

Celebrate Spring!



March 2017 Garden Planner

PLANT:



- Grow your own **organic veggie garden**. We offer lots of organically grown veggies and herbs, raised beds, fertilizers and soils. Attend **FREE** classes and get started! See Coming Events for class details.
- **Early tomatoes** have started to arrive. They include cold-tolerant varieties but they will all still do better if planted with a **Kozy Coat** to provide protection from cool nights (like individual greenhouses). Come in to see our samples of how to plant early tomatoes successfully.
- Celebrate **Citrus!** We have a great selection in stock. If space is an issue, consider planting dwarf varieties in containers. When you really want homegrown citrus there is always a way. Just ask us! **Join us on March 19th for a Citrus Tasting**. See Coming Events for details.
- Plant future **fruit harvests** from our terrific tree selection. We offer starter sizes, multi-grafts and espaliers. Learn how to maximize your harvest in small spaces by following our **Backyard Orchard Culture Guide**. Take advantage of all our helpful guides to success. Check them out on our website, www.Yamagamis.com under Garden Guides.
- Time to sow your **tomato seeds and other summer vegetable seeds**. Use a **Jump Start Seedling Heat Mat** to provide bottom heat for faster germination. Wait for the ground to warm a bit more before you plant them outdoors.

- Grow your own **potatoes!** We have some tasty varieties to try. You can even grow them in containers! Pick up a copy of our **FREE Potato Planting Guide** and enjoy bountiful harvests!
- It's time for **Summer-blooming bulbs**. Choose from Dahlias, Gladiolus, Lilies and Begonias. See our **FREE Bulb Planting Guide** for the details. **Tall Dahlia planting tip:** The key to growing strong Dahlias is to plant them in 12" deep holes and cover them with only 3" of soil. Gradually cover them with soil as they grow. Place a 1"x1"x 6' tall stake next to the "bulb" when you plant it to support the heavy flowering stem.



FERTILIZE:

- All the rain has leached vital nutrients from the soil, so pretty much everything will benefit from a **spring feeding**. We offer a complete line of **G & B Fertilizers** for all of your garden's needs.
- Take advantage of any upcoming rains to fertilize your **groundcovers, hedges, trees and other landscape plants**. The rain will water it in for you! **G & B All Purpose Fertilizer** is an excellent natural and organic fertilizer that is OMRI approved. It doesn't need to be dug into the soil, just toss it on top of the soil and water it in. G & B now offers **All Purpose Fertilizer** in a liquid form! Use it on houseplants and container gardens.
- Feed your **roses** with **G & B Rose and Flower Food** to fuel their spring growth spurt. Supplement with **AlfaGrow Alfalfa Pellets** for micro nutrients that support vigor-

- ous branching and blooming.
- Lawns need to be fed for their spring growth. We recommend using natural and organic **G & B Lawn Fertilizer**. Because it's organic, it feeds slowly without increasing the lawn's watering needs, plus it doesn't run off into our storm drains.
- Feed your **blooming plants and container gardens** with **Maxsea 16-16-16** to keep them blooming vigorously. It contains seaweed to provide extra nutrients not available in potting soils. You can even apply it as a foliar spray for faster response.
- Use **GrowMore Cymbidium Growth Formula (30-10-10)** on your **Cymbidium Orchids** every two weeks once they have finished blooming (also a good time to divide). Continue with this formulation until August or September when it's time to set buds again.

PRUNE:

- Prune off **frost-damaged growth**. Start at the outer tips and prune back until you find green tissue just under the bark. Fertilize after pruning to stimulate new growth. Grasses can be cut to the ground, but be careful not to damage tender new growth.
- Plants are budding out now, so keep the pruning shears handy and **manage plant growth** by cutting to favor buds that open in the direction you want growth to take place. Generally, you want to cut just after plants finish blooming to above a bud or node at a 45 degree angle.
- Check your **dwarf Citrus** for "water sprouts". They are branches with larger leaves and thorns that shoot out quickly. They look quite different than normal growth. Remove them down to their base as they



will dominate and choke out good, fruit-bearing branches.

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE:

• **Trapping** is an excellent way to determine if certain common pests become active in your garden. In the case of a light infestation, trapping alone will eliminate some of the breeding population. For heavier infestations, trapping will serve as an indicator of when to spray. **Like any other pest or disease problem, early detection makes the problem easier to control!**

• Prevent **wormy apples!** Set **Codling Moth traps** out two weeks before apple and pear trees



come into bloom. Codling moths lay the eggs that become the worms you find in apples and pears. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. If traps become half full, replace them and start spraying at dusk with **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** (spinosad). See our FREE Fruit Tree Care Calendar for more information.

• Hang **Sticky Whitefly Traps** to monitor the whitefly population and **Sticky Blue Thrip Traps** help monitor thrip populations before either pest can get out of control. The traps are safe to use in flower, fruit or vegetable gardens.

• **Citrus Leaf Miner** has become a wide-spread pest. Leaves are curled with whitish trails. If you are not sure about your funny looking leaves, bring samples in plastic bags to the Info Center for ID. If a neighbor's tree shows symptoms, hang **Citrus Leaf Miner Traps** in your trees to monitor for an infestation. Do not cut off damaged branches or leaves because that promotes new, vulnerable growth. Spray 3 times, 10 days apart, with **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** to control. Then hang traps to monitor for a re-infestation

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• Keep hungry pests from devouring tender young plants. Use **Floating Row Cover** over rows or single plants to block caterpillars, moths, snails and birds from gaining access. **Pest Guards** block skunk, raccoons, deer, and squirrels from destroying young plants.

• Spray **Monterey Liqui-Cop** during bloom of Apples, Asian Pears, and Pears to prevent **fireblight**. If no plants are underneath, spray soil surface too. In mid to late summer, prune blackened branches 8" - 12" below the blackening to cut out the infection.

• For **Brown Rot** control on apricots or peaches, spray during bloom with **Spectracide Multi-Purpose Fungicide**.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

• **Spotted Wing Fruit Flies** attack cherries, berries, and other fruits, including grapes. They lay eggs that hatch into maggots that ruin your crop. We recommend spraying at dusk with OMRI approved **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** as fruit develops, starting at about 3 weeks after trees are done blooming. **The same treatment is recommended for Olive Fly.**

• If you see Peach Leaf Curl on Peach or Nectarine trees, pick off as many curly leaves as possible. Then, as a foliar spray, apply **GrowMore Seaweed Extract** at 1 oz. per gal. of water, weekly, until new growth comes in clean. It's not a poison; it works by beefing up the skin cells of the leaves.

Coming Events:

• **Saturday, March 4th at 11 AM: Basic Pruning And Shaping Of Japanese Maples.** Susan Hayden of Madrona Garden Works will demonstrate and discuss tips, tools, and techniques of shaping and training. Class is free and attendees will receive a one time use 20% OFF coupon for their purchase that day.



• **Saturday, March 11th at 11 AM: Organic Veggie Gardens From The Ground Up!**

Kerri Gardner and Hannah Soriano talk about organic fertilizers, soil amendments and plant choices. Class will include a tour of our veggie section (weather permitting). **Hannah will repeat the class on Saturday, March 18th at 11 AM.** Class is free and attendees will receive a one time use coupon for 20% OFF their purchases that day.



• **Sunday, March 19th, 12 noon to 2 PM: A Celebration of Citrus!**

See and sample many varieties of fresh citrus fruit. Citrus-enhanced goodies will also be available! Samples provided by Generations Growers who will be present to answer your citrus questions. Discover the best citrus for your garden. FREE!



• **April 5th - April 9th San Francisco Flower & Garden Show!**

It's a fun experience for the whole family with innovative display gardens, free classes and a wonderland of garden shopping. Early tickets (through March 12th) are \$17.50. Buy your tickets here, and avoid the line at the show. Bring your ticket back after the show (no matter where you purchased it) and receive \$10 off a \$40 or larger purchase until April 24th.