



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

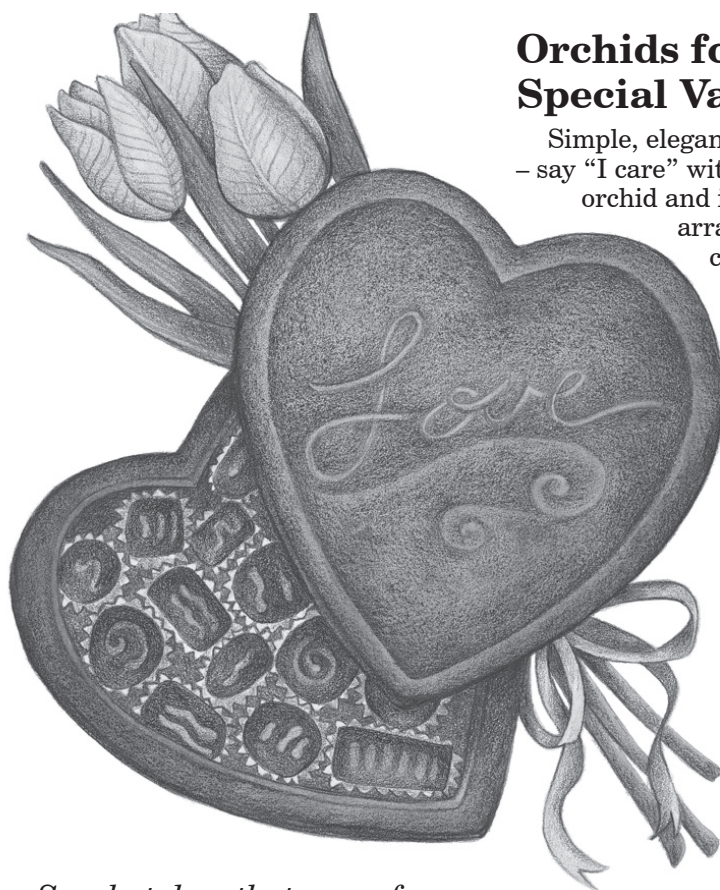
FEBRUARY 2009

Serving You Since 1955

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

Spring Holidays Are Coming!

Valentines Day is fast approaching, and Easter is not far behind!!!!



Orchids for your Special Valentine

Simple, elegant and value priced – say “I care” with custom made orchid and interior plant arrangements hand-crafted with your Valentine in mind. Why purchase something mass made when you can get a cherished living gift individually and lovingly arranged by our Alden Lane staff.

We feature fresh made florals using potted orchids that will keep on giving year after year. As an added bonus to your thoughtful gift, sign them up for our monthly **Orchids 101** class to help them keep this living reminder

of your love thriving and re-blooming.

Celebrate Your Special Someone!

Knodts Flowers is ready to help fill every Valentine floral desire! They are located on the grounds of Alden Lane Nursery. Drop by when you're in the neighborhood, we'd love to see you.

Have a special Valentine order? We'll be happy to help! Just call 925-447-0800.

Valentine Rose

Don't forget your Valentine . . . *Rose that is . . .* the new “Valentines Day” miniature climbing rose. This Valentines Day you will want to give your sweetheart this beautiful deep velvet red rose. It is perfect for small yards or potted in a container to place on your patio or porch. This rose has clusters of redder than red double blossoms that bloom and re-bloom throughout the season. It's not only small growing, it is also disease resistant.

We will have these roses available in decorative pots with a trellis and a big red bow ready for you to pick up and give to your special someone. This gift is sure to show your love year after year.

While you're at the nursery take a moment to walk the aisles and enjoy the beautiful rose possibilities for your garden. Choose from our huge inventory!

So what does that mean for you?

It means that we have been busy decorating the store for the spring season and have many new products for you to come in and see.

For your Valentine we have red heart picture frames, fun mugs, nested heart dishes, and other gifts for your Valentine. If your Valentine is a gardener, and we hope that they are, we have a lot of great gifts for Valentines Day like: Gardener's lotion and soaps, birdfeeders, wind chimes, and lots of great garden accents.



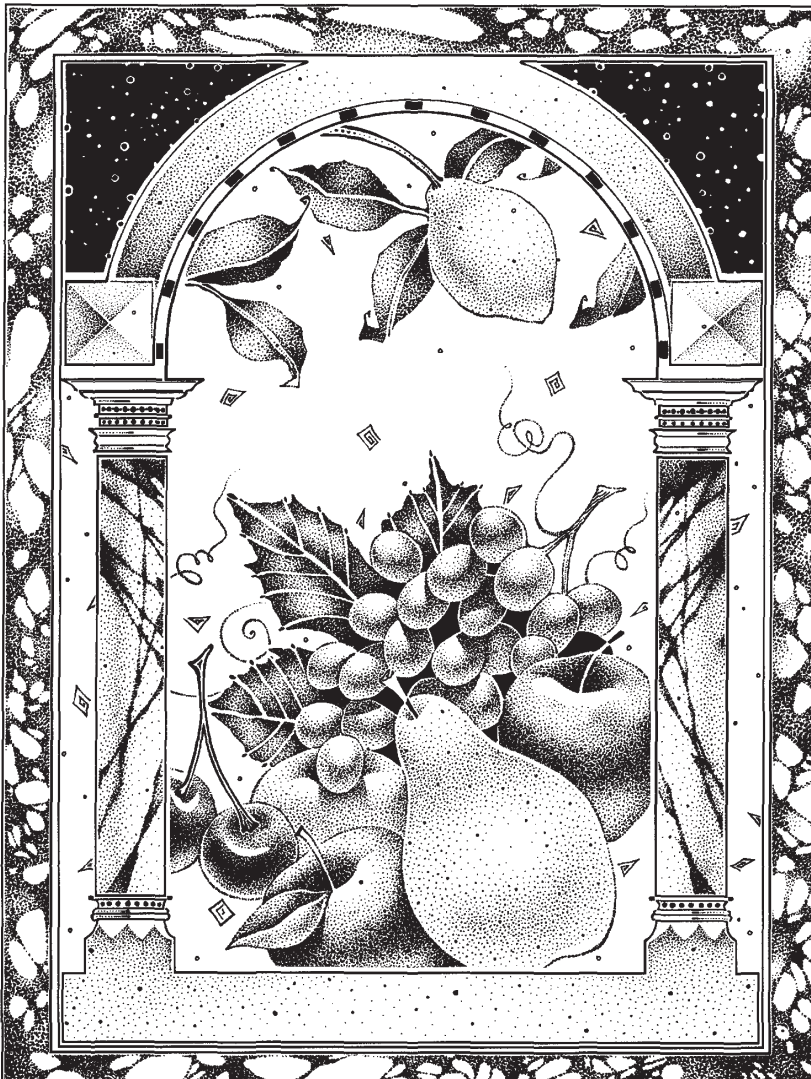
Mark your calendars because **St. Patrick's Day is March 17th & Easter is April 12th.**

We will be offering a great selection of spring items to add to your holiday decorating.

Attention All Backyard Fruit Enthusiasts...

Bumper crops and heavy harvests await those who attend our monthly fruit growing seminars. Get in depth instruction on a different fruit each month, as well as techniques in pruning, disease control, and much more! We will cover the entire "backyard orchard" over the year including grapes, berries, and citrus fruits.

We want you to be the most successful you can be in achieving your goals of a fruitful, nutritious lifestyle. Attend multiple classes to earn yourself a ticket to the **2009 Fall Harvest Recipe Party**, and get "Alden Lane Certified" as an official Backyard Orchard specialist! Giveaway items, information handouts, and raffle prizes will be available at every class. All classes are to run from 11 - 12 o'clock with extra time for Q & A and will **cost \$5 (bring a friend for Free!)**. Call ahead to prepay and reserve a set. Here's what's expected:



- | • February | Cherries & Insect Control |
|-------------|---|
| • March | Citrus & Home Orchard |
| • April | Multigrafts / "Fruit Salad" Trees & Fruit Thinning |
| • May | Grapes / Olives & Mature Tree Pruning |
| • June | Pomegranates / Persimmons & Feeding & Soil Conditions |
| • July | Berries & Summer Pruning |
| • August | Figs, Guava, other & Birds, squirrels, etc |
| • September | Espaliers & Recipes |

Last Chance to Dormant Spray

February is the last month to dormant spray. Apply **Lily Miller Microcop with Sta-Stuk**. Spray at the "pink bud" stage. This is when the flower buds just start to show color at the tip of the bud. Generally this occurs sometime between the second and third week of February.

For peaches and nectarines spray again at 3/4 petal fall with gentle effective copper soap. This stage is the best time to control Peach Leaf Curl.

NOTE: If it should rain within 24 hours of application then reapply material. Rain can make your treatment spotty at best.

FEBRUARY BACKYARD ORCHARD SEMINAR

February 21st • 11:00 - 12:00 noon

February's class will cover insect control methods as well as specific information on Cherry trees. There are quite a few insect pests that can be prevented this time of year with proper dormant oil spraying. Learn how to avoid those devastating attacks before they happen by attending this class. We will discuss "**integrated Pest Management**" methods (using beneficial insects) as well as other preventative measures you can take to avoid ever having to spray pesticides. As far as Cherries go, variety selection, pruning, netting, and all other specific needs will be addressed at this month's class as well.

Do you really need two cherry trees to get fruit??? What's so different about "Bare Root" planting compared to regular planting?? Why do my apricots always have brown rot?? What is that sticky stuff all over my Pear tree?? . . . you could answer all of these questions after attending the Backyard Fruit Seminars in February, and become a real expert by attending every month.

Remember, this hands-on seminar is only \$5.00 and you can bring a friend for FREE! Call ahead to register and pre-pay, 925-447-0280.

Notes for February Gardening

Place **three inches of mulch** around trees, shrubs and flowerbeds to keep weeds under control. Keep the mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs as well as the stems of bedding plants to prevent crown rot.

Start applying **Master Nursery Hydrangea Blue** monthly through summer for bright blue hydrangeas.

Remove old flowers on camellias and azaleas to reduce the chance of petal blight.

A blooming token of your love this **Valentine's Day** says it best! Choose from an assortment of beautiful orchids, African violets, cyclamen and lush house plants.

WE WISH A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS

ARBOR DAY IS MARCH 7th! Celebrate by planting a tree in your yard or a favorite school or park.

In addition to baby tree seedlings each for 2nd graders in the Livermore and Pleasanton School districts, Alden Lane is offering a free tree valued at \$39.99 or a credit of \$39.99 toward a larger tree to be donated to your school or park (one tree per site please). Contact the recipient to ask what kind of tree they would like, then call us to reserve. We will hold your tree selection at the nursery until you or the recipient can pick up for planting.

We are happy to help in the greening of our community. We will offer a tree starter kit at a special price to help ensure a healthy beginning.

Nourish Your Plants

Be prepared by the 1st of March to fertilize all your plants, flowers, shrubs and fruit trees, flowering trees and shade trees.

March marks the onset of Spring with warmer temperatures. Even by mid February new growth can be seen emerging from winter weary shrubs and plants. Nurture that lovely new growth with a healthy feeding of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium found in **Maxsea** water-soluble plant food. Nitrogen feeds the green parts of the plants and helps produce lush, beautiful foliage. Phosphorus promotes more and bigger blooms as well as vigorous roots. Potash promotes general disease resistance and plant health.

Maxsea, derived partly from sea kelp, contains fast acting (Nitrate) nitrogen and phosphorus and potash, but also a large collection of micronutrients that significantly rounds out the meal for hungry plants.

We have Maxsea samples for you to try mid to late February.

Try **Maxsea** and notice the striking difference.

It does a wonderful job of greening up your plants for spring and preparing your garden plants for a lovely spring show of blooms.



pH Adjuster Plus

Plants take nutrients up from the soil most efficiently when soil pH is neutral or slightly acidic. **pH Adjuster Plus** when applied over the soil surface and watered in, gently acidifies the soil and allows nitrogen, iron and other essential nutrients and elements to be released for uptake through plant roots. The end result is a healthier, more beautiful plant with brighter, greener foliage.

pH Adjuster Plus is a pelletized sulfur that is much easier to apply than more conventional soil sulfur (no annoying dust).

Almost all plants will appreciate 2 to 3 applications per year but those plants that respond most dramatically to a pH adjustment include citrus, blueberries, camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons and other plants that develop a seasonal yellowing of the leaf related to iron chlorosis. Most likely you can think of at least one plant you have around your home that suffers from leaf yellowing. Apply and then water or time your application to let winter rains do the watering for you.

Recipe for Good Garden Soil! Good Garden Soil Starts Here!!

GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

For each 100 square feet add:

- 5 to 8— 2 cubic ft. bags **Master Gold Rush** or **Bumper Crop**®
- 5 lbs. **Iron Sulfate** to acidify and add iron.
- 10 lbs. **Master Vegetable Food** or **Master Flower Food**, **Master Formula 49** can be used for ground covers.
- 50 lbs. **Gypsum**. It loosens hard soils as it adds sulfur & calcium. (An excellent addition in our heavy soil.)

Mix well with your soil to an 8" depth and water well.

Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** on CTV30 for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright Monday through Friday, 7:30 am and 1:30 pm; and repeated on Saturday at 7:30 and 11 am, and 4 pm; & Sunday at 7:30 and 11 am, 1 and 4 pm.
- **Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club** meets this month on Thursday, February 12th. The location is the Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker is **Deborah Whigham of Digging Dog Nursery**. Call 417-8809 for more information.
- **Mt. Diablo Rose Society** meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call 829-4929 for details.
- Winter Tours in Walnut Creek of the **Ruth Bancroft Garden** will be held every Saturday into March. Reservations are required. For more information call 925-210-9663 or visit their website: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.
- **2009 Daffodil Show**, co-sponsored by the Northern California Daffodil Society and Alden Lane Nursery. Groom those blooms to enter on Saturday morning, between 6 a.m. & 10 a.m. March 7th. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Come by:

March 7th 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
March 8th 9 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Daffodil Lecture: Saturday, March 7th at 2 p.m.

Plan to attend a free special guest lecture on **"Greet Spring in Your Garden with New Daffodils"** by Bob Spotts.

- If you like armloads of cut flowers in the spring and summer you can start now by **planting gladiolus, dahlias and other summer blooming bulbs**. Alden Lane has a full complement available

Vegetable Gardening Class

Join us to hear Ginger from Suncatcher Harvest here at the nursery to "Talk Tomatoes" & More on Saturday, February 21st at 11 a.m. The grower of all our Heirloom vegetables, Ginger will provide growing secrets and help with variety selection. She will also share some delicious recipes to use with your home grown produce. **THIS IS A FREE CLASS** but call ahead to reserve a seat.

Enjoy a **10% DISCOUNT** on Preordered Spring Planted Suncatcher Harvest Vegetables

Visit aldenlane.com to view vegetable options and pre-print an order form.

Ginger from Suncatcher is a great grower whose vegetable plants are legendary. Choose from over 40 varieties of her delicious tomato varieties. She also offers cucumbers, melons, peppers, eggplants, squash and pumpkins. To assure you'll be the first to receive your special varieties right off the truck you can preorder & prepay. As they arrive we'll tag the very best and give you a call. You'll earn a 10% discount for the Early Bird order and you'll be well on your way to enjoying a summer and fall filled with "Incredible Edibles" from your very own garden.

Book preorders until March 1st. To help you decide which varieties to grow attend our free vegetable seminar.



Try a New Crop - Plant Potatoes

The smooth, buttery flavor of homegrown potatoes can't be beat. As a child I picked potatoes for my great aunt in Santa Cruz. The pungent earthy smell has stayed with me through the years bringing back memories of scratching away the soil to unearth another tasty gem. Alden Lane has a great selection of varieties that will do well in our valley. Create some memories with your family and enjoy homegrown freshness and flavor.

- **CAL WHITE:** This wonderful boiling potato is also great for scalloped or mashed potatoes. And, it makes a great potato salad.
- **LADSODA RED:** It will produce potatoes that have bright red skins and white flesh. They are ideal for boiling with no darkening after cooking.
- **NORKOTA RUSSET:** Very similar to Idaho's famous Burbank. The good old fashioned baking potato with the rough skin. This one is much more disease resistant than the Burbank and very productive too.

- **YUKON GOLD:** An early potato maturing in 65+ days. Buttery yellow flesh is delicious. Variety makes a good steamer/boiler or use in salads.
 - **ADIRONDACK BLUE:** A newer gourmet variety that is extremely popular. It has purple skin and purple flesh. They are small to medium in size and offer an excellent flavor for a "baker".
 - **BANANA:** The Banana potato is excellent for salads, it is a favorite among chefs and gourmet markets. Yellow, banana-shaped, waxy-type tubers with firm texture that have wonderful flavor baked, boiled and steamed.
- Harvest new potatoes when plants begin to bloom in June and more mature potatoes when plants begin to die down in mid-summer.

Get Ready For Spring!

A magical date on the calendar cycles around the year and arrives again in a few short weeks. It's a date that varies by region, but in the East Bay Area, the first of March marks the day the winter garden tasks need to be done, and spring is ready to ... well "spring forth" in glory. There are a number of key chores best accomplished in the garden right now, just before spring wakes up. Careful timing of pruning & fertilizing by March 1st for many plants means a floriferous start for a successful new year.

➤ Though most winter pruning is already finished, pruning can be done on a number of evergreen plants mid February to about March 1st that cannot be done as successfully at any other time of the year. Two plants in particular come to mind that can get a little overgrown and out of bounds; *African Iris* (Morea or Dietes) and *New Zealand Flax*. These can be successfully refreshed by pruning to the ground this month and allowed to regrow a whole outfit of luscious new foliage through the warm months of spring. Pruning back now means new growth will be beautiful and graceful, and your plant will be kept smaller! This process works on similar strap-leaved plants that send out new leaves in spring such as lirioppe and society garlic. Frost tender plants



with a tropical history such as citrus need to wait a month or risk frost burn.

➤ Mid February is also an excellent time to apply organic plant foods or other nutrient-rich products to flowers, shrubs fruit trees and lawns. Plant foods applied now usually have spring rains to help carry them into the soil. The gentle rise in temperature helps organic processes convert the nutrients into simpler forms the plant can use. Organic fertilizers breakdown slowly and deliver nutrients to the plant at a steady rate, as the plant needs it, producing healthy growth that is often more disease and insect resistant.

➤ The following list includes some of our favorite products to apply now so nutrients are in place as the plants need food:

- **Pay Dirt** (Includes compost, chicken manure and michorizial fungus that assist plants in nutrient/moisture uptake.) Spread 2 inches over the ground around perennials, veggie and flower beds. Or rake a layer over the lawn.
- **E.B. Stone Organics:** An assortment of specialty fertilizers; apply now to feed fruit trees, shrubs, roses and perennials. These specially formulated fertilizers include beneficial microbes that help process nutrients.
- **Natures Green Lawn Food:** turn over a new leaf, join the trend toward environmentally friendly lawn care.
- **Fruit tree and Vine Food** though not organic, traditionally goes around deciduous fruit trees now and in the fall.
- **FST** (iron and sulfur) applied now helps restore the green color in citrus, camellias azaleas and other acid loving plants.
- **John and Bob's Soil Optimizer:** (contains leonardite) is shown to improve garden soil with 2 applications a year, one now and one in early summer.
- **Azomite:** (Rock powder) contains 70 micro-nutrients to round out a plants diet. Before and after pictures show a dramatic improvement in size and appearance of plants including fruit trees, vegetables, and lawns.
- **Pre-emergent Weed Control:** In the same way that desirable plants are about to hit a growth spurt, so too are weeds and February is a perfect time to prevent them. We have several to choose from including those targeting lawn weeds, traditional options for flower and shrub beds and organic options for vegetables and lawns or general-purpose weed prevention.

➤ Take the time in the next few weeks to invest in the garden, doing so now will pay dividends of beauty in the garden in months ahead.

Summer Bulbs Start today in the Garden

A home filled with fragrant cut lilies, gladiolus, dahlias and other blooming bulbs can be yours by braving the cold damp garden in February. Summer bulbs are here! Come early for the very best selection of colors and varieties.

Their bright and dramatic colors make great garden accents for the long, hot summer days. If you plant the Gladiolus every two weeks you will have a kaleidoscope of colorful cut flowers through the summer. Dahlias are available in different heights and flower forms. The tubers get bigger every year and provide a larger and more colorful show.

Northern facing garden spots can benefit from the beauty of tuberous Begonias. Vivid reds, oranges and pinks as well as pastel shades are available in different flower forms. Plant the hanging variety in baskets and enjoy at eye level through your windows. Come by and see our fabulous selections.

From The Garden Store ANDREA'S FAVES

"Producing SoapRocks to Echo the Earth's Beauty"

In Form and Function

SoapRocks — Dedicated to our skin, our spirit, our earth, "take it for granite"

A unique blend of whole herb extracts, vitamins and minerals from aquatic, botanical, and terrestrial sources come together as never before, in the gentle biodegradable bases of SoapRocks with extracts of earth- Organic Aloe, Chlorophyll, Camomile, Calendula, Lavender, Organic Olive Oil, Almond Oil, Jojoba Oil, Palm Oil, Mineral Earth.

SoapRocks are very mild and extra long lasting. As they gently cleanse, each soap will weather away like a stream stone in geologic time, ever so slowly exposing the beauty locked away within. Gentle for sensitive skin.

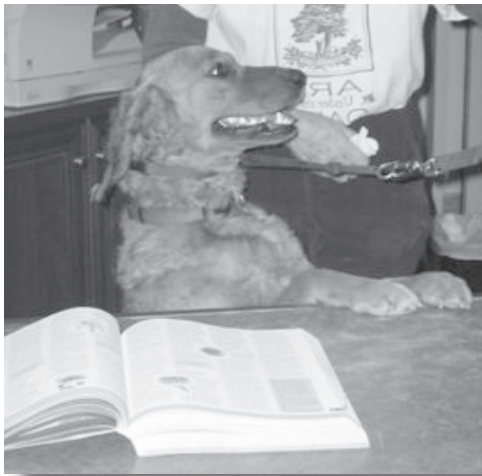
Contain **No Animal Products, and Tested on Human Beings.**



Wake Up With Wonder

SoapRocks are replicas of the earth's precious stones. Like fresh air on different days, each variety has its own unique light aroma. Several premium soap bases are required to bring such wonderful washing qualities to SoapRocks. Up to 180 additional steps are necessary to recreate each soap, the beauty that takes nature millions of years.

Soothe yourself after a long work day. As you bathe, discover the freshness, the aroma, the beauty and the soft feel of your skin. Most of all, contemplate what's important to you and the beauty that makes every day precious.



Hailey's Comments

Heart filled greetings to all the garden lovers of Livermore Valley. I'm Hailey, the resident canine Valentine of Alden Lane. Valentine's Day has its roots originating with us four legged tail-waggers. That's correct my dear students of love, it all started with a simple nuzzle between pooches that got labeled puppy love.

In my Labrador-itory of relationships I have observed there is very little difference between loving your

pet and loving your plant. Allow me to embark on a leash of loving behaviors benefitting both the Kingdom Animalia as well as the Kingdom Plantae.

1) Be attentive to your lover's abode and surroundings. Observe for signs of dehydration, appropriate lighting and proper drainage.

2) Look at your lover with eyes of compassion. Taking notice of marks of injury to hair or leaf. Muzzle those perpetrators.

3) Smile at your lover. Patience and perseverance are required for obedience and blooming. It may take purposeful digging around to achieve the balance of training and fertilizing to master your lover's greatest potential.

*Alden Lane will be hosting our **Vegetable Gardening Seminar, on Saturday, February 21st, at 11 a.m.** Master Gardener Ginger from **Sun Catcher Harvest** will give advice on how to love your plants most affectionately. Don't do this relational seminar alone, bring your pooch and questions of your plants and garden to Alden Lane. Remember that the human folk are more approachable when led by a confident canine.*

Orchids 101

Stumped or frustrated with the orchids in your care?

We will help you cut through the myths and mysteries of the orchid world and set you on the path to healthy orchids and blooming success. Join us every second Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. for 1½ hour session of learning (and a few laughs) as Sue gives you a quick boot camp to blooms. The next class is **Saturday, February 14th**, and it is repeated **Saturday, March 14th**.

Sign up with our Alden Lane Cashiers to save your spot. **THE COST IS \$10. BRING A FRIEND FOR FREE!**

Paws for Reflection: *Love is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky a human will love you in return. (Dog Dictionary, 2003)*

Seasonal February Favorites!

This is the peak of selection.

Old Fashioned Lilacs – Timeless...Classic...Wonderfully fragrantplant now for spring bloom! Pure white to the deepest purple.

Sweet Daphne – An old fashioned fragrance for your garden! Budded and Blooming now. Perfect for bright shade. Great container plant. Waxy pink and white flower clusters will perfume a room.

Happy Wanderer Vine – THE #1 Best Vine for winter color. The “Royal Cloak” of the winter garden. Royal purple at its best. Evergreen, water wise and hot sun loving.

2009 Rose Collection is Here!!

Visit aldenlane.com. Color photos of all 2009 roses are now on our web site!!

Blooming Beauty – The Camellia!

February is prime Camellia time! The *C. japonica*'s are budded and beginning to bloom. It's the perfect time to pick the flower style and color you are looking for. Among the many varieties we stock are:

- '**Bob Hope**' a large, semi-double to loose peony flower, with dark red blossoms
- '**Carters Sunburst**' a large, semi-double peony flower, with pale pink blooms flecked with a deeper pink
- '**Debutante**' is a medium-sized peony flower with light pink blossoms
- '**Grand Prix**' is a large, semi-double, light red blooms with yellow stamens
- '**In the Pink**' medium-sized, formal double, rose pink blooms with occasional deep rose markings
- '**Kramer's Supreme**' a large, lightly fragrant, full peony, deep red to rose-red blossoms
- '**Marie Bracey**' is a large, semi-double to loose peony, rich pink blooms
- '**Nuccio's Gem**' is a medium to large, formal double, with pure white blossoms
- '**Pearl Maxwell**' a large, formal double, shell pink blooms
- '**Silver Waves**' is a large, wavy, semi-double, with white blossoms with sprays of stamens

Camellia japonica's are slow to moderate growers. Habits vary from compact and upright to loose and spreading.

- Plant in a well drained organic soil (**Acid Planting Mix**).
- Filtered or bright shade all day is the best exposure, early a.m. sun before 10 or late day sun after 5:00 p.m. would also be okay. (Protect from heat of the day).
- Feed monthly September through March with **Master Bloom** and monthly April through August with **Master's Azalea, Camellia, Gardenia Acid Food**.
- Quarterly applications of **Iron Plus** will keep the leaves bright green.



Win Special Rose Feeding Recipe Ingredients . . . to apply in March!

- 5 lbs. Bone Meal
- 5 lbs. Master's 16-16-16
- 5 lbs. Iron Sulfate
- 5 lbs. Magnesium Sulfate
- 30 lbs. Chicken Fertilizer

A \$40.00 Value

No purchase necessary. Drawing to be held February 28, 2009.

ROSE RECIPE INGREDIENTS

February 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

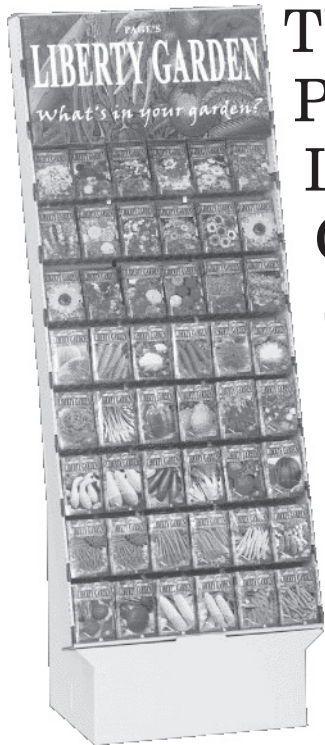
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Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

SPECIAL COUPON

Present This Coupon & A Canned Food Item
TO RECEIVE FREE Your Choice of



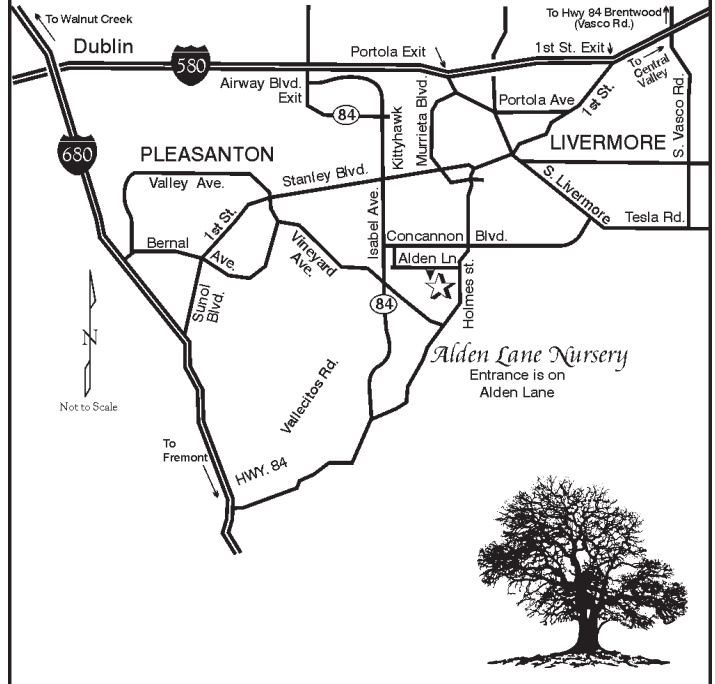
Three Packets of Liberty Garden Seed Varieties

(\$2.67 Value)

Food Donations are
Optional. All donations
go to local relief
agencies. One coupon
per family, please!

Offer Good
February 1-28, 2009.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY



Special February Hours For Alden Lane Nursery: We will be open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in February with the exception of the following dates: On February 2nd – 6th and 9th – 13th, we will open at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. to accommodate staff training.



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

Change Service Requested

IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

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