Sloat Garden Center's

Holiday Gift Guide

15 great gift ideas for every gardener on your list!

Gift Guide Index

1. West County Gloves
2. West County Rose Gloves
3. Atlas Gloves
4. Beautiful rose varieties. Our 2007-2008 collection of dormant roses are easy to grow, intensely beautiful and ready to plant in containers or in the ground.
5. Edible gardening anyone? We have terrific orange, lime and lemon trees in stock for the fruit gardener on your list. How unique!
6. Sloat's one of a kind imported pottery is a unique gift for every gardener.
7. New holiday ornaments!
8. Pruning package: Guide to Pruning & pruners make great gifts.
9. Windchimes
10. Books! The latest Sunset Garden Book...and more!
11. Sloat Gift Cards - $25 Ornament
12. Sloat Gift Cards - $25 Menorah
13. Sloat Gift Cards - $50 Ornament
14. Sloat Gift Cards - $100 Wreath
15. For kids - We have a wide selection of creative gardening gifts for children.

Sloat Garden Design Consultations make the perfect gift.
Call our Design Department for info! 415-388-3754

Another perfect gift idea: Custom holiday planters!

Beautiful in Sloat's pottery color of the month: IRON RED!

Ten Locations in San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo and Contra Costa

Richmond District
3rd Avenue between
Geary & Clement
(415) 752-1614

Sunset District
2700 Sloat Blvd.
46th & Sloat Blvd.
(415) 566-4415

Marina District
3237 Pierce Street
Chestnut & Lombard
(415) 440-1000

Novato
2000 Novato Blvd.
at Wilson
(415) 897-2169

San Rafael
1580 Lincoln Ave. just off
Hwy. 101
(415) 453-3977

Mill Valley
657 E. Blithedale at Lomita
(415) 388-0102
401 Miller Ave. at La Goma
(415) 388-0365

Kentfield
700 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
at Wolfe Grade
(415) 454-0262

Danville
828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 743-0288
Sunday hours: 9 to 5pm

San Bruno
675 El Camino Real
(650) 869-6000
3 blocks south of I-380

Garden Design Department
401 Miller, Mill Valley
(415) 388-3754

Open 7 days a week 8:30 am to 5:30 pm
Visit Sloat on the Web: www.sloatgardens.com

Sloat
Garden Center

420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428

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Great plants and great advice to help them grow!

December & January Gardening Guide

December

Plant:

- Decorate your home with greenery and festive plants for the holidays.
- Select and plant dormant roses to ensure a fragrant summer rose garden. ***See pg. 2 for some of Sloat's new rose varieties.***
- Create beautiful winter color in your entryway by planting cyclamen, pansies and violas in Sloat's one-of-a-kind pottery.
- Take advantage of all that rain! If you missed out on fall planting, it's still a great time to plant perennials, shrubs and trees to get roots established. Developing strong root systems over the winter months will promote lush spring growth.

Prune/Maintain:

- Coat wreaths and greens with ***CloudCover*** or mist with water daily. Keep trees and greens away from hot sunny windows and heat sources.
- Clean up the garden and remove diseased plants to avoid over-wintering diseases.
- Prune evergreen shrubs and trees. Give them the proper shape and size to help accommodate next year's growth and prevent winter damage.

January

Plant:

- Plant roses, berries, asparagus and fruit trees. January is also a *great* time to plant dogwood and maple trees!
- The first of our summer bulbs (gladiolas, dahlias and lilies) arrive in stores.

Fertilize:

- Top dress roses and tender plants with Sloat Forest Mulch Plus.

Prune/Maintain:

- Prune roses, shrubs and trees. ***See pg. 4 for Sloat's pruning seminars***.
- Prune and cut back perennials & ornamental grasses.
- Keep up on cleaning winter debris from beds and containers.
- Stop the weeds! Weeds that begin with winter rains go to seed in March & April. But the clever gardener never lets them get that far. Pull weeds now before they go to seed.
- Now is the time to remove plants that aren't thriving to make room for healthier plants.
- Deadhead flowering plants to encourage additional blooms.

About this Newsletter: The Gardener's Notebook is published 7 times each year by Sloat Garden Center for the education and enjoyment of Bay Area gardeners. Information is collected from Sloat's expert staff, current horticultural publications and Sunset's Western Garden Book. Send address corrections to: 420 Coloma Street, Sausalito, CA 94965. Or, visit us online: www.sloatgardens.com

Happy Holidays from everyone at Sloat!

Sloat Garden Center

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 21, No. 7 | *News, Advice & Special Offers for Bay Area Gardeners* | December 2007/January 2008

4 quick & festive holiday decorating ideas

1. Create unique centerpieces. Surround a group of candles with small pots of cyclamen, ivy, fresh greens, holly, pinecones, our decorative wreaths or even chili peppers from your summer garden.
2. Decorate mantels and doorways with garland and enhance with pinecones, bows and holly. Try weaving in cyclamen or primrose.
3. Make outdoor window boxes & pottery festive – decorate with fresh greens, pinecones and bows.
4. Display glass ball ornaments in a bowl (we have a terrific collection of colored ornaments this year). Use as a centerpiece and add a candle.

Fresh, fragrant, gourmet trees for your living room

Noble fir trees are the most highly regarded and sought out conifer in the western U.S. Their beautiful symmetry, rich fragrance, lush blue-green color, silvery soft needles, strong branches and open growth pattern make them the ideal Christmas tree for every living room.

Each year Sloat Garden Center orders noble firs from Silver Mountain Christmas Trees, a family business run by Jim Heater and multiple generations of his family. The trees are delivered to Sloat stores the week they're harvested and are kept in water stands at each of our lots, where they remain fresh, vibrant & beautiful.

Jim's family started farming their land in 1851 after his great–great–grandparents traveled through on the Oregon Trail.

In 1968 the family gradually expanded the operation from grass seed, strawberries and hay production, to Christmas trees. Today they have 3,725,000 trees growing on 3,500 acres and are in the process of becoming a certified green agricultural business.

With years of tree experience, Jim has three tips for keeping trees fresh, "Water, water, and water," he says. "There are old home remedies that say to add aspirin or soda. We suggest you fill the base with water and take the aspirin yourself!"

Another recommended preservation method from both Jim and Sloat Garden Center is to spray the trunk and needles thoroughly to the point of dripping with non-toxic *CloudCover* and set the tree in a tree stand (tree stands are available at all locations – except our Miller Ave. store).

holiday decorating | **edible gardening** | **winter plant care** | **our 2008 rose selection**

Sloat's 2008 Rose Selection

Rose season is here! Our 2008 rose selection is in stock as of the 3rd week of December and we're thrilled with the quality. The below varieties represent this year's warm yellow/red tones – and we know you'll love them. Need help picking one? Visit us for rose growing advice or a rose care seminar. ***Please check our website or ask your local Sloat to let you know exactly when this season's rose shipment has arrived.***

Mardi Gras

Floribunda. Flamboyant, hybrid tea style blooms and a peppery scent. Begins as an apricot-orange bud that spirals open to reveal a 4-inch bright pink and orange bloom with a yellow base. An All-America Rose Selections winner, this festive floribunda has proven to perform exceptionally well with little-to-no care. Dark green, semi-glossy foliage and upright columnar habit. Ideal to use as a hedge or in a border.

Jacob's Robe

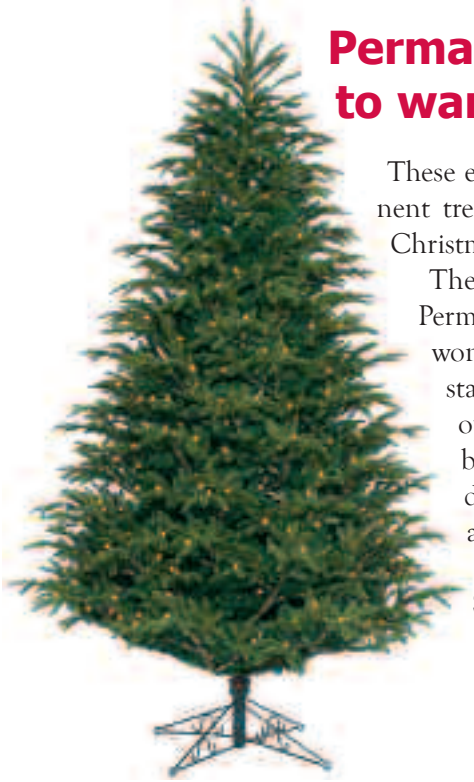
Large-flowered Climber. Multi-color yellow & peach blushing pinky red. Even better than the beloved Joseph's Coat (one of the most popular of all climbers), capturing the same great colors on a much improved plant. The blushing yellows, pinks & reds of Jacob's Robe aren't an exact match, but the multi-color effect is even more dramatic. It's equally floriferous, re-blooming readily in the first year. More natural vigor, lusher, glossy deep green leaves, better disease resistance.

Falling in Love

Hybrid Tea. Warm pink with a cream reverse. Falling in Love has lots of big classically-formed fragrant flowers of warm pink & porcelain white. Each long-lived lovely blossom is regally carried atop sturdy stems, just waiting to be cut & enjoyed...or maybe just admired on this full and bushy plant. Destined to garner its share of awards.

Dream Come True

Grandiflora. Produces flawlessly formed yellow blossoms, blushed with ruby-red at the tips, all set among abundant matte green foliage. Long-stemmed, long-lived blooms with mild tea fragrance, making it lovely in the landscape and a great choice for bouquets. Dream Come True was hybridized by Dr. John Pottschmidt of Cincinnati, Ohio – only the 3rd amateur hybridizer to win the AARS Award in 67 years.



Permanent, pre-lit trees to warm up the holiday

These exquisite and easy-to-care-for permanent trees are perfect for your home this Christmas and for years to come.

They're produced using patented Permalit light technology, so the lights won't burn out as quickly...and they stay lit even if multiple lights burn out. Additionally, Permalit's cooler burning light bulbs are safer for children. These trees are very easy to assemble and look amazingly real.

Available this month at select Sloat Garden Center locations! See our website for details.

Frost protection for plants this winter

Protecting plants from frost can be easy, but the secret is having materials on hand and ready: burlap, micropore plastic (row cover sheet or weed-block), insulating blanket, shredded or bark mulch and *CloudCover* anti-transpirant.Twenty minutes work on an evening when frost is expected will save many plants. Some ideas:

- Make sure plants are well watered (the air temperature above moist soil is about 5 degrees warmer than over a dry soil). Spray your plants liberally with *CloudCover*. It slows the rate at which plants lose water to the surrounding air, preventing drying and wilting.
- Move container plants under an eave or put them in the garage. Protect in-ground plants as follows: cover the sensitive plants with a porous, lightweight covering. Freezing air flows over the cover and the unfrozen soil beneath buffers the cold. Beneath the covering, air temperatures may be 8 degrees warmer the first night of frost and 5 degrees warmer on succeeding nights. You can safely leave the covers on for one or two cool days. Remove the covers if the days warm up and re-cover at night should the threat of frost continue. Non-porous vinyl or plastic sheeting must be supported so it doesn't touch the foliage: they have a tendency to supercool. (We carry Dalen Harvest Guard Frost Protection Blanket)
- If you have already applied a mulch around your plants, heap the mulch closer to the main stem of the plant for added insulation. (Be sure to remove the added mulch from around the crown after the frost is over.)

Upcoming Seminars February & March 2008

- Natives
- Pruning Fuchsias
- Shade gardens
- Pruning Azaleas, Camellias & Rhodies
- Lawn make-overs
- Late rose pruning
- Orchids
- General Pruning

Visit www.sloatgardens.com for specific information

GARDENS THAT WORK... More than just another pretty place!

Design Symposium co-sponsored by Horticulture Magazine, Strybing Arboretum and Sloat Garden Center

Sunday, January 27, 8:00am–5:00pm

Strybing members $110.00; non-members $125.00
PHONE (415) 661-1316, ext 354
San Francisco Botanical Garden Society
Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way San Francisco, CA

Flowering herb knots, productive potagers, home orchards ripe with fruit – these are some of the joys of gardens that function as more than superbly designed spaces. These are gardens that pay back hard work with fresh food, cut flowers & sustained enjoyment. The trend in garden design has been focused on these workhorse gardens for some time, but beautifully executed gardens that produce for our vases and tables are classics that will always be in fashion.

Join us for an exciting and inspiring day working through the design principles and horticultural techniques as well as sharing in some of the delights of beautiful, bountiful gardens that work. Registration includes all handouts and refreshments, as well as lunch.

Sloat Garden Center will be on hand with unique and exotic plants, and interesting pottery from around the world.

TAKING CARE OF CHRISTMAS CACTUS YEAR-ROUND

November–January: Flowering period; water thoroughly when soil begins to dry.

February–April: Resting period; water infrequently, keep cool.

Late April–May: Water thoroughly when soil begins to dry out. Feed every 7-10 days with a diluted liquid fertilizer. We recommend Maxsea 16-16-16 Plant Food.

June–August: Place outdoors in a protected area with some bright dappled light; protect from snails and slugs. Continue feeding schedule.

Late September–November: Pre-flowering period; keep on the dry side and provide cool night temperatures (50-55) and 12-15 hours of darkness per day until buds form. When buds have formed, increase water and temperature. Plants should be brought back inside.

Create a yard both edible and beautiful.

Call it foodscaping, ornamental planting or just plain good sense, edible gardening goes beyond the pleasures and sweet payoff of growing tomatoes, herbs and strawberries in the summer.

Our grandmothers and great aunts often kept vegetable gardens close to the kitchen door as well as a fruiting tree in their yards. The trees were gorgeous during blossoming time and provided fresh fruit off the tree all summer and fall (or preserved for the winter months ahead).

Nowadays, planting a fruit tree is not a necessity for putting food on the table, but is a lot like depositing money in the bank. We are investing in the future harvest.

This winter, plant grapes, pomegranates, figs, kiwi, apples, blueberries, persimmon, lemons, plums and pears. You won't be disappointed.

Please check our website or ask your local Sloat Garden Center to let you know when this season's fruit tree shipment has arrived.

APPLE varieties: Fuji, Gravenstein, Yellow Delicious

PERSIMMON varieties: Fuyu, Hachiya

LEMON varieties: Meyer, Eureka

PEAR varieties: Bartlett, D'anjou, Comice

PLUM varieties: Santa Rosa, Satsuma

BLUEBERRY varieties: Berkeley, O'Neill, Sharp Blue

Sloat Seminars

Attendance is limited. Please call ahead to the seminar location to reserve a seat. Seminar fee is $5. (Gardener's Reward Program members are free.)

Rose Pruning

Join us as the Marin (MRS), San Francisco (SFRS), San Mateo Rose Societies (SMRS) demonstrate how to prune different roses and general rose care.

Jan. 5–Novato, MRS, Sat., 10 am
Jan.12–Kentfield, MRS, Sat., 10 am
Jan.13–San Bruno, SMRS, Sun., 11 am
Jan.19–Mill Valley (Miller), MRS, Sat., 10 am
Jan. 26–S.F. (Third Ave.), Sat., 10 am
Jan. 27–S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), SFRS, Sun., 10 am

Growing Roses (& other Plants) Naturally

Meet Annie Joseph, a 30-year nursery professional and Master Gardener, find out about growing Roses with earth friendly solutions to pests and diseases.

Jan. 5–San Bruno, Sat., 10 am
Jan. 6–S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Sun., 10 am
Jan.12–Danville, Sat., 10 am
Jan.13–Kentfield, Sun., 10 am

Pruning Fruit Trees

Marie Miller, aesthetic pruner, demonstrates how to prune to increase the health and yield of your fruit trees.

Jan. 5–S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Sat., 10 am
Jan.12–Novato, Sat., 10 am
Jan.19–Kentfield, Sat., 10 am
Jan. 26–Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am

How to Buy and Use Roses

Dawn Smith, local rose expert, discusses how to pick the best rose for your space, and the charm of the different types.

Jan.6–Kentfield, Sun., 10 am
Jan.13–San Rafael, Sun., 10 am
Jan. 20–Novato, Sun., 10 am
Jan. 27–Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sun., 10 am

Lawn make-overs

Mary Te Selle, award-winning designer, shows slides of gorgeous and earth-friendly alternatives to the high maintenance lawn.

Jan.12–Mill Valley (Miller Ave.), Sat., 10 am
Jan.19–S.F. (Sloat Blvd.), Sat., 10 am

Orchids 101

Master Gardener Glenn Smith from the Marin Orchid Society discusses the basic care and feeding of orchids.

Jan. 22–S.F. (Pierce St.), Tues., 5:30 pm