



# Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

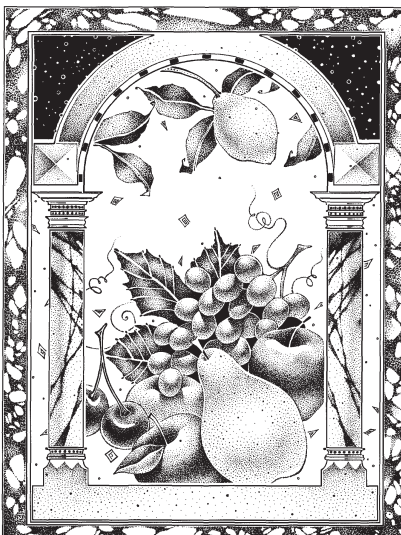
APRIL 2009

Serving You Since 1955

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA • [www.aldenlane.com](http://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 am, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. & Sunday at 7:30 am., 11 am, 1 pm and 4 pm.
- **Bonsai Club** meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1 pm at Alden Lane Nursery. Come one, come all!
- The **Livermore Valley Garden Club** will meet on Thursday, April 9th at 7 p.m. at the Alisal School Multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Pleasanton. Garden writer and photographer Bill Grant will speak on Tea Roses for California. For more information call Sally at 417-8809. Don't miss the club's **Annual Plant Sale on Sat., April 19th**, 9-noon at Pleasanton's Amador Valley High School Parking lot on Santa Rita Road.
- **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.
- **Bay-Friendly Garden Tour**, Sunday, April 26, 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Online registration for the 6th Annual Bay-Friendly Garden Tour is now live at [www.BayFriendly.org](http://www.BayFriendly.org). There's a whole new set of gardens to see with clusters in Pleasanton, Livermore, Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley. Sign up now to reserve your space!
- **Bringing Back the Natives Tour**, Sunday, May 3rd 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free self guided tour of 60 East Bay Gardens. Visit [www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net) for more information.
- **Hidden Gardens of the Valley Garden Tour** (benefitting the Valley Humane Society), Sunday, May 17 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from Alden Lane Nursery or online at [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org). For more information call 925-918-0799.



*friend for FREE.* Call ahead to reserve your seat.

## April Backyard Fruit Enthusiast Class

**Saturday, April 18th,  
11:00 - Noon**

Join Josh for this informative class. Learn about "Fruit Salad" and other multigrafted trees and the importance of fruit thinning. Class fee is \$5.00 *and bring a*

## Designing with Edibles in the Landscape

**Saturday, April 25th, 11:30 - 12:30, FREE**

Patricia Wagner, Certified Garden Designer, will talk about incorporating vegetables, fruit trees in your garden's design. She will show pictures, provide illustrations and share innovations in containers and provide many other creative 'garden ideas'. Have your garden look great and give you food too! Call ahead to reserve a seat in this free class.

## Extreme Gardening: The Secrets of Growing a 500 pound Pumpkin Workshop

**Saturday, April 25th, 2:00-3:00, FREE**

Learn from the master, **Stuart Shim**, the *Giant Pumpkin Kahuna*. You'll learn to grow a very large vegetable by attending this FREE, fun, interesting and educational workshop. One packet of 'Atlantic Giant' giant pumpkin seeds (retail \$6.00) will be *given away free* to all attendees. Call ahead to reserve a seat!

## SPRING ROSE SHOWS

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Rose Shows. They are easy to exhibit in and easier to attend. Plan on attending these two.

### Mt. Diablo Rose Society Spring Rose Show

**Saturday, May 2nd**

Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Novice public entries welcome between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. Enjoy the show from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

### The 69th Annual Pleasanton Public Rose Show

Sponsored by Alain Pinel, City of Pleasanton and Alden Lane Nursery.

**Saturday, May 9th** at the Pleasanton Library  
400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566

You can enter cut flowers from 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Judging: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Show hours: Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Award Ceremony Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

All backyard novice entries are welcome.

For more information visit [www.pleasantonroseshow.com](http://www.pleasantonroseshow.com)

## Rose Spray Program

The program, combines disease and pest control with fertilizer. The following are the ingredients to make up the basic spray and the amount of each to be combined and added to one gallon of water.

Ortho Othenex	2 tablespoons
MAXSEA 16-16-16	1 tablespoon
Gromore Seaweed Extract	4 tablespoons
Vinegar	1 tablespoon



The first spray should be made at the moment disease is first noticeable, then as needed thereafter. For maximum protection and feeding, you can spray every 10 days through the spring growing season. Read and follow Pesticide labels.

**Remember never spray or feed a thirsty plant.** Always water your plants well the day before. It's important to avoid the heat of the day when treating and take care with your dilutions (don't overdose)!



## Tasty Tomatoes For Your Summer Salads! Vegetable Gardens Start This Month!

Feeling adventurous? Ready to try some new tomato varieties this year? We have them! Check out this list of varieties and sizes. We know there's something to fit your taste and gardening needs. Prepare your soil with our Recipe for Good Garden Soil. If you want to plant your tomatoes in containers we'll help you select just the right varieties. April is a great month to start planting your vegetable garden. We have seeds, seedlings and four inch plants to help get you going. Once the danger of frost has passed you can set out tomatoes, eggplant and pepper starts. As temperatures warm plant watermelon, cucumbers, pumpkins, beans, and more. Melons, cucumbers, basil are the most cold sensitive. We have a great selection of tomato cages, pet safe organic snail and bug baits, vegetable fertilizer along with tips for good growing. Stop by and see us soon!

### Tomato Varieties

• **Cherry Size:** Currant, Green Grape, Isis Candy, Red Grape, Red Pear, Snow White, Suncherry, Sun Gold, Sweet Olive, Thai Pink.

• **Small to Medium:** Amish Paste, Black Prince, Garden Peach, Green Zebra, Heatwave, Italian Gold, Juliet, Mt. Gold, Pink Ping Pong, Speckled Roman, Yellow Stuffer

• **Large:** Abraham Lincoln, Big Pick, Black Krim, Cherokee Purple, Delicious Golden, Granny Smith, Great White, Jumbo, Mr. Strikey, Sausage

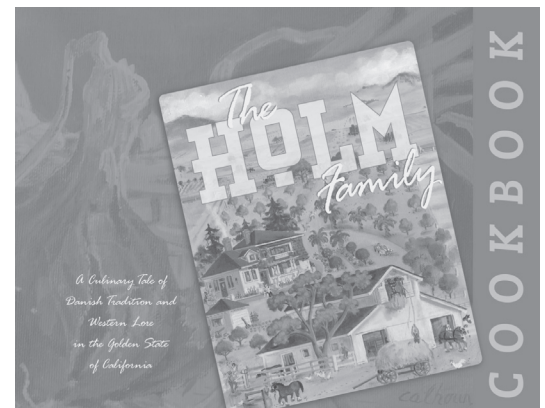
• **Extra Large:** Big Rainbow, Brandywine, Yellow Brandywine, Dinner Plate, Prudens Purple, Watermelon, Hillbilly

## Join Us on Mother's Day Weekend

**Saturday, May 9th  
from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

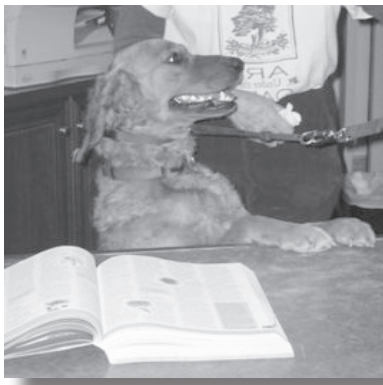
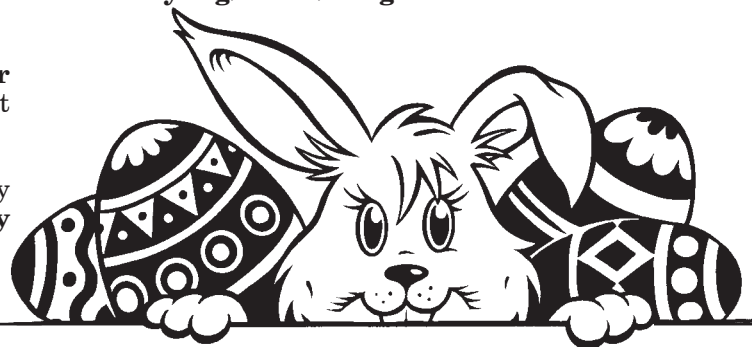
Meet the author of the *Holm Family Cookbook*, take home a signed copy and sample a delicious recipe taste treat.

Cost is \$35.00 plus tax. Call ahead to register and prepay.



# Notes for April Gardening

- ♪ **Looking for planting directions?** Check out our new planting instructions on our web site (www.aldenlane.com). The new planting instructions are simple, easy to follow and well illustrated.
- ♪ Now is the time to hang **Yellow Jacket Traps**. Early spring is the time to capture the colony's queens thus exponentially reducing the yellow jackets in the area later in the year.
- ♪ Make sure to **fertilize all your plants** to support and nurture all the beautiful spring growth. Drop in for just the right suggestion.
- ♪ Protect new plantings from slugs and snails with pet safe **Sluggo** or **Master Snail, Slug & Insect Control**.
- ♪ Grub control for lawn. Now is the time to apply **Bayer Advance Lawn Grub Control** for a full season of protection. Avoid the dead patches typical with grub infestations. Apply this product now.
- ♪ Control broadleaf weeds in the lawn with **Master Green Weed and Feed**; it fertilizes while it weeds.
- ♪ The toughest broadleaf lawn weeds are easily controlled at this time by spraying with **Monterey Spurge Power**.
- ♪ Raise the height of your lawnmower to 2½" - 3" for the summer. Taller grass survives hot temperatures better and helps shade out weed invaders.
- ♪ Alden Lane Nursery has a **wide selection of bedding plants** for summer color. Choose favorites like cosmos, impatiens, petunias, marigolds, and zinnias. You can also plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and zucchini this month. Plant this month and reap the reward of bountiful produce through the summer and lots of fresh flowers for your home.
- ♪ Oxalis (yellow flowered clover look alike) can now be controlled (amazingly) in most lawns with **Monterey Turflon Ester** or **Spurge Power**.
- ♪ The warm weather has also brought out the aphids. Check the tender new growth on roses, ornamentals, fruit trees and vegetables. Hose them off with a stream of water. Control out of hand populations with **Ladybugs** or **Pest Fighter Oil**.



## Hailey's Comments

*As official "Watch Dog" for the 2009 spring, the season has officially made its mark at the Alden Lane Nursery. Allow me to introduce my self. I am Hailey, the resident canine of Livermore's premier garden center. Master Andrea, accessory buyer, is putting out the red carpet for the original, royal line of chicks and colored eggs displayed in Easter baskets and out. Unique, distinctive Orchid baskets can be preordered with Sue, our Pure Bred Orchid Official.*

*Landscaping with dogs, without giving up the quest for a beautiful yard, entails making concessions to our canines' natural instincts. If a fence surrounds your property, avoid growing plants in the area immediately adjacent to the fence. We dogs are territorial, and our favorite path in a fenced-in yard is along the fence. Unseen "dog runs" are the result of our genetic, predictable behavior. Rather than fighting it, install stone walkways over existing dog paths. Now we are both content. We have our path, and you have a Blue Ribbon show yard.*

*Training classes are offered this month to you and your gardening mates on how to be a Natural Edible Gardener. Pat Wagner, landscape designer, will inspire and provide tips on having a successful garden this year.*

*Paws for Reflection: When out for a walk, alternate between choking and coughing every time a strange human walks by.*

(Mind Games Dogs Play with Humans)

## Kid's Club Activities

### Stepping Stone Class

**Saturday, April 25th**  
**Cost is: \$20. Time: 10:30 a.m.**

Come decorate a stepping-stone for Mom or that special someone! It will be something to cherish for years to come. A stepping stone decorated by a child with little pieces or memorabilia and a hand print will capture a moment in stone to be enjoyed more and more with the passage of time.

We make the mess, your kids get to be as creative as they wish, and we clean it up. We will have 9x9 stones poured and ready to decorate. Bring your own decorations, or use our collection of stones, beach glass and pottery for "Kids" of all ages. Call ahead to register and pre-pay.

# Grow Nutritious, Delicious Blueberries

We have all heard the great benefits from eating fresh fruits and berries. Blueberries are just one of the berries that really require little care yet have many great benefits. You can easily grow your own and have blueberries throughout the season. The idea is to plant an early season, mid season and a late season variety. Planting this way will ensure a long harvest. Why not reap the rewards of growing your own crop and enjoy the many health benefits that come from eating blueberries.

Blueberries like morning sun, afternoon shade and they also like an acid soil. They do great in the ground or in containers. Try planting *Spartan* (early season), *Sharpblue*, *Reveille*, or *Misty* (mid-season), *Sunshine* or *Ozark* (late season). We do have other varieties to choose from. Please come by and let one of our knowledgeable staff members get you started.



## Around the Nursery

### Did You Know??

We can help you select color choices for your event? Everything from putting together blooming center-pieces, small flowering items for favors, or thank you's, to rental plants. We can special order quantities for weddings, graduations, any event you plan! Ask for Sue in the greenhouse! Come on in and let us help create a beautiful event.



### Administrative Professional Day is Coming!

Don't Forget Administrative Professional Day on April 22nd. Remember to say thanks to the person who makes you look good all year round! The nursery is filled with wonderful gift ideas or consider the ever appreciated Alden Lane Gift card.

### Orchids 101

*Need a refresher course on refreshing your orchids?* Join us every second Saturday of the month at 11:00 am for Orchids 101. The cost is \$10 and bring a friend for free!

Sue will cover all the basics at this one and a half hour "Boot Camp" to Orchid Success. Our next class is April 11th at 11 am and if you can't make that one, we have another scheduled for May 9th at 11:00 am.

Celebrate Mother's Day by giving this class to your mom and give the gift of your presence too! Sign up with our cashiers today! Call 925-447-0280.

### Containers and Pots Galore!

Just In! Fresh off the ship, we have many new pots in. If you love it, buy it! Many of these beautiful pots are of limited availability and we can't get more. Luscious reds, warm browns, brilliant blues, and ocean turquoises are in stock now!!

## Concrete Leaf Classes!

**Sunday, April 19th at 11:00**

Make your own garden art using real leaves. 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. 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 on Sunday, May 17th at 3:00 p.m.

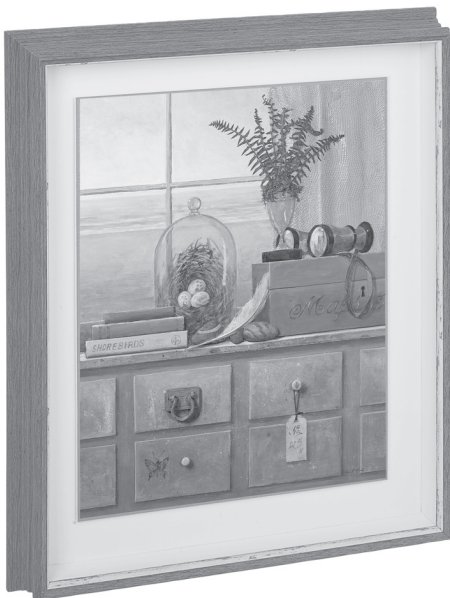
### Don't Forget!

**Moss Basket Workshop,**  
Saturday, April 18th, 1:00 p.m.  
Brian will teach this fun class.  
Come and join in.

Create a beautiful 14" moss basket brimming with gorgeous annuals for sun and shade. Cost is \$48 per participant plus tax. This class will fill up fast, so call today to prepay and reserve your spot - (925) 447-0280.

From The Garden Store  
**ANDREA'S FAVES**

*“Artwork that Brings the Beauty  
of Nature and Bird Watching  
into Your Home”*



Naturalist View



Window on the World

**Artist Arnie Frisk** has earned a solid reputation for his meticulous attention to detail and his sense of déjà vu. Influenced by his childhood in the country, and his interest in antiques and collectibles, he captures moments and objects in time using his medium of choice, acrylics. His work is found in collections around the world, and has been featured in numerous gallery and private exhibitions.

Born and raised in Northern Ontario, Canada, Arnie earned his degree in fine art and History at the University of Windsor. He is inspired by the clarity of the Dutch masters, the English landscape artists, and modern artists such as Canadian Alex Colville and American Andrew Wyeth.

Visit our Garden Store where you'll find many Bird species — ceramic birds, feathered birds, sculpted birds and wooden birds. We have birdfeeders for those extra hungry birds and birdhouses for the birds that are ready to nest.

*Our Bird display  
is not just for the Birds!*

## Water Features Sooth the Soul & Attract Wildlife to Your Garden

Enjoy the many benefits of a small ornamental pond or water feature in your landscape.

If you are taking out a bit of lawn this year to conserve water, consider the benefits of a small re-circulating pond or water garden in your landscape. Because Ornamental water features reuse the same water over and over again and if designed correctly and conservatively, don't lose water into the ground, they can produce a very pleasant, soothing effect without the water loss typical of a lawn.

Carefully placed where you will enjoy the sites and sounds of water and the birdlife it attracts, a water garden can provide “pound for pound” far more enjoyment than a typical suburban expanse of lawn.

Consider placing a feature near the front door or back patio where you will enjoy the sites daily. Placing a cool pool of water and a trickling feature in a shady spot in your landscape, so long as you don't build roaring waterfalls, will actually lose very little water to evaporation and will really add interest. Come explore the options.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!!**

**Mosquito  
Fish Give  
Away**

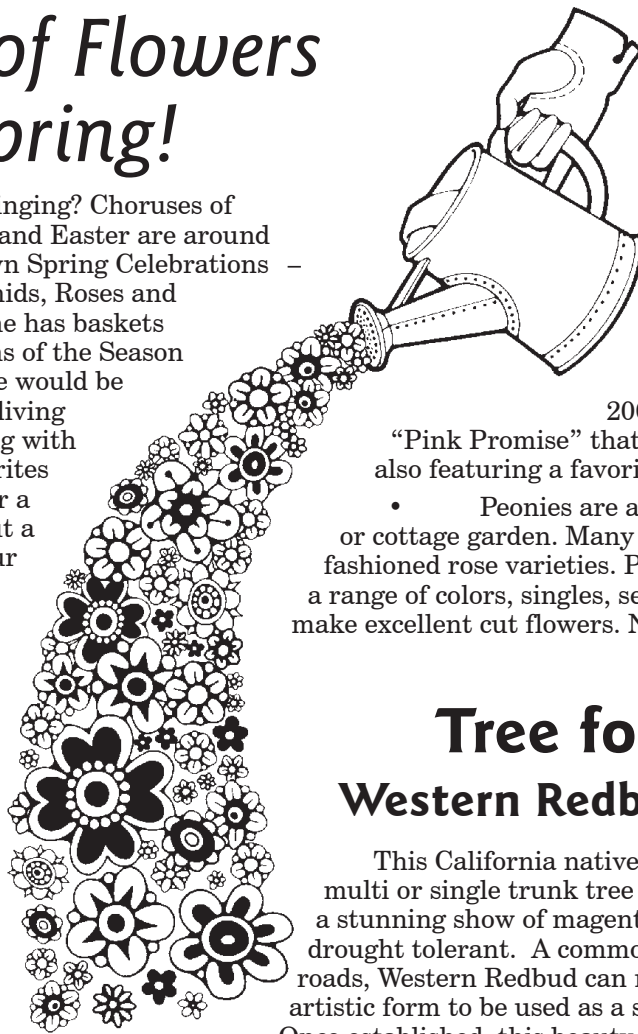
Drop by the nursery on **Saturday, May 9th** with a pail or bucket and take away some **FREE** mosquito fish for your ponds or large fountains. These fish are courtesy of the Mosquito Abatement District. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

# Showers of Flowers for Spring!

Can't you hear them singing? Choruses of blooms heralding Spring and Easter are around the corner! Color your own Spring Celebrations – with fragrant Lilies, Orchids, Roses and so much more. Alden Lane has baskets brimming with the blooms of the Season to pick up and go — or we would be happy to customize your living gifts and décor by working with you to pick out your favorites and put them together for a signature look. How about a sweet African Violet in our new self watering pots, or bright pink trumpet lilies bursting with blooms — any way you celebrate, color your world at Alden Lane!

Celebrate spring this year with a statuary animal for your garden. Not only do we have bunnies, you'll also find pigs and piglets, darling birds, turtles, frogs, dogs and cuddly cats! Check with the staff for suggestions.

Shop early! We'll be closed on Easter Sunday, April 12th.



# Seasonal Beauties!!

- Roses are in their glory and we have every color, flower form and type from hybrid tea to floribunda, tree form to David Austin roses. Alden Lane has hundreds of roses including climbers, tree, shrub, hedge, minis, Drift, Flower Carpet™ and many more. We have the 2009 All American Rose winners including “Pink Promise” that supports breast cancer research. We are also featuring a favorite red rose of Oprah called “Legends”.

- Peonies are an excellent addition to a perennial border or cottage garden. Many of them have a fragrance similar to old-fashioned rose varieties. Peonies are long lived and are available in a range of colors, singles, semi-double or double flower forms. They make excellent cut flowers. No garden should be without one!

## Tree for the Season!! Western Redbud – *Cercis occidentalis*

This California native is as rugged as it is beautiful! This small multi or single trunk tree typically grows to fifteen feet or so, has a stunning show of magenta pink blossoms in spring, and is very drought tolerant. A common sight on Livermore's wine country roads, Western Redbud can make a great street tree, but also has the artistic form to be used as a stunning specimen piece in the landscape. Once established, this beauty needs little to no irrigation, and thrives on hot sunny sites providing much needed shade. Tough and useful, yet graceful and colorful – a true Californian!

## Recipe for Good Garden Soil!

### Good Garden Soil Starts Here!!

If you are preparing a vegetable or flower garden bed here's a tried and true soil preparation recipe that works wonders. It lightens our heavy soil, nourishes it and buffers the pH to make it 'just right' for the success of your vegetable and flower seeds or transplants.

#### 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.

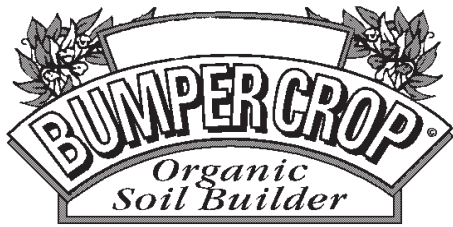
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### IT'S TIME FOR BONUS DOLLARS AGAIN!

Our traditional springtime event - **Bonus Dollars are back!** Bonus Dollars are distributed March 28th through May 31. You earn 10% of your total purchases and are paid in Alden Lane Nursery Bonus Dollars. These Bonus Dollars are redeemable August 1-31. They are to be used for up to 50% of your purchases in August. For example: if you have 10 Bonus Dollars you may use all 10 on a purchase of \$20 or more.

(Bonus Dollars are not valid with other discounts or coupons. Bonus Dollars are not valid on sod, sale items or other special orders. Sales limited to stock on hand. Not redeemable for cash. **In August, select your Bonus Dollar purchases carefully, as there are no returns allowed.**)

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## Plan on a Bumper Crop This Year

April is high season to start your vegetable gardens and to encourage you we are offering Bumper Crop soil amendment at a special price, buy 4 bags for the price of three. **That's a 25% savings!**

Bumper Crop is a blend of composted fir bark and forest humus fortified with 15% chicken manure, worm castings, bat guano and kelp meal. pH balanced with dolomite and oyster shell lime.

We love Bumper Crop for Vegetable gardening. It adds nutrients and improves texture resulting in better yields. Apply a couple of inches into your garden soil every year to nurture, nourish and refresh. Use 5-8 bags per 100 square feet.

Our Special price through April: buy 4 bags for the price of 3 (Save \$8.99, regular price, \$8.99 each) Offer Good through April.

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner . . . Snails, Slugs & Other Bugs!!!

Consider earth and pet friendly **Sluggo!** The base ingredient of Sluggo is naturally occurring **Iron Phosphate** that does a great job of controlling snails and slugs in the garden while not harming other creatures including pets and people; and as it breaks down it actually nourishes the plants. **Sluggo Plus** includes an organic control for earwigs and cutworms too. Check out our **Slug Pubs**. These beer or yeast reservoirs are a great organic way of ridding your garden of these plant-eating pests. A penny apiece bounty is a great incentive for kids. Remember to tightly secure the bag before putting into the trash or you could turn your quarry into escargot. Our **Copper Tape** is a good mechanical barrier that can be used to protect your plants. Use 2 widths of it to keep snails and slugs from devouring your plants. Old standby favorites are **Master's Snail, Slug and Insect Control** granules. It does a great job at combating earwigs and pillbugs (rolly pollies) too.



## Aphid Control – Lady Bugs to the Rescue!

Ladybugs are handy critters to release in your garden in the spring, summer and fall. They can help keep the populations of aphids under control.

Aphids are a greater nuisance than perhaps any other garden insect, they suck the juices out of fresh tender growth, weaken the plant and deposit a sticky, sugary residue on items below their work site. They are prolific in their reproduction.

For those wishing an organic, or natural method of controlling aphids, We suggest a one-two punch, first with Master Nursery Pest Fighter Year-round Spray Oil, followed up with fresh release of Ladybugs. The spray oil simply sprays on at the end of a hose, no mixing. It smothers pests, rather than poisoning them. The Ladybugs mop up the leftovers and sort of stand guard against local aphid uprisings.

# Win Free Soil Amendments

## Good Garden Soil Recipe Kit

Great gardening begins with your soil. Win this Good Garden Soil Recipe Kit to start your vegetable garden on the right foot this year.

- 5 Bags of **Bumper Crop**
- 1 – 50 lb. Bag of **Gypsum**
- 1 – 5 lb. Bag of **Iron Sulfate**
- 1 – 10 lb bag of **Masters Tomato Vegetable Food**

A \$65.00 Value

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win. Drawing to be held April 30, 2009.

### GOOD GARDEN SOIL RECIPE KIT

April 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.



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

Change Service Requested

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Livermore, CA

**IMPORTANT!**  
Time Critical  
Please Deliver Promptly

**ALDEN LANE NURSERY HOURS:** 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day

## SPECIAL COUPON

Present This Coupon & A Canned Food Item  
TO RECEIVE FREE

# A 2" Seedling Tomato Plant!!



(Limited to stock on hand. Value: 99¢)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please!  
Offer Good April 1-30, 2009.

## HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY

