



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

JUNE 2008

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 a.m. every day, repeated on Sat. & Sun. at 11 a.m.
- **Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This month the meeting will be held in The Larkspur Room, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. Mark your calendars for June 3rd. A potluck dinner will be served. For more information contact Sally at 925-417-8809.
- **Plan to attend the Alameda County Fair** – June 20 to July 6. Advanced Sale Fair Tickets are here! For more information log on to www.alamedacountyfair.com.
- **Alden Lane exhibits at the Fair!** Another great reason to visit the Alameda County Fair is to see Alden Lane's landscape exhibit. The fair theme is celebrating 150 years of Horse Racing and our display is called "Raising The Stakes". The metal horse sculptures that you've seen at the store entrance will provide the "Art" element for our display. Come see how it goes together. There will be some great landscape inspiration in the cool, shady fair landscape gardens.
- **Orchids 101:** Want to learn more about your orchids and how to be successful? Sue Fordyce is conducting Orchids 101 classes every second Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. to noon at Alden Lane. Pre-register with our cashiers (phone in or drop by). The cost is \$5.00. Bring a friend for FREE! Orchids 101 will next be held on June 14th.

Alden Lane Nursery

Hours: Daily 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Dear Alden Lane Newsletter Subscriber,

In an effort to provide more a 'green', timely, efficient gardening information and reduce costs so Alden Lane Nursery can stay price competitive I am asking you to switch to my web based paperless newsletter if at all possible.

To continue to receive the printed paper newsletter you must over the next 2 months bring in your newsletter mailing label page at least once. This will let me know you wish to continue to receive my printed newsletter via USPS mail.

If you're far away and still wish to receive the mailed version mail me your label page.

There may be some of you that have moved out of the area and no longer wish to receive my newsletter.

There may be those of you that want to stay in touch where ever you call home.

There are those of you that want the mailed version no matter what.

To receive my weekly Enewsletter that is linked to the paper version, please visit my Nursery website at www.aldenlane.com and signup. New subscribers receive a \$10.00 gift certificate as 'signing bonus'.

If I don't hear from you by August 1st your mailed newsletter will be discontinued. Please let me know how you want to stay in touch.



*Thank you,
Jacquie*

Victory Garden



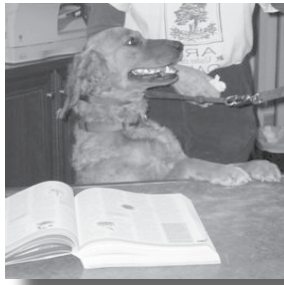
With the price of food and fuel through the roof, my family and I are staying home a bit more and with our extra time, growing some of our own food. Originally conceived as a way to reduce pressure on the domestic food supply during the World War II, the idea of a Victory Garden has contemporary applications. Several Alden Lane customers have mentioned pulling back some of their lawn or landscape this year and planting some vegetables. Why not grow some tomatoes among your ornamentals that are treated with vegetable safe care products? My family is still enjoying tomatoes grown and dried last year – and thrown into soups and stews this year. It's not too late in the season, we have plants, seeds, and ideas to get you started.

Come To The Fair!



Plan to attend the Alameda County Fair – June 20 to July 6. Buy Advanced Sale Fair Tickets here at Alden Lane Nursery!

	PRE-SALE	AT THE GATE
Youth (6-12)	\$4	\$ 6
Adults	\$7	\$10
Seniors (62+)	\$5	\$ 7
Kids under 6	Free	Free



Hailey's Comments

Canine accolades to making finals. This is for both our academic human achievers as well as our beloved American Idol performing show dogs. You've got your papers or made the papers, as the case may be, so use them wisely. As Alden Lane's resident canine, I jump and howl at your perseverance that has resulted in being a papered pedigree.

Barking is a grand way to celebrate a knock at the door, a vagrant squirrel trespassing, or the arrival of summer. The fairgrounds is a great place to take your human tail-waggers for a running and open-air barking extravaganza. Alden Lane will have an entry in the Professional Landscape Garden at the exhibition area of Alameda County Fair Grounds.

Composting is a natural way of Going Green and recycling your edible wastes. You don't have to be a pure bred to be a stock gardener. To keep that garden nourished naturally, consider making your own compost pile. Follow your nose to a corner of the yard and begin collecting food wastes such as spoiled vegetables, egg shells, and coffee grounds. Add some soil and old leaves. Imagine your favorite bone buried and dig it up every 7 days. Your pawing around aids in the decomposing process. The length of time that it takes for a compost pile to be cured and ready for garden consumption is faster than a season of American Idol. Happy digs to you, my natural hound dogs.

Paws for Reflection: *The reason a dog has so many friends is that they wag their tails instead of their tongues.*

Author unknown

Enter The County Fair Amateur Gardening Competition

There are two Rose Shows and three opportunities to enter your Potted Plants, Cut Flowers, Produce, and Floral Designs.



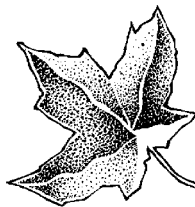
- Bring address labels for easy entry.
- Entry fee \$3 per exhibitor per delivery period.
- All cars must be removed from the delivery area after drop off by 9:30 a.m.
- Pick-up by claim check only.

For dates and details go to www.AlamedaCountyFair.com, click on Exhibit Catalog, look at Exhibit Categories and click on Amateur Gardening or call (925) 426-7600.

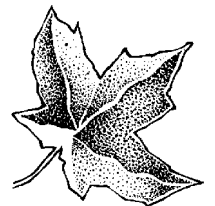
Composting Information

Call the Rotline, 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.



Concrete Leaf Classes Are Here This Month!



By popular demand, Sue and Heather of Alden Lane will present concrete leaf classes this summer. 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.

Class cost \$48.00 per class, 15 person class limit. Please pre-register with our Alden Lane cashiers. Please allow for 1½ to 2 hours class time. Classes are scheduled as follows:

Saturday	June 14	2:00 pm
Saturday	June 28	11:00 am
Saturday	July 26	11:00 am
Thursday	August 14	6:30 pm

Notes for June Gardening

- ♪ Protect Japanese Maples; apply **Bonide Wilt Stop** to the foliage before the end of June and then monthly thereafter to protect the leaves from moisture loss.
- ♪ And don't forget Dad! Alden Lane has many wonderful gifts for him. Choose from fragrant Citrus trees, a handy gardener's tool belt with pockets for his tools and gloves. Roses to perfume the garden and remind him of your love and so much more!
- ♪ Plant 4-inch & gallon can vegetable plants and save several weeks of growing time. Remember to protect them from hungry snails, bugs, and slugs with pet safe **Sluggo Plus**.
- ♪ Before your cherries and other summer fruit begin to ripen protect them from hungry birds with **bird scare tape** (shiny tape that moves in the wind), **plastic netting**, and **plastic owls**.
- ♪ Hungry tomato hornworms as well as geranium budworms and other caterpillars are ready to munch on your garden. Control them with earth friendly **Safer's B.t. Caterpillar Killer**.
- ♪ Before you have trouble with blossom end rot in your tomatoes use **Foli-cal**. Blossom end rot creates a leathery brown patch at the bottom end of a tomato and is caused by insufficient calcium
- ♪ Mulching makes the summer easier on your garden. It retains moisture and helps minimize weeds. Use a 3" to 4" layer of **Master Nursery Gold Rush** for the best results.
- ♪ Remember to water plants under eaves and in hidden corners. Soak hanging baskets and container plants during the summer heat.
- ♪ Graduations and weddings are coming up this month! Stop by the nursery for great gift ideas or a gift card.
- ♪ The **Alameda County Fair** opens Friday, June 20th make plans to enter your prize-winning flowers and vegetables.
- ♪ Spruce up the garden with pots of red, white and blue flowers! We have lots of colorful blooming plants to make holiday parties and barbecues all the more enjoyable. Shop early because **the nursery will be closed on July 4th**.



11th Annual Quilting In the Garden September 27th & 28th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Quilting in the Garden is held each September at Alden Lane Nursery. This year we are pleased to feature the work of **Joen Wolfrom** of Washington



along with local artists including **Melinda Bula** – 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.

Teaching classes this year, in addition to Joen and Melinda, are **Cindy Needham** and **Alex Anderson**. The show and workshop will be held on Sept. 27th and 28th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include a lecture series starting on Thursday, the 25th.

Saturday night will feature a fashion show with Melinda's clothing, Friday night is Joen with a color lecture, *"It's color that makes the Quilts go WOW"*.

Tickets go on sale in June. For more information on *Quilting in the Garden 2008* please visit us at www.aldenlane.com.

This is the **22nd 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 pm 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.

Admission is FREE, Parking is FREE. Additional FREE parking is available at Sunset Business Park 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

Come to "Summer School" at Alden Lane Nursery

Alden Lane Educational Opportunities

Creating a garden for butterflies and hummingbirds
Sunday, June 1st
10:00 am or
Saturday, June
7th 10:00 am

The class will include about 30 minutes of instruction/demonstration and optional 20-30 minutes of question and answer time. Josh Pulcinella is a knowledgeable plantsman and was raised watching birds. Join Josh again as he shares a vast wealth of knowledge and experience about attracting and enjoying these beauties in your landscape.



Succulent Pot Class

Join us on June 7th from 11 a.m to noon for our succulent class. Attendees will select from a variety of succulents to plant and a 6 pocket terracotta "strawberry" pot. The

class cost is \$45 and must be prepaid to hold your spot. The class is limited to 24 attendees.

Summer Bonsai Classes at Alden Lane

This **June 21st** class will be "Beyond the Basics-Refining your skill" from 10-1pm. \$50.00 class fee. Please call ahead to pay and reserve your space. This will be an intermediate level class, working with a large five-gallon specimen. Charles will work with those wishing to go the next step and train larger plant material. There is an increase in price to cover the pot and larger plant material.

The **July 19th** class will be "A Landscape Planting", from 10-1pm. \$45.00 fee Please call ahead to reserve your space, and pay for this class. Charles will provide either landscape plate or flat pumice rocks for a tray. All plants will be provided including the groundcover needed.



Create Your Own Backyard Vacation Paradise

Turn your backyard into your favorite vacation spot. Invest in your landscape not your gas tank. Spending time and money on your yard improves the environment, increases your property value and makes for a great vacation oasis in your own backyard.

Choose your destination

Aloha . . .
Bring the look and feel of the tropics home. Palms, bougainvillea and hibiscus are all on this destination's play list. Enliven the yard with pots of bright tropical colored annual flowers that will bloom all summer long. For sunny hot spots use Tropical Cooler Vincas and for the shade Paradise mixed Impatiens.



Arriba . . .
Let's travel to Mexico. You can supplement the tropical plant palate with fiesta colored annual flowers such as Pacifica Vinca, Salsa Salvia, Fire Profusion Zinnias and Antigua Marigolds. Add a splash of blue lobelia to provide a cool ocean breeze. And if you really want to 'Rock' add the all new "Rockapulco" double impatiens.

Ciao Bella . . . **A Mediterranean look is all the rage.** This water wise landscape will transport you to Rome. Olives, citrus, lavender and grapes are a must. Accent your patio with your favorite color scheme and let the annual and perennial color fill and spill over the edge of terracotta planters. Bacopa, Million Bells and Sanvitalia are great draping accent plants. Tuscan Sun zinnias would fit right in.

Cool, Calm "Collection" . . . **Redwoods, ferns and coral bells** make for a great combination to create a cool mountain retreat. Fill pots with white Impatiens and blue lobelia to visually drop the temperature by a few welcome degrees on those hot summer days. Add a recycling water feature, close your eyes and you're there.

Soothe your senses, improve the environment and save money by vacationing at home.

June is a Month of Celebrations

Remember your **favorite teachers** with a blooming plant or special treasure from our gift shop. We're happy to help select and wrap.

Remember Dad – It's Father's Day – June 15th

Come by the nursery for great gift suggestions for dad!

- Shiny new tools for his gardening collection.
- Plant a citrus tree for dad. It's a gift that gives more each year.
- Statuary benches, arbors, garden art and more to create the feel of an outdoor room for relaxing.
- Cheerful colorbowls.
- Lush houseplants for his office that will beautify and clean the air.
- Decorative containers to fill with plants of his choice for deck and patio.
- Barma Canvas "Drover" hats so Dad has a "cool head."
- His own orchard of fruit filled trees – citrus, cherries, peaches, nectarines and more are available here at Alden Lane Nursery.



Just for Dad!!

Looking for that special something just for Dad? We have some great gifts for Dad. "**Danger Men Cooking**" is a line of cooking/grilling related products

we are carrying just for that special guy in your life. This is a fun line of products that include things like a **black apron** with the logo of Danger Men Cooking, **mugs, hot pads and oven mitts, signs to hang off of the grill, and for a bit of fun caution tape** with Danger men cooking printed on it.

Other fun items include a **steak branding iron** to indicate rare, medium, and well done, and of course a **Happy Hooker** which is the ultimate meat turner. To spice things up the line includes tough guy steak sauces.

Another new item for Alden Lane Nursery is a group of **walking sticks/hiking staffs** from Harvy canes. Made from

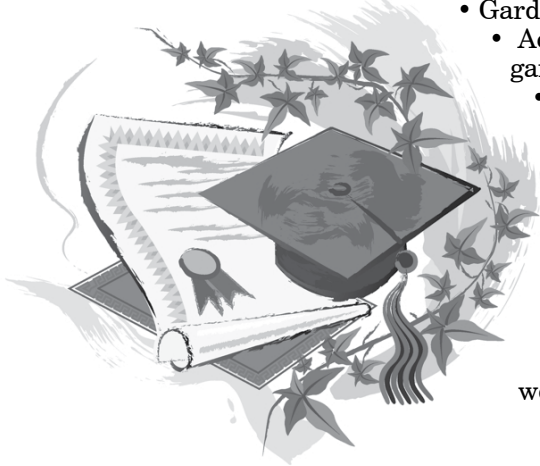
sturdy woods like hickory, brown chestnut and mountain Ash there are sure to be a big hit with dad or grandpa. If you would like to view the products visit www.harvycanes.com.

Stop by the garden store for all of your Father's Day needs. We not only have these new items to explore but we also have the traditional favorites Dad's and father's love.

Graduations & Weddings

This June give your favorite bride and groom or graduate a gift that will keep giving through the years. Alden Lane has a great selection of gift giving ideas. Drop by and let us show you some of the following:

- A houseplant for new apartment or dorm.
- Gift baskets for the new garden filled with seeds, gloves and gardening tools of all kinds!
- Outdoor thermometers and clocks.
- Garden candles and holders.
- Accessories for the home and garden.
- Give a tree to commemorate the occasion.
- A piece of garden statuary that will improve with the passage of time.
- A flowering plant that will remind you of the occasion when it blooms on the anniversary each year.
- A wall plaque with words of welcome.



It's Not TOO late! Plant Your Summer Vegetable Garden

June is a great month to plant a vegetable garden. Alden Lane has a good selection of vegetable plants that will help you with growing time. Stop by the nursery and let us get you growing this season!



Kid's Club Activities

**Register & Pre-Pay for our
Stepping Stone Class**

Saturday, June 7th

Cost is: \$20.

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 am

Come decorate a stepping-stone for Dad! It will be something he will 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.

Back by Popular Demand! Orchid University!!

This is your opportunity to learn the basics and beyond about the intricate world of ORCHIDS. Sue Fordyce will “de-mystify the mystical” and teach you what you need to know to grow-and BLOOM fabulous orchids. Many types of orchids will be discussed, both indoor and outdoor. You may choose one Wednesday night class, sign up for all three, or you have the option of taking one Saturday 3½ hour class which will include all the workshop information in one session.

Please call Alden Lane at 925-447-0280 to sign up for the workshops which have limited registration. Classes will be held in Alden Lane’s Ruthie’s Room. The cost is \$10.00 per class, or sign up for all 3 for \$25.00. Prepayment is suggested to hold your space. If you would prefer to take the Saturday half-day workshop the cost is \$30.00.

Wednesdays:

Workshop I, June 4th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm: Your plants are talking to you – how to interpret the sign language of orchids and understand their basic needs.

Workshop II, June 11th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm: *Potting Party!* Repotting, dividing and root health will be addressed by hands on demonstration. You may bring a plant to be repotted.

Workshop III, June 18th, 7:00 to 8:30 pm: Pests and diseases, water quality, greenhouse culture, & mounting orchids.

Saturday:

Saturday, July 19th, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Workshops I, II, & III all in one half-day session.

Let There Be Light!

House/Office Plants and Light Requirements

Come visit our Greenhouse filled with just the right plants for your home or office.

Most people choose a house plant which has the right shape, appearance and price. It is essential, however, that it should also be right for the light and warmth it will receive in its new home. Each plant has its own likes and dislikes, and it is important to find out a little more about those facts before you purchase your plant. Even when carefully selected, your new plant may get a little homesick even in good conditions, and some varieties of plants may go through a temporary shock until they get acclimated to their new abode. Don’t assume that conditions must be wrong if the plant looks a little sad for the first few weeks.

Here are some guidelines for figuring out the right indoor light for your house-plant:

Shade ...

Well away from a window, but enough light for you to be able to read a newspaper. ***Aglaonema, Many types of Philodendron, Mother in Laws Tongue.***

Semi Shade ...

Near a sunless window or some distance away from a bright window. ***Aglaonema,***

Many varieties of ***dracaena, (including dragon tree, and corn plant)*** Most ***Ferns, Fittonia, Prayer Plants, Ivy, Philodendron, Lady Palm, Lucky Bamboo, Kentia Palm and Peace Lily.***

Bright but Sunless ...

On a sunless windowsill or near a bright window. ***Anthurium, Begonia, Bromeliad, Spider Plants, Dumb Cane, Philodendron, Peperomea, Aluminum Plant, Creeping Charlie, Schefflera, Peace Lily, Polka Dot***

Plants, Bamboo Palm, Grape Ivy, Weeping Fig, Fiddle Leaf Fig and African Violets.

Some Direct Sunlight ...

On, or very close to an east or west facing windowsill. May need protection from hot Summer sun. ***Cordyline, Purple Velvet Plant, Hoya (Wax Plant) African Violet, Croton, Lipstick Plant, and Goldfish Plant.*** Many ***orchids,*** such as ***Phalaenopsis*** and ***Oncidiums, Sago Palm, Rabbits Foot Fern, Rubber Tree, Zygocactus, Begonias.***

Sunny Window ...

Or very close to a south facing window. Light shading might be necessary in mid-summer. ***Cactus and succulents, Hoyas, Aloe, and Tillandsias. Thick leaf types of orchids,*** such as ***Cattleyas*** and ***Vandas***



AZOMITE

“Peak Minerals for Peak Performance”

Remineralize your soil & taste the difference!

Azomite is a powdered volcanic rock product naturally loaded with a large variety of various minerals useful in reinvigorating your garden soil. Garden soils become depleted over time. Azomite is approved for use in organic gardens and has been shown to increase nutrient uptake, promote biological activity, improve crop nutrition and flavor and correct micro-nutrient deficiencies.

In the past many of our customers came

to love the benefits of what at the time was sold as Spiral Stone Meal or Rock Powder. Finally a similar product with similar properties arrives on the market and we have just brought our first supply of it in. Azomite has been mined and used in agriculture for decades with various trials and studies verifying its benefits.

Azomite is 40# bags, adequate for treating between 45 square feet to as much as one acre.

Drift Roses

The new groundcover rose for small gardens and containers.

The Drifts are true groundcover roses created specifically for small gardens and combination planters. Their low, spreading habit (1½' tall and 2' wide) also makes them perfect for container gardening and hanging baskets.

This exciting new series has six colors: coral, pink, ivory, red, and peach. Continuous bloomers from spring until early frost, they are naturally dwarf,

with very dark glossy attractive foliage.



GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

For each 100 square feet add:

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

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

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.

Spray On Sunscreen for your Japanese Maples

Japanese Maples are perfectly comfortable in Portland, Oregon where the summer sky is softened with billowy clouds and an occasional shower.

The valley's dry summer climate on the other hand calls for a bit of special protection. Our hot, dry and sometimes windy summers can turn the leaf edges of Japanese Maples crispy.

Spray the leaves with **Bonide Wilt Stop** before the end of June and then monthly thereafter to protect the leaves from moisture loss.

One creative customer threaded drip irrigation tubing topped with a mist head up into the maple's canopy. Turned on hot days it provides welcome cooling.

Win A Watering Kit

Make your watering tasks easier to control with a flexible hose that is made to last a lifetime, combined with a water wand that gives you the best control to save water!

A \$55.00 Value

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win. Drawing to be held June 30, 2008.

WATERING KIT

June 2008

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

A 3" HERB PLANT!!

(\$3.99 Value)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies.
One coupon per family, please. Offer Good June 1-30, 2008.

SECOND SPECIAL COUPON

25% OFF ANY ONE ITEM!!

(Limited to stock on hand.)

One coupon per family, please. Offer Good June 1-30, 2008.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY



Want to continue to receive the mailed *Newsletter*???

Return this label page to the Nursery. See details on the front cover of this *Newsletter*!!



981 Alden Lane
Livermore, CA 94550

(925) 447-0280

Change Service Requested

IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

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