



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

AUGUST 2010

Serving You Since 1955

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



August Means Back to School

It is back to school time which means our thoughts turn to fall and fall decorating. We have beautiful collections for the season. One of my favorites is the sunflower collection which

includes plates, bowls and accent pieces called the *Sun Blossom* from **Certified International**. The vibrant colors in the design will warm any home.

Of course we will have many shapes and styles of pumpkins to accent your home décor. The popular **glass pumpkins are back!** Be sure to stop in early for the best selection. Fall is one of my favorite seasons and we will have everything you need to complete your fall decorating.

Christmas is approaching faster than any of us can imagine! I know that



I just talked about fall and no one wants to hear about Christmas but I wanted to share some exciting news. **Nancy Claus**, a fabulous children's author, who writes stories about Santa's adventures will be here for Quilt Show, September 25 and 26, to sign her books from 9 am to 4 pm each day. If you would like to learn more about her books, please visit www.Mrs.ClausSays.com.

Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** on TV30 for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright at 7:30 am and 1:30 p.m. Monday - Friday and repeated on Saturday at 7:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. & Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., or catch her on TV30.org.
- **Bonsai Club** meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month - 2 p.m. at Alden Lane Nursery. Come one, come all!
- **Attention Rose Lovers!** The annual rose show will be held the weekend of October 9 & 10 at Alden Lane Nursery. All are welcome and encouraged to enter and share their lovely roses, so mark your calendars for this fun and informative event. Watch the newsletter for further information.
See inside for a special rose feeding recipe.

REMINDER!!

It's Time to Redeem Bonus Dollars this Month

Each spring you earn Bonus Dollars with your purchases at Alden Lane Nursery and in August they are redeemable. In order to accommodate summer vacations, the redemption time will include the whole month of August. So bring those green bonus dollars in. They are redeemable for up to 1/2 the value of your purchase. If you earned \$20 you could apply them to a \$40 purchase and get 1/2 Off for instance. **Bonus Dollars don't expire!** If you didn't participate with us this spring **don't despair!** The program has been so well received we will do it each April and May.

Your bonus dollars may be applied to all purchases except sod, sale items, multiply priced merchandise and special orders. Not valid with other discounts or coupons. Sales limited to stock on hand. Not redeemable for cash. **SELECT YOUR BONUS DOLLAR PURCHASES CAREFULLY, AS THERE ARE NO RETURNS ALLOWED.**

DON'T
Wish Out

Cooking With Herbs

Herbs can make a familiar dish new or lift an ordinary entrée to gourmet status. Their subtle magic transforms soups, stews, salads, breads and even desserts. With a bouquet of herbs or a scattering of herb flowers as a garnish, your food will look as wonderful as it tastes.

➤ **1. Basil** – It's warm, heady flavor lends itself to Italian or Mediterranean cooking, especially tomato dishes or with eggs, cheese or salads. *Special tips:* Pesto Sauce: blend 2 c. of fresh basil, ¼ c. of parmesan, ½ c. of olive oil, 3 tbs. of pine nuts or walnuts and 3 cloves of garlic minced. Use on pasta and vegetables.

➤ **2. Chives** – The subtle onion flavor of chives is perfect in omelets, salads, soups, or on potatoes and other vegetables. *Special tips:* Get rid of onion like odor by chewing on a fresh parsley sprig.

➤ **3. Dill** – Used for pickling, dill is also wonderful in salads, sauces, soups or breads, on vegetables and fish. *Special tips:* Try pickling green beans, carrots, new potatoes or peppers with a bit of dill.

➤ **4. Marjoram** – Like oregano but sweeter, this flavor is perfect in Mediterranean dishes, meats and vegetables.

➤ **5. Mint** – The flavor of mint is refreshing, cool and sweet, especially good in iced drinks and teas, with lamb or in salad dressings. *Special tips:* Minty sun tea: Put 8 tea bags, ½ c. of fresh mint leaves and 1 gal. of water in clear glass jar. Set in sunny spot for several hours. Serve over ice.

➤ **6. Parsley** – For a clean sharp and peppery taste, add to vegetables and salads as a garnish. Include in sauces, soups, stews and stuffing. *Special tip:* Parsley is high in Vitamins A, C and B.

➤ **7. Sage** – Warm, slightly bitter, this flavor is a must for turkey stuffing, as well as pork, duck and sausage seasoning. *Special tips:* Dried sage leaves are used as a substitute for coffee or tea.

➤ **8. Rosemary** – The flavor of rosemary is bold and piney. Use it in pickles, jams, preserves and sauces, as well as meats and soups. *Special tips:* Use a branch of rosemary as a basting brush at your next barbeque, or put some on the coals for great aroma.



➤ **9. Tarragon** – A spicy, sharp flavor with licorice and mint overtones, tarragon lends itself to French cooking, egg dishes, fish and salad dressing. *Special tips:* Tarragon vinegar: Pour a qt. of cold vinegar over ½ c. fresh tarragon leaves, cap and store for 4 weeks.

➤ **10. Thyme** – A heavy, spicy flavor similar to cloves. Thyme is the perfect herb for poultry dishes and creamy soups. *Special tips:* Saute a pinch of thyme in butter. Pour over chicken or cooked vegetables.

➤ **11. Lavender** – The addition of culinary grade lavender in tiny amounts can jazz up dishes as diverse as grilled pork chops, to scones, cakes and even candy.

Carnivorous Plants

Carnivorous Plants are miracles of nature. They blur the distinction between animal and plant kingdoms. They have enzymes. They move. They trap prey. The famous **venus flytrap** is not a tropical plant, as some people believe. It is native to the pine swamps of coastal North Carolina, growing in an area only 10 x 10 square miles on this planet. It is truly a miracle that they have survived the evolutionary ride. Survive they have – *and with style.*

Recurring “fingers” that snap shut around flying prey that happens to land in the jaw-like digestion chamber, red coloring to attract insects, and glistening drops of fragrant attractant over the trap surface. **Pitcher plants** have a wider territory, and are found in the wetlands of Mississippi, to Florida, and on up the Eastern coastline. The **Cobra Lily** is actually native to our West Coast. **Drosera** and **Pingula** are found throughout the world.

Common to them all is the fact that where they grow is not rich in nutrients. Over time the plants will to sur-



vive won out, and they adapted to their environment by developing mechanisms to catch their own food source.

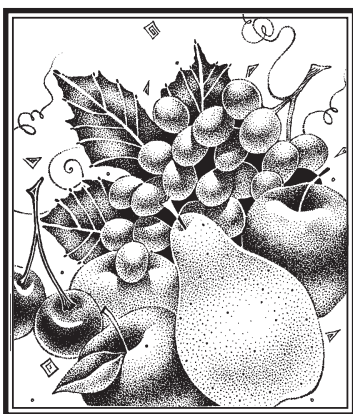
Most carnivorous plants have a few things in common. They come from damp places and like to be pretty moist ALL the time, and they also do not like the chlorine in our tap water. They prefer filtered or distilled water in order to thrive. They eat millipedes, earwigs, and most medium sized bugs.

They like lots of filtered light, but no hot sun. They do not need any extra fertilizer, as they get all the nutrients they need by eating bugs. The leaves on venus flytraps will blacken in the fall – be patient, they are only sleeping (about 3 months). While they are dormant, put them outside or somewhere cold. They will come back in the Spring.

We have a variety of carnivorous plants for sale at Alden Lane, from large **Nepenthes (Monkey Cup)** to venus flytraps, pingulas, droseras and pitcher plants. Join the fun and collect them all for a terrarium!

Notes for August Gardening

- Keep after **tomato hornworms and petunia budworms** with another application of **Safer's Caterpillar Killer**. It's an effective, safe environmental control.
- Don't forget your citrus! In order to get bumper crops feed lemons, oranges and other citrus monthly with **Master's Citrus Food**. Remember to water the day before applying fertilizers or other plant care products. Also avoid feeding or treating on extra hot days.
- Is your garden suffering from the summer blahs? Perk it up with colorful petunias, marigolds, vinca and dahlias!
- Treat compacted soils** and lawns with **EZ Wet**. No amount of water or food will do the lawn any good if it isn't reaching the roots. This soil penetrant opens the soil to water, air and food for lush green growth. Aerating your lawn is most helpful in improving water penetration too.
- Keep those flowerbeds neat and blooming! Deadhead (remove all old flowers). Cut back leggy petunias. Fertilize with **Master Bud & Bloom** to help set new flowers.
- August is a great time to **refresh summer scorched Japanese Maples**. Snip off crispy leaves even if it means defoliating the plant. Feed with **Dyna-Gro Protekt**. In four weeks to the day your maple will look Spring refreshed. Just in time for the new leaves to color up for fall.
- Sow flower seeds**. Many wildflowers and spring blooming annuals grow from seeds scattered now. Try California Poppy, Bachelor Button, Alyssum and Godetia. Also plant biennials such as hollyhock from seed now.
- Clean up around fruit trees and pick any left over fruit that can harbor insect pests and soft rot fungus. A light pruning to shape can be done now.
- Hard to believe but its time to start planting **winter vegetables!** The cabbage family members, root crops, and leafy vegetables such as broccoli, beets, carrots, radishes, onions, spinach and chard are **ready to be planted this month from seed**. (Farmers in the valley are planting winter vegetable crops from seed this month.) Planting from seed now allows for a deep, established root system and a very long growing season resulting in larger harvests. **Starter plants are available in mid September**.
- Start working now to **prevent fall weeds**. Apply **Master's Easy Living Lawn Food plus weed preventer**. This product does a great job of creating a protective barrier to prevent the pesky annual bluegrass. If you plan to reseed your lawn next month, delay this application.
- Sunflowers** are extremely easy to grow from seed in our area and those planted now will sprout and bloom by fall. This is one of the secrets of sunflowers. They make a great fall display. Choose from several varieties.



ATTENTION ALL BACKYARD FRUIT ENTHUSIASTS

Bumper crops and heavy harvests await those who attend our "**Summer School**". 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 a ticket to the **2010 Fall Harvest Recipe Party**, and get "Alden Lane Certified" as an official Backyard Orchard specialist! Giveaway items, information hand-outs, and raffle prizes will be available at every class. All classes run from 11 - 12 noon with extra time for Q & A and will **cost \$5 (bring a friend for free!)** Call ahead to prepay and reserve a seat.

Here's what's being offered over the summer:

Saturday, August 21st • Apricot, Plum, & Nut Trees



Dave's Rose Program Gives Your Roses Autumn Beauty

Catapult your roses into fall bloom with this feeding recipe. Livermore rose expert Dave Lowell developed this feeding program and it works wonders. First, use only if your roses are well established (planted for at least six months). ALWAYS water your plants deeply and thoroughly the day before feeding. Feed during the cool of the day. Avoid feeding on an extra hot day. Lightly work ingredients into the soil around the rose if possible.

Sprinkle around each rose:

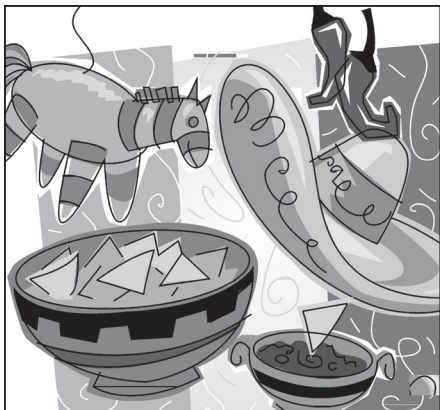
- 1/2 cup bone meal (5 pounds feeds 18 roses)
- 1/2 cup E.B. Stone organics 5-5-5 (5 pounds feeds 18 roses)
- 1/2 cup Iron Sulfate or GreenAll Soil Sulfur (Granulated Sulfur) (5 pounds feeds 18 roses)
- 2 tablespoons Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate) (1.25 pounds feeds 18 roses)
- 1 shovel full of chicken fertilizer (1 cubic feet feeds 9 roses)

After you've fed the roses, be sure to soak them. *Never use in conjunction with systemic rose foods.* The combination of bone meal and systemic rose foods pose a serious health risk to pets.

Join Us For The Third Annual Tomato & Salsa Party

September 18 & 19th
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. each day

Our party will feature Salsa music, chips for dipping, and the optional sombrero. We'll provide dozens of tomatoes to tantalize your taste buds, you'll fall in love with all the flavors! You can jot down your favorites for next year to be sure and get what you like.



We want to taste what you've done with your homegrown tomatoes, and reward you for your efforts! Bring in a quart of your homemade salsa and compete for high honors as "**Top Rojo with the Mojo**". So come on down and enter the competition. Your salsa will be judged by Alden Lane's Salsa Lovers. Criteria will be: the use of

spices, flavor complexity, and all around good taste.

TOP WINNER brings home:

- ☆ A \$100.00 Alden Lane Gift Certificate to start your next salsa garden
 - ☆ Your name on the perpetual Salsa trophy and
 - ☆ Your recipe and picture will be posted on the nursery website.
- Fame and fortune will follow you always.***

SECOND PLACE WINNER:

- ☆ Will receive a \$35.00 gift certificate for Alden Lane Nursery

THIRD PLACE:

- ☆ A \$25.00 gift certificate for Alden Lane Nursery

Homemade salsa must be at Alden Lane Nursery by **12:30 on Saturday, September 18th**. Winners will be announced on **Sunday, September 19th** at 3:00 p.m. We hope you'll come and join us for this fun and festive event.

KIDZ CLUB NEWS



OWLS

Wednesday, August 25

2:00 - 3:00 pm • Cost: \$10.00



Kidz Club is an hour long experience packed with fun and gardening projects for ages 5-10. We love to excite and energize your kids about plants and nature, and this last summer session of

Kidz Club features our often mysterious gardening buddy, the OWL. We will begin by looking after our projects at the Alden Lane Farm, and then it's back to the Alden Lane Deck to discover lots of interesting owl facts about these silent, nighttime hunters. We also have a great "make and take" owl project planned, just for fun! Please reserve your place at least 5 days in advance by coming in or calling in your reservation to our Alden Lane cashiers (925) 447-0280.



Quilting in the Garden – 2010

Presented by Alden Lane Nursery & In Between Stitches
September 25 & 26, 2010 for the 13th Annual Event

Featured Artists

Sue Nickels: Sue is a professional quilter who has been teaching machine techniques for over 20 years. She is recognized nationally and internationally as a teacher and lecturer.

Collaboration with her sister; Pat Holly has resulted in many major award winning quilts including "The Beetles Quilt". While teaching Sue emphasizes the best quality workmanship, never compromising quality for speed. Want to know more? Visit sue-nickels.com.

Denise Sheehan:

A Graceful Stitch

A passionate quilter, known for her appliqué work, Denise started the company "A Graceful Stitch" in 2006 and is excited to share her love of quilting and her quilts. Visit agracefulstitch.com.

Elizabeth Scott:

Late Bloomer Quilts

Elizabeth made her first quilt in 1980. Elizabeth is drawn to soft vintage designs and garden themes. Perfect for Quilting in the Garden! Take a sneak peek at her work at latebloomerquilts.com.

Alex Anderson:

Author, Fabric & Quilt Designer

Meet the co-host of the internet show "The Quilt Show" with Ricky Tims, www.thequiltshow.com.

Classes

Don't delay in registering for these inspirational classes. Class size is limited and will fill up quickly! Visit www.aldenlane.com, call 925.447.0280 for class availability. Supply list for classes will be mailed with confirmation and tickets.

Autumn Whimsy Embroidery with Tracy Souza of Plumcute Designs

Thursday, Sept. 23, 9-4 pm, at Alden Lane Nursery
\$25, lunch included. All levels. Join Plumcute designer Tracy Souza to stitch a whimsical fall pumpkin filled with oak leaves, berries and primitive flowers. Basic embroidery stitches will be covered in class as well as some finishing & framing techniques. A trunk show of her designs will be shown. Kits available for this class, \$15 paid to instructor.

Beginning Hand Appliqué with Sandra Mollon

Thursday, Sept. 23, 9-4pm, at Alden Lane Nursery
or Friday, Sept. 24, 9-4pm at In Between Stitches
\$65, lunch included. All levels. Introduction to hand appliqué, using a heart and vine pattern provided by Sandra. Learn the fast starch-turned method of preparing appliqué shapes, as well as glue-basting the shapes into place. Hand sew using the invisible tack stitch.

It's All About the Quilting! with Alex Anderson

Friday, Sept. 24th 9-4pm, at Alden Lane Nursery
\$85, lunch included. All levels. Alex will explain her personal approach to quilting design. Then you will learn how to draw a classic cable, feathered wreath, and 8 pointed star. In the afternoon, pick up the needle and learn the basics of hand quilting.

Machine Appliqué Flower Basket with Sue Nickels

Friday, Sept. 24, 9-4pm, at Alden Lane Nursery
\$75, lunch included. Confident Beginner/Intermediate. Learn to appliqué using a quick raw edge fusible machine technique. Ashley's Flower Basket will be used in this workshop. Learn the fine points of machine appliqué including perfect points, neat curves and creative surface embellishments. Register for this class and receive a free ticket to Sue's evening lecture.

The Graceful Garden with Denise Sheehan

Friday, Sept. 24, 9-4pm, at In Between Stitches
\$65, lunch included. All levels. Students may choose an appliqué pattern from the book, The Graceful Garden. Denise will teach basic techniques and offer individual instruction.

Evening Lecture

The Quilt Collaborations of Sue Nickels and Pat Holly

Friday, September 24, 6:30 to 8:30pm at Alden Lane Nursery, \$20; or free when registered for **Machine Appliqué Flower Basket**. Dessert and coffee included. Sue will share the unique way she and her sister, Pat, collaborate on their award winning quilts.

Meet The Artist Tours

Spend an hour with your favorite featured artist. See her newest fabrics, books and tour the special quilts she brought with her. \$12.

Sue Nickels: Saturday 11-12 pm or Sunday 1-2 pm

Elizabeth Scott: Saturday 1-2 pm

Denise Sheehan: Sunday 12-1 pm



Last Chance for Concrete Leaf Art!

Sign up for our 10:00 a.m. class on **Saturday, August 14th.**

You know you've been wanting to sign up — **and we only have August left for this year! Just DO it!**

You will be so glad you did!

Making these garden treasures is more than fun . . . and you will be so pleased with the outcome! No prior craft experience needed, just a willingness to get a little messy and smile a lot.

Don't miss out on making these extraordinary leaves. Once you've learned the process, making more for yourself or for gifts is addicting. The cost is \$75.00 plus tax, and that includes the instruction and materials for both classes. Part one is the actual making of the concrete leaf, and part two (a couple of weeks later, after the leaf has dried) is our painting class where you will receive instruction and the materials to make your leaf even more fantastic. You will take the leaf home after this class. Both classes are 2 hours each. Sign up with our Alden Lane Cashiers by phone or in person - class size is limited.

Concrete Leaf Class for KIDS!

**August 21st
11 am - 12 pm**

Our Concrete Leaf Class is now offered for kids 7 years old and up (*a parent may accompany a child if they need some extra help*). Your kids will make a beautiful piece of garden art using a living leaf impression, much like the leaves displayed at Alden Lane for our adult leaf classes, but using colored concrete instead of being painted, so the children may take them home a few days after they are made and have "cured".

The leaves are approx. 8-10", and they can make up to three leaves, depending on the size of leaf and time constraints. This class includes all materials, including the leaves — just dress in clothes they can get messy in and be ready to have a lot of fun!

We warn you, this process is addicting, and you and your children just might get hooked on this wonderful art form. Think about all those holiday gifts you can make! The cost is \$25.00 per child, plus tax.

Class size is limited, so call our cashiers today to register and pre-pay.



Pruning Opportunities for August

The month of August offers a unique opportunity for pruning in the garden. Just before the onset of our "second spring", many plants can be pruned now for shape or size control. Plants such as fruit trees, hedges and many flowering perennials will look great in a few weeks as pruning cuts are quickly covered by new fall growth.



Citrus plants (and other frost tender plants) pruned before September 1st will produce a bit of new growth that will harden off nicely before the winter cool temperatures. Deciduous fruit trees like plums, apricots, apples and cherries can be pruned for size control now. Peaches pruned now will produce fruiting wood for next years' crop. Hedges such as boxwood or privet will quickly grow a new coat of leaves to show through the cool months of winter. Flowering shrubs, like shrub daisy can be reshaped now for an attractive period, re-blooming up until winter.

California has the benefit of enjoying two clear growing seasons each year, a main one in spring, and a second in the fall as the weather gets comfortable again. This is a beautiful time in the garden with many flowering plants flushing out a colorful display of blooms, almost as nice as spring.

By late summer, many shrubby perennials can look leggy or overgrown, shrubs can look out of shape and fruit trees can be getting too big. Pruning just before fall can mean your garden will "heal" after a therapeutic pruning and look fresh and tidy going into winter.

Most plants pruned at this time of year, only need a light pruning or reshaping. Leave heavier pruning for winter or early spring. If you are not sure about the pruning needs of a particular plant, email or stop by for some advise.

August Pruning Class *Its a Great time to Prune!*

\$5.00

& bring

a friend

for **free.**

Call ahead to

reserve a space.

925-447-0280

Learn what and how.

Saturday, August 7th,

11:00 a.m. -

12:00 noon





Win A Collection of Late Summer Color!

It's not too late to plant annual flowers. They will turn any spot into a bright and colorful area.

You can win:

- 12 – 4 inch Annual Color Plants
- 1 – 16 inch pot
- 1 – 2 cu ft. **Master's Potting Soil**

A \$70.00 Value

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win. Drawing to be held August 31, 2010.

LATE SUMMER COLOR

August 2010

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

Top 6 Perennial Picks for Sunny Spaces

Beard Tongue (*Pensemon sp.*)

– Elegant and reliable; valued by gardeners for their spires of foxglove-like flowers with outstanding color varieties. Our favorites are 'Garnet,' 'Sour Grapes,' 'Firebird,' and 'Apple Blossom.' Hummingbirds aren't choosy, they like them all. They will perform all summer, with regular deadheading full sun and good garden soil.

Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*)

– Attractive gray and white fuzzy leaves boast long, arching stems with velvety, deep violet flowers from summer to first frost. One of the larger salvias at 2-3'. Dried flowers retain their color in arrangements. Easy to establish with deep infrequent watering, ordinary soil, and good drainage. Cold hardy to 25°.

Lavender (*Lavendula sp.*) These heat-of-summer bloomers produce fragrant flower spikes. Their lavender blue flowers are great for dry arrangements, or may be made into aromatic stove-top potpourri simply by boiling. Cool the water, strain; use as counter top cleaner. Varieties range in height from 18" - 3' with equal spread. Best selections are 'Hidcote,' 'Munstead,' 'Thumbelina Leigh,' and Spanish varieties. Well-drained soil is essential.

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia varieties*)

– Plant in good garden soil with great drainage, for year after year blooms. Very tolerant of our hot, dry summers. They produce copious quantities of brown-centered yellow daisies for 2-3 months with their seed heads providing another element of winter landscape interest. Combine with Russian sage and Sedum 'Autumn Joy' for a great look that is low maintenance.

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)

– Voted 1995's Perennial of the Year. It remains a true favorite, flowering from July into fall with no grooming. No significant pest or disease problems, probably due to its fragrant silver foliage. It grows to 3' and looks spectacular when mass planted with yellow daylilies.

Stella D'Oro Daylily (*Hemerocallis 'Stella D'Oro'*) – this miniature golden beauty blooms all summer and grows to only 18". When planted in good soil, this plant will grow rapidly and require minimal care. Just remove faded flowers to promote even more rewards. To reduce the size of the clump or to add to your collection, plants may be divided every 2-3 years in the fall. Flowers are edible, and make a great garnish on main dishes or dessert plates.





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

Change Service Requested

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #274
Livermore, CA

IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

Alden Lane Nursery Hours • 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily

SPECIAL COUPON

Present This Coupon & A Canned Food Item
TO RECEIVE FREE

A 3 inch Herb Plant!!



(\$2.99 Value)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please!
Offer Good August 1-31, 2010.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY

