

Gardener's Notebook

Volume 33, No. 3

News & Advice for Bay Area Gardeners

Fall 2019

Fall is for Planting! Establish easy & colorful flowers this month



Tibouchina (or Princess flower), is loved for its bright royal purple blooms. Tibouchina grows fast and prefers slightly acidic, fast draining soil. This lovely plant thrives in the Bay Area's Mediterranean climate.



Showy **Rudbeckia** features yellow, gold & bronze blooms summer thru fall. It's drought- and heat-tolerant, and loves full sun. Attracts bees and butterflies, plus uncut heads provide winter interest and food for birds.



Plant **Salvia Leucantha** in garden beds, in our Fiberlight pots, or Vietnamese terracotta. This bushy drought-tolerant perennial attracts hummingbirds and produces abundant flowers each fall.

Fall is one of the best seasons for gardening – warm soil and cooler weather, with consistent moisture, will help plants thrive and form strong roots to grow faster next spring.

In this issue: Indoor plants, modern plants, new pottery, pruning, organic solutions, vegetables & more

Picture this: your new hanging plant collection



When you're passionate about plants, sometimes you have to go up! Take advantage of vertical space with hanging plants that will trail: Pothos, Spider plants, Tradescantia, Heart leaf Philodendrons, and Swedish ivy (Plectranthus) are all good options. We also carry fabulous pots and plant hangers, including gorgeous macramé designs (at right).



NEW Shae Pottery for beautiful indoor plants

Our designers have been busy potting up houseplants in our new Shae pottery, an indoor pottery line that's light yet durable. Stop in to Sloat Garden Center and talk with us about combining indoor plants with our handmade pottery. Also, try Shae with our new plant stands for added pop!

General Indoor Plant Care

Give plants bright, indirect light and pot in rich soil with excellent drainage (such as Sloat Organic Indoor Potting Soil). Planters should have a drainage hole and saucer so that water can drain. Feed with **Espoma organic fertilizers**: Choose from **Cactus, African Violet, Orchid, or Indoor Food**. Use **Espoma Leaf Shine** to keep foliage dust-free.

Show off your plants!



Raise up your houseplants in our new plant stands. They're made in Thailand from environmentally friendly, durable and strong rubber wood. Available in 10", 12", and 15" sizes.



Houseplants thrive in Sloat Indoor Potting Soil

Mixed specifically for indoor use, our **Indoor Potting Soil** provides excellent aeration, drainage, and water retention to help indoor plants thrive. Specially blended for all indoor plants, Sloat Indoor Potting Soil is ready-to-use, right out of the bag. Locally crafted and produced by E.B. Stone Organics in Suisun, CA.

Modern, no-fuss plants are living sculptures

We present five perennials that will shine in modern gardens, hardscapes, and containers. They are versatile, carefree, low-maintenance plants well suited to the Bay Area.

Pair them with our glossy Fiberlight or Bubble Glaze pottery planted in Sloat Potting Soil. Top dress them with our colorful selection of rocks, gravels, and glass as accents. Then, feed with a low phosphorus food like **Neem Seed** or **Cottonseed Meal**.

lovely in
pottery



Chondropetalum tectorum's compact, tufted form shimmers like fiber optic reeds in the breeze. It's a striking accent perennial that blends well with modern architecture. Chondropetalum is adaptable to any growing condition.

adds
texture



Juncus varieties are lovely, grass-like, perennials that add texture, contrast, and a modern touch indoors or out. Juncus 'Spiralis' is a spiraling plant with corkscrew-like foliage. Juncus 'Blue Dart' and 'Carmen's Japanese' are upright with graceful, narrow stems.

beautiful
stems



Equisetum is an ancient, rush-like survivor from the Carboniferous Age that is appreciated for its architectural form. While it doesn't flower, it is stunning as a graceful modern hedge or container plant.

great for
contrast



Myer's Asparagus (or Foxtail fern) is a wonderful textural perennial for gardens and containers. Its long, upright, plume-like stems hold soft, needle-like leaves. Grows in shade and sun.

drought
tolerant



Lomandra is a tough, easy-care, gopher-resistant grass-like plant for mass plantings, dry borders, and containers. It is drought and salt spray tolerant and can grow in sun or shade.

On location at our Pierce Street, SF store: an indoor plant haven



Our Pierce Street, SF Marina store has the smallest footprint of all Sloat Garden Center locations. Since 2006 it has been a boutique spot geared to on-trend indoor plants, vegetables, succulents, and pottery. Entering this store is like walking through a plant filled jungle. It's bright, welcoming, and filled with greenery! Store leader Jason enjoys getting to know customers and serving their gardening needs.

"When we work with a customer, we try to build on past plant history and find solutions to current garden or houseplant challenges," says Jason. "Many of our guests come looking for a more personalized plant shopping experience, which we definitely offer!"



Plant people in San Francisco: staff members Eleanor and Jason (left) are dedicated to helping San Francisco gardeners make their spaces green and beautiful!

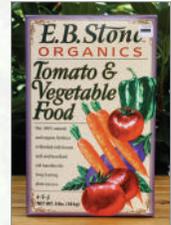
Grow your own Groceries

Fall into fresh vegetables & herbs



Fall is the right time to plant organic vegetables & herbs

We have three full vegetable planting seasons in the Bay Area, and early fall is one of the best to grow your own groceries. Visit our stores this month for organic vegetable and herb starts from local growers Upstarts, Sweetwater, and Flatlands, plus our new grower, Green Vivarium. Don't forget to feed the food you grow – we recommend **E.B. Stone Organics Tomato & Vegetable Food**.



Plant it now for harvest before winter:

Leafy greens: kale, collards, lettuce, mustard, spinach, chard, arugula, mache, endive, bok choy, escarole and sorrel. Salad greens are easy to grow year-round in containers and garden beds.

Root crops: turnips, rutabagas, radishes, carrots, beets, and onions (plant all from seed).

Brassica: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and kohlrabi. (Marin & SF gardeners plant now through October. East Bay gardeners: these vegetables are best planted late September through October as the weather cools).

Other favorites: peas, leeks, celery, and fava beans. Edible tip: Fava beans are an excellent winter cover crop for enriching soil, suppressing weeds, and best of all...you can eat the beans! Plant Fava beans this fall as both starts or seeds.



Fall salad planting recipe

Grow your own spinach, lettuce and herb salad

Leafy greens burst back into the garden and onto our plates this time of year. Hardy, cool season vegetables are both delicious and nutritious. Plant our vegetable & herb combination now to enjoy this Thanksgiving. Talk about sourcing fresh!

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.

Butter lettuce has a sweet, mild flavor and is simple to grow from starts or seeds. Butter lettuce is a delicious base for our Sloat buttermilk herb dressing found at sloatgardens.com. This and other from-the-garden herb recipes are available in our Sloat Recipe Box.

Dill, parsley, and chives grow best in bright sunlight (at least 6 hours a day), with regular water. These herbs will thrive in containers or in the ground in September, October, and beyond.



edible landscaping ideas



Little Ragu Sweet Bay

This fantastic, new introduction is a smaller version of the classic evergreen shrub and the source of culinary bay leaves. Upright and compact, it will only reach 6 to 8 ft. tall and wide. The highly aromatic, deep-green foliage emerges on unique red-tinged stems. Handsome in natural form, or easily clipped into a topiary shape, it thrives in containers and small gardens. Sweet Bay can be the centerpiece of a kitchen garden.

Sloat Organic Loam Builder is the ideal choice for planting fall herbs, flowers, and vegetables in the ground. This unique Bay Area blend enhances soil's bacterial action and improves soil fertility by breaking down quickly to provide fast plant nutrition. Mix 50/50 with native or raised bed soil. When gardening in containers, use Sloat Organic Potting Soil.



In stock this fall we have a beautiful selection of locally grown flowers and herbs to greet the new season. You can turn your fall garden into a beautiful edible landscape with colorful chard, and herbs like thyme, parsley, sage, rosemary, plus pansies, viola and lavender (all are edible). Stop in for seasonal plants as we welcome fall, friends, and family to our homes and gardens.



Feed the birds, not the squirrels

Attract diverse birds to your home by setting up bird feed and water stations. If your feeders are plagued by marauding pests that eat seed and create a mess, we carry a solution: **Roam Wild Pest Off** bird feeders. The perches only let in songbirds and woodpeckers to feed. This squirrel and pest-proof feeder has a large capacity, so constant refilling isn't necessary.



Squirrels really hate our favorite bird food

Sizzle N' Heat bird seed is filled with high quality ingredients that birds love (and they don't mind the heat)! Squirrels may still visit and attempt to steal seed from feeders, but once they get a taste of the hot seeds in Sizzle N' Heat, most will look for other food sources.

Feed local birds this winter by growing plants that can provide winter food for them, and provide a steady water source. See our bird handout in our stores and at sloatgardens.com.



Beautiful Birdbaths



We stock birdbaths in 6 vibrant colors.. Grab one and watch the birds play in your garden!

Sloat Garden Center carries a wide variety of hummingbird feeders as well as nectars! Our hummingbird feeder with new top-fill technology allows you to simply unscrew the cap, pour in the nectar, and voila -- you're ready to feed hummingbirds. The 16oz. shatterproof plastic bottle is the perfect capacity to keep hummingbirds returning to the feeder. We also carry quality food with just the right balance of nutrients to feed them.

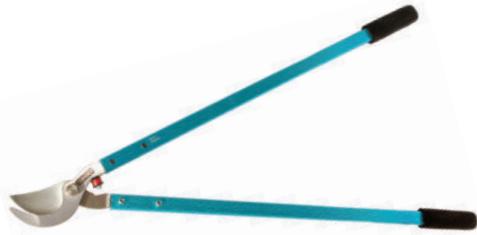


Pruning for healthier trees and shrubs

It seems strange to remove pieces of beloved plants, but pruning back perennials, shrubs, and trees each year helps them grow stronger. We'll walk you through pruning steps at our garden winterization seminar this winter. See sloatgardens.com for info.

Our favorite tools

If you cut a branch that's too big for your tool, it can damage the plant or the tool. Use quality tools and the results will pay dividends. We proudly carry hand-crafted, tools produced by Zenport, a small family-owned company in Washington state.



Zenport 20" and 32" loppers made of forged alloy steel that's amazingly strong and lightweight. Features hardened, precision-ground cutting blades. A perfect combination of strength and lightness.

Zenport 5", 8.5" and 11.25" pruning saws are designed with Japanese style blades for cutting thick branches rapidly. They have a tough metal handle and exceptional design, strength and balance. The two smallest saws are foldable.

Barnel Tiger Saw has precision curvature ground tri-edge teeth and is the fastest and smoothest cutting saw available. It cuts on the pull stroke. The "Raker" slot design cleans as it cuts and helps cool the cut on hard, dead, or processed wood.

5 pruning tips

- Use the right tools: loppers & saws.
- Never take off more than a third of the plant per year.
- Note that the plant will grow back more in those sections most pruned.
- Don't wait until the plant is full-sized to start pruning.
- Prune after the plant has finished blooming or has gone dormant for the year.



Sloat Kid's Club tip!

Planning a fall edible garden for kids? Try growing peas; they're so easy to plant. They grow nicely with Nasturtiums and Violas (both also edible) in pots or in the ground. Setting up a fan trellis for peas lets them climb but still stay tidy. Learn more kids gardening tips in our Kid's Club Make & Take Workshops.



An ounce of prevention: Why do gardeners use a dormant spray each fall?

Overwintering pests and diseases start as small problems but can grow into big ones in spring, requiring more drastic action. Organic gardeners avoid the use of harsh chemicals and take precautionary steps to:



Control overwintering insects and their eggs.

Use **Bonide All Seasons Horticultural Oil** in late autumn or early winter to smother over-wintering pest insects and their eggs (aphids & mealy bugs be gone!). It also controls powdery mildew.



Prevent disfiguring peach leaf curl.

Use **Bonide Copper Fungicide** or **Monterey Liquid Copper** as a preventative to control black spot, downy and powdery mildew, leaf spot and peach leaf curl.



Prevent and control fire blight.

Use **Actinovate** as a one-stop fungus fighter for gardens, lawns, and even houseplants.

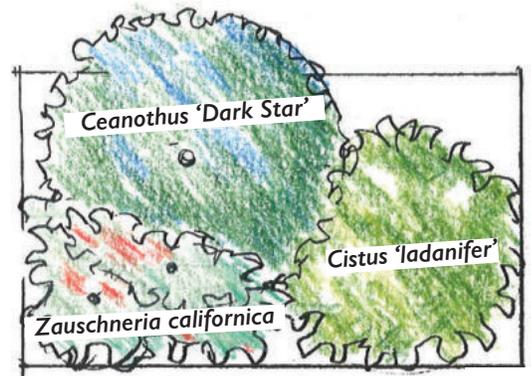
Fall Gardening Seminars & Workshops

Each season we select local gardening experts and designers to teach seminars & workshops in our popular gardening education series. Seminars are free for Rewards Members (Workshop fees are additional), and \$10 for non-members (membership is free). See sloatgardens.com for full details, times and locations!

Seminars: Fall is for Planting Basics for the Beginning Gardener • Planting your Fall and Winter Vegetable Garden • Indoor Plant Care 101 • Orchid Care 101 • Gardening for the Birds • Native Plants in the Garden • What to Do in your Garden Now: Time to Winterize! • How to find your Garden Style:
A talk based on Garden Design: A Book of Ideas by Heidi Howcroft

Make and Take Workshops: Create a Succulent Pumpkin • Plant up Window Box Greens • Create a Tillandsia Wreath for the Holidays
• Create a Succulent Wreath

Kids Club Make and Take Workshops: Edibowls (Create a salad planter)
• Pumpkin Crafts • Create a Bird Feeder • Table-top Christmas Trees



Fire protection planting

With our climate quickly changing, we always consider fire protection when gardening. Our Design Department has developed easy plant suggestions that can fill a sunny or shady 6' x 8' space with fire resistant plant choices. Each of the designs is ideal for replacing fire-attractant Juniper; a shrub that burns quickly due to its flammable oils. All 6 designs can be found on our blog at sloatgardens.com.

Also on our website: see our Fire Protection plant handout for 26 plants you can use for this task. Remember to check your local municipality for specific fire protection plant lists.

Choose the right soil for your plants

As you begin planting, take the time to improve soil so that new plants can establish quickly and flourish. Our staff has a saying: **“Don’t plant a \$50 plant in a \$1 hole.”** because quality soil is essential. Let Sloat Bay Area blended soils help you grow the plants you love.

Use these soils straight from the bag for planting in pots



Sloat Organic Potting Soil

Excellent for annual and perennial flowers, as well as vegetables.



Sloat Potting Soil

Use for perennials, shrubs, trees and vines. Higher sand content adds weight to help prevent tipping.



Sloat Indoor Potting Soil

The perfect soil for Indoor ornamental plants (tropical foliage, succulents, bromeliads, palms, etc).

Use the below amendments to mix into existing soil (50/50) in the ground or raised beds



Sloat Organic Compost

This no-manure compost is perfect for vegetable and flower gardens.



Sloat Organic Loam Builder

Our staff favorite to enhance any soil for vegetable gardening. Also useful for flowers and companion plantings.



Sloat Organic Planting Mix

A complete planting mix perfect for all types of flowers, ornamentals, trees, shrubs, roses and perennials.



Sloat Organic Forest Mulch Plus

One of the more versatile amendments we carry. Excellent for planting trees, shrubs and other ornamentals, as well as a mulch for planting beds and as a seed cover.

Visit our stores: Thirteen 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

Hours: 9-6:30

Novato

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

San Rafael

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

Kentfield M-F: 8-6:30

Sat & Sun: 8:30-6:30

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

Mill Valley

657 E. Blithedale
(415) 388-0102

401 Miller Ave.
(415) 388-0365 at La Goma

Pleasant Hill

2895 Contra Costa Blvd.
(925) 939-9000

Martinez

6740 Alhambra Ave
(925) 935-9125

E. Blithedale:

M-F 8-6:30

Sat/Sun
8:30-6:30

Danville

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

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

M-Sat hours: 8am-6:30pm

Sun hours: 9am-5pm

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)

M-Sat hours: 8am-4pm

Currently available in Marin & SF only

Visit us on the web: www.sloatgardens.com

Open 7 days a week 8:30am to 6:30pm

(or as noted above)

S l o a t



Garden Center

420 Coloma Street
Sausalito, CA 94965-1428



We'll help you grow the plants you love!

8 SLOAT NOTEBOOK Fall 2019

Fall/Winter hours begin November 4th
8:30am to 5:30pm, 7 days a week

Due to construction this Fall, not all materials mentioned in the Gardener's Notebook will be available at our Kentfield store.

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monthly e-newsletters

Bay Area Gardening Guide:

FALL

Plant

- ☞ Fall is for planting! Now is the best time to plant foxglove and other biennials, as well as cyclamen. California poppies, wildflowers, groundcovers and sweet peas should be planted now.
- ☞ Get shrubs, perennials, vines and trees in the ground this month while the soil is still warm. Winter rains will help establish your plants.
- ☞ Plant daffodils for vibrant spring blooms. Garlic and onion bulbs can be planted now, too.
- ☞ Sow seeds for fall vegetables: radishes, beets, carrots, peas and lettuce. We also carry vegetable transplants.
- ☞ Decorate for fall: We have succulents, ornamental kale, mums, pansies, violas, Iceland poppies, snapdragons, stock and ornamental grasses for waves of autumnal color.



Fertilize

- ☞ Top-dress perennial beds, azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons with **Sloat Organic Forest Mulch Plus**.
- ☞ Feed spring blooming shrubs with 0-10-10 fertilizer. Feed citrus with **Maxsea Acid Food**.

Prune/Maintain

- ☞ Prepare garden beds for winter. Clear weeds and rocks. Add soil amendments as needed.
- ☞ Divide roots and rhizomes of perennials such as agapanthus, yarrow & iris.
- ☞ Apply all-organic **Maize Pre-emergent** weed killer in fall before winter rains germinate cool weather weeds.
- ☞ Feed the birds! Don't cut back dead flower stalks; allow rudbeckia, sunflowers, and other flowers with seeds and berries to feed the birds all winter. It's also time to fill bird feeders for winter. We carry a variety of suet and suet feeders that local species love.



ety of suet and suet feeders that local species love.

- ☞ Many insect pests can overwinter in a wooden fence. Spraying the fence with **All Seasons Oil** kills the insects and acts as a wood preservative for the fence!



Coming early September: carving and specialty pumpkins, mini-pumpkins and gourds!

Stay tuned Thanksgiving weekend: Sloat Garden Center will have beautiful, premium wreaths, **fresh cut Christmas trees**, small easy-care living trees and rosemary cones that are ready to decorate your home or give as a gift. We also have holiday greens, blooming holiday flowers, and sweet gardener's gifts.