½ fresh lime and enjoy.



Holiday Calendar of Events

Saturday and Sunday, November 15 & 16th

"Saddle up and git on over to Alden Lane Nursery for our Western Weekend." We'll be offering a 20% discount on ornaments from our **Saddle Up Cowboy Tree** and **Boy Meets "Grill" Tree**.

Saturday, November 15th from 1-2 pm come and listen to COWBOY POETRY featuring the poem *"Avocado Cowboys"*. Livermore's Literary Arts Center presents poet "lariat" Karen Hogan. Meet cowboy poet Frank Thornburgh, who's worked on local ranches, while you enjoy a warm cup of chili and a slice of delicious cornbread. There will be an open mic for all of you dueling poets out there so bring your poems. You'll leave with an unforgettable poem and an old-fashioned Sassafras candy stick. Call 925-447-0280 to reserve your hay bale.

Saturday and Sunday, November 22nd & 23rd

"Go wild at Alden Lane Nursery during our Into the Wild Weekend." We'll be offering a 20% discount on ornaments from our **Into the Wild Tree** and **Furry Friends Tree**.

Saturday November 22nd is Owl Day. Come by at 11:30 am and **make an owl puppet** while you learn about Owls of California and the West. Did you know we have owls that live right here in the Valley? Call 925-447-0280 to reserve your nest.



Saturday and Sunday, November 29th & 30th

"Hey kids! Bring your Grandparents to Alden Lane Nursery and they'll read you a story from our magical Elf on the Shelf Book." We'll be offering a 20% discount on ornaments from our **Family Tree** and **Vintage Holiday Tree** as well as 10% off on our **Elf on the Shelf Book**.

Saturday November 29th Grandparents' Day. Come by 11 am - 2 pm and **make a reindeer candy cane** while Grandma and Grandpa read special stories to you.

Saturday and Sunday, December 6th & 7th

"Shopping at Alden Lane Nursery is music to your ears." We'll be offering a 20% discount on ornaments from our **Strike Up the Band Tree** and **Shall We Dance Tree**.

Come by on Saturday December 6th to enjoy peaceful holiday shopping while a **local musician plays our piano**. Drink hot cider with yummy snaps while you wander through our Gift Shop

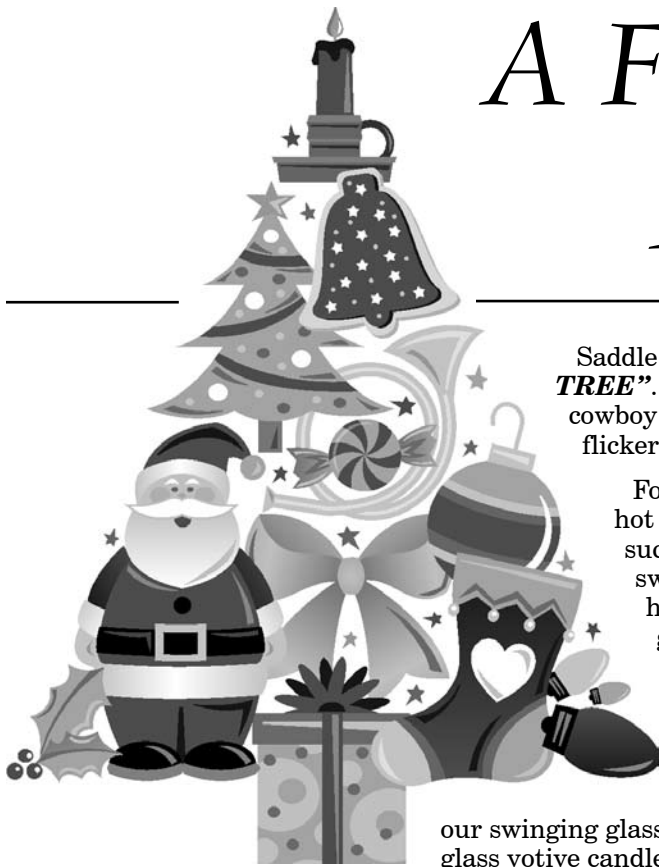
Saturday, December 13th

"Santa Claus is coming to town and will be visiting Alden Lane Nursery." We'll be offering a 20% discount on ornaments from our **North Pole Neighbors Tree** and **Candy Land Tree**.

Polaroid photos with Santa on Saturday December 13th from 11 a.m to 1 p.m., for only \$2.00 you can take a photo home as a keepsake. Bring your camera, too!!



A Few of our Many Fabulous Trees



Saddle Up to see an abundance of Wild West Nuggets on our **“COWBOY TREE”**. For all you outlaws, we have ornaments ranging from shimmering cowboy boots, leather hearts, recycled sarsaparilla soda cap mobiles to flickering flame lights perfect for your indoor campfire.

For you guys who like to hang out at the grill, come see our smokin’ hot **“BOY MEETS GRILL TREE”** featuring unique ornaments such as Budweiser coolers, beer bottles- so real you’ll want to take a swig, Santa grilling hamburgers & hotdogs, kiss the cook, antique humidors. Danger Men Cooking Gifts include BBQ sauce, hot sauce, grilling cookbooks along with our oh-so-hot branding irons.

No More Monkeys Jumpin’ on the Bed — They’re all at Alden Lane Nursery on our **“INTO THE WILD TREE”**. Find all of your favorite critters and creatures such as lions and tigers and bears as well as glittered giraffes, friendly elephants and feathered parrots- too many adorable animals to list. Can you find

our swinging glass monkey hiding in the tree? You’re sure to go wild over our Safari glass votive candles.

Enter the Peppermint Forest on our **“CANDY LAND TREE”** — *You’re always welcome in Candy Land!* Let all of your sweet dreams come true as you savor this tree full of old-fashioned glass sugared candy sticks, gorgeous gumdrops, sprinkle doughnuts, shimmering rainbow cupcakes, 2 scoops of ice cream on a sugar cone-so yummy, cream puffs and candy-filled gingerbread houses.

Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound — This **“LAVENDER AND GRACE TREE”** is glistening with angels. Enjoy the heavenly fragrance of French Lavender while you shop this gorgeous tree filled with hand-blown and hand-painted pieces of art by European artisans in the centuries-old tradition of crafting Christmas glass ornaments.

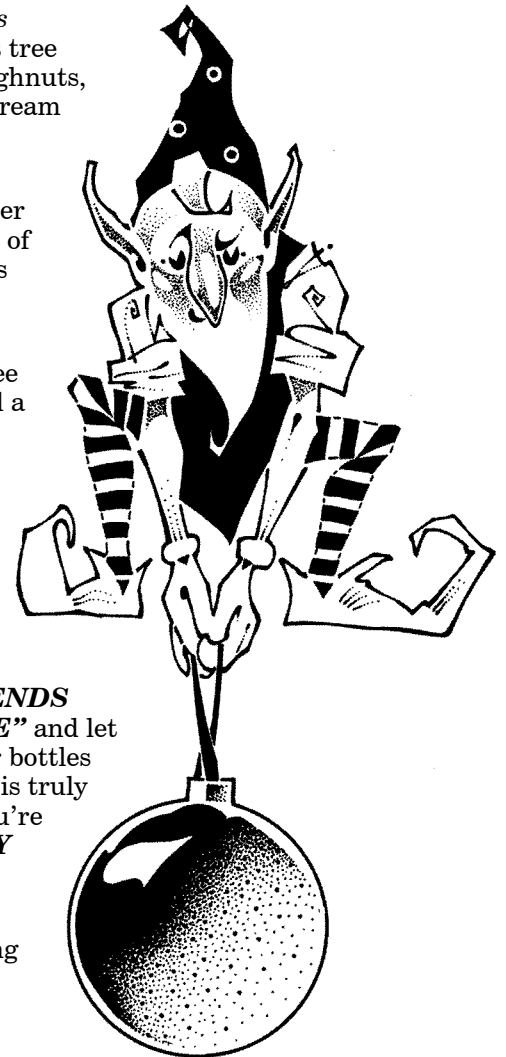
You’ll find lots of treasures on our **“GLOBE TROTTER TREE”**. Bring back fond memories of your favorite destinations as you hop on board this traveling tree filled with suitcases, globes, iridescent planes, tiny trains, cameras, cable cars and a cruise ship-so real you’ll want to book a trip.

You’ll flock to our **“NORTH POLE NEIGHBORS TREE”** full of sparkles and smiles. Enjoy our favorite fragrance in Aromatique “Smell of Christmas” potpourri. Brighten your holiday with our Thoughts of Home vintage inspired Merry Christmas Garland made of decorative paper and glittering letters — one of Andrea’s Christmas Faves.

Our Holiday Collection is like no other! Brighten up your home with ornaments from our shimmering **“CITRUS GROVE TREE”**. Mamba over to our **“SHALL WE DANCE TREE”** or spoil your pets with our **“FURRY FRIENDS TREE”**. Take good care of your family, teacher or realtor on our **“FAMILY TREE”** and let the birds serenade you on our **“SONGBIRD TREE”**. Unwind while you shop for bottles of Chianti on our **“WINE A LITTLE TREE”**. Our **“STRIKE UP THE BAND”** is truly grand, you’ll find lots of glamour on our **“VINTAGE HOLIDAY TREE”**, and you’re sure to strike it lucky on our **“WHO’S YOUR PADDY TREE”**.

Be sure to take a little time to see all of our Mini Ornaments. They may be just the thing you are looking for.

What to give when you don’t know what to give
— **ALDEN LANE GIFT CARDS!**



Versatile Sasanqua Camellias Bring Colorful Flowers to the Winter Garden



One of the prettiest and most often overlooked shrubs to plant for late fall and winter color is the *Camellia sasanqua*. This cousin of the commonly planted *Camellia japonica* is more sun tolerant (full a.m. sun) and depending on the variety makes an excellent gracefully

branching ground cover or espaliered shrub, informal hedge as well as a good container plant. You might also plant sasanquas under trees to give color to otherwise green backdrops. Some varieties of *C.sasanqua* begin blooming around Thanksgiving and other varieties are colorful at Christmas.

Alden Lane has received a shipment of heavily budded and some blooming varieties of sasanquas. And it's the best time to choose them while you can see the actual flower shape and the color.

We've listed below the top varieties that have been selected for their outstanding ability to perform. Not only are they covered with hundreds of flowers during the fall and winter but the dark green evergreen foliage is a plus for any garden.

Early Season

Shishi Gashira. Semi-double to peony form, lovely soft pink blooms. Low spreader. Early season blooming.

Bonanza. A semi-double to peony form, bloom a rich scarlet enriched by contrast of bright yellow stamen. Low spreader. Early bloomer.

Mid Season

Apple Blossom. A vivid cerise red coloring edge the white petals of these large single blossoms. Lovely contrast is added by the crown of golden stamens. Upright growth pattern and blooms in mid season.

Hana Jiman. Large, semi-double white bloom, petals tipped with pink. Upright growth. Blooms mid season.

Jean May. Large, shell pink with double blossoms. Upright. Mid season bloomer.

Setsugekka. Large, semi-double blooms, white ruffled petals and showy yellow stamens. Upright growth. Mid season.

White Doves. White semi-double to loose peony form. Spreader. Mid season.

Late Season

Yuletide. Brilliant, fiery red, single blooms centered with bright yellow stamens. Upright. Late blooming.

Fruit Tree Pre-Order Program

Great news!

**IF YOU PRE-ORDER
YOUR FRUIT TREES
BY NOVEMBER 12TH
YOU WILL RECEIVE
20% OFF**

In addition to our fruit tree list, our grower is making their entire list available for pre-order. This includes the hard to find Multi Graft fruit trees.

Order and pre-pay now and pick up in January. Quantities are limited so now is the time to plan out your mini backyard orchard or just finally get the one tree you've always wanted.

Please stop by and pick up both of our fruit tree lists and ask our horticultural experts all of your fruit tree questions.

Pre-Season Rose Special Save 20%!

**ORDER SEPTEMBER
1ST THROUGH
DECEMBER 15TH.
YOU WILL RECEIVE
20% OFF**

Stop by the nursery & pick up our **FREE 2009 Alden Lane Rose Handbook.**

Over 300 varieties are featured and we provide lots of information on fragrance, size, color and bloom frequency.

We also have special handouts pertaining to the following topics:

Exceptional Fragrance, Cutting, Disease Resistance, and Alden Lane's Employees' Favorite Varieties.

You can also access these lists by going to our website:
<http://www.aldenlane.com>.

Go Green To Fight Fatigue and Colds!

According to a University of Agriculture/Norway study, indoor plants can reduce fatigue, coughs, sore throats and other cold related illnesses by more than 30 percent, partially by increasing humidity levels and decreasing dust.

What a beautiful way to create a healthy environment!

See Sue at Alden Lane Greenhouse and create a healthy home.

From The Garden Store ANDREA'S FAVES



Throughout the Tri-Valley, you will only find LOLLIA here — at Alden Lane Nursery!

Lollia is created by designer Margot Elena, an innovator of luxurious formulas and signature packaging. Inspired by soft, sophisticated textiles and the warmth of lovely homes the Lollia look comes to life.

As the Alden Lane Nursery Accessories Buyer, I found the Lollia line to be delightful. The mild fragrances are truly unforgettable. When I was first

introduced to Lollia, I couldn't stop admiring the real gold bees and hanging cut crystal that decorate the WISH tall luminary.

Join us in celebrating gracefulness and beauty with Lollia's signature mix and match fragrances—this is LOLLIA:

- **Relax Story:** A rich exotic blend of fresh Lavender, Bee Blossom Honey with White Orchids and warm, woody undertones of Indian Amber delicately completed with a touch of Tahitian Vanilla.

Shea Butter Handcreme: Fresh floral infusions of Violet and Lavender impart a whisper of delicate fragrance. A classic, silken formula leaves skin petal-soft with Shea Butter and Macadamia Nut Oils.

Evening Bubble Bath in a Wine Bottle: Tiny, luxurious bubbles chatter in the tub with Avocado and Olive Fruit Oils. Rich Vitamin E silken the skin. "Relax" - it's virtually impossible not to with this alluring fragrance for evening.

- **Wish Story: Tea Leaves & Honey Tall Luminary** - Real gold bees with blue accents decorate a glass container with hanging cut crystal. Key Ingredients: Cool Mint, Ylang Ylang, Jasmine, Vanilla Bean, Amber Woods. Burn time 135 hours.

Petite Perfumed Luminary - Blue French inspired foulard pattern, burn with Tea Leaves & Honey companion candle to create a third unique fragrance.



Hailey's Woofs

Greetings to my fellow canine trailblazers. I'm Hailey, the resident

nursery dog here at Alden Lane Nursery reminding you this Thanksgiving: **don't beg, be happy.** Be warned my dear friends, it's the season of scratch and sniff. Remember your Golden Rule this holiday, "Leave it." Leave the unfortunate roasting bird, leave Aunt Lulu's fruit cake and leave the food discards to the humans.

It's November, the national month of Thanksgiving for the Americans who stand on 2 hind legs. We four legged American natives can give thanks for the kennels we live in and this free country we call home. Saturday, November 15, you wild dogs of the prairie gather your cowpoke friends for a howling of Cowboy Poetry. We'll be sharing some authentic chow of chili, cornbread and Sassafras candy sticks (sweet candy bones enjoyed by our human counterparts).

Hear ye, hear ye, garden hounds, let your natural instincts dictate your garden chores this month. The colder temperatures are resulting in an increase of the thickness of your fur coat. The same need is required by the plants. They need a warmer layer of protection to surround and shield their puppy roots. Due to the fact that fur does not naturally grow on plants, tuck those little leaf nippers under a surrogate fur covering of a Plant and Seed Blanket. This specially designed blanket allows water and sun to soak thru the layers but leashes the warmth inside the insulated coat, providing the plants with a breathable warm barrier. The blanket shelters them from the elements of cold and frost as does your fur coat.



You may win
A FREE Turkey
for Thanksgiving!
(The turkey will weigh 18
lbs or more.)

A \$25.00 Value

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win. Drawing to be held **NOVEMBER 17, 2008.**

Win A Thanksgiving Turkey

Fill out the entry blank and drop it in the contest box at the Nursery
by **NOVEMBER 16th!**

THANKSGIVING TURKEY

November 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

SPECIAL COUPON

Present This Coupon & A Canned Food Item
TO RECEIVE FREE



A Chocolate Covered Strawberry Ornament!

(\$1.99 Value)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please!
Offer Good November 1-31, 2008.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY



NURSERY HOURS: Monday – Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Closed Thanksgiving Day*



981 Alden Lane
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 447-0280

Change Service Requested

IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

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