



Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2005

Serving You Since 1955

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

Announcements

Watch the **Valley Gardener** for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright. Tune in 4 days a week on Cable Channel 30. Monday: 9 am & 3:30 pm, Friday: 3 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday: 7 am, 11 am & 2:30 pm.



Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton. On Jan. 4th **Rosalind Creasy**, author of the *Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, will speak on vegetable gardening. On Feb. 1st join **Keeyla Meadow**, Berkeley artist, author and garden designer who will speak on garden design. Succulent expert, **Ernest Sandoval** of UC Davis, will present on March 1st. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812.



Christmas Tree Recycling: If you haven't made arrangements for your cut Christmas tree yet it can be dropped off at the nursery on **Saturday, January 8th from 8:30 to 3:00**. Local Boy Scouts will be on hand to take your cut tree for a \$5 donation.



Winter Tours in Walnut Creek of the Ruth Bancroft Garden will be held every Sat. until March 26th. Reservations are required. For more info call 925-210-9663 or visit their website: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.



Call now for registration info for great horticulture classes at **Las Positas College** – (925) 373-580, (925) 426-0197 extension 0 or log on www.laspositas.edu. Also check into the **brand new Viticulture and Winery Technology classes**. The spring semester starts January 18th.

*Alden Lane celebrates a Golden Anniversary
50 beautiful years (1955-2005) of helping gardeners
in the valley. Celebrate with us all year long!*

New Trends for 2005

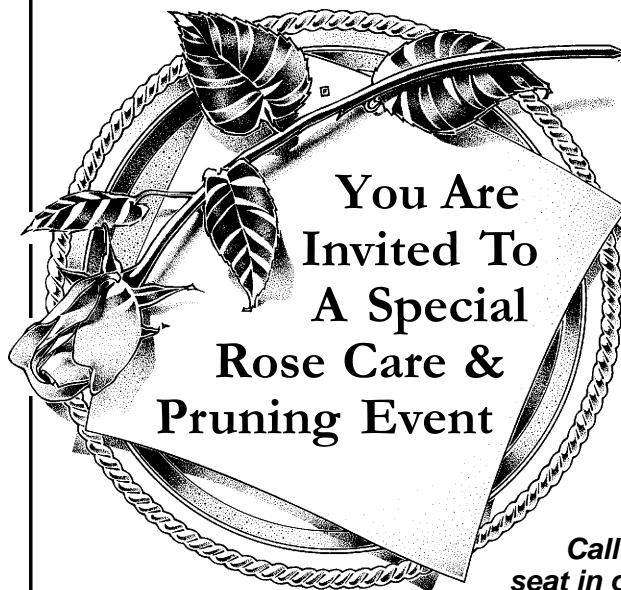
Join us on **Saturday, January 22nd** from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. as we host a **New Trends Show**.

At 10:30, Alden Lane's senior staff will be forecasting what's new in design, color, plants and products! Call ahead to reserve a space in this free seminar.

Our suppliers will be on hand to show you what's new for 2005. Don't miss this great event. You'll hear about color trends for 2005, the latest "to die for" products and plants. Visit various booths filled with all the latest plant 'fashions' and products. Whether it's a nifty garden gadget or new colorful plant introduction, you'll see it here first through this unique "window on the future". Come enjoy a hot cup of cider and tasty cookies while you browse the booths. Special drawings will be held during the day.



Saturday and Sunday, January 8th & 9th – 10 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Join us for our ever popular **Rose Care and Pruning Seminars** led by All American Rose Selections (AARS) Consulting rosarians David Lowell and Ken & Judy Jones. David will present on Saturday at 10 a.m. and Ken & Judy on Sunday at 1 p.m. They will speak about the best varieties for the valley as well as proper pruning techniques, feeding and general care.



Call (925)447-0280 to reserve a seat in one of these free seminars.

A Gardener's Delight

2005 Rose Collection Is Here! This is the peak of selection.

Fragrant Lilacs – Timeless . . . Classic . . . plant now for spring bloom!

Daphne – An old fashioned fragrance for your garden! Budded and Blooming now!!

Steve's Seasonal Favorites!

Fruit Trees Have Arrived – Choose tasty Peaches, sprightly Nectarines, juicy plums, delicious Cherries, crisp Apples and much more!

Happy Wanderer Vine – THE #1 Best Vine for winter color. The “Royal Cloak” of the winter garden. Royal purple at its best.

Plant a Memory With A Fragrant Rose

What's the first thing we do when we see a beautiful rose? If your answer to this question is that we smell its lovely fragrance, then you'll be pleased to know that rose hybridizers are making fragrance one of their priorities in the breeding process. It has been said that our sense of smell is the most powerful of our five senses in provoking memory. What better way to plant your own memories than with one of our new 2005 fragrant roses? Visit the nursery for a complete selection of all of our fragrant roses. For your convenience, we've listed below our most fragrant new introduction 2005 roses for your selection.

Aromatherapy: One of Jackson & Perkins most fragrant roses ever. The aroma of this hybrid tea sweetens the air for days. Lovely.

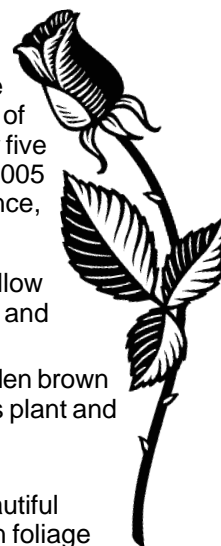
Bolero: A pure white Romantica with an exceptionally strong fragrance. The blossoms have 100 plus petals set upon dark and glossy foliage.

Cherries 'n' Cream: Light pink buds open to blossoms edged in cream tones. This shrub rose produces a bounty of blooms with a strong clove scent.

Elle: This new two-toned shell pink/yellow hybrid tea carries a potent blend of citrus and spice scents set upon glossy foliage.

Honey Dijon: Grandiflora in warm golden brown with blooms set upon a naturally vigorous plant and sweet fragrance. A honey of a treat in the landscape or bouquet.

Lasting Love: Hybrid tea with big, beautiful blooms in dusky red against glossy green foliage with a heavenly scent. Perfect.



Give Your Roses Some Zing For Spring with Dave's Fertilizer Program

This Program provides for general plant vigor, and wonderful looking roses. For use on established (planted for at least 6 months) roses only in FEBRUARY and AUGUST, for **each** rose apply the following:

12-12-12	½ cup per rose (5# bag for 18 roses)
Bone Meal	½ cup per rose (4# bag for 18 roses)
Sulfur*	½ cup per rose (5# bag for 18 roses)
Magnesium Sulfate	2 tbs. per rose (5# bag for 70 roses)
Chicken Fertilizer	1 shovel per rose (1 bag for 9 roses)

*To supply sulfur use one of the following products: **Iron Plus, Iron Sulfate, or Ph Adjuster-plus.**
NOTE: Iron containing products can stain, sweep off adjacent paving after application.

✓ Sprinkle the first four ingredients around each rose and mix into soil if possible. Then sprinkle: chicken fertilizer around each rose and water everything in.

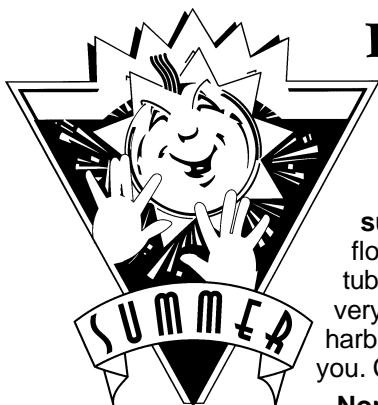
✓ Alden Lane Nursery recommends applying Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food monthly, March through July and September, skipping August for Dave's program.

✓ A one-inch mulch layer may be put around your roses to conserve water and insulate roots from summer heat. However to encourage early bloom delay mulching until after the soil has been warmed by spring temperatures.

✓ **Do not combine** this recipe with systemic rose fertilizer. It poses a serious health risk to pets if ingested.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY GARDENING CALENDAR

- ☑ Move your living tree outdoors. Care for other holiday gift plants such as azaleas and camellias by placing them outside where they will thrive in cooler temperatures.
- ☑ Keep your New Year's Resolution...to join the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club (Ask for Bev - 485-7812). Call to join.
- ☑ Brighten the garden with jewel colored bedding plants. Refresh your garden containers with primroses, pansies, Iceland poppies and more. Check with the staff!
- ☑ Begin to restore your soil with an application of **Soil Soup**. Repopulating the micro-organisms helps to improve soil texture and helps make soil nutrients more readily available to the plant.
- ☑ Place three inches of mulch around trees, shrubs and flowerbeds to keep weeds under control. Keep the mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs as well as the stems of bedding plants to prevent crown rot.
- ☑ This is the month to apply **Master Nursery Hydrangea Blue** and monthly hereafter until summer for bright blue hydrangeas.
- ☑ Remove old flowers on camellias and azaleas to reduce the chance of petal blight.
- ☑ January and February are the months to prevent crabgrass from sprouting in your lawn. Crabgrass dies with the onset on cold weather, leaving seeds that will sprout as the spring weather warms the soil. Applying **Master's Lawn Fertilizer Plus Crabgrass Control** now will prevent crabgrass seeds from sprouting.
- ☑ A blooming token of your love this **Valentine's Day** says it best! Choose from an assortment of fragrant blooming bulbs, African violets, cyclamen and lush house plants.
- ☑ Choose azaleas and camellias now while they are in bloom. The selection is great and you'll pick just the right color for your Valentine's garden.
- ☑ February is the last month for dormant spray. Apply Lilly Miller Microcop with Sta-Stuk. Spray when the flower buds just start to show color at the tip of the bud, generally between the 2nd & 3rd weeks of Feb. For peaches and nectarines spray again at $\frac{3}{4}$ petal fall - the best time to control Peach Leaf Curl. NOTE: If it should rain within 24 hours of application then reapply material.
- ☑ Feed the lawn monthly even during cold winter months. This maintains its green color and minimizes rust disease. **Masters Fall and Winter Lawn Fertilizer** is especially formulated for the season.
- ☑ HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS
- ☑ **Arbor Day is March 7th.** Celebrate by planting a tree in your yard or a favorite school or park. In addition to baby tree seedlings for each 2nd grader in the Livermore and Pleasanton School districts Alden Lane is offering a free tree valued at \$39.99 or a credit of \$39.99 toward a larger or more expensive tree to be donated to your school or park (one tree per site please). Contact the recipient to ask what kind of tree they would like, then call us to reserve. We will hold your tree selection at the nursery until you or the recipient can pick up for planting. We are happy to help in the greening of our community. We will offer a tree starter kit at a special price to help ensure a healthy beginning.

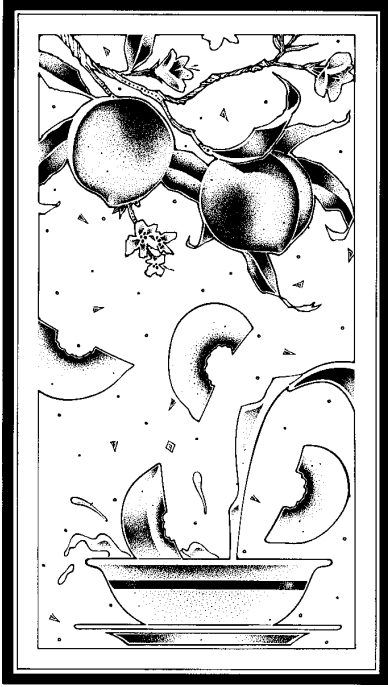


Plant Summer Blooming Bulbs in February

A home filled with fragrant cut lilies, gladiolus, dahlias and other blooming bulbs can be yours by braving the cold damp garden in February. Summer bulbs are here at the nursery. Best come early for the very best selection of colors and varieties.

Their bright and dramatic colors make great garden accents for the long, hot summer days. If you plant Glads every two weeks you will have a kaleidoscope of colorful cut flowers through the summer. Dahlias are available in different heights and flower forms. The tubers get bigger every year and provide a larger and more colorful show. Fragrant Tuberose are very popular and generally sell out, (call ahead and reserve some); Lily of the Valley are delicate harbingers of spring but have a small window to prepare for them so let us reserve a package for you. Call the nursery today.

Northern facing garden spots can benefit from the beauty of tuberous Begonias. Vivid reds, oranges and pinks as well as pastel shades are available in different flower forms. Plant the hanging variety in baskets and enjoy at eye level through your windows. Come by and see our fabulous selections.



Fresh Fruit from Your Garden

Nothing beats the taste of a sun-warm, tree-ripened fruit picked straight from the tree in your own yard. This is one of the best times to select trees for your own backyard orchard!

We have a great inventory of fruit trees, berries and grapes available for your selection. All of our trees are planted in bio-degradable pulp pots which prevent damage of the roots and from drying out. This means you'll have even more success than with traditional bareroot plants.

Consider using fruit trees in the yard to provide shade or block unwanted views. You don't need a lot of space. Grow an espaliered apple or pear along your fence or wall train a grape or kiwi up over an arbor or trellis, plant a dwarf peach or apple in a container on your deck. Plant a combination, multi-graft tree – it will give you a summer of fruit!

Varieties on our list are selected to be successful in our area we've included some special highlights such as combination Fruit Salad trees and over 20 varieties of grapes.

So come in and meet our expert staff. They'll be happy to help you choose the correct varieties based on ripening times, taste and space availability. We'll provide you with planting instructions and all the necessary items and knowledge to get you growing. Whether you have space for a whole orchard or just a single tree – come in and see our extensive selection and soon you'll be picking ripe fruit from your garden.

Berries & Grapes:

Blackberry:	Black Satin Thornless Black Butte Olallie
Bosenberry:	Thornless
Loganberry	Thornless
Raspberry	Autumn Bliss Bababerry Caroline Cumberland Black Cap Fall Gold
Blueberry:	Jubilee Misty O'Neal Southern Blueberry Sharp's Blue South Moon Sunshine Blue
Gooseberry:	Pixwell
Kiwi	All Purpose (Male) Hardy, Issai Self Fruitful Hayward (Female)

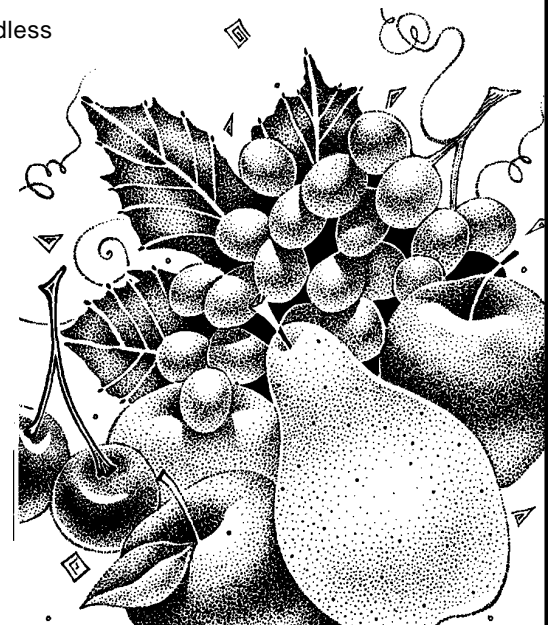
Grapes:	Autumn Royal Black Monukka Seedless (wine) Cabernet Sauvignon (wine) Champagne Chardonnay Concord (Seedless) Concord (Eastern) Crimson Seedless Delight Fantasy Seedless Flame Seedless Golden Muscat Ladyfinger (wine) Merlot Midgely's Purple Perlette Seedless Princess Seedless Ruby Seedless (wine) Shiraz (Syrah) Thompson Seedless (wine) Tokay Zinfandel
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Edibles:

Artichokes:	Greenglobe
Asparagus:	U.C. 72
Horseradish	Horseradish
Rhubarb	Victoria Cherry
Strawberry	Sequoia

Flowering & Shade Trees:

Cherry:	Beni Hoshi Kwanzan Mt. Fuji Subhirtella (weeping) Weeping Snow Fountain	Single Pink Double Pink Double Light Pink Double Pink Single White
Mulberry:	Fruitless Mulberry	
Plum:	Dwarf Purple Pony Krauter Vesuvius (LH)	Single White Single Light Pink
Willow:	Weeping Pussy Willow	
Wisteria:	Cooke's Purple (tree) Texas White (tree)	Purple White



WINTER AT THE NURSERY

Invest in Your Soil With A Nutritional Booster for Your Soil

This winter nurture your garden soil with an application of “freshly brewed” **Soil Soup**. We sell it by the gallon.

Our soils were once naturally teeming with microscopic life forms that help deliver nutrients to plant roots and help provide soil structure. Plants thrive in such soils but often suburban development and years of synthetic fertilizer and chemical use diminish or eliminate the natural bio-activity reducing plant performance. Inoculate your garden soil this winter with billions of fresh-brewed bio-organisms by applying a generous serving of Soil Soup. As soil temperatures warm in the spring, bioactivity will increase and begin to renew your soil to its former health, improving the look and health of your plants, vegetables and flowers.

Soil Soup is a liquid “tea” brewed from earthworm castings. The brewing process allows the diverse assortment of bio-organisms present in earthworm castings to reproduce exponentially in a short

amount of time, providing the gardener with a highly concentrated form of liquid compost that is very easy to apply. One gallon can cover as much as 1000 square feet by using any means of application including a hose end sprayer. For more information, we have a flyer available to you at the nursery.



Try a New Crop - Plant Potatoes

The smooth, buttery flavor of homegrown potatoes can't be beat. As a child I picked potatoes for my great aunt in Santa Cruz. The pungent earthy smell has stayed with me through the years bringing back memories of scratching away the soil to unearth another tasty gem. Alden Lane has a great selection that will do well in our valley. Create some memories with your family.

Cal White: This great boiling potato is also wonderful for scalloped or mashed potatoes & delicious potato salads.

All Blue: A new gourmet variety that is extremely popular. It has purple skin and purple flesh. They are small to medium in size and offer an excellent flavor for a “baker”.

Winema: A smoother red. This potato has bright red skin and white flesh ... ideal for boiling with no darkening after cooking.

Russet: Very similar to Idahos' famous Burbank, the good old fashioned baking potato with the rough skin. This one is much more disease resistant and very productive too.

Morning Gold: An improved Yukon Gold - stores better. An early potato, maturing in 65+ days, with buttery yellow flesh that is delicious. This variety makes a good steamer/boiler or great for use in salads.

California Dreamin'

Winter is an excellent season to plan and dream over the landscape and garden possibilities for the coming spring and summer. *Our designers at Alden Lane would love to help!*

Whether you are looking to redo a corner of your landscape to create a garden bed or looking to rework your whole landscape, front and back, we are prepared to help you create a dream garden from start to finish. You can have a beautiful and functional landscape this spring or summer with careful planning now. Call Alden Lane to set up an appointment with a professional and creative landscape designer while the temperatures inside are warmer than outside and the dreams for outdoor living are simmering.

We have experienced designers who can help reorganize your spaces, walkways, patios, etc. as well as assemble an interesting plant palette with great curb appeal. Our designers are California Certified Nursery Professionals to help assure your gardening success.

Please call Greg Zollars or Tib Warner at 925-447-0280 with questions or to arrange for an onsite consultation.



pH Adjuster Plus

Plants take nutrients up from the soil most efficiently when soil pH is neutral or slightly acidic. pH Adjuster Plus when applied over the soil surface and watered in, gently acidifies the soil and allows nitrogen, iron and other essential nutrients and elements to be released for uptake through plant roots. The end result is a healthier, more beautiful plant with brighter, greener foliage.

pH Adjuster Plus is pelletized sulfur that is much easier to apply than more conventional soil sulfur (no annoying dust).

Almost all plants will appreciate 2 to 3 applications per year but those plants that respond most dramatically to a pH adjustment include citrus, gardenias, camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons and other plants that develop a seasonal yellowing of the leaf related to iron chlorosis. Most likely you can think of at least one plant you have around your home that suffers from leaf yellowing. Apply and then water or time your application to let winter rains do the watering for you.

GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

To amend 100 square foot area use:

- 5 bags Master Gold Rush or Bumper Crop (10 cu ft)
- 5 lbs. Iron Sulfate or E. B. Stone pH Adjuster to acidify soil 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.

A Golden Celebration - The 2005 Daffodil Show

co-sponsored by the Northern California Daffodil Society & Alden Lane Nursery

Groom those blooms to **enter on Saturday morning, March 12th**. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the next newsletter. *This year's show will be held in honor of society member Wayne Steele, who passed away in 2004.* Come by to enjoy the show on **March 12th**, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and **March 13th**, 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Daffodil Lecture: Saturday, March 12th at 2:00 p.m. Plan to attend this free lecture on Daffodil culture, pests, and diseases by Bob Spotts of the Daffodil Society. Call ahead to reserve a seat.



Spring Chicken Gourd Workshop

On **Saturday, February 19th** from Noon until 4 p.m. Martha Scott will be showing us how to create a Chicken gourd. Perfect for the Easter and spring season. Martha is the gourd artist who participated in Fall Festival. The cost is \$45 and a \$5 material fee paid to the teacher. Plan ahead for this workshop – call 447-0280 to pre-pay and reserve your space today.

Kids Club Class

January 23rd 1:30-2:15 p.m.:
Who's Feeding the Birds?

Wonder what's keeping the birds alive? What are their habitats? Where do birds go in winter? How do they stay dry? Can you identify seeds? Did you know that birds have different sizes of beaks and tongues? Come and find out why.

Decorate and take home your own small bird feeder. Call to pre-pay & register for the \$20 class.



Alden Lane Pruning Classes

Sunday, January 23 at 1 p.m. join Jacquie and learn all the basics for general pruning at her "**Pruning 101**" class.

Then on **Sunday, February 6th** at 1:00 p.m. our own Steve Campbell will provide **general pruning guidelines and fruit tree specifics** at this ever popular class. There is no charge but call ahead and reserve a space.

Dress warmly for these outdoor or unheated space classes!

Win A Rose Feeding Plan This February

- (1) 10 lb. 12-12-12 Fertilizer
- (1) 8 lb. Bone Meal
- (1) 4.5 lb. Iron Plus
- (1) 5 lb. Epsom Salt (magnesium sulfate)
- (1) 1 cu. ft. Chicken Fertilizer

A \$45 value
(Please see recipe in this issue)

Drawing to be held February 28, 2005.

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win.

ROSE FEEDING

February 2005

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Win A Multi-Graft Fruit Tree & Planting Supplies In January

Now you can grow more than one variety of fruit tree in your garden, all in the space of one tree! We are offering a large selection of multi-grafts this year. You'll be able to select one when you win this month's contest!

A Multi-Graft Fruit Tree
1 cu. ft. Master Nursery Planting Mix
2.5 lb. Master Nursery Bone Meal

A \$50 value

Drawing to be held January 31, 2005.

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win.

MULTI-GRAFT TREE & SUPPLIES

January 2005

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

SPECIAL COUPON FOR JANUARY

Present this Coupon & A Canned Food Item
TO RECEIVE FREE

3 PAPERWHITE NARCISSUS BULBS

\$2.99 value – Great for indoor forcing!!

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies.
One coupon per family, please. Offer Good January 2-31, 2005.

SPECIAL COUPON FOR FEBRUARY

Present this Coupon & A Canned Food Item
TO RECEIVE FREE

A 4" VIOLA *Your Choice of Colors!*

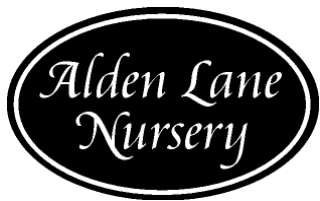
(\$1.99 value)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies.
One coupon per family, please! Offer Good February 1-28, 2005.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY



SPECIAL WINTER HOURS FOR ALDEN LANE NURSERY: Alden Lane will be opened 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. January & February with the exception of the following dates: **February 7th –11th** and **February 14th-18th**, we will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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

Change Service Requested

IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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Livermore, CA