

Flowercraft Garden Center

San Francisco's #1 Nursery

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HOME

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GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Tips for Fall Gardening

1. Fall is for planting—the weather at this time is nearly perfect for people to plant in, and for plants to grow in. Come in and see what we have for this time of year to beautify your yard!

2. Plant chrysanthemums and other **fall flowers** in containers now to accent your front door, mailbox, lamp post, and other prominent spots. Our beauties really are perfect for fall yard decorations.

3. Roses will respond to a little care this time of year—the mild fall weather is perfect for rose flower production. Feed with *EB Stone Organics Rose & Flower Food*, water, and cut off flowers that have already bloomed. Prevent pest damage by treating with one of our new organic insecticides for roses.

4. Conserve water by planting sections of our **natives** and **other water-wise plants** in your garden. Fall is ideal for this. As you are loading up your cart, feel free to ask for our help in picking out what to plant—our many years of experience in our local area is rare and can make a huge difference in your success.

5. Plant our early-flowering sweet peas in September and you'll have masses of these beauties this fall.

Plant a Cool-Season Salad

We are so fortunate in California that we are able to grow cool season vegetables in the fall. It's an ideal time to plant and harvest wonderful salad fix-ins' for nutritious meals!

Along with a delicious variety of *lettuces*, and other greens, plant some of our tasty *peas*, *spinach*,

beets, *carrots*, *radishes*, *cabbage*, and *broccoli*. Our *onion* and *garlic sets* are arriving soon!



Colorful Double Duty Shrubs

Bring on the change of seasons—California style—with shrubs (or small trees) that provide multiple seasons of color. The following also produce flowers earlier in the year. Here are a couple extra special ones:

❖ **Loropetalum** has deep purple leaves on branches that arch, then drape in tiers. The bright pink flowers bloom in clusters at the branch tips.

❖ The bamboo-like foliage on **nandina** plants turns bronze in the fall, then scarlet in the winter. Creamy white clusters of blossoms appear on the plants in late spring, followed by red berries.

Accent your shrubs with wispy golden grass, add some white flowers for sparkle, plus other colors to brighten up a dreary garden! *Japanese maple* is an excellent small tree with colorful fall foliage. We also have *bulbs*, *annuals*, and *perennials* that will keep your yard beautiful all through the fall and winter months. Enjoy the colors!

FREE Native Plant Clinic!
Saturday, September 26th, 11 a.m.

Fall Bulbs Make Spring Magic!

One of the greatest pleasures a gardener can experience is selecting spring-blooming bulbs, and then enjoying their burst of color in the spring! **Our large quality bulbs are here**, so now is the time to start planning and purchasing. Remember that we frequently sell out of certain varieties every year, so shop early! Make your selections now, then plant when the weather cools—October and November are the best months.

HAVE FUN! Select bright colors and combinations of colors—that's what bulbs are all about! Try some bulbs you've never grown before—you may find new varieties that grow especially well in your yard. Plant early, mid and late varieties for a longer display of color in late winter and spring.

Choose enough bulbs so you can plant blocks of the same species and color. Group bulbs (5 or more) using just one or two colors in a repeating pattern rather than individual bulbs spaced several feet apart. Plant shorter growing bulbs such as *crocus*, *scilla*, and *grape hyacinths* in drifts of 25 to 50 bulbs for the most dramatic impact. Also, use these smaller flowering bulbs in front of large flowering bulbs.


When planting bulbs mix in *EB Stone Organics Bulb Food* and *Greenall Soil Booster*.



Fall is for Planting—Catch the Excitement!

World's Largest Food Fight

In late August, *forty-five thousand Spaniards and tourists* arrived in Buñol, Spain for the La Tomatina festival. The main attraction of this annual event is a massively messy tomato food fight.

 This year, trucks hauled over *125 tons of over-ripe tomatoes* (an estimated 15 more tons than in 2008!) and dumped them in the town plaza. Only one hour of carnage is allowed before fire trucks hose out the sea of red pulp with water from a local aqueduct.

For safety sake, participants are supposed to squish their tomatoes before launching them. White clothing is recommended as the stains are more photogenic. Some participants wisely wear goggles to protect their eyes. The acid from the tomatoes cleans the ground, but visitors often have to resort to washing themselves off in the Buñol River or wait in long lines for a shower near the train station.

How did this tradition begin? One popular theory is that city councilmen were attacked by disgruntled townspeople back in 1945. Many locals believe the food fight spontaneously erupted among juvenile friends and the idea just caught on as a fun thing to do every year. *Viva La Tomatina!*



Revelations About That "Organic" Labeling

Did you know there are **four different USDA classifications** allowing products to carry the label "*organic*"? Do you know what the differences are?

- ☺ "100% Organic" is simple enough to understand without any confusion.
- ☺ Products containing only 95% organic ingredients can be labeled "*organic*".
- ☹ Products that have 70-95% will say "*made with organic ingredients*".
- ☹ Anything less than 70% means the term "*organic*" can only appear within the list of ingredients.

A simpler and healthier way to avoid any uncertainty and **really know** what you are consuming is to grow your own!



Tree Selection Tips



Ahh, fall—what a *perfect* time to be planting trees! Roots have an advantage in getting established in their new location before new top growth is stimulated in the spring.

Here are a few basic considerations that will help you make wise choices:

What function is desirable? Shade trees help reduce energy bills, as do trees planted as a windbreak. They make a good screen from objectionable views, or neighbors and their noise. How about adding color and beauty along with another function, or choosing a tree that adds to your edible garden?

50 years from now, what will the tree look like? Growth factors like mature height, width, and shape should figure into your final choice. Space-wise, will a small, medium, or large tree be best? Some trees don't stay small for long!

Right tree, right place—look around the area where you plan to plant the tree. Are there any wires above or below? Will you have enough clearance surrounding your sidewalks, driveway or patio once the tree matures? What type of soil do you have, and how much sunlight?

Other benefits: Trees add *peace* and *serenity* to our lives. Studies show hospital *patients recover faster* from surgery when they have a view of trees. Economically, they *add value* to our homes. Globally, they are a *natural defense against climate change*. Drop by and let us help you find your new tree or trees today!



Honey Crunch Baked Apples

This delicious recipe is quick to put together. Anticipation will build as the wonderful aroma wafts through your home while it is baking!

6 large apples, cored	1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/3 c. granola	2 tsp. lemon juice
1/3 c. chopped walnuts	6 Tbsp. honey, divided
1/3 c. chopped, pitted dates	3 Tbsp. butter, melted
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	3/4 c. apple juice



Place apples in a 9" square baking pan. Combine the next six ingredients with 3 Tbsp. honey and spoon mixture into the center of each apple. Stir together 3 Tbsp. honey, butter, and apple juice. Pour over apples and bake, covered, at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover, baste, and bake another 30-35 minutes. Serve warm. Add a scoop of ice cream and you've got a winner!

Chocolate & Vegetable Oil Power!

Scientists in the UK have unveiled the World's First Formula 3 racing car designed to go 125-140 miles per hour. It is powered by fuel derived from waste *chocolate* and *vegetable oil*. Other sustainable components used to build this remarkable car include *carrots* (used in the steering wheel), *potatoes* (auto body), *orange oil* (tires), *soybean oil* and *flax* (seats).

Is there a car growing in your garden? Check out www.worldfirsttracing.co.uk/ for more information.

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!

