

Flowercraft Garden Center

San Francisco's #1 Nursery

550 BAYSHORE BLVD • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94124

(415) 824-1900

www.flowercraftgc.com

HOME

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GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

June Success Tips

1. Continue to **fill in bare spots** with fresh plants that will provide color during the warmer months. We have a nice supply of plants that will provide summer color. Remember—don't always buy plants in full bloom—big box stores stock many kinds of plants in full bloom, and what they stock is sometimes already past their prime. Don't waste your time and money buying from stores that don't know what grows best locally!

2. It's a great time to **plant edible plants**—including our *vegetables, herbs, citrus* and *fruit trees*. Produce freshly grown in your garden and picked when ripe is usually more nutritious, often safer food, and always tastes best!

3. **Watch for plant diseases, pests and weeds**—we carry proven, better products, and can recommend what is best to use.

4. **Trim grass and shrubbery** next to sprinkler heads to ensure the spray is not partially blocked. Also, turn sprinklers on and check them occasionally to be sure they have not broken, gotten clogged, or need adjusting.

GREAT FATHER'S DAY IDEAS

Do you have a handy Dad or Grandfather who loves to Barbeque? Plant a **big patio container or two** with a few veggies that he can cook up on the grill, including vegetables like *tomatoes, peppers, and onions*.

He could probably use a **handy shade tree** or two in the yard—especially to rest underneath in a chaise lounge or to hang a hammock from. We'll help you pick out the best tree for him, or you can bring Dad along to choose his favorite plant.

Young children can help plant the tree with their Dads and then watch as it grows up with them.



Longer-Blooming Flowers

Summer is a wonderful season for vibrant blooming gardens. What better way to sit back and enjoy the whole season than to plant flowers that bloom continuously for many months!



Annuals: *impatiens, alyssums, nasturtiums, cosmos, dianthus, and marigolds.*

Perennials: *Coreopsis, lantana, bacopa, nemesia, calibrachoa, begonias, bidens, yarrows, verbena, geraniums, salvias, lavenders, penstemons, diascia, and more.*

Remove spent blooms and fertilize with *EB Stone Organics Rose & Flower Food* to extend the blooming season even longer! Ask us to point out other long-bloomers in stock.

Light/Heavy Feeding Veggies

Vegetables need fertilizing because they produce so much good food for us during a short period of time. But did you know that vegetables have different fertilization needs?



Light Feeders include "root vegetables" like *carrots, shallots, onions, and turnips*, also *mustard, garlic, and cool season chard*.

Medium to Heavy Feeders include *beans, peppers, eggplant, potatoes, asparagus, cabbage* and cool season *lettuce and spinach*.

Work-horse heavy feeders include summer crops of *tomatoes, rhubarb, corn, cucumber, melons, and squash*. Cool-season heavy feeding vegetables include *broccoli, winter squashes, and cauliflower*. Vegetables planted in containers need extra nutrients because of their limited soil.

Use *EB Stone Organics Tomato & Vegetable Food* for top results with your vegetables!

Protect Your Plants and Crops!

Cover plants with bird netting to protect fruit from aerial attack. Apply netting BEFORE the fruit begins to ripen—birds will start consuming your crops before it is ready to harvest.

Protect flowers and vegetables from pests. We have organic and standard pest controls—ask us to recommend the right one for your needs.

Brown spots on leaves of Indian hawthorne (*rhapiolepis*), pear, and similar plants are particularly common this year because of the late rains. It's *Entomosporium leaf spot*, a fungus. Prune to allow good air circulation. Avoid overhead watering (it splatters and spreads the spores), especially while the plants are putting out new growth (mature leaves resist infection). Rake up fallen leaves and throw out with the garbage. Thoroughly composting them will also kill the spores.

Tomato Trivia!

☛ A tomato is actually the plant's "berry" and therefore is technically a fruit instead of a vegetable.

☛ But in 1893 the Supreme Court declared the tomato a "vegetable" in order to make them subject to tariff fees. "Fruits" did not incur duty fees.

☛ The ancestor of the tomato grew in Peru, South America and was introduced to Europe sometime during the 1500's by early explorers.

☛ Other plants included in a tomato's Nightshade family are peppers, eggplant, potatoes, and the poisonous belladonna.

☛ Refrigerating your delicious home-grown tomatoes to below 50° actually changes their chemical makeup and ruins their flavor. **DON'T DO IT!**

☛ Tomatoes eaten within 10 seconds of harvesting will help you win the lottery. (Okay, we made that one up, but they DO taste especially wonderful right off the vine, don't they?)



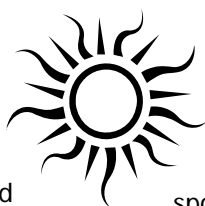
Happy Marriage Tree

June is a particularly favorite month for couples to get married! If you are looking for a unique wedding present for the couple 'who already has everything,' you can plant a tree to commemorate their lifelong commitment of love! Planting a tree can also be a wonderful and lasting way to memorialize **anniversaries**, the **birth of a child**, and **graduations**.

There are many places you can plant your gift tree (or trees)—their home or the home of one of the newlywed's parents, a church, city park, or another public area.

Smaller trees in containers are perfect for couples on the move or with limited space.

We can help you pick the right tree that will flourish in our area.



Garden Mythbusters

Have you heard this one? "If you overhead water on a hot, sunny day, the water will burn holes in the leaves."

This is FALSE! Consider the fact that rain does not cause spotting, even if the sun comes out right afterwards—otherwise entire landscapes would be filled with holes!

There is a good reason NOT to water at mid-day—evaporation is greater when the sun is hotter and winds are usually stronger. Watering in the morning will not waste water lost through evaporation.

If you are finding "burned holes" in leaves, the problem is most likely caused by fungal or bacterial diseases. These diseases will leave either holes or brown or black spots that can look like burn spots.

We can help you find the solution for what is attacking your plants and assist in restoring their good health.



Fresh Tomato, Basil, and Pasta Salad

This refreshing salad can be served with a meal for four, or double the serving size and you've got a complete meal for two.

BALSAMIC DRESSING:

2 T. balsamic vinegar
1 tsp. chopped garlic
¼ tsp. salt
Black pepper, to taste
3 T. olive oil

FOR THE SALAD:

2 c. tomatoes, diced
1 c. bell pepper, diced
1 c. fresh basil, julienned
8 oz. fresh mozzarella cheese
8 oz. radiatore or a favorite pasta

Pour the vinegar, garlic, and salt into a small bowl and mix, add pepper, season to taste. Add olive oil and stir. Wash and dice tomatoes. Toss with the balsamic vinaigrette and the julienned basil leaves. Cut mozzarella into 1/4-inch cubes

Cook pasta according to package directions or until *al dente*. Drain pasta and toss with 1 tsp olive oil. Stir in tomato, pepper, and basil mixture. Top with mozzarella and garnish with fresh basil leaves. Please note: leftovers will not store well as the vinegar wilts the basil and refrigeration ruins the tomato's flavor, so enjoy it fresh!

SLOW HUMOR

What did the snail say when he rode on the turtle's back?
"WHEEEEEEEEE!"

A snail was painting a big letter 'S' on his car. When his friend the turtle asked him, "Why?" the snail replied, "When people see me drive by they can say, 'LOOK AT THAT S-CAR-GO!'"

A guy goes to a halloween party with a girl on his back. The host asks him, "And what are you?" The guy says, "I'm a snail." The host says "And who's that on your back?" The guy explains, "That's 'Michelle!'"

A sloth is out for a walk when he is mugged by four snails. After recovering his wits, he goes to make a police report. "Can you describe the snails?" asks the officer. "Not well, it all happened so fast," replies the sloth.

