



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

JULY 2009

Serving You Since 1955

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

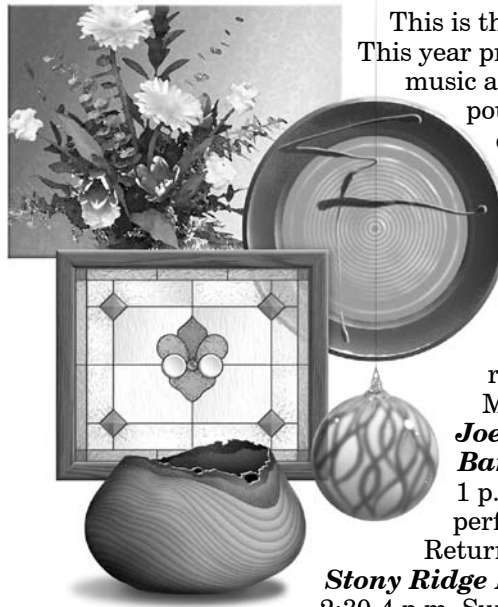
Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** on CTV30 for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright at 7:30 am and 1:30 pm, Monday-Friday and repeated on Saturday at 7:30 am, 11:00 am & 4:00 pm; Sunday at 7:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm, & 4 pm.
- **Don't Miss the Fair Plant Sale.** On Sunday, July 19th many of the plants in the landscape gardens are sold at very reduced prices. The Gates open at 6 p.m. for this very fun, fast paced sales. Yes, you pay for parking and admission but it's worth it. Make sure to bring your wagon, cart, dollie or even baby strollers to help cart your purchase to the parking lot.
- **Bonsai Club** meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month - 1 p.m. at Alden Lane Nursery. Come one, come all
- **Composting Information.** Call the Rotline at 510-444-SOIL for information on starting your own composting pile or visit the website at www.stopwaste.org. We have the all new Tumbleweed composter. No Heavy lifting just spin the tumbleweed for perfect home made compost.

Mark your calendars for

Art Under the Oaks

July 11th & 12th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm



This is the **23rd Annual Art Under the Oaks**, This year promises to continue to delight the art, wine, music and fruit lover! We'll have local wineries pouring samples, local artists will be on hand demonstrating their craft, music will fill the grounds, and Dave Wilson Nursery will hold their annual summer fruit tasting, so yummy, you won't want to miss it.

There are raffle prizes every hour. If your name is pulled on Sunday at 4 p.m., you win the Grand Prize piece of original art valued at over \$200.00. Every hour winners receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to the Nursery. Music lovers can enjoy live music both days.

Joey Altman and the Back Burner Blues Band will perform on Saturday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Also playing are **The Cool Tones**, performing Saturday from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Returning for their annual performance is the **Stony Ridge Ramblers**, performing on Saturday from 2:30-4 p.m. Sunday performances include **Jack Pollard's**

Party of Two playing from 11-1 p.m. **Sycamore Strings Academy** will perform from 1:30-2:30 p.m. To conclude the event on Sunday, one of our favorites, the **Pleasanton Community Concert Band** will perform from 2:30-4 p.m.

Admission is **FREE**, parking is **FREE**, additional **FREE** parking is available at Sunset Office Plaza located at the corner of Concannon and Holmes-**FREE SHUTTLES**. For more information, contact the nursery at (925) 447-0280 or visit www.aldenlane.com.

Fresh Fruit Tasting at Art Under the Oaks

Now is the time to enjoy all the flavors of summer tree-ripened fruit and nothing beats the taste of a fruit freshly picked from your own tree. Next best will be fruit from Ed's trees in the Dave Wilson orchards! **Ed Laivo of Dave Wilson Nursery** will be here at Art Under The Oaks on Saturday, July 11th and Sunday, July 12th to offer you tastes of all the succulent peaches, nectarines and plums that ripen in mid July. They will also be available to give advice and consultation on all the different varieties of fruit and nut trees available. So come with all your questions and prepare to have your taste buds tingle.

After you sample you can order your favorites. Take advantage of our pre-season pricing on Special Order fruit trees. Our order books open this weekend for the next bare-root season; and you can choose from over 225 varieties on different rootstocks to fit all yards and gardens.

Come in and plan to hold a fruit tasting in your backyard!



PLANT NANNIES FOR VACATION PLANT CARE!

These clever and attractive self-watering systems rely on a recycled container and the slow release action of terra cotta clay. They are available in three styles. *“Plant”* these watering Nannies into your interior plants, attach the appropriate-size bottle full of water before you leave on an extended trip and rely on the plant nanny to tend to your water needs while you’re away.

Unique siphon process releases water only when the plant begins to dry so you use just the right amount of water for plants as they request it. You can leave for vacation and not worry about the watering.

STEP 1: Insert the ceramic stake into a plant. The unique shape (patent pending) prevents root damage during insertion. Slow rotation of the stake moves soil and roots aside easily.

STEP 2: Fill and attach a plastic soda or water bottle to the Plant Nanny insert. Place your finger over the unique release port (patent pending) and invert the bottle. Remove your finger from the port as you set the adaptor into the stake for drip free and easy refilling.

Also available as a decorative watering globe!



Beautifully fluted glass watering globes extend the time between watering. Excellent for use in indoor plants and container gardens. Can be used in the garden when transplanting seedlings. All Plant Nanny Watering Globe sets are boxed in unique “see - through” display packaging that attracts attention.

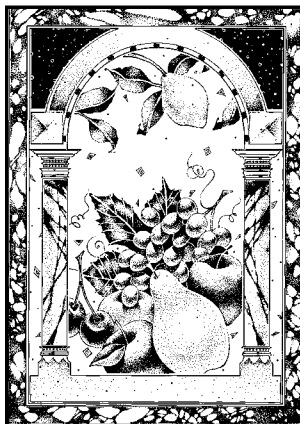
Don't miss the opportunity to sign up for

Concrete Leaf Making Class!

We only have **TWO** classes left and the enrollment is limited in this VERY popular workshop!

If you said you’ve always wanted to try it, now is the time to schedule it before it is finished for the summer. Our July class is Saturday, **July 18** from 11 am to 1 pm, and our last class of the year is scheduled for Saturday, **August 15th** from 11 am to 1 pm. The cost is \$75.00, and we provide all you need to complete a beautiful 12"+ leaf. The cost includes a leaf making class, followed at least 2 weeks later (they need to dry in between) by a painting workshop. (Our last painting classes are scheduled for Saturday, **Aug. 1st** at 10 am and Wednesday, **Sept 2nd** at 6:30 pm.)

Join us in learning this beautiful leaf art for your own garden – and don't forget – they make fabulous gifts!!



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 seat.

Berries & Summer Pruning

Saturday, July 18th, 11:00 - Noon

Kidz Club News

Wednesday, July 8

Time: 2 pm to 3 pm • Cost: \$10.00

Instructors:

Heather Schamber & Sue Fordyce

It's big fun in the Alden Lane Farm as we explore the crops, do a little watering, hunting for the bug battalions and do a little harvesting.

Then it is off to the clubhouse to make a *miniature jungle in a pop bottle terrarium for every junior farmer to create and take home.*



Wednesday, July 22

Time: 2 pm to 3 pm • Cost: \$10.00

Instructor: Heather Schamber

Topic: Let's explore the Alden Lane Farm – see what's ripe (YUM), what needs water, and I think the chickens might need a little attention . . . then it is off to the pond to discover what creatures lurk in the depths – perhaps Ivy the Turtle will show up for some munchies. We will learn about what lives in our little waterworld and how to maintain its eco balance. *Everyone will take home a pond plant of their very own!*

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.

Notes for July Gardening

♪ **Mulching** makes the summer easier on your garden. It retains moisture and helps minimize weeds. Use a four-inch layer of micro, black or shredded bark for the best results.

♪ Spruce up the garden with pots of **red-white-blue petunias** for the holiday. We have lots of instant color flowers to make holiday parties and barbeques all the more enjoyable. **Shop early because the nursery will be closed on July 4th.**

♪ If you're looking for something to do on a warm summer night – **visit the fair.** The Alameda County Fair houses some beautiful landscape exhibits. It runs July 1st through July 19th. If you're looking for bargains on plants attend the closing day garden exhibit sale from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

♪ **Annual Art Under the Oaks Fruit Tasting** – Join us on July 11th & 12th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a fruit tasting. Taste new varieties available this year and varieties you never find in stores as well as old time favorites.

♪ Tasty, crunchy vegetables, juicy tomatoes, crisp peppers and tender beans all benefit from regular fertilizing during their growing season. We recommend **Master Nursery's Vegetable Food.** It is organic based and easy to use.

♪ **Plant Crape Myrtles now.** These sun and heat loving summer bloomers come in shrub and tree form. Choose from white, red, lavender and many shades of pink.

♪ Pay a little extra attention to your **roses** this month, water deeply and mulch around the root zone.

♪ This is a great time to enjoy **water gardening.** It can be as small as a large pot or as grand as an in ground pond. We have the supplies!

♪ Look out for **cucumber beetles!** They are active and hungry during the late summer. These green ladybug look alike eat all but the veins of leaves and flowers, leaving lace like skeletons and devouring whole plants in no time. Use **Master Nursery's Sevin** or **Captain Jack's Spinosad** for the best results.

♪ To prevent and cure your lawns of the fungus, Brown Patch, we recommend you water the lawn in the morning to allow the grass blades to dry before night. Deep thorough watering is very important. Use **Bayer Lawn Fungicide.** It's easy to apply and an excellent control. Brown Patch can also be caused by lawn moth larvae. To prevent or control this problem apply **Bayer Insect and Grub Control** now.

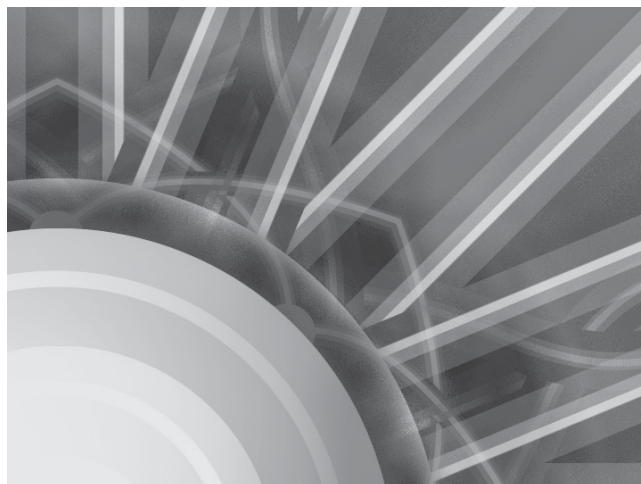
Hot Weather Lovers!

Bring on the Dazzle - Well Into Fall!

Hot temperatures bring out the best in these hot weather annuals. Try some today in your garden.

SUNNY SITUATIONS

- **Alyssum:** Looking for something with a heavenly scent? This is the plant for you. It has a sweet, fresh scent. It does well as a border edging or baskets and containers. It is available in white, rose or purple. Attracts beneficial insects, too.
- **Cosmos:** White, rose, yellow or red 'daisy' style flowers. It is available in a variety of sizes from compact to nearly four foot tall. Cosmos has finely textured foliage and is capped by the colorful blooms each with a sunny colored 'eye'. Hardy through the first frosts.
- **Portulaca:** A hardy summer annual, portulaca made its way to the shores of Mexico as an edible tuber. Today portulaca makes a colorful and tough bedding plant. The leaves are short and narrow but thick. It is covered in flowers through out the summer and into the fall. It flowers in a myriad of colors – white, pink, rose, red, yellow and more, looking like a patchwork of colors. Commonly known as moss rose. Mass it in a flowerbed, an accent in containers and dazzling at eye level in a hanging basket.
- **Vinca Rosea:** Best known as Periwinkle these long blooming annuals come in an attractive range of colors – white, pink, rose, red, purple with a bright eye in the center of each bloom. Vinca loves the heat! They are spectacular planted in a flowerbed especially if planted in blocks of color. Vinca will bloom well into the fall and require very little attention once established.



SHADY SPOTS

- **Impatiens:** An absolute necessity for the summer shade garden. Available in a riot of colors and hues, these beauties require shade in most inland valley plantings but are tolerant of morning sun until about 10 a.m. They are the star in a shade flower bed or container and most certainly will draw your eye if planted in a hanging basket. In a protected area impatiens continue well in November. Impatiens reach a height of approximately 18 to 24 inches.
- **Fibrous Begonia:** Another blooming beauty for the shade. Along with colors of white, red, rose, and pink they offer up bronze or fresh green foliage as an accent. Fibrous Begonia make an excellent border but require afternoon shade.



From The Garden Store
ANDREA'S FAVES
Allsop Home & Garden
Solar Technology

“Beautiful, Affordable, Sustainable!”

Allsop Home & Garden is a small family business, started by a father and daughter who were inspired to create the best, most innovative and conscientious products possible from original garden tools to solar lighting. As the founders of the concept “solar garden art,” Allsop Home & Garden is known for unique combinations of green solar technology, efficient LED lighting, artisan hand-blown glass and use of other creative materials with solar power.

Soji Solar Pod

Solar powered nylon lanterns collect light during day and glow by night without the hassle of electrical cords. Place lanterns in direct sunlight during the day and enjoy a beautiful ambient glow by night. Equipped with two high powered LED lights, solar panel, AAA rechargeable battery and stainless steel hardware. The Pod's oblong shape compliments the natural environment.

Soji Solar Original

East meets West with bright festival lanterns. Constructed of durable fade and weather resistant nylon, 10" round solar lanterns accordion open and glow in a jiff.

Soji Solar Silk Effects

Shimmering, sheer pearl silk fabric in sophisticated earthy colors with a traditional Asian lantern shape. At dusk, these lanterns cast beautiful iridescent silhouettes — make every evening in your garden festive with an elegant shimmering glow.

Botanical & Herbal Write & Erase Plant Tags

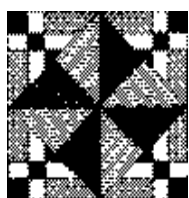
New and totally unique! Mark your favorite herb, plant or flower with re-usable write and erase plant tags. Soft rubber tags are durable UV treated for year round use outdoors and pad printed with artist designed herbal and botanical drawings. Use a GEL ball point pen to mark plants and flowers and erase with soap and water after use.

Moon Drops Outdoor Votives with Photo Light Sensor

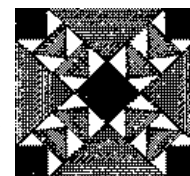
Never throw these votives away, totally re-usable and sustainable. No maintenance, no wires required. Place your Moon Drops anywhere for an enchanting moon-like glow. Powered by renewable, rechargeable AAA batteries, Moon Drops will glow by night for over 150 hours without needing to be recharged. After 150 hours of “glow time” just recharge the 2 AAA batteries in a standard battery charger and Moon Drops will glow like new again.



Quilting In the Garden 2009 – 12th Anniversary
September 26th & 27th



Quilting in the Garden is held each September at Alden Lane Nursery. This year we are pleased to be showcasing the work of Laura Wasilowski, Joanna Figueroa, the Pixeladies, and local artists, all hanging from the majestic oaks at Alden Lane. The quilt show in the nursery is free and the lecture series will have a nominal charge. The show and workshop will be held on **September 26th and 27th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** and will include a lecture and class series starting on **Thursday, September 24th.**



For more information on **Quilting in the Garden 2009** please visit our website www.aldenlane.com.

Arboretum All-Stars Are Perfect for California Gardens

What is an Arboretum All-Star plant and why is it a natural fit for California gardens?

Here's what UC Davis says about these plants:
Each plant must be attractive most of the year • Thrive in California conditions • Tested in UC Davis Arboretum

And they must have one of the following features:

Low Maintenance • Drought Tolerant

Or Attract Beneficial Wildlife

Alden Lane Nursery is carrying a number of these "***Epecially Green***" products just for you. This year look for:

★ *Bulbine frutescens*
Cape Balsam:

Small, evergreen perennial is a wonderful addition to dry perennial borders with its long-blooming pikes of delicate, star-shaped yellow flowers; fleshy, bright green foliage adds a sculptural element to the garden; tolerates drought and poor soils. Water deeply once or twice a month when established.

★ *Cersatostigma plumbaginoides*
Dwarf Plumbago:

Attractive groundcover with clusters of intense blue flowers in summer and continuing into fall; leaves turn a colorful maroon in autumn; tolerant of sun or shade. Water deeply once or twice a month when established.

★ *Hardenbergia 'Happy Wanderer'*
Lilac Vine:

Vigorous evergreen vine can be used to cover an arbor, pergola or wall; small, purple, pea-like flowers bloom in late winter to early spring; other cultivars have white or pink flowers. Water deeply once or twice a month when established.

★ *Rosa Korbin*
'Iceberg':

Tough and disease resistant; tolerates some shade; can be trained, with pruning, to be a medium or large shrub. Also comes in a climbing variety. Water deeply every one to two weeks when established.

★ *Lagerstroemia*
Crape Myrtle:

Provides year-round interest with summer flowers, fall leaf color, and handsome ornamental bark in winter; comes in pink, white, lavender-purple, or red-flowering varieties; hybrid forms are more mildew resistant; attracts beneficial insects. Water deeply every one to two weeks when established.

★ *Salvia greggii*
Autumn Sage:

'Dark Dancer' is one of many varieties whose showy flowers attract hummingbirds and beneficial insects; flowers profusely in spring and fall. Water deeply every two weeks.

★ *Miscanthus sinensis* (dwarf varieties)
Japanese Silver Grass:

This grass is a striking addition to the garden. 'Gold Bar' is one of several varieties that thrives in clay soil. Water deeply every two weeks when established.

★ *Salvia Apiana*
California White Sage:

California Native plants; spring flowers attract pollinating bees; leaves contain fragrant oils. Water deeply once or twice per month once established.

★ *Lavandula stoechas 'Otto Quast'*
Spanish Lavender:

Showiest of all the lavenders; thrives in sunny dry conditions; attracts butterflies and beneficial insects. Water deeply every two weeks.

A Pleasing, Eco-Friendly Front Yard Make-Over

This year we've seen more and more people rethinking what to do with their front lawn.

Gallon-for-gallon, a front yard without lawn can actually be more inviting and interesting than one skirted with the turf. Adding meandering pathways, carefully placed focal points, a wide place to step off the path and linger, and a collection of seasonally interesting plants provides texture, color and a soothing way to unwind as you transition from the busy street to the front door. The journey from the street to the door to can be a soothing one, designed with progressively more private spaces, transitioning gently to the serenity of a front entry garden and ultimately the security just inside your home.

Most front landscapes seem to decorate the building as though the house was a focal point in the center of a big bouquet surrounded by a skirt of lawn; as if viewed only from a car. Such a landscaped home is often beautifully picture perfect, but if you stop for a moment, on the way up the entry path and turn around, you can ask, "How is the view of the street or passing cars? Does this feel like a place to linger? Would departing guests enjoy chatting here?" Chances are the experience could be improved with careful and thoughtful planning and plant placement.

Imagine instead stepping off the curb, through an informal grouping of plants that seem to form a protective buffer and a bit of a gateway into a private and peaceful open space or courtyard. The path widens, perhaps a bench or bistro set invites one to sit. The sound of the city seems to melt away as do the stresses of a long week. The sounds of water, the sights and fragrance of colorful plants sooth and nurture a tired soul. Even before reaching the front door, the feeling wells up to speak, "I'm home!" Isn't that a welcome thought?

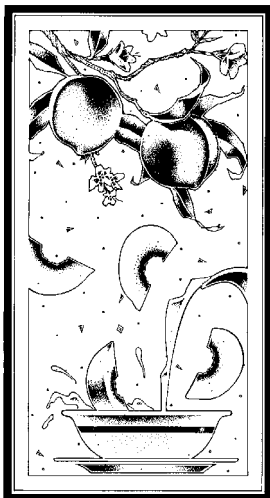
Don't be afraid to rearrange your plantings to create a more soothing entry, don't be afraid to reduce your lawn to a size you can actually use and let the rest of the yard embrace you with texture color and shrubs.

With fall being the ideal planting time for natives and drought tolerant landscapes, summer is a great time to think re-landscaping. Let us offer some suggestions.



Ideas you can use:

- ◆ Space plants with room to stretch out. Set larger plants back from the walkways so that even after several years' growth, they need only light pruning.
- ◆ Widen planting areas from the typical, narrow, 3-4' to a generous 8-10'. This will allow a relaxed layering of smaller shrubs in front of taller shrubs, spaced to prevent crowding.
- ◆ Place a pathway of flagstone pavers through your landscape (perhaps as a perimeter to a now-smaller lawn.) This will allow another interesting way to enjoy your landscape and the variety of textures will be welcome.
- ◆ Consider low growing, low maintenance lawn alternatives planted within sandstone pavers as a lawn alternative.
- ◆ Place a few, well chosen focal points, or perhaps a small fountain to add interest and draw your eye through the landscape.



JUST THINK – Your Own Tree Ripened Fruit

Admittedly the grocery store is a convenience, and for the more adventurous, a farmer's market has more taste and unusual varieties available but the best of the best? **Well, that's just plain homegrown!** For years Alden Lane Nursery has worked with Dave Wilson Nursery to purchase best varieties of fruit trees, berries and grapes for the valley area. Many of you have met Ed Laivo of Dave Wilson Nursery at our many fruit tastings – he's a guy with a passion for his job! And we concur! There's nothing like the taste of fresh peach plucked from your own tree – warm, juicy and sweet or a warm, fragrant slice of apple pie made with apples from a tree you planted and nourished while it grew.

Check with us at Alden Lane for the right varieties for your home orchard. We're all about home orchard culture which is different from commercial ventures. It's about having fruit in the garden throughout the summer and fall seasons because you've planted varieties that produce one right after the other. It's about taking advantage of the space you have to plant and recommending espaliers, four trees in one hole, hedgerows or what ever it takes to bring you the rewards of the best experience you've every had plucking an apricot from your own tree and melting into the sweet taste. **Ahhhh, now that's heaven!!!**

Win A 5 Gallon Crape Myrtle

Win a Crape Myrtle (tree form) plus Planting Supplies

It is the perfect tree for a small garden or patio, or a flowerful accent in the garden. Crape Myrtle is just the tree for the Livermore Valley.

It loves hot sun and blooms bountifully! A \$70.00 Value!!

Planting supplies include:

- ★ 1 bag (2 cu. ft.) Planting Mix
- ★ Stakes ★ Master Start Fertilizer

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win. Drawing held on July 31, 2009.



Some plants perform best when the heat is on. In weather that steams sidewalks these trees bloom forth with continued strength reveling in the sun and heat. They are summer show offs.

One of the showiest summer bloomers is the Crape Myrtle. In full bloom this striking shrub/tree almost radiates color, sporting a full head of crinkled, "crape" like blooms in various shades, and there are more talents to this tree. Earlier in the year Crape myrtle gives another show when the new foliage breaks with a coppery red tone; and as the season progresses, the bark often splits to reveal a spring pink undercoat. In autumn its handsome green foliage

changes to either red orange or maroon before dropping to the ground.

It is however, the mass of summer blooms, which makes Crape Myrtle really worth growing. They range in a variety of colors from white, pink, and lavender to almost brilliant red. For those who prefer pink try *Seminole* which is a medium pink or *Peppermint Lace* which is pink with a white edge. If it's white you like, ask for *Natchez* white. *Catawaba* produces a strong, deep purple and for a hot pink choose *Watermelon Red*.

Or choose the brilliant red crape myrtle called *Dynamite*. Its cherry red flowers, crimson buds and leaves will leave no doubt that it will create an eye catching display in your garden. As the red flowers age they will create an

explosion of color.

If powdery mildew has been a problem in the past on your Crape Myrtle fear no longer! These mildew resistant varieties are available now in good supply. *Muskogee* has a lavender pink blossom and produces the most brilliant fall colors of scarlet, orange and yellow. *Tuscarora* is more upright and produces coral red blossoms with huge flower trusses. *Zuni* has glossy green foliage with dark lavender purple blossoms.

For smaller spaces use the "Petite Series" Crape Myrtle bushes and patio trees. *Petite Embers*, *Plum*, *Orchid*, *Snow* and *Pinkie* are some of the colorful possibilities! Any of these varieties will add an abundance of color to your summer time landscape.



Orchid University

BASIC ORCHID CARE AND BEYOND!

Saturday, July 25th • 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Our in-house orchid instructor, Sue Fordyce will take you through a refresher of the basics, and continue with a "hands on" repotting session (bring up to 3 plants of your own to repot), dividing and propagating, pests and diseases, greenhouses, optimum indoor growing areas, deciphering labels, caring for "sick" orchids, and much more. This class is ideal for those of you who desire to know more practical information on raising and **blooming** this fascinating family of incredible plants **OR** sign up a loved one as a special gift! Bring a sack lunch. You will be provided with an Orchid U binder with class materials and loads of practical information. The class fee is \$45.00. Call 925-447-0280 and sign up with our Alden Lane cashiers.



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

Change Service Requested

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IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

ALDEN LANE NURSERY HOURS: Open Daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
We will be closed on the Fourth of July. Remember to shop early for your holiday flowers!

SPECIAL COUPON

Present This Coupon & A Canned Food Item
TO RECEIVE FREE



*Aromatique
Grapefruit
Fandango
Potpourri*

A Fresh
Lively Fragrance with
Bold Botanicals

(1 oz. – \$2.49 Value)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please!
Offer Good July 1-31, 2009.

**HOW TO FIND
ALDEN LANE
NURSERY**

