



# Western Garden Nursery

Serving the East Bay community since 1961

*"Great gardens begin here"*



2756 Vineyard Ave. Pleasanton, California 94566 (925) 462-1760

[westerngardennursery.com](http://westerngardennursery.com)

Western Garden Club

Open Everyday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

February/March, 2005



## February/March In The Garden....

Christmas and New Years are behind us and the Super Bowl will soon be over, the Iraqi's held elections, the sun has been shining, so now we can get busy in the garden. This is the time of the year when all the flowering plants awaken from their winter sleep. Soon all those sleeping plants will burst into their brilliant blooms. With everything waking up it's time for us to get out into the garden and enjoy every minute of it.



## News About Our Newsletter....

While the Newsletter was out of print, we were busy working on layout, artwork, colors, setting up production, re-working our website and making decisions on how the Newsletter will be made available to our customers. First, the decision was made to keep it as a bi-monthly newsletter. And then we decided to make the Newsletter available in several ways. #1 You can pick up a copy when you visit our nursery. #2 You can have it e-mailed to you. #3 You can view it and download it from our website ([westerngardennursery.com](http://westerngardennursery.com)). #4 You can have it mailed to your home address or give it as a gift to a gardening friend, the subscription for having it mailed is \$10:00 per year.

## Lawn Care....

Does your lawn have that Winter look? Maybe you forgot to feed it, yes lawns need to be fed regularly, even in the winter.



With spring just around the corner, you should feed your lawn with Master Nursery Multi-Purpose Fertilizer to bring back that rich green look. If your lawn had Crabgrass last year, apply Master Pro Pre-Emergent Weed Control & Lawn Food by the middle of March to prevent crabgrass and other annual weeds from growing. For lawns that have a combination of hard to control weeds like dandelions, spurge, clover and oxalis apply Portrait by mid-march to prevent them from growing. After applying Portrait feed your lawn with Master Nursery Multi-Purpose Fertilizer. Anytime you have a problem with your lawn, please bring in a sample of the problem ( 6x6 square 4 inches deep), this will



help us identify what is causing the problem and then we can make a recommendation for controlling the problem. Once we have diagnosed the problem you can take the sample home and fill the hole.

## Tasty Vegies....

Tasty and high yielding vegetable plants need an organic rich soil to grow in. With our heavy clay soil (which is low in organic) we need to add a rich organic mix, and Bumper Crop is the best organic mix available. It contains large amounts of Forest Humus and Chicken Manure along with other organic ingredients like Kelp Meal and Bat Guano. To make it even better they have added Endo & Ekto Mycorrhizae to help develop stronger healthier root systems, it also allows the plants to take up extra nutrient and water. For the Best Vegie Soil use the following ingredients for every 100 square feet of garden space.

- 8 bags of Bumper Crop All Organic Soil Conditioner
- 5 pounds of Master Start
- 10 pounds of Gypsum
- 1 pound of Iron Plus.



Once the soil is workable, spade or rototill these ingredients in thoroughly to a depth of 8 inches. You can plant immediately after it is mixed in or wait a bit if the weather is too cold. Six weeks after your



vegies are planted start feeding monthly with Master Nursery Tomato and Vegetable food to keep the healthy and productive. Western will carry a great selection of Tomatoes, Squash, Cucumbers, Peppers, Fresh Herbs and more. Nothing beats the taste of a fresh picked ripe tomato from your own garden. Just about everyone can grow some fresh vegies. Even if you live in a

apartment or condo and have a sunny window you can grow tomatoes in a pot in that window. Or put them on the balcony or patio. In September of last year, my wife and I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary by taking the Gaither Home Coming Cruise to Alaska, and it was fantastic. At Sitka, one of the ports of call, Randee and I walked around this beautiful little town, taking in all the sights. On our walk, I kept noticing something growing in the windows of a number of houses, and



to my surprise I discovered it to be tomato plants loaded with tomatoes. I guess that proves the point that if you want to grow tomatoes bad enough you will find a way.

### Okay, Time For More Pruning....

All those perennials that look so terrible after going through the winter can be pruned now. Trim them way back and then feed them with Master Nursery Multi-Purpose Fertilizer to give them a good start. For those frost tender plants like fuchsias, lantana, hibiscus, bougainvillea & citrus wait until the first of March to prune. After pruning feed with Master Multi-Purpose Fertilizer. If you are thinking about planting some more perennials this year, our new selections should start arriving by late February. These plants are cold hardy so you can plant them as soon as they arrive. Please feel free to give us a call anytime to check on what has arrived.



### Cyclamen....

These beauties are shade loving plants and are in their prime right now. To keep them blooming as long as possible, feed them every two weeks with Master Nursery Bud & Bloom. It is helpful to remove the old flower stems so they don't take energy away from the plants ability to produce new flowers. Cyclamen grow great in pots and containers, they even grow great in hanging pots and look terrific planted with bacopa. Because they are perennials they will bloom again this Fall and Winter so don't rip them out this summer if they start looking sparse. Instead plant some Impatiens around them to cover over their sparse foliage and this winter as the impatiens start to look sparse remove them so the cyclamen can fill in.



### Azaleas And Camellias....

Feed your plants with Master Bloom monthly until they are finished blooming, then switch to feeding monthly with Master Nursery Camellia and Azalea food. These plants are acid loving plants and our soil is just the opposite. For healthier plants apply Iron Plus monthly with your fertilizer, the Iron Plus helps to make the soil more acidic. Remember these plants like to be kept moist during our hot weather, so as soon as possible put a layer of Black Forest mulch around them to help keep them moist. If they need pruning we recommend that you prune right after they are finished blooming so that you won't interrupt their bloom cycle. If you prune in the summer you will be cutting off next years blooms.



### Our New Roses Are Ready....

We have a great selection of roses this year and great early season prices. Bush Roses are regularly priced at \$24.98 ea. our early season prices are 3 for \$59.98 (\$19.99 ea) or 6 for

\$99.98 (\$16.66ea) Our Climbing Roses are regularly \$29.98 ea. our early season prices are 3 for \$69.98 (\$23.33 ea.) or 6 for \$119.98 (\$19.99ea.). Our Tree Roses are regularly priced at \$49.98 ea. our early season price is 3 for \$119.98 (\$39.99 ea).



If you haven't pruned your roses yet, you better get busy. For bush roses prune out all but 4 or 5 canes, cut these canes back to 12-18 inches high. The first bud below your cut should be pointing away from the center of the bush. Cut off all the little side branches and remove all the leaves. Prune Tree Roses so the canes are 6 inches in length, prune out all but 5 or 6 canes and remove all leaves. For Climbing Roses, prune back last years growth 20% to 50%. Remove any criss crossing branches and all leaves. After pruning roses we suggest you spray them with a combination of Liqui-Cop and Master Nursery Horticultural Oil. Roses are heavy feeders and should be fed monthly from February through October. If you like using pelleted fertilizer we recommend Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food. For those of you who like using liquid fertilizers we highly recommend Master Nursery Bud And Bloom, it is an outstanding fertilizer for roses and all blooming plants. As the weather warms up you will need to watch their watering needs, they don't like to get dried out, this ruins their blooms. For a list of our 2005 rose selection, go to our web site at [westerngardennursery.com](http://westerngardennursery.com)

### Tasty Strawberries....

Growing strawberries is one of the easiest crops you can grow. If you plant strawberries now, you will be picking fresh home grown strawberries by June. You can grow strawberries in hanging baskets, pots of any size, strawberry jars, moss baskets and yes even in the ground. When planting in pots, plant them in Gardeners Gold Potting Soil, and add some Master Start. This all organic potting soil is what we use when planting in containers. When planting in the ground mix in some Bumper Crop and Master Start before planting. Feed your new berry patch with Master Nursery Bud and Bloom twice a month and then get the Short Cakes and Whipped Cream ready.



**They Are Coming! And They Are Hungry!!!!**

No, not your kids, I'm talking about SNAILS. As we approach Spring weather the snails will be coming to dine on your tasty flowers. Are you going to let them feast on the beautiful garden you planted or are you going to fight back? You can take control and keep your garden beautiful by using

one of the great snail control products we carry like Cookes Snail & Slug Granules which also controls sowbugs and earwigs. The granules are about the size of very coarse sand and when applied properly over an area they are not unsightly like old fashioned snail pellets. Because they are so small, pets will usually leave them alone. Now if you have pets and want to be sure that if they get a hold of it they will not be harmed, use Sluggo. The active ingredient in Sluggo is Iron Phosphate, a side benefit is that most plants like the iron found in Sluggo. Which ever one you use, we recommend that you apply it weekly for 4 to 5 weeks. Start the applications at the first sign of snail activity. Now if you absolutely don't want to put out baits, then we recommend that you wait until they get big and fat from eating your garden and do the following. Take 1 stick of unsalted butter, softened, 1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic, 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, 1 tablespoon minced shallot, 7 oz of shelled and rinsed snails. Preheat oven to 400. Puree butter, garlic, parsley, and shallot in a food processor. Season with salt and pepper. Divide half the garlic butter among sterilized snail shells. Stuff with snails (1 per shell) and remaining garlic butter. Bake for 10 minutes.



(snails need to be purged before cooking)

**Turn Hydrangeas Blue....**

If you have pink hydrangeas and would like to turn them blue, now is the time to apply Hydra-Blue. To have those beautiful blue flowers this Spring apply Hydra-Blue monthly at the rate of 1/4 cup per plant until they are finished blooming. This will not change the color of white hydrangeas.



**House Plant Care....**

Feed monthly with Master Nursery All Purpose Fertilizer.



Watch for signs of insects, if needed spray once a week for 3 weeks with Master Nursery Rose & Flower Spray. Because it is still cold enough to heat our homes, take care that the heaters don't dryout the soil of your house plants. When the weather warms up, it would be a good idea to take them outside and wash off their leaves. But don't leave them in the sun or they will sun burn.



Show dates March 16-20, Purchase adult tickets by March 8, and save \$3.00 off the regular price. Tickets available at Western Garden Nursery

**Coupon for March, 2005**

**Bonus Buy Coupon**  
Buy more  
**Garden Perennials**



for only **3<sup>49</sup>**  
**each**  
4" pot size

No limit on quantity  
Void after March 31, 2005  
No Cash Value

limit one coupon per family

**ONE FREE**  
**Garden Perennial**

4" pot size  
Regular 4.49 each



Limit one coupon per household  
Void after March 31, 2005  
No Cash Value

**Coupon for February, 2005**

**20 %**  
**off**

**Your next Purchase**  
**of plants, trees,**  
**fountains, pottery,**  
**fertilizers etc.**

Limit one coupon per household  
Void after February 28, 2005  
No Cash Value

### Japanese Maples....

Because of the great demand for Japanese Maples over the past few years, there will be a short supply this year. We have a good inventory right now, so don't put off purchasing your Japanese Maples until later because we may run out of some varieties early. The following is a list of maples ordered for 2005 of which most are in stock with a few coming in by early March.

- Atropurpureum**= upright growth to 18ft, red leaves
- Bloodgood**= upright growth to 15 ft, dark red leaves
- Butterfly**= upright to 7ft, cream/white/pink/green leaves
- Ebony**= weeping spreading growth, red/purple leaf
- Emperor one**= upright growth to 15ft, deep red leaves
- Fireglow**= upright growth to 10ft, bright red leaves
- Kashima**= upright growth to 5ft, green leaves
- Nigrum**= upright growth to 10ft, black/red leaves
- Oshio Beni**= upright growth to 15ft, red/orange leaves
- Orido Nishiki**= upright to 10ft, variegated green/ pink/ white leaves
- Palmatum**= upright growth 20-25ft, green leaf
- Red Dawn**= weeping/spreading, bright red leaves
- Sangokaku**= upright growth 15-20ft, light green leaf, coral red bark in winter
- Seiryu**= upright growth 10-12ft, lacy green leaves
- Shaina**= upright growth 6-8ft, red leaves

- Sharp's Pygmy**= upright growth to 3ft, green leaves
- Shindeshojo**= upright growth to 5ft in 10 years, flaming red leaves turning green
- Suminagashi**= upright growth to 15ft, purple red leaves



To plant maples, dig hole 2 to 3 times wider than container and 1 1/2 to 2 times deeper than the container. Mix this soil at the ratio of 2 parts Gardeners Choice Planter Mix to 1 part soil, add appropriate amount of Master Start and plant. After planting, use a solution of Root Master to water the maple. Keep your maple moist especially in hot weather.

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Visit us on the web at [westerngardennursery.com](http://westerngardennursery.com)

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## We carry a large selection of Fountains

### A. Silvestri

#### Florence New Italian Art



#### Al's Garden Art



Al's Garden Art 62573-C J89