

# Alden Lane Nursery

"Deeply Rooted in Gardens" . . . Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## Newsletter

MARCH 2020

Serving You Since 1955

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA • [www.aldenlane.com](http://www.aldenlane.com) • (925) 447-0280

### Spring Begins With A Cascade of Color

After a long winter's rest plants are starting to wake up. Buds are swelling and blooms are bursting. It starts out slow and then just like a bag of popcorn "*Spring Happens*".

Here are some great trees to color up Spring:

- \* **Flowering Plums** herald spring's arrival as they are among the first to bloom. *Purple Pony* is a nice mini version reaching only 8-10', this tree will fit almost anywhere. Flowers are pink in bud and white flower as are those of its bigger cousin *Krauter Vesuvius*. Both sport dark burgundy leaves.
- \* Mid-season we'll find **ornamental cherries & pears** cracking and showing color. There are a number of cherry and pear varieties to select from.
- \* Two favorite **cherries** are double *Pink Kwanzan* and the single soft pink, fragrant *Yoshino*. The latter is the famous cherry of Washington, D.C.'s *Tidal Basin* everyone flocks to see when it's in bloom. Our mild spring weather guarantees an extended 'flower show'!
- \* I love when customers ask for the "*Popcorn Tree*". This is a great description of the **flowering pear**. The trees are covered with mini bouquets of white flowers creating a 'cloud of white'. They are truly show-stopping, have great speed of growth and finish the season with iridescent fall leaf color. Tree forms vary from strong upright to more rounded in shape.



- \* **Crabapples** provide spring's succession of bloom as they are the last to bloom before summer arrives. Choose from white, soft pink to deep rose flower varieties.
- \* Other **wonderful landscape additions** include: *Redbuds*, *Hawthorns*, *Purple Robe Locust*, *Chinese Fringe* – and for the not faint of heart – *Dogwood*. We love Dogwoods . . . it's just finding the perfect garden spot for them to grow happily.

# The Ultimate Rose Feeding Recipe

This program was inspired by David Lowell – a local rose legend. It provides for general plant vigor and wonderful looking roses! For use on established roses only (planted for at least 6 months). Apply in MARCH and AUGUST. **For each rose apply:**

- |  |                          |                            |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • 16-16-16 <b>March only</b> Application | <b>1/2 cup/rose</b>      | (5# bag for 18 roses)      |
| • 5-5-5 <b>August only</b> Application   | <b>1/2 cup/rose</b>      | (4# box for about 9 roses) |
| • Bone Meal                              | <b>1/2 cup per rose</b>  | (4# bag for 18 roses)      |
| • Sulfur*                                | <b>1/2 cup per rose</b>  | (5# bag for 18 roses)      |
| • Gypsum                                 | <b>1/2 cup per rose</b>  | (5# bag for 18 roses)      |
| • Magnesium Sulfate                      | <b>2 Tbs. per rose</b>   | (5# bag for 70+ roses)     |
| • Chicken Fertilizer                     | <b>1 shovel per rose</b> | (1 bag for 9 roses)        |

\*to supply sulfur, use one of the following: Iron Sulfate, Iron Plus\*, or Soil Sulfur. Iron containing products can stain. Wash off adjacent paving after application. (\*Iron Plus is non-staining.)

Sprinkle the first 5 ingredients around each rose and mix into soil if possible. Then sprinkle the chicken fertilizer around each rose and water everything in.

Do NOT combine this recipe with systemic rose fertilizer. It poses a serious health risk to pets if ingested. Pets are attracted to the bone meal and may ingest systemic rose food if it is included in this recipe or applied other months in the same area.

Alden Lane Nursery recommends applying **Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food** monthly, April through July and September (skipping March & August for Spring and Fall Fertilizer Program above).

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.



## WIN A 5 GALLON LILAC!!

*Enjoy sweet nostalgic fragrance each year!*



A \$69.99 Value. No purchase necessary. Drawing to be held 3/31/2020.

LILAC  
March 2020

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

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

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

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

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

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

# Notes for March Gardening

- 🎵 **Feed! Feed! Feed!** It's time to refresh your garden plants. Fertilize all of your plants to support spring growth. For landscape shrubs and trees feed with *Master's Formula 49 All Purpose Plant Food*. If you have citrus or avocado trees, use *Master's Citrus Food*. This is a good time to start feeding fruit trees, grapes and berries. We recommend *Master's Fruit Tree & Vine Food* for the nutrition your plants need to produce the best crop ever! Your roses will appreciate a monthly feeding of *Master's Rose & Flower Food*.
- 🎵 **Prune azaleas and camellias** into shape after their blooms have faded. Feed them with *Master's Camellia, Azalea and Gardenia Food and Iron Plus* monthly through October.
- 🎵 **Place Yellow Jacket traps out** early this month to catch the queen before she starts her family. Prevention is the best cure!
- 🎵 **Give your lawn "a meal – not a snack"** with *Master Green Lawn Food*.
- 🎵 Now is the time to **set out snail bait**. *Sluggo* is pet friendly and Organic. *Sluggo Plus* also control insects such as earwigs and sowbugs.
- 🎵 This is a good time to think about **lawn renovation**.
- 🎵 **Add a lilac** to your garden and enjoy its fragrant spring blooms.
- 🎵 Remember to **plant gladiolus bulbs** (corms) every two weeks and you'll have armloads of cut flowers through the summer.
- 🎵 Remember to **water plants under eaves** and in containers. It's important now to **deep water trees** and shrubs if it isn't raining on a regular basis. Their root systems are starting to grow now.
- 🎵 **Plant your potatoes** on St. Patrick's Day if you haven't got them in the ground. See us for instructions and best varieties.
- 🎵 **Start annual morning glories** from seed this month and establish them in the garden or a pot by summer! Morning glories are one of the most stunning of the old fashioned garden flowers. Flowers are huge – three to five inches across – and bright, colorful blue, purple or pink. Best of all, morning glories are easy!
- 🎵 **Combat Citrus leaf miner organically**. Hang traps in your citrus to catch the flying adult. This will greatly reduce damage to new growth of your lemons, oranges and other citrus.

## Happy Houseplant Tips

✓ I have come across many of our guests at Alden Lane asking Sue Fordyce-Darden about putting gravel or pot shards for extra drainage in their pots having been told by someone . . . who told their cousin . . . as relayed by their mother-in-laws aunt, etc., that they should. My advice to them (with no disrespect to the Mother-in-law's Aunt) is to forego such drainage in a potted plant, but it is more important to *HAVE a drainage hole in the bottom of the pot* and to just *place a screen over the hole*. We sell such screens (**called Keeper Stopper**) which keep the soil in, allow for drainage, and keep any offending bugs from crawling up inside and setting up housekeeping.

✓ **Humidity** is another one of those conditions that make house plants thrive. They love it, but it is not practical to mist your houseplants throughout the day (and grow algae on your walls). The best solution for adding humidity is to place your *houseplant pots on a pebble tray or a damp capillary mat*. Place the plant on its saucer, and then place your pot and saucer onto a shallow tray of pebbles and water, making sure the pot bottom never sits in water, but the water surrounding it evaporates around it.



✓ The third tip I wanted to mention is "**Up-Potting**" versus "**Re-Potting**". Re-potting is the scenario where you have bought a plant in a plastic growers pot. *If it doesn't look like it is busting out with tons of roots*, but you'd like to have a pretty pot, you can go ahead and repot it into the **SAME SIZE** pot (with a drainage hole!), and it is not necessary to disturb the root ball. If you take it out of the plastic pot and *you have an abundance of cramped roots* and no extra space, go ahead and Up-Pot it into the next size pot. *Be careful to never give it too much room or it could spell doom.*

***Hope these tips help in your quest to be a successful plant parent!***

# DAFFODIL SHOW!!

## SAVE THE DATE!

The 50th Annual Daffodil Show co-sponsored by the Northern California Daffodil Society and Alden Lane Nursery is **February 29th & March 1st.**

- Groom those blooms to enter on Saturday morning, February 29th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Enjoy the show on:  
**February 29th** 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**March 1st** 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Entries are welcome. Bring address labels to speed the process.
- **FREE Daffodil Show Tour:** Saturday, February 29th at 2:00 p.m.



## Blown Away by the Spring Bulbs in Full Bloom? Plant the Summer Semester Now!

What a reward! You'll find blooming beauties from Daffodill Hill to front yards. Tulips are waking up with Hyacinths, and Freesias right behind. Soak it up and begin planning and planting the summer semester NOW!



Color up your summer landscape with late winter/spring planted bulbs: tubers, corms, rhizomes, pips, divisions & more. What a great investment. There's something for sun and shade.

In **sunny spots**, consider the dramatic tropical look of *Canna lilies*, or the great cut flowers of *Glads*. Plant a couple dozen glads every two weeks and you'll have a succession of bloom all summer long to enjoy in the garden or fill a vase. Both like it hot.

*Dalhias* will work it **full to part sun**. These Mexico natives include a wide range of flower size, colors and forms not to mention heights, some grow to 18" and others 3-4'. Flowers range in size from 2" across to the insanely huge 'dinner plates' 8-10".

Choose from the deepest reds, purest white, rose, pink, brightest yellows, orange shades and more. This group has something for everyone.

**Morning sun** loving *Oriental and Asiatic Lilies* are show stoppers. Pure white *Casa Blanca* and raspberry & white *Stargazer Orientals* are stunning cut flowers with a heady fragrance. Or for sunny warm tones consider the bright orange and yellow *Asiatic lilies*.

**Shade lovers** include *Begonias* and *Lily of the Valley*. Both are acid lovers so work in some **Masters Acid Planting Mix** to make the soil just right. *Begonias* come in upright and trailing varieties making them perfect for container and hanging basket planting. They simply bloom and bloom and bloom from summer to fall! Nostalgic late spring blooming *Lily of the Valley* are not only a great element in bridal bouquets but the garden. They like it moist.



***Plant now to continue the Bloom Fest into Summer!***

# Inspiration is Key for Spring



March on into Alden Lane for inspiration in finding the perfect gift! We have many popular collections such as **Lavender** and **Naked Bee** lotions. **Olivina Olive Oil** makes a great gift from a great local company and look for **Alden Lane Honey** from our hives here at the nursery.



**Wind chimes** make the perfect gift for the person who has everything.

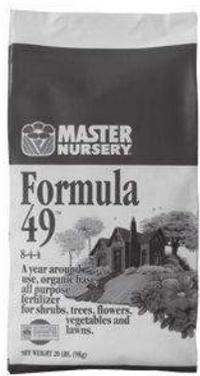
We have a wonderful assortment of new accessories and gift items coming in every month! **New spring flags** are here and it's time to take a sneak peek at our **new bunnies and chicks** that will help you celebrate Easter next month on April 12th. Ruthie's room has a **fun new display of houseplants and indoor pots**, come check it out!



# Maximize Springs' Growth Potential . . .

## . . . "Feed your plants!"

Spring brings nature's biggest "Growth Spurt" and if we sync it with fertilizer we can step it up! Our plants are saying "**Feed Me!**" Our benevolent plants, unlike Audrey II of Little Shop of Horrors, just need a good meal to power them into the New Year.



If you want a "One Size Fits All" recommendation consider **Masters Formula 49** or **MaxSea**. Formula 49 is dry applied while the MaxSea is dissolved in water. Both are excellent all around fertilizers.

We're happy to fine tune you're your feeding program to specific needs. Drop in, chat and pick up a *Landscape Feeding*

Tip sheet while you're here.

**Remember: never feed a thirsty plant,** if Mother Nature has not pre-watered give your plants a good soaking drink before feeding and water in lightly.



# Mt. Diablo Iris Show & Plant Sale –

## April 25th & 26th

Join the fun this weekend and come check out the fabulous colors and varieties available in Iris. The show is Saturday, April 25th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 26th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Not only will you be able to see a fantastic representation of Iris but you'll be able to purchase some as well.

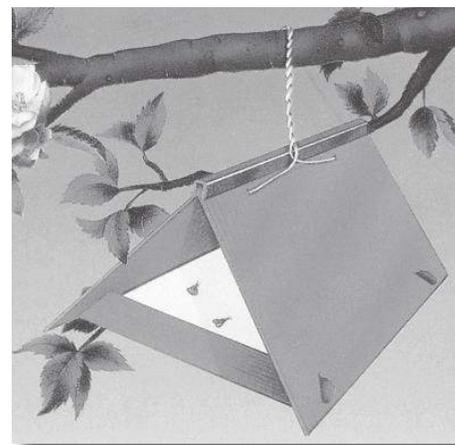


# Prevent Wormy Apples

If you have apple trees and want to monitor codling moth activity to determine the best time to spray, use one of our **Codling Moth Traps**. Periodically looking into the trap in search of captured moths will alert you as to when the moths are present. Traps should be used at least two weeks before buds break. Use one to two **Fruit Tree Pest Traps** per tree to help you monitor codling moth activity. Each carton includes two traps, lure and hanger.

When codling moths first appear (usually when about 3/4 of the flower petals have fallen from the tree), wait one week and spray with **Spinosad** mixed with light summer oil or **Take Down** for 2-3 weeks. Replace traps monthly and repeat spray regime after additional generations of moths are trapped.

Check out the UC Cooperative Extension Service web site for more detailed options. <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/apple.html>.



# Seed Starting

Get a jump start on a vegetable or flower gardening by selecting seeds now and starting plants indoors.

Seeds that start indoors get a few weeks headstart on those planted directly into the ground.

Try our New **Pagano Italian Seeds** – beautiful packages and unusual varieties. We also carry **Botanical Interests**, **Renee's**, and **Lake Valley Seeds**.

Seed starting is easy when you have a heating mat and a covered seed starting tray. We have

versions that sit on the windowsill or the counter. Seeds started now will be ready to set out later this month or early next month.

Vegetable seeds options for starting now include all the tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash, cucumbers, and corn.

For flowers, try morning glories, nasturtiums, zinnias, and Black-eyed Susan vine.



# Roses Are Ready for Your Garden!

Come see our  
2020 ROSES.

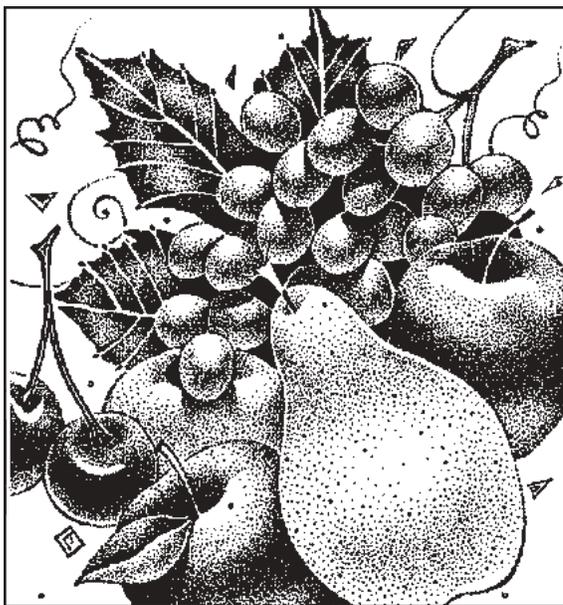
*Our selection is  
at its peak!*

There are climbers, floribundas, tea roses, heirloom varieties and so much more to see. Walk our aisles and the full color signs will guide your color and fragrance selection while we wait for the warmth of spring to bring out the first blooms. **Remember,** *we have a rose for every sunny spot in the garden!*



## Plant the Promise!

### Fruit Trees, Berries & Grapes are Here!



There's nothing better than homegrown. Your care will ensure you have delicious safe food to enjoy.

This month brings the year's best depth of variety & selection. Don't delay; come chose your favorites now. That crisp apple, sweet juicy apricot, tantalizing cherry and aromatic yummy peach and nectarine can be grown in your yard.

**Backyard Orchard Culture** and **High Density Planting** are two resources to maximize your 'fruit production'. Drop in for the handouts.

## Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** on TV30 for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright at 7:30 am & 1:30 p.m. Monday - Friday and repeated on Saturday at 7:30 & 11:00 am, and 1:30 pm & Sun. at 7:30 & 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm or catch the show on TV30.org.
- **The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club** will meet Thursday, March 12th. Come hear **Janet Sluis** of *Sunset Western Gardens*. She specializes in low water, regionally appropriate, easy maintenance landscapes. On April 9 join us to hear Jan Spieth of Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association on a presentation on bee keeping. The meetings will be held at the Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Guests are always welcome and refreshments will be served. Visit [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org) for more information.
- **The Mt. Diablo Rose Society** meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. in the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Join us to hear **Jolene Adams**, ARS past president speak on *"Tigers in the Garden"*. Visit [mtdiablorsesociety.org](http://mtdiablorsesociety.org) for more details.
- **Fremont Garden Club** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month February – October. Guest speakers, field trips, annual garden tea. For more info, phone 510-604-8206 or email [fremontgardenclub98@gmail.com](mailto:fremontgardenclub98@gmail.com).
- **Give the "Gift of Green"** to celebrate St. Pat's Day. You do know that everyone and everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day? To celebrate this wonderful day, stop by the nursery and choose something green! One of the day's specialties is pot of shamrocks. We can even add a green bow to make it official! So stop by and celebrate the 'wearing of the green'.

### GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

For each 100 square feet add:

- 10 cubic ft. of soil conditioner: **Master Gold Rush** or **Bumper Crop**® (5 - 8 bags).
- 5 lbs. **Iron Sulfate** to acidify and add iron.
- 10 lbs. **Master Vegetable Food** or **Master Flower Food**, **Master Formula 49** can be used for ground covers.
- 40 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 garden now or just dreaming about it, it's a great time to improve the soil. Follow our "Recipe" to improve the texture and fertility of your little piece of earth. This should be a part of your vegetable garden routine 1 to 2 times a year. Amend the valley soils to give your plants their best opportunity for growth. Keep this recipe handy for your planting needs.



981 Alden Lane  
Livermore, CA 94550

(925) 447-0280  
aldenlane.com

**Nursery Hours**

8:30 to 5:00 Daily through  
March 8th  
8:30 to 6:00 beginning  
Monday, March 9th

**IMPORTANT!**  
Time Critical  
Please Deliver Promptly

0320

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Livermore, CA

Save The Date for Art The Oaks \* July 18th & 19th \* 11-4 each day

**SPECIAL COUPON**

Present This Coupon & A Canned Food Item  
to Alden Lane to Receive



**\$5 OFF**  
the  
Citrus  
of your  
Choice!!

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please!  
Offer Good March 1-31, 2020.

**HOW TO FIND  
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NURSERY**

