

Wegman's Nursery September Garden Tips

Things to do in your garden . . .

Any sprinklers or drippers clogged with algae should be scrubbed with a toothbrush after soaking in a 10% bleach solution.

While the nights cool in September and October, the days remain hot. Be sure your irrigation systems are working adequately so that water is not being wasted and plants don't get too dry.

Check your systems for leaks, broken or malfunctioning parts and proper coverage. You may need to add extra emitters on drip systems for maturing trees or shrubs or you may need to adjust the length of time the system runs. To gauge whether your plants are getting adequate water, check the depth of moisture in the soil the day following watering. Soil around trees should show moisture to 12-18 inches and around shrubs, six or eight inches. They will not need water again until the top two-three inches of soil is dry.

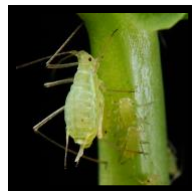
A **Rapitest® Moisture Meter** is a very worthwhile investment. Use it for indoor and outdoor plants. Outdoors, test at the dripline of trees and shrubs and in the center of the root ball. We have seen too many situations where the soil is moist at the dripline, but the root ball is dry. If your tree is planted in the lawn and is watered only with the lawn, it is not getting enough water. Consider using a **Ross® Root Feeder** to supplement the tree's irrigation every three to four weeks.

Remember that lawns, trees and shrubs cannot coexist on the same water schedule!

For **NEW PLANTINGS**: Once planting is completed, fill the new hole and its plant with water until it stops bubbling. Repeat once a week for the first year. Check plants for water daily for the first week and if necessary, place hose on trickle near the base of the plant and leave on for up to 30 minutes. You may need to run drip or spray systems every three to four days for the first two weeks if you find that the top two to three inches of soil dries out quickly. You can then adjust according to the following recommendations: new plantings often suffer from a dry root ball (see above).

LAWNS: Ideally, lawns should be watered one to two times a week for one-half to one hour to encourage deep root systems

SHRUBS & ROSES: For most drip or spray systems, once a week for one hour should be adequate — drip or spray systems should produce five to 10 gallons per bush. You should use at least two drippers per bush. Remember to avoid direct water on rose foliage unless you water early in the morning in order to decrease the incidence of rust. Contrary to popular belief, wet foliage does not promote powdery mildew. Hosing down rose bushes early in the morning will help discourage spider mites, aphids and mildew.



TREES: Water established trees once a month through September for a few hours with bubblers at the drip line to ensure a deep soaking (wet to a depth of 16 to 18 inches is recommended). You can also build a berm at least four to six inches high and flood monthly.

VEGETABLES: Soaker hoses work great for vegetable gardens. Run them one to two times per week for four to five hours. Turn pressure on until you count one drip every three seconds along the entire line. If you see spray four or more inches high, you have too much pressure. Prepare empty vegetable garden space for winter veggies by working some compost such as **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and a few handfuls of **Master Nursery® Tomato & Vegetable Food** into the soil.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers home visits to evaluate water systems for water-wise efficiency. Call 1-888-439-6624 to schedule an appointment or contact them at www.valleywater.org. In the Redwood City area, call the Water Conservation Department at 650-780-7436 or check out their website: http://www.redwoodcity.org/publicworks/water/water_conservation_program.htm.

Tips from the professionals. . .

ANNUALS

For those of you who enjoy growing annuals such as 1) cosmos, 2) marigolds, 3) zinnias, 4) dahlias, 5) nasturtiums and 6) pansies from seed, now is the time to collect seeds from host plants. Seed pods should be allowed to dry in a paper bag. Once dry, the open pods will release seeds. Seeds should be stored in paper bags or envelopes in a cool, dry place (your garage is a good place). Never store in plastic or Ziploc® bags because the seeds will “sweat” and mold.



Now is the time to start 7) sweet peas from seed. Ideally, you should prepare a trench about 12 inches deep and wide. Amend the removed soil with a ratio of one-third **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** to two-thirds native soil. Add **Master Nursery® Master Start® Fertilizer** to the bottom of the hole at the rate of one pound to 50 square feet. Fill the hole with the amended soil. Plant two seeds one inch deep and six inches apart and water in well.

For a novel twist, let sweet peas climb on existing shrubs. White sweet peas, for example, growing onto a red climbing rose or mixed sweet peas climbing on an ivy-covered fence provide a mildly wild look, boosting viewing pleasure.

Wildflower seeds (such as California poppies and godetia) can be planted toward the end of the month. The ground for these seeds must be adequately prepared; you can't just throw the seeds on the ground unless you plan to feed the birds. Adequate preparation as a minimum means to rake the area clear of any standing grass or weeds. Then, rake the ground enough to rough up the soil. Scatter your flower seeds and cover with about one-half inch of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**.



If planted now, summer annuals will give you two to three more months of color. Plant (1) marigolds, (2) alyssum, (3) petunias, (4) Lobelia, (5) cleome, (6) Salpiglossis, (7) fibrous begonias, (8) zinnias, (9) bedding dahlias, (10) calendula, (11) forget-me-nots, (12) larkspur, (13) Iceland poppies, (14) cosmos and (15) Ageratum in full sun. In shaded areas plant; (16) New Guinea impatiens, (7) fibrous begonias, (17) primrose, (18) Cineraria and (19) coleus. Some full sun annuals such as (2) Alyssum and (4) Lobelia, will also perform decently with only a few hours of sun.



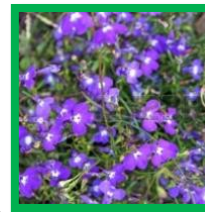
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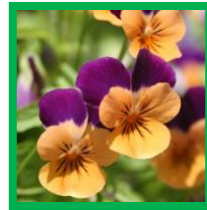
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Some summer annuals including vegetables will start to show mildew by the end of the month. Don't bother spraying at this late date. Do not compost diseased plants. (If you must spray, use **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**, four tablespoons per gallon of water.)

Winter annuals are available now and include (11) forget-me-nots, (13) Iceland poppies, (18) Cineraria, (17) primroses, (20) stock, (20) snapdragons, (21) cyclamen, (22) pansy, (23) viola and (10) Calendula. Winter annuals should be planted before the soil cools by November; otherwise they become semi-dormant and fail to bloom.

Fertilize annuals monthly with a granular fertilizer such as **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food**.

Don't forget to apply **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®** after planting annuals. **Deadline®** is most effective but use **Monterey Sluggo®** if you have dogs or children. If seedlings are chewed off to the ground and there are no snail or slug tracks, suspect birds especially white or gold-crowned sparrows and then cover with bird netting or a gopher cage.

BULBS

Spring-blooming bulbs are here! Shop now for the best selections of (1) tulips, (2) daffodils, (3) hyacinth, (4) Dutch iris, (5) Ixia, (6) Leucojum, (7) Sparaxis, (8) freesias, (9) Narcissus, (10) iris, (11) Anemone and (12) Ranunculus.



(1)



(2)



(3)



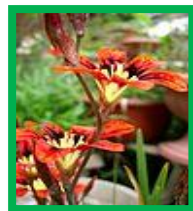
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(13)

Remember to refrigerate tulips, (13) crocus and hyacinths for six to eight weeks before planting to get normal stem lengths. It is best to store bulbs, in paper bags, in the refrigerator away from ripe fruits. Be sure bulbs stay dry.

Bulbs that don't need refrigeration can be planted now or be held until October or November. Remember to amend soil with [Master Nursery® Gold Rush](#) and to broadcast [Master Nursery® Bulb Food](#) when planting. You can also add [Master Nursery® Bulb Food](#) to individual bulb holes. The general rule of thumb for the depth of the hole is three times the length of the bulb. Plant daffodils and Dutch iris about eight inches deep (from the base); then plant annuals such as violas, lobelia or Alyssum right over the tops of them. You can mix Narcissus (daffodils) and Dutch iris in the same bed. The Narcissus will come up first followed by the Dutch iris and grow right through the annuals. Remember, if bulbs get regular summer water, they may eventually rot. They survive quite well on winter rain alone.

Plant half a dozen Paperwhites Narcissus in a 10 or 12-inch flowerpot and put on a sunny patio for blooms by Thanksgiving. (See our [Paperwhites Care Guide](#).)

FRUITS

To decrease the occurrence of Eutypa in apricots, prune in September. (1) Eutypa spores are most prolific after the first rains and spread by splashing rains. Pruning currently allows pruning wounds to callous before the rains start and thus prevents Eutypa spores from entering the cuts. Do not prune trees again in winter. If trees are infected with (2) brown rot, be sure to remove dead or diseased wood showing signs of oozing sap and cankers. These past three years have been particularly bad for apricots and brown rot. You must spray three times. See our [Care Guide for Apricot Trees](#).



Cut back caneberries, such as blackberries and raspberries, now. Prune to the ground those canes which fruited this summer and tie up new canes. These new canes will fruit next summer.

Around Labor Day is the time to fertilize deciduous fruit trees and vines with [Master Nursery® Fruit Tree & Vine Food](#). If your fruit trees have put on normal growth during this drought, skip the fertilizer until next Valentine's Day. Otherwise, fertilize at half strength. Deciduous trees take up fall fertilizer and store it for their spring growth.



Fire blight appears as blackened branch tips and most commonly affects pears but also quince, Pyracantha, apples, Photinia, loquat, and some other plants in the rose family. Fire blight is a bacterial disease spread by wind and bees. To control, cut 9 to 12 inches below affected tissue, sterilizing pruning tools between *each* cut with a bleach solution of five to one or Lysol. Spray next spring according to our [Dormant Spray Schedule for Fruit Trees and Roses Care Guide](#) and our [Apples and Pears Care Guides](#).

To control powdery mildew and grey mold on grapes, continue spraying every two weeks with [Safer® Garden Fungicide](#) until the crop is harvested. Avoid overhead watering. Fertilize one time with [Master Nursery® Fruit Tree and Vine Food](#) after harvesting your crop.



Table grapes should be watered deeply once every seven to 14 days. Wine grapes, on the other hand, are generally watered less frequently (once a month) in order to concentrate flavor and sweetness in smaller fruit. Stop watering wine grapes now.

Table grapes such as *Thompson's 'Flame Seedless'* is particularly well adapted to the hot weather of the Central Valley and do not ripen well in the Bay Area. Instead, the two varieties most adapted to our climate and with the best flavor are Suffolk and Himrod.

It is normal for fruit trees such as peach and plums to have leaves turn yellow and start to drop when they have finished producing fruit.

Next year, if you want to prevent crinkled leaves on your plums and cherries, spray the leaves with **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray** when they are only one-half inch long and then two weeks later. The crinkled leaves are caused by aphids.



Peach leaf curl is best controlled by three dormant sprays at the end of November, end of December and end of January. Research at UC Davis has found that these are the most effective controls if applied when trees are dormant and that growing season controls, such as picking off infected leaves or blasting leaves with water is not effective. The diseased leaves will drop off and replace themselves.

Brown rot and bacterial gummosis of apricots, peaches, nectarines, cherries and plums, manifests as dieback of and/or oozing from short fruiting spurs or branch tips and a decrease or absence in fruit production. While it is too late to spray for this disease this year, next year apply two additional copper or a garden disease control (Chlorothalonil) such as **Ortho® MAX® Garden Disease Control** sprays at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this summer or next winter, you should remove dead wood, oozing wood and any wood with cankers. See our [Care Guide for Apricot Trees](#).



Spray apple and pear trees now for Woolly apple aphids, which appear as a white cottony substance, usually in crevices, pruning cuts and on the roots close to the base of the tree. Use **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray**, but not within seven days before harvest.

To prevent sunscald, paint deciduous fruit tree trunks with a white, water-based interior latex paint diluted 50% with water. This is especially important for young trees and trees planted in blazing hot locations. Paint from the ground level up into the first scaffold branches. Winter rain washes off the white paint.

Select and plant citrus now...

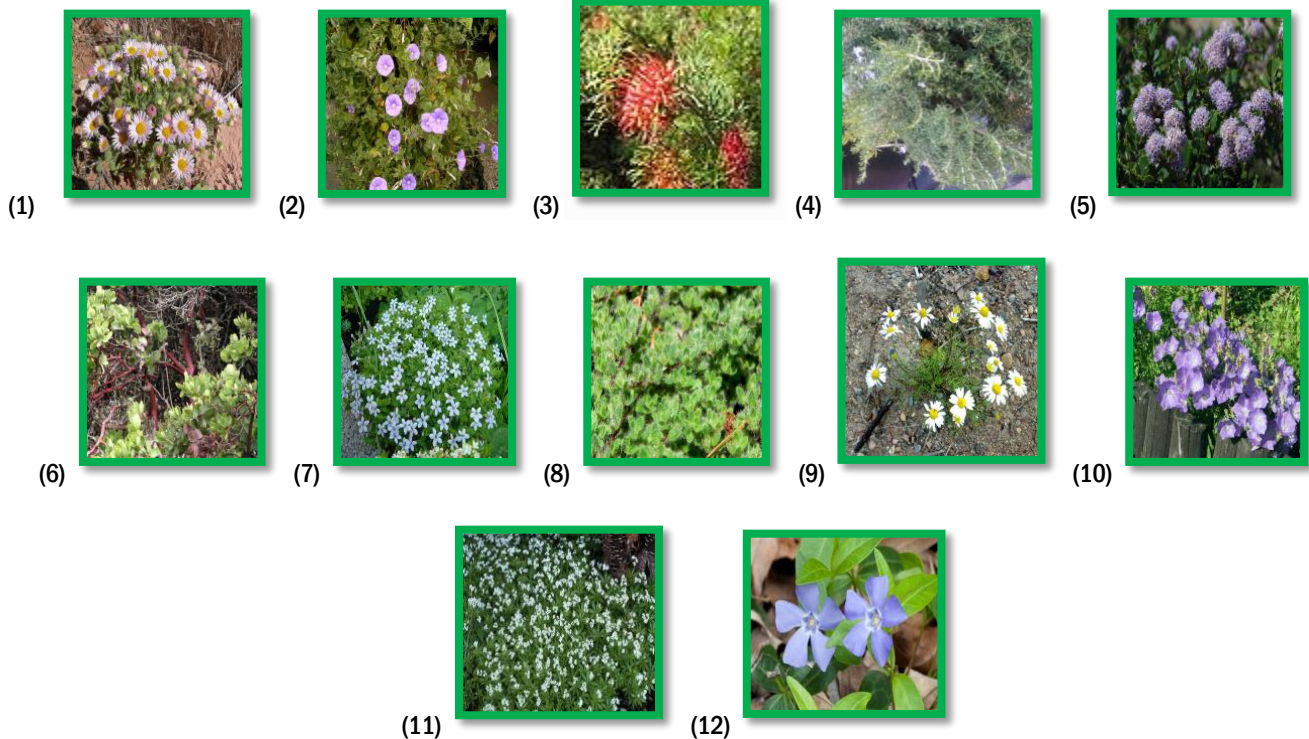
- ✓ Use our [First Pick](#) program to order hard to find bare-root fruit trees. [First Pick](#) trees are available through Dave Wilson Nursery and include many varieties not normally provided for our growing area. These may include fruits only you remember or something you want to take to your cabin in Placerville.
- ✓ View the [First Pick varieties](#), [Order Form](#) and [Price List](#) by clicking the links. Do so before Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 2019.
- ✓ Click on the link to view the lists of [Bare-Root Fruit Trees \(Berries, Combo, Flowering or Fruit\)](#) along with pricing. Order by calling our store at 650-368-5908. Pay for your bare-root trees at the time you place your order and receive a 10% discount. You may also personally visit our garden center and place your order with one of cashiers. Orders must be received by November 30th, 2019. **NEW – Three varieties of Asparagus. NEW varieties of Raspberries, Blackberries and a BRAND NEW ITEM: HASSKAP BERRY. NEW – NUGGET HOPS RHIZONES and WILLIAMETTER HOPS RHIZONES!**

Check citrus for snail damage, for scale and for leaf miners. Scale is a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If scale is found, UC Davis recommends spraying with **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil** (horticultural oil). Spray a second time, two weeks later. *Don't use horticultural oil more than four times during the growing season. Wait at least two weeks between applications.* Ants running up and down the stem are often an indication of scale. See our [Citrus Care Guide](#) for options to treat leaf miners.



GROUNDCOVERS

Be sure to water new plantings growing in full sun to about six inches deep every three to four days. (1) Erigeron, (2) Convolvulus, (3) Grevillea, (4) creeping rosemary, (5) Ceanothus and (6) manzanita are excellent groundcovers for hot, dry locations (though they do need water while becoming established). (7) blue star creeper, (8) woolly thyme and (9) creeping chamomile fill in nicely between steppingstones in full to part sun and can withstand some foot traffic. For the shade, try (10) Campanula, (11) sweet woodruff and (12) Vinca Minor.



Fertilize newly planted groundcovers with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** three times a year, in February, May and September. For established groundcovers, fertilize once in May.

To ward off slugs and snails, bait with **Monterey Sluggo®** (safe for pets and people). *Deadline® is poisonous to pets and people but is most effective in controlling snails and slugs.*

LAWNS



If lawns show raccoon damage, apply **Bayer Advanced™ Grub Control** to kill ground-dwelling grubs and cutworms, which are the food raccoons are digging for. Although it is too late to use **beneficial nematodes**, consider applying them next April and July. Beneficial nematodes are microscopic organisms which consume various destructive soil-dwelling insects, such as



cutworms. They do not harm earthworms and are completely safe around pets and people.

If you have had problems with weedy grasses or other plants in your lawn, now is the time to apply **Concern All-Natural Weed Prevention Plus®** (made from corn gluten) an organic favorite to prevent weed seeds from sprouting. **Amaze** is another chemical pre-emergent. Remember, pre-emergent will not kill existing perennial weeds such as oxalis or dandelions. Use **Bonide Weed Beater® Ultra** or **Monterey Turflon® Ester** for them.

Otherwise, continue feeding lawns at half strength with **Easy Livin'® Master Green™ Lawn Food** or **Easy Livin'® Fall & Winter Feed**. For an organic product use **Concern All-Natural Weed Prevention Plus®**.

Set mowers to two and one-half to three inches for fescue and bluegrass lawns and 1-1.5 inches for Bermuda grass lawns. Consider leaving lawn clippings on the lawn. As clippings break down, they provide the lawn with nutrients, reducing the need for fertilizers by 30-50%. Clippings will completely decompose within one or two weeks and will not cause thatch. Mow the lawn before the clippings get more than one inch long.

Mid to late September is a perfect time to patch holes and bare spots in your lawn. See our [Lawn Restoration Care Guide](#) or consider letting the lawn go and replace it in January.

Lawns seeded through September may need watering up to three times a day so that germinating plants do not dry out.

If you know there are gophers in your lawn area. After following our [Care Guide for Lawn Preparation](#), install a layer of one inch by two inch welded wire fabric, 14 gauge (at OSH) over the prepared area and before seeding or sodding.

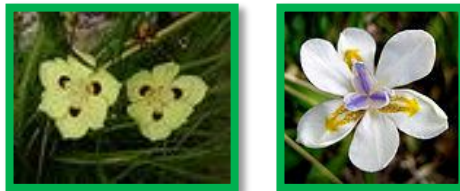
If you have had problems with Bermuda grass in your lawn, apply **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, which also kills annual and perennial broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For crabgrass, nutsedge and some other weed grasses, as well as a host of other tenacious broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Crab-E-Rad™ Plus**.

For oxalis (the plant that looks like clover) and other broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, a liquid that can be sprayed over entire lawns. Because oxalis is so tenacious, several applications may be needed.

PERENNIALS

Fertilize perennials in September with **Master Nursery® Rose and Flower Food**. If you intend to use a different fertilizer, keep in mind that many of the drought tolerant perennials prefer not to be pampered with high nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizers. All fertilizers are required by law to list the percentages of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N, P, K) in their product and in that order.

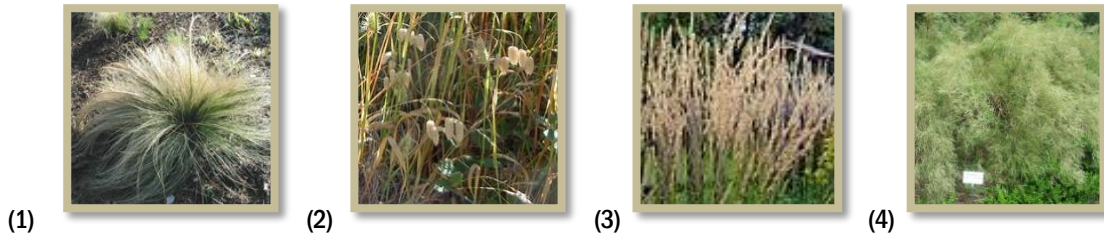
Be sure to deadhead as blooms fade to ensure bloom throughout fall. This is especially true for fortnight lilies (Dietes).



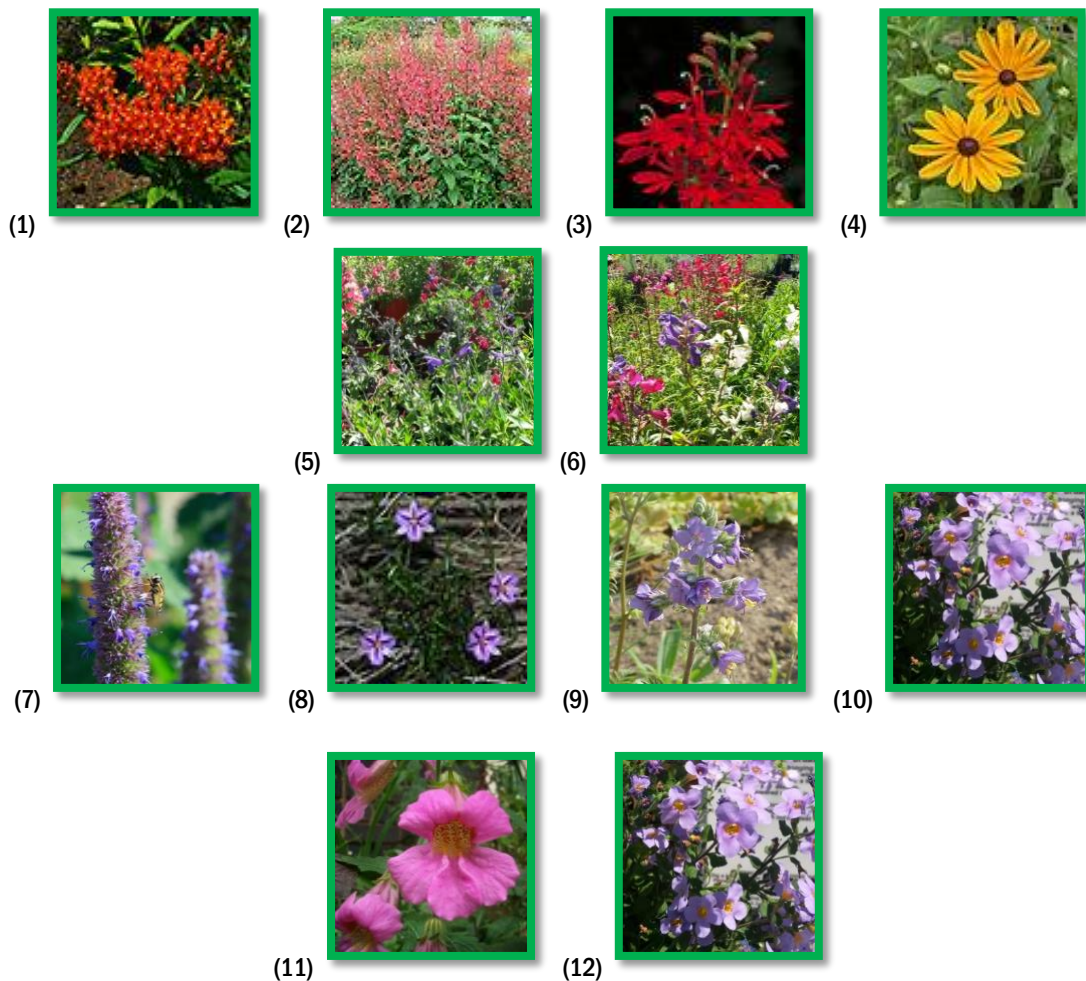
Caterpillars may be attacking the leaves and flowers of Pelargoniums or petunias. You may notice an absence of flowers or an abundance of tiny black pellets on the leaves of the plants (fecal pellets).

Apply Monterey B.t., Bonide Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew®, Master Nursery® Pest Fighter® Year-Round Spray Oil, Safer® Yard & Garden Insect Killer or Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray as directed to control caterpillars on Pelargoniums (geraniums) and petunias.

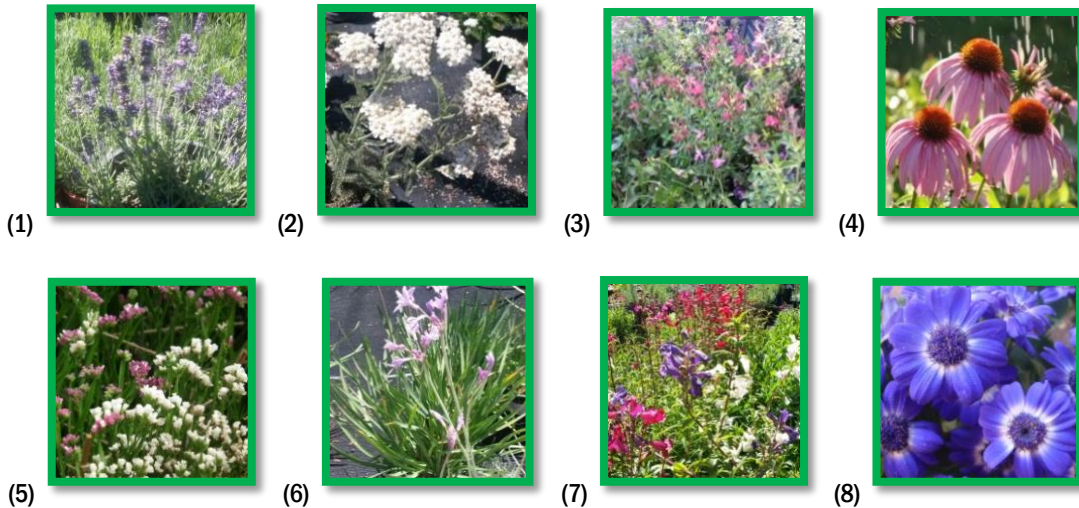
Most of the ornamental grasses are in flower. Check out (1) Blue Oat Grass, (2) Rattlesnake Grass, (3) Feather Reed Grass, and (4) Bamboo Muhly. Grasses lend an architecture and texture to the landscape unmatched by other plants. They are also *drought-tolerant and deer-resistant*. Rattlesnake Grass self-seeds vigorously.



Check out (1) butterfly weed, (2) cape fuchsia, (3) perennial Lobelia, (4) Rudbeckia, (5) Salvia, (6) Penstemon, and (7) Agastache for the sun, and (8) Thysanotus, (9) Jacob's ladder, (10) Chinese foxglove, and (11) Bacopa for the shade.



A nice handful of sun-loving perennials double as both deer-resistant and drought-tolerant plants include (1) lavender, (2) yarrow, the (3) Salvias, (4) Echinacea, (5) sea lavender, (6) society garlic, (7) Penstemon, and (8) Brachyscome. All provide excellent summer color in addition to these practical attributes.



Bait perennials with **Monterey Sluggo®** or **Deadline®**.

ROSES

A quick word on using horticultural oil on roses during the growing season!

- Do not use more than four times during the growing season.
- Wait at least two weeks between applications.
- Remember that oil may burn foliage and flowers, during hot spells (temperatures 85 ° F and over).
- If you are using a sulfur product to control fungi, you must wait at least one month before applying oil.
- Horticultural oils (**Master Nursery® Year- Round Spray Oil**) will eradicate mildew from plants and act as a preventive. All the other products are preventives to apply before infection.

September will be the last time to fertilize roses this year. Fertilize roses now half strength with **Master Nursery® Rose and Flower Food**.

We are recommending that you stop dead heading your roses by the end of September to force them into deeper dormancy. Mild winters have caused roses to not become as dormant as desired. A bonus is that if you have Rugosa roses they will produce beautiful hips and adorn plants through winter.



The inevitable aphid can be controlled by blasting off with water or by spraying with **Safer® Yard & Garden Spray**, **Safer® Brand Killing Soap**, **Monterey Take Down Garden Spray** or **Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray**. All except malathion are non-toxic organics.



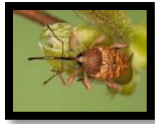
Watch for katydids and cucumber beetles, both of which chew on flower buds, leaving holes in flower petals. Treat as for aphids (see above except blasting with water).



Rose weevils and curculios chew holes at the bases of buds then lay their eggs within. When larvae hatch, they eat their way through flower buds and petals. The only control for these pests is to disbud plants as if deadheading.



Rose slugs are the larvae of a wasp which eats the rose leaves until the leaf is full of holes and looks like a piece of lace. Spray with [Safer® Yard and Garden Spray](#), [Ortho® MAX® Malathion Insect Spray](#), [Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew®](#) or [Monterey Take Down Garden Spray](#).



You may also notice activity by leaf cutter bees, which remove neat, semi-circular notches from the margins of leaves. Disregard this activity. These notches are harmless, and the leaf cutter bee is extremely beneficial in the garden.

If you order and pay for your [Bare-Root Roses](#) before November 30th, you will receive a 10% discount. You will be called when your plants arrive. The Roses will be stored in planting soil until you pick them up. Come in to see our catalog of selections. [Click on 2019 Bare-Root Roses list for availability and pricing.](#)



Mildew and spider mites are favored by hot, dry weather which accounts for their proliferation this past summer. Hosing down the rose bushes first thing in the morning will make your roses happier. Spraying with [Safer® Brand Fungicide](#) (sulfur) will control both the spider mites and mildew but must be sprayed before the leaves show infection.



Do not spray herbicides such as [Round-Up](#) within 100 feet of roses. If weeds appear in rose beds, hand-dig or use a tool such as a hula-hoe to remove and then sprinkle [Concern All-Natural Weed Prevention Plus®](#) over the area.

Powdery Mildew appears as whitish splotches on the surface of leaves and on buds and stems. Use [Safer® Garden Fungicide](#) as a preventive. If this measure is not satisfactory, use [Ortho® MAX® Garden Disease Control](#) (Chlorothalonil) or [Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil](#) (horticultural oil). For further information please see our [Care Guide for Treating Common Rose Diseases](#).



Rust appears as small yellow to black spots on the upper surface of leaves, which, when flipped, show rust-colored pustules. Use the products as a preventive or an eradicant.

SHRUBS & VINES

Fertilize conifers, Evergreen shrubs and Evergreen vines in September with [Master Nursery® Formula 49™](#) (8-4-4) at half strength.

To stimulate blooms, fertilize (1) rhododendrons, (2) camellias and (3) non-blooming azaleas with [Master Nursery® Camellia, Azalea and Gardenia Food](#) (4-8-5) or a 0-10-10 product or even [Master Nursery® Master Start](#) (5-20-10).



We have learned that plants native to Australia can be harmed with fertilizers high in phosphorous. This includes (1) Acacia, (2) Eucalyptus, (3) Grevillea, (4) Correa, etc. You could use Cottonseed meal (6-2-1) to fertilize such plants.



If your gardenias show brown buds which drop off before opening, the cause is probably thrips. Use **Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed Insecticide** once a year if the plant is in the ground or twice a year in a container. Do not use this insecticide for food plants or for flowering plants visited by bees. Bees do not visit gardenias.



Keep in mind that gardenias need an acid soil. Mulch yearly with **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and apply **iron sulfate** Valentine's Day and 4th of July. Many people grow their gardenias in part shade and are disappointed by the poor flowering.



Three of the fastest growing shrubs for hedges and screens are: (1) black twig Pittosporum, (2) red-tip Photinia and (3) purple Hopseed bush. Left unpruned each will reach approximately 20 feet tall and wide, but each can be maintained at six to eight feet if desired. Remember to prune newly planted hedges seasonally, even if lightly. This will encourage plants to be bushy and dense.



Watch for evidence of thrips and black vine weevil on rhododendrons. Thrips damage appears as a mottling or bleaching of the upper surfaces of leaves and small, glossy black dots on the undersides of leaves. Weevils leave large distinctive notches along leaf margins as they feed. Both can be controlled with **Malathion** or **Spinosad**. Be sure to spray the underside of the leaves and the soil around the plants.



Fuchsia gall mites create gnarled leaves with reddish blisters and are common on hybrid Fuchsias. If symptoms appear, prune out disfigured growth and spray with **Garden Tech Sevin®** once a month, starting in March. You can also begin a preventive program using **Garden Tech Sevin®** once a month right after pruning in February. Consider species fuchsias, which are mite resistant. While not as showy as the hybrids, they offer the same bloom time and a surprising diversity of foliar textures. Repot and prune hybrid fuchsias in February and start the spray cycle at that time.

If flower petals on your azaleas turned brown last year (azalea petal blight) spray this year while still in bud about every two weeks with **Bonide® Fung-onil** (Chlorothalonil).



If the camellias do the same (camellia petal blight), there is not much you can do. Removing the infected petals helps but be sure not to compost the infected petals or do not let them accumulate on the ground.

TREES

Until the rainy season puts four to six inches of rain on the ground, keep irrigating established fruit trees and Japanese maples every two weeks. Apply at least two inches of water. Recent transplants should be watered once or twice a week. (See “NEW PLANTINGS”.)

Fertilize conifers and evergreen trees now with [Master Nursery® Formula 49™](#). You can also use the [Ross® Root Feeder](#) (with 25-10-10 pellets) for trees that are isolated in the landscape. Water thoroughly after fertilizing.



In both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, the olive fruit fly has rendered olives unusable for home curing. If you're thinking of home curing olives, be sure to have fruit checked for larvae. Pheromone traps should be hung in the olive tree (s) in June. When the first fruit flies are trapped, a spraying schedule using [Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew](#) (Spinosad) is begun and repeated every seven to 10 days. See [Olive Tree Care Guide](#) for more complete instructions.

If you are considering having specimen trees pruned, we strongly encourage you to seek certified arborists or other licensed technicians. While you will pay more for their work, you can be assured that the longevity of your trees will not be compromised by poor practices such as topping.

Fruit tree pruning requires special skills so be sure to ask about this.

VEGETABLES

Remove vegetables that are finished producing to free up space to start your winter vegetable garden (See our [Winter Vegetable Gardening Care Guide](#)). Don't tear out tomatoes, squash or other vegetables that continue to produce. Prepare soil by covering it with one to two inches of [Master Nursery® Gold Rush](#), scattering [Master Nursery® Master Start Fertilizer](#) at the rate of one pound per 50 square feet and digging it all in to about six inches deep.

Cool season greens, such as lettuce, spinach, cilantro, chard, and mustard can be planted by seed at this time.

Plant transplants of cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and the rest of the cole crops that do well in our area. Be sure to space transplants 12 to 18 inches apart. Try kohlrabi and Bok choy for deliciously different tastes. Rutabaga, parsnips and the other root vegetables can also be planted now from seed.

When string beans have finished, replace them in the same spot with your favorite peas from seed. Plant two to three seeds in each hole, about 12 inches apart. Bush peas will bear sooner but pole peas will bear more pods for a longer time. *Sunset Magazine* recommends *Super Sugar Snap Peas*.

To save seeds from heirloom tomatoes, extract seeds from overripe tomatoes by mashing them in water, decanting the pulp and rinsing the seeds in a kitchen strainer. Pour wet seeds onto a paper towel, dry for 24 hours and store in paper bags or envelopes in a cool, dry place. Don't try this with hybrid tomatoes because they do not produce true from seed.

Plant garlic now; select the biggest, plumpest cloves from each head.



If you have had problems with verticillium wilt on tomatoes and potatoes, next year consider solarizing the beds with clear plastic for six to eight weeks during the months of June to early September. Solarization sterilizes the soil by cooking harmful microbes in the soil. Cover beds with a clear two mil plastic and be sure to anchor the edges of the plastic with dirt or heavy objects. While these beds will be unusable for a season, the sacrifice will pay off in healthy plants the following year.

Whiteflies on tomatoes and other vegetables are difficult to control but **Master Nursery® Year- Round Spray Oil** is your best bet. Apply a second treatment one week later. Consider using whitefly traps and a 'dust buster' vacuum in conjunction with the sprays for more effective control. The vacuum will catch the reproducing adults.



Ideas for special situations . . .

Liquid Fence has proven to be extremely effective in deterring deer from yards and gardens. The trick is to use it *exactly* as instructed and to apply it every two weeks.

Likewise, **Bonide MoleMax® Mole & Vole Repellent** has proven to be effective in ridding yards and gardens of gophers and moles. The secret, again, is to follow the instructions *exactly* as instructed. **Bonide MoleMax® Mole & Vole Repellent** will not kill the pests but rather chases them someplace else.

Consider utilizing beneficial insects in lieu of insecticides. **Ladybugs** and their larva feast on aphids and are especially useful in rose gardens and vegetable gardens. Release 50-100 at a time, in the evening. Set out shallow dishes of water along with plant parts covered with aphids. These props will encourage ladybugs to stick around.

Container plants must be fertilized with an appropriate granular fertilizer monthly; March to October. If you tire easily, use **Osmocote Plus® Smart-Release® Plant Food** which is applied every four months.

Consider watering indoor plants with a solution of two tablespoons of vinegar to one-gallon water once a month in order to reduce salt build-up and neutralize high pH. (Hetch-Hetchy water has a pH of 8.5 to 10.1. Plants like a pH of 6-6.5.)

Another word on two groundcovers you may want to check out: *Dymondia Margaretae* and *Cotoneaster 'Lowfast'*. Both take full to partial sun, have colorful flowers or berries, and are drought tolerant and deer resistant.

Don't forget to put out water for the birds. When you see the birds from your garden drinking and bathing in gutter water, you should feel guilty. Remember, even scrub jays will eat their weight in bugs each week! Change bird bath and saucer water each week to avoid mosquito breeding grounds.

Rose and fruit tree pruning season is coming up. If you haven't had your tools professionally cared for in the last year or so, they are overdue. Sharp pruning tools make clean cuts that heal quickly. Our Pruning Tool Renovation service includes cleaning and sharpening and replacing missing parts for **Felco** and some other pruners. If you're unsure whether we can service your tool, bring it in for assessment. When you prune a branch and there is a small tag on the exposed cut, your blades are dull.