



Gardener's Notebook

Volume 34, No. 3

News & Advice for Bay Area Gardeners

Fall 2020

Create a peaceful oasis at home with Japanese Maples

With their Zen-like form, adaptability to containers and graceful foliage, Japanese Maples are an ideal tree for almost any yard, patio, or balcony. We've sourced a lovely group of plants to lend a serene ambiance to your home this fall. Look for **Red Pygmy**, **Tamukeyama**, **Orangeola**, and **Gable Glory** in our stores. Then, plant up your Japanese Maple with companion plants like **Bacopa**, **Carex**, **Liriope**, and **Lysimachia**. See plant details on pg. 8.



Orangeola



Peridot Flame



Gable Glory

In this issue: Grow your own Fall Groceries, Tillandsia, Indoor Plants, Make your Own Compost

Home is where the plants are

The old adage is true: gardening is good for the soul. The last 6 months have confirmed for us that watering and feeding plants creates a routine of caring and kindness, and that in turn reduces stress and improves mood. Call it horticultural therapy or just a general adoration of houseplants, this fall we invite you to bring home a plant and breathe life into your space. We have a range of plant choices for every home.

Video: Create a Succulent Planter

Learn how to plant up an indoor or outdoor Succulent Planter! Shannon will take you through how to choose the right pottery, fertilizer, and soil that are appropriate for growing succulents.



Scan to watch the video!



How to Care for Tillandsia

From small and cute Tillandsia ionantha, to the uniquely modern Tillandsia brachycaulos, we adore low-maintenance air plants! They can grow almost anywhere; in a bowl, vase, tucked into a wreath, or even a seashell. Tillandsia also look beautiful paired up with succulents.

Tillandsia care: Tillandsia need bright, indirect light and intermediate to warm temperatures. Native to humid, tropical environments, Tillandsia enjoy regular misting. Once or twice a month they appreciate a good soaking. Fill a bowl with room temperature water and immerse the whole plant; let it soak for an hour or two. Shake dry and return to its nook.



Tillandsia brachycaulos



Tillandsia ionantha



Sloat Indoor Potting Soil is specially blended to provide excellent aeration, drainage, and water retention to help all indoor plants thrive. It's ready-to-use right out of the bag. Locally crafted and produced by E.B. Stone Organics in Northern California.

Locally made **Tappin' Roots All Stages** organic plant fertilizer keeps houseplants vigorous and strong. Their formula also helps plants overcome failing health.



Indoor Gardening this Fall and Winter

Whether you're starting an indoor herb garden or growing houseplants in a dark room, Miracle LED Grow Lights will improve your home's light spectrum so plants can thrive. These bulbs are cool burning, fit a normal light or lamp fixture, and last up to 10 times longer than standard lightbulbs!



Miracle LED Wide Angle Grow Lite: This red spectrum light promotes rapid plant growth, fruiting, and flowering.



Miracle LED Ultra Grow Lite: Perfect for many different environments with limited sunlight.



Miracle LED Absolute Daylight Full Spectrum Grow Lite: A full spectrum light that emits no UV. Use in rooms with limited natural light.

Thank you...
 brand new gardeners
 and experienced ones too,
 for stopping in and
 supporting our family
 owned garden center
 this spring, summer and fall.
 We are grateful for you!



Plants and pottery are our passion! We carry a range of beautiful, handmade, indoor pots in all shapes and sizes so you can grow everything you love.

Step into the tropics with *Schefflera arboricola* (aka Umbrella Plant). This fast-growing plant is festooned with glossy, palmate leaflets that spread out like fingers on a hand. To thrive it needs moisture-rich, well-drained soil (**Sloat Indoor Potting Soil** is perfect), medium light, and to dry out between waterings. Schefflera loves humidity, so place your plant on a water-filled pebble tray for best results. Feed monthly with **Tappin' Roots All Stages Fertilizer** to keep leaves bright green.

Schefflera Amate is a much larger-leaved close cousin of *Schefflera arboricola*. Amate has long and slender palmate leaves that will lend an indoor jungle feel to your space.

Schefflera arboricola

Fungus gnats be gone! We have a pesticide free, Integrated Pest Management solution



You know those annoying fruit fly looking pests that flutter around houseplants? They're called soil gnats and they hatch when soil is too moist, acidic, or high in organic matter. Famously difficult to get rid of, soil gnats can be controlled with help from beneficial nematodes. These microscopic worms destroy soil dwelling insect pests. Beneficial nematodes stay in the soil and are benign...except to soil gnats!

Filled with beneficial nematodes, **NemaGlobe pot popper sachets** offer fast and easy gnat pest control for potted plants. Just pop, drop, and water into your plants.

For outdoor use... try **NemaKnight** shaker canisters. These are a pesticide free, ready-to use, biological pest control that utilize Nematodes to keep patios, gardens and lawns free of common black ants, leatherjackets, thrips, white grubs, black vine weevils, cutworms and sod webworms.



Pest solutions:
 Easy to use NemaKnight shaker canisters treat soil borne pests without having to pre-mix with water. Just open, shake, and go.



Early Fall Planting Plan

Groceries to plant now for harvest this fall & winter

September and early October is the time to sow the vegetables and herbs you want to harvest this fall and winter. Our stores are well-stocked with seasonal, local and organic vegetable and herb starts, as well as an excellent selection of seeds.

What to plant now: broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard and kale, lettuce, parsnips, onions, garlic, peas, radishes, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips. Gardeners in the East Bay should wait until late September to plant broccoli, cabbage, and kale.



Berries & Bulbs

Coming this fall! We have new arrivals of blueberry bushes, plus onion, shallot, and garlic bulbs that can be planted now. See our food planting guides and recipes at sloatgardens.com

This year so many gardeners have started growing their own food. They've told us how much they enjoy the way gardening helps them slow down, de-stress, and feel confident knowing the source of the food they eat. What a true gift gardens are, especially in times of difficulty!

Our local food banks could use your support right now. Donate to the Ritter Center, The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank at:

rittercenter.org
foodbankccs.org
sfmfoodbank.org





Our signature locally made **Organic Potting Soil** has been formulated for Bay Area growing conditions and is specifically intended to help plants succeed in outdoor containers. It provides excellent drainage and is compaction-resistant, which means it stays loose and offers better air circulation to plant roots. You can use it right out of the bag without mixing.



Don't forget to feed the food you grow. We suggest calcium rich **E.B. Stone Organics Tomato & Vegetable Food**.

Plant up a raised bed filled with Spinach & Peas

Spinach excels as a fall, winter and through-to-spring crop. In fact, baby spinach greens are ready to harvest 25 to 30 days after sowing. Peas are satisfying to grow and all parts of the pea plant are edible (shoots & tendrils are delicious!). Start peas from seed or starter transplants in pots and planting beds. They're easy for kids to plant, too!

See our food planting guides at sloatgardens.com

Plant up a container filled with Leafy Greens & Herbs

The beauty of growing leafy greens is that they're easy to get started in pots or in the ground. Whether you plant by seed or set out transplants, plant them now to harvest all fall and winter. We recommend filling raised beds with **Sloat Organic Potting Soil**. When amending in-ground gardens use **Sloat Loam Builder**. Don't forget to add **E.B. Stone Organics Sure Start** at planting time!

The following herbs will compliment leafy greens: thyme, sage, parsley, oregano, marjoram, and rosemary. See our full food gardening info at sloatgardens.com.

3 fall & winter citrus care tips

1. Properly fertilized trees are healthier and more resistant to cold weather damage. We follow this rule: if leaves are not deep-green, fertilize! We like iron-rich **Green All F.S.T.** to help citrus stay green all winter. F.S.T. also works great on blueberry bushes to help keep soil acidified. Use F.S.T. as a supplement to your regular citrus food.



2. Scale, a common pest insect, is best controlled by **Bonide All Season's Oil**. The presence of scale is usually discovered by observing ants around the tree. Bonide All Season's Oil is also effective on aphids, thrip and mealybugs.



3. Wait until spring to do any major pruning.

For more on when and how to protect citrus from frost, see our full winter citrus care guide at sloatgardens.com.



Turn your containers into edible gardens by planting them with colorful chard, thyme, parsley, sage, rosemary, pansies, and violas (all are edible). Deep and roomy with plenty of space to grow any fruit, herb, or vegetable, we carry wine barrels at most Sloat locations. *Please call ahead for availability.*



Scan this code to view our **Food Gardening Guides**

Fall is for planting colorful foliage + flowers



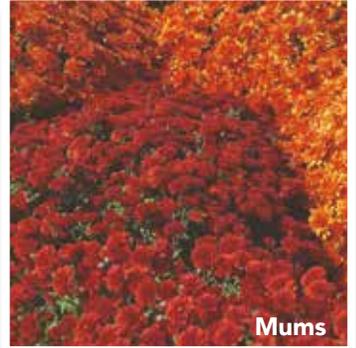
Carex



Heuchera



Osteospermum



Mums

Stop by your neighborhood Sloat Garden Center this fall: we have locally grown perennials and annuals to greet the new season. Fall container idea: Plant up Mums with Osteospermum, plus foliage plants like Heuchera and Carex.



Decorate the porch and containers with whimsical pumpkins and gourds to catch the flavor of the fall season. Looking for a carving pumpkin? By late September we'll have a wide selection of over 20 different orange varieties: short, tall, oblong, smooth, and ridged. These are special pumpkins -- not just your average supermarket varieties!



Fall craft idea: Make a succulent pumpkin. See sloatgardens.com for details.

Feed the Birds

What birds need this winter: nutrient rich food!

Feed local birds by growing the plants that provide winter food for them. Leave spent flowerheads and berries in the garden to let birds graze on their seeds through winter. See sloatgardens.com for bird friendly plant suggestions.

Audubon Park Nut and Fruit Snack Stack Wild Bird Food will bring birds to your feeder using their favorite nuts, fruits, and millet. This safe, natural, and nutritious wild bird food keeps backyard birds returning for more. Attracts nuthatches, chickadees, finches, titmice, jays, and woodpeckers.

Sloat Garden Center carries a variety of hummingbird feeders as well as nectars. Our hummingbird feeder with top-fill technology means you just unscrew the cap, pour in the nectar, and voilà! The 16oz. shatterproof plastic bottle has the right capacity to keep hummingbirds returning to feed.



Common to the Bay Area, the **House Finch** is attracted to the **Snack Stack!**

A few moments at our Kentfield location

Our Kentfield location has gone through a metamorphosis of late -- the store has a fresh look with expanded specialty sections. (Thank you to our loyal customers who stuck with us through the repaving process!) Manager Bill Frates and his seasoned team have prepared the re-organized space to welcome gardeners this fall.

"We've been gearing up for fall and winter with a selection of vegetables and herbs, plus perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees," explains Bill. "We have tons of room so we're able to carry a fair amount of stock in many different varieties, including our featured Japanese Maples. Gardeners are amazed by how many plants are here and how colorful the store is when they walk in."

Visitors also stop in to see Azriel, the sweet, 21-pound black nursery cat who has resided there for over a decade. Petting the cat, while being soothed by plants, gives new meaning to horticultural therapy.



Lots of pots! We carry a range of beautiful, handmade, outdoor pottery in many shapes and sizes for anything you want to grow.

How to: make your own compost

Plants are healthier, produce more flowers and fruit, and have stronger root systems when planted with compost. You can make your own at home to ensure a steady supply.

Use E.B. Stone Compost Maker to give your compost pile a boost. It's made from a blend of organic ingredients designed to kick off the composting process by feeding your compost pile's bacteria. Compost Maker is ideal for supporting compost bins that contain too much dry, brown material (twigs and leaves) and not enough green material (grass clippings/kitchen scraps).



Turn household waste into garden fertilizer with Earth's natural recyclers – worms! By putting them to work in a worm bin, you'll convert food waste into nutrient rich, organic fertilizer that plants love. Sloat Garden Center carries the **Worm Café** -- a simple and sleek bin for small spaces, like apartment balconies and patios. The **Can-O-Worms** is ideal for small to medium households. Need worms too? We have you covered! Most Sloat locations carry Tip Top red wiggler worms, the species best suited for composting. *Call ahead for availability.*



Visit our stores: Twelve Locations in San Francisco, Marin and Contra Costa

San Francisco

327 3rd Ave between
Geary & Clement
(415) 752-1614

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

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

Mill Valley

657 E. Blithedale
(415) 388-0102

Mill Valley

401 Miller Ave.
(415) 388-0365

Novato

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

Kentfield

700 Sir Francis Drake Bl.
(415) 454-0262

Danville

800 Camino Ramon (in the
Rose Garden Center)
(925) 837-9144

828 Diablo Road
at El Cerro
(925) 743-0288

Pleasant Hill

2895 Contra Costa Blvd.
(925) 939-9000

Martinez

6740 Alhambra Ave
(925) 935-9125

Concord

1555 Kirker Pass Rd.
(925) 681-0550

Garden Design Department

401 Miller Ave.,
Mill Valley (415) 388-3754

Bulk Soils

828 Diablo Road at El Cerro
(925) 820-1273
(East Bay delivery only)

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& SF only

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We'll help you grow the plants you love!

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Continued from cover...

Japanese Maple varieties at Sloat Garden Center this Fall

Red Pygmy This rounded top, vase-shaped, small tree features very narrow leaf lobes that give its red leaves a straplike look. Leaves turn gold as the season ends.



Tamukeyama A rich red-purple laceleaf that holds its color through summer. Its leaves emerge slightly more red, and fall color is brilliant red. Grows quickly to maturity. (See cover).

Orangeola Glossy leaves emerge an orange-red then fade to dark red. Bright red-orange in autumn in a long-lasting vibrant display. (Pictured on cover).

Gable Glory Bright orange-red new leaf color is long lasting, especially in some shade, maturing to burgundy-green. Unusual yellow-green bark provides winter interest. (See cover).



Bacopa



Carex



Liriope



Lysimachia

Plant Up Japanese Maples with companion plants: *Bacopa*, *Carex*, *Liriope*, and *Lysimachia* (Creeping Jenny) will all complement Japanese Maples.

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From planting, to weeding to feeding, learn what to do in your garden each season with our monthly to do list and tips at sloatgardens.com