



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

MARCH 2009

Serving You Since 1955

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

Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** on CTV30 for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright at 7:30 am and 1:30 p.m. Monday - Friday; repeated on Saturday at 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. & Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- The **Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club** will meet on Tuesday, March 12th at 7 p.m. at the Alisal School multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Our speaker is **Bill Grant**, a garden writer, photographer and founder of the CA Garden Landscape Historical Society. Bill will be speaking about tea roses. For more information please contact Sally at 417-8809.
- **Bonsai Club** meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Alden Lane Nursery. Come one, come all!
- **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.
- **Win a 'Front Yard' Edible Landscape Make Over!**
If you live in Livermore or Pleasanton you have a chance to win a front yard "Edible Landscape" makeover! To learn about the contest details please visit our website at www.aldenlane.com. This offer is a collaborative effort between Alden Lane and members of our 'green' industry to raise awareness of the benefits of growing your own nutritious produce by refocusing your water use on a **'give back garden plot'**.

Celebrating Spring at Alden Lane is Sure to Put A Hop in Your Step

Come to our Garden Store to see lots and lots of Bunnies — grass bunnies, vintage-style glittered bunnies, fuzzy bunnies, sugared bunnies plus many more. All of these charming bunnies gathered over 100 eggs to help add happy accents to your Easter table. Be on the lookout for **Andrea's Favorite Funny Bunny**.



Our Garden Store buyers have just returned from a buying extravaganza. Visit us to see the latest and hottest Home and Garden trends for 2009.

Grow Your Own Easter Grass!

We have wheat grass and annual rye grass seed, perfect to grow an instant Easter egg nest in pots, bowls, vases and baskets. Simply fill the container with soil, sprinkle with seed, water and watch it grow! Wheat grass seed germinates in 3-4 days and the annual rye in 7-10 days.

The 2009 Daffodil Show

co-sponsored by the

Northern California Daffodil Society & Alden Lane Nursery
MARCH 7th & 8th

Public entries are welcome . . . so groom those blooms to enter on Saturday morning, March 7th from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Bring address labels to speed the process.

Come enjoy the show: March 7th, 1 - 5 p.m. • March 8th, 9 a.m - 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.



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

If you are preparing a vegetable garden now or just dreaming about it, it's still a great time to improve the soil. Follow our "**Recipe**" to improve the texture and fertility of your little piece of earth.

This should be a part of your vegetable garden routine 1 to 2 times a year. Amend the valley soils to give your plants their best opportunity for growth. Keep this recipe handy for your planting needs.

GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

For each 100 square feet add:

- 10 cubic ft. of soil conditioner: **Master Gold Rush** or **Bumper Crop**® (5-8 bags)
- 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.

Bonide Tree and Shrub Insect Control

**One application provides
a whole year of protection**

Many gardeners have at least one tree that is particularly susceptible to insect infestations of one kind or another. Sometimes an insect drops a sticky substance that makes a mess of the patio or whatever is parked below it. An insect can weaken the tree, or in the case of borers, eventually kill the tree. Usually when a customer brings in samples to the nursery and wonders what can be done, the infestation is far enough along that any treatment is expensive and too late. **Bonide Tree and Shrub Insect Control** is effective and is very easy to use. Apply it now to prevent this year's infestations before they begin. This product can be used on ornamentals for control of borers, aphids and scale, as well as many other insects. (The product may also be used on a few apple-pear relatives, but is generally not for edibles). **Bonide Tree and Shrub Insect Control** is very easy to use. It is not sprayed on, but is diluted with water and poured around the base of the tree. One application provides a whole year of protection. Get a head start and protect your trees now.

Visit our website, www.aldenlane.com to preview many of the warm season vegetables we'll be carrying. Just click on "Summer Vegetables". You'll find great photos and descriptions of 'delicious produce' you can grow in your garden. Prepare your soil in March and plant in April!

Vegetable Gardening Soil Preparation Class

With Greg

Saturday, March 14th
11:00 am - 12 noon

Sunday, March 15th
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

You will receive great information and a \$5.00 Coupon for a store purchase.

**The cost is \$5. BRING A FRIEND
FOR FREE!**

Notes for March Gardening

🎵 **Feed! Feed! Feed!** Fertilize all of your plants to support spring growth. For landscape shrubs and trees feed with **Master's Formula 49 All Purpose Plant Food**. If you have a citrus or avocado trees, use **Master's Citrus Food**. This is a good time to start feeding fruit trees, grapes and berries. We recommend **Master's Fruit Tree & Vine Food** for the nutrition your plants need to produce the best crop ever! We have a full line of organic fertilizers.

🎵 **Prune azaleas and camellias** into shape after their blooms have faded. Feed them with **Master's Camellia, Azalea and Gardenia Food and Iron Plus** monthly through October.

🎵 Place **Yellow Jacket traps** out early this month to catch the queen before she starts her family. Prevention is the best cure!

🎵 Now is the time to **set out snail bait**. We carry Master's Snail control products in a variety of forms. Use **Sluggo** if you want a non toxic alternative.

🎵 **Start annual morning glories** from seed this month and establish them in the garden or a pot by summer! Morning glories are one of the most stunning of the old fashioned garden flowers. Flowers are huge – three to five inches across – and bright, colorful blue, purple or pink. Best of all, morning glories are easy!

🎵 Remember to **plant gladiolus bulbs** (corms) every two weeks and you'll have armloads of cut flowers through the summer.

🎵 Give your lawn "a meal – not a snack" with **Master Green Lawn Food**.

🎵 Remember to **water plants under eaves** and in containers. It's important now to deep water trees and shrubs if it isn't raining on a regular basis. Their root systems are starting to grow now.

🎵 **Prevent Wormy Apples** - Control Codling Moth. If you have apple trees and want to monitor codling moth activity to determine the best time to spray: use our **Surefire Fruit Tree Pest Traps**.

🎵 **San Francisco Flower & Garden** show will be held March 18-22. Purchase Early Bird discounted tickets for \$16 at the nursery through March 17th after this date the tickets are \$20 and still available here at the nursery. For more information go to www.gardenshow.com for show hours, driving directions and educational opportunities.

🎵 The 25th annual **Bouquet's to Art** silver anniversary is at the de Young Museum in San Francisco. March 17-21. Floral designers fill the de Young museum galleries with floral tributes complementing works of art. Please call for prices and more information call 800-777-9996 or visit www.bouquetstoart.org.

🎵 Come to the 64th Annual **Northern California Camellia Society Show** at the First Baptist Church of Walnut Creek, 2336 Buena Vista Avenue, Walnut Creek, Saturday, March 14th from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Ample parking. For more information email GHGoff@aol.com.



Hailey's Comments

Sustainable salutations to the resourceful members of the gardening community. I'm Hailey, the conservation canine at Alden Lane Nursery. We gardeners of the Livermore Valley are the original partners of an eco-friendly community. Our endeavor of planting gardens has lead our Livermore pack to naturally reclaimed nutrition.

To the dog, a bone is a keepsake, received as a gift, and beautiful to the eye of the beholder. We canines bury our mementos while humans publicly display their keepsakes. Knodt's, the local Pure Bred Florist of Livermore since 1947 has a business tradition of creating unique floral treasures for the human race to take notice of. The creative and sentimental gardener can have their homegrown hydrangeas or roses carefully dehydrated and nuzzled into an original wreath or bouquet, showing off their trophy blooms for years to come. The practical young tail wagers can invest in a Re-memorable wrist corsage that serves near and long term purposes. The flowers are attached to a jeweled or beaded bracelet that remains as a lasting memory of the event long after the flowers are removed.

Mid March marks the last day of frost for gardeners as well as furry pooches. As the fur bodied creatures around your abode begin to shed their winter coats, so the gardener can shed the frost fabric that has protected their sensitive plants from the vermin frost. The placement of new vegetables can be safely planted out doors as we welcome the warmth of Spring 2009.

Paws for Reflection: My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is increased to \$1.00 per can. That's almost \$7.00 in dog money.

— Joe Weinstein



From The Garden Store

ANDREA'S FAVES

"Feather Your Nest With the Melody Collection"

Combining bird and floral motifs with the soothing color palettes of weathered whites and sky blues, Melody's simple elegance is on-trend for today.

Melody's table setting finds itself equally at home in a casual dinner setting or at a special occasion, creating an informal air of comfort and simplicity. Colors and textures take their cue from nature, creating alluring charm. Gracefully sculpted details found throughout the entire collection offer ceramic dinnerware in blue and white, with coordinating accent pieces to make a complete statement.

Melody includes home décor and garden pieces, bringing the beauty of the songbirds into your home or garden. Ceramic planters carry the distinctive design, color and sculptural detail that blend seamlessly with the tabletop line.

Come Join Us! Concrete Leaf Classes!

By popular demand, Sue and Heather of Alden Lane will present concrete leaf classes. Many folks have seen these spectacularly colorful leaves up in our greenhouse display and wanted to learn the process to make their very own creations. They make wonderful garden ornaments, birdbaths, and even fountains.

These leaves are not made from molds, but from the wonderful leaves abundant in the garden this time of year. It is a very fun project, and we will provide all the necessary materials and instruction to make a medium size 10"- 12" concrete leaf- just bring yourself, a pair of rubber gloves and clothes you can get dirty. You will leave the finished project with us for a week to partially cure before taking it home. Once you make one leaf, you'll want to make more and more-it's very addicting because they come out so beautifully. We will equip you with the knowledge you need to create a garden full of exotic leaves.

\$48.00 per class, or \$75.00 when paired with the Leaf Painting Workshop held at a later date after the leaf has sufficiently dried. 15 person class limit. Please pre-register with our Alden Lane cashiers. Classes are scheduled as follows:

- **Saturday, March 21st, 11:00 - 12 noon**
- **Sunday, March 29th, 11:00 - 12 noon**

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 a 1½ hour session of learning (and a few laughs) as Sue gives you a quick boot camp to blooms. The next class is **Saturday, March 14th.**

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

Summer Bouquets Start Today

All the bulbs you plant this spring will fill your summer gardens with armloads of beautiful cut flowers. Think about what a great addition the dahlias and gladiolus will provide to a summer bouquet.

Glads – The tall flower stalks covered with beautiful florets. If you plant two weeks apart you will have plenty of garden color and loads of cut flowers to arrange in summer bouquets.

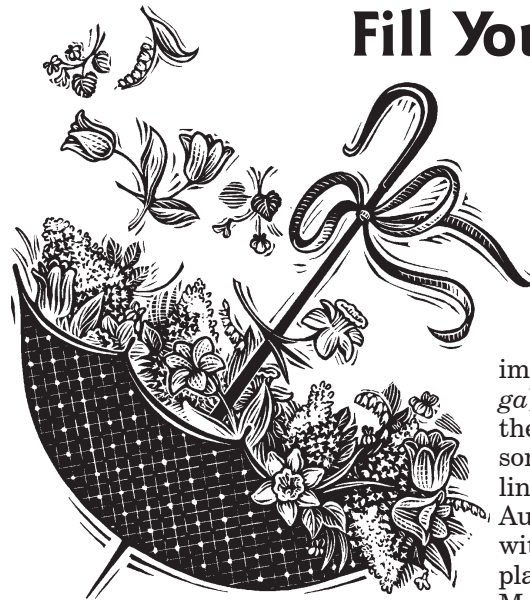
Dahlias – Take your pick of separate colors in dinner plate, decorative, cactus, and pompom flower forms. They are show stoppers.

Lilies – Choose Jan de Graaff hybrids for the best flower size available. Large trumpet forms on tall stems and multi-flowered varieties are available for flower arranging including Stargazer.

Tuberose – The sweet fragrance of this flower will perfume a room. Plant tubers in the full sun or bright shade; feed monthly after plants emerge from soil and until buds show color.

Tuberous Begonias – Beautiful hybrids with ruffled double flowers in rose form, upright and hanging basket varieties. These are shade lovers.

Check with our staff for detailed planting instructions. We have the bulbs, the know-how and the experience to get you growing.



Fill Your Garden With Fragrance!

Give yourself a treat and fill the garden with fragrance. Just a few of these “old fashioned” beauties scent the garden as well as add flowers and form.

One tiny addition to the garden that can make a powerful fragrant impact is **Brown Boronia** (*B. megastigma*). It has a pleasant scent that combines the essence of freesia and orange blossoms. The bell-shaped flowers are brown lined with a creamy yellow center. This Australian native has finely divided leaves with needlelike leaflets which gives the plant a wispy look. Blooms February-March. Plant in filtered light or sun.

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) is one addition to the garden that transcends generational preference and is known for its sweet fragrance as well as armloads of cut flowers. Flowers form in elongated clusters of tiny flowers. Lilacs are available in a range of colors from pure white to a deep maroon red as well as shades of lavenders, blues and purples. Flowers appear in late April and May.

Although not well known, **Sweet box** (*Sarcococca ruscifolia*) is a powerhouse of fragrance. It has waxy, glossy deep green leaves and a clean look to the foliage. Flowers in early spring are small, white and nearly hidden in foliage but fragrant enough to perfume the area. Flowers are followed by red fruit. This Himalayan native is very useful in shaded garden areas.

Come check out the other plant varieties that have fragrance to perfume your spring garden. We're here to help!

The Ultimate Rose Feeding Recipe

This is a must for those prize-winning roses. **March and August** are the two times this is applied:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| • Master's 16-16-16 Fertilizer | ½ cup | 4# bag for about 9 roses |
| • Bone Meal or Superphosphate | ½ cup | 4# bag for 18 roses |
| • Epsom Salts | 2 tbs. | 5# bag for 70+ roses |
| • Sulfur* | ½ cup | 5# bag for 18 roses |
| • Chicken Fertilizer | 1 shovel full | 30# bag for 9 roses |

Sprinkle the first four ingredients around each rose and mix into soil if possible. Add the chicken fertilizer and water in. **Remember never feed a thirsty plant!** A 1" mulch layer may be put around your roses to conserve water and insulate roots from summer heat.

Feed with Master's Rose & Flower Food monthly April-July and one last feeding in September.

*To supply sulfur, use one of the following: Iron Sulfate, Iron Plus, or Ph Adjuster-plus. Most iron containing products can stain; sweep off adjacent paving after application. Iron Plus is now non-staining! Do not combine with rose systemic products to avoid pet health hazards.

Free Water Wise Gardening & Water Efficiency Workshop

Co-Sponsored by the Zone 7 Water Agency and City of Pleasanton, in cooperation with Alden Lane Nursery & Bay-Friendly Landscape & Gardening program.

WHEN: Saturday, March 7th, 2:00-3:30 p.m. • **WHERE:** Pleasanton Public Library

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Watering 101: How much water do your plants really need?
- What types of plants are the most drought tolerant?
- What irrigation practices can save you water?
- What role does mulch play in water conservation?



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 given to each 2nd grader 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.

Start a Family Tradition This Arbor Day

Plant a tree in your garden, your park or local school and you will bring:

1. **Reduced Energy Use.** A well placed tree will provide cooling shade in summer and insulation in winter.
2. **Cleaner Air.** Did you know trees absorb 26 lbs. of carbon dioxide and replace it with precious oxygen.
3. **Homes for Birds.** Trees provide shelter and homes for our feathered friends.
4. **Cooler Communities.** Trees provide an oasis of shade during the summer and trap heat from our concrete streets and walkways.
5. **Prevent Soil Erosion.** Tree roots hold the soil in place on slopes as well as flat surfaces.

Spading Forks Make Gardening Easier

One of a gardener's most valued tools is certainly a spading fork, especially in our heavy clay soils. Looking like a four-pronged pitchfork but with flattened tines, a spading fork allows one to dig planting holes and turn over bedding soils with less effort than the conventional all-American, long-handled shovel. No tool penetrates valley soils when they are dry, but when soils are softened by spring rains; a spading fork beats out a shovel because less surface area touches the soil surface. In other words, the weight and effort of the gardener goes farther. Use a spading fork whenever you would use a conventional shovel.

Tool Sharpening Service at the Nursery is Back This Spring!

On Saturdays March 14th & 21st from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., come and meet **Absolutely Sharp!** You can bring in your tools, scissors, chain saws, and anything else you need to have sharpened. For a nominal fee, you can keep all your tools in tip top condition.

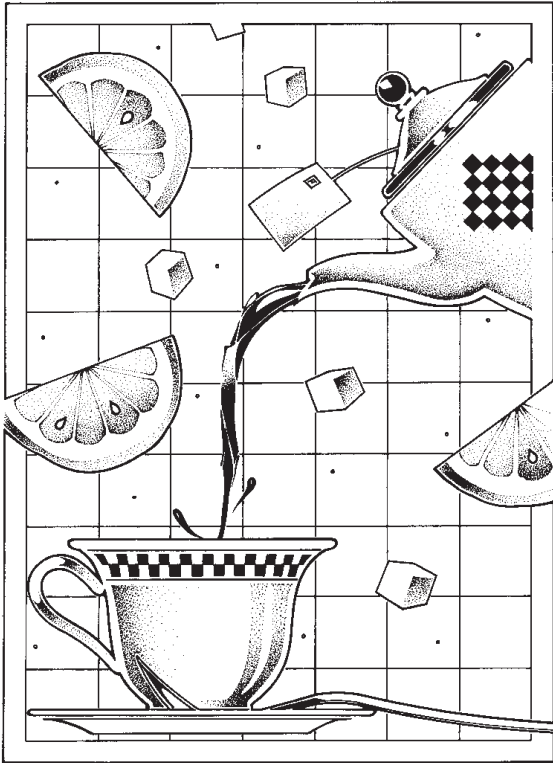
Give the "Gift of Green" To Celebrate St. Pat's Day

You do know that everyone and everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day? To celebrate this wonderful day stop by the nursery and choose something green! One of the day's specialties is pot of shamrocks. We can even add a green bow to make it official! So stop by and celebrate the 'wearing of the green'.



Citrus For Valley Gardeners

There are many varieties of citrus that do well in our area. Select a lemon, tangerine, orange or lime tree for home grown citrus. Choose a dwarf variety for a balcony or patio; they do equally well in planters or in the ground; or choose a standard size tree for larger spaces. Citrus will add to the beauty of your landscape as well as produce fragrant flowers and delicious fruit.



Citrus Feeding & Care Schedule

Year around: Feed **Master Nursery Citrus Food** monthly. Check directions for specifics. March, May and September: Apply **Iron Sulfate** or **Iron Plus** as directed. It acidifies and adds needed iron. For insulation from the cold, spray the foliage of citrus trees with **Cloud Cover** in early November. Tent with plant blanket and add outdoor Christmas lights for extra protection. **Master Snail, Slug and Insect Bait:** Apply this bait as directed to control snails, slugs, and other hungry bugs.

March Backyard Fruit Enthusiast Class "Citrus & the Home Orchard"

Saturday, March 21st, 11:00 - Noon

Join Josh and learn about variety selection, planting, care, and feeding. **\$5.00 and BRING A FRIEND FOR FREE.** Call ahead to reserve a seat.

Free Citrus Tasting on March 21st & 22nd!!

This is a perfect opportunity to sample a wide variety of citrus. You'll be able to taste oranges, mandarins, kumquats, limes, lemons and more when you visit. Come learn about this wonderful group of evergreen landscape plants that are not only beautiful to look at, produce sweetly scented flowers but also gives you delicious healthy fruit.

Come and join us on **Saturday, March 21st & Sunday, March 22nd from 10 a.m to 4 p.m.**

On Sunday there will be a special appearance at 11 a.m. by Aaron Dillon of **Four Winds Citrus Growers.**

Bring your questions and ask the expert.



A \$75.00 Value
No purchase
necessary.
Drawing to be
held 3/31/2009.

Win A Citrus Tree

You'll be enjoying home grown oranges, lemons or limes when you win your citrus in this month's contest. Just drop off the entry form at the nursery the next time you visit, and you may be the winner!

YOU'LL WIN:

- (1) **5 gallon citrus** of your choice (true dwarf or tree form)
- 2 cubic ft of **Master's Planting Mix**
- 4 lbs. of **Master's Start**
- 5 lbs. of **Iron Sulfate or Iron Plus**
- 5 lbs. of **Master's Citrus Food**

CITRUS TREE

March 2009

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

One Quart of Safer Liquid Plant Food with Fish Emulsion!!

*All your plants will love this
"back to basics" fertilizer.*

(\$3.99 Value)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to Tri Valley
Haven. One coupon per family, please!
Offer Good March 1-31, 2009.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY



ALDEN LANE NURSERY HOURS:

March 1st to March 8th — 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. • Beginning March 9th — 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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

Change Service Requested

IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

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