



Alden Lane Nursery

"Deeply Rooted in Gardens" . . . find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Newsletter

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018

Serving You Since 1955

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA • www.aldenlane.com • (925) 447-0280

Passport to Spring

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for

February 10th

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

as we

celebrate the

emerging
Spring Season.

Re-energize your weary garden spaces by attending a morning of super seminars designed to help you see your garden in a fresh new light.

We will start your day with a "wake up coffee" followed by three seminars and a scrumptious lunch to help you digest all the great information you have received.

There will also be **fun door prizes, free garden demos, and a 20% OFF Coupon** to use that day for each paid ticket. The cost for this fabulous morning is only \$45.00, and includes your catered lunch.

Check our website for program details.

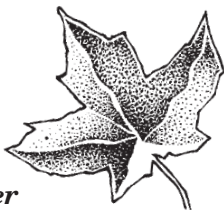


Announcements

- **Watch the Valley Gardener** on CTV30 for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright at 7:30 am and 1:30 p.m. Monday - Friday and repeated on Saturday at 7:30 & 11:00 am, and 4:00 pm & Sunday at 7:30 & 11:00 am, and 1:00 & 4:00 pm. View online at tv30.org.
- The **Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club** will meet at 7 p.m. at the Alisal Elementary School multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. On **January 11th, David Rust**, president of the North American Mycological Association and co-founder of the Bay Area Mycological Society, will *introduce basics about mushrooms* and provide a synopsis of mushroom ecology.
Join us on **February 8th** as **Jeff Rosendale** of Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens will focus on *Mediterranean Mounds*, drought tolerant plants as well as use of art work in your garden.
Visitors are welcome. For more information see www.LAVGC.org.
- The **Mt. Diablo Rose Society's** meeting is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Dublin Civic Center. Visit www.mtdiablorsesociety.org for details.
- **Bonsai Club** meetings: 3rd Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. at Alden Lane Nursery.

Get your Maples Ready for Spring!

Join Japanese Maple expert **Barry Hoffer** on **Saturday, February 24th** from 1-2:30 p.m. He will discuss proper pruning, in ground and container planting, along with root pruning. There's something for everyone. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Call (925) 447-0280 to reserve your spot in the information packed class.



It's Fairy Wonderful!

Install a magic fairy door inside your home to encourage friendly little fairies to come visit. Share the magic of a fairy garden with kids of all ages!

- Create an indoor or outdoor mini garden perfect for small spaces.
- What a great way to nurture plants and your imagination and a fun way to teach gardening to children.
- Add a friendly dragon or bunny and some fairy furniture and the fairies will be inspired to come for a visit.

We can help you put together your garden today. Just ask us how!



Win A Rose & a 1.5 cubic foot bag of Master Nursery Rose Planting Mix!

\$49.98 Value

Drawing to be held January 31, 2018.
No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win.

ROSES
January 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

Win A Spring Bulb Collection Planted now - you'll enjoy a summer full of color!

\$44.98 Value

Drawing to be held February 28, 2018.
No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win.

SPRING BULB COLLECTION
February 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

Notes for January & February

- ♪ Start now for **Bright Blue Hydrangeas**. January is the month to apply *Master Nursery Hydra Blue* and then apply monthly thereafter until summer for bright blue hydrangeas.
- ♪ **2018 Roses are arriving every day!** Come select early to get growing.
- ♪ **Choose your Camellias now!** Seeing is believing, so choose now while they are in bloom. The selection is great and you'll be able to pick just the right color for your winter garden.
- ♪ **Move your living tree outdoors.** Care for other holiday gift plants such as azaleas and camellias by placing them outside where they will thrive in cooler temperatures.
- ♪ Brighten the garden with **colorful bedding plants**. Refresh your garden containers with primroses, pansies, Iceland poppies and more. Check with the staff for helpful advice and ideas.
- ♪ **Feed the lawn monthly** even during cold winter months. This not only maintains its attractive green color all winter it also minimizes rust disease and other problems resulting from malnutrition. *Masters Fall and Winter Lawn Fertilizer* is especially formulated for the winter season.
- ♪ The Berries are looking awesome this year! In stock now . . . we have a great assortment of Blackberries, including **Olallie Blackberries, Raspberries, Huckleberries, Gooseberries, and Blueberries**. In addition to all of our berries we also have **Currants, Olives, and Grapes**. This is the best time to shop for the best selection.
- ♪ **Spray Your Roses Now.** An application of dormant oil just after winter pruning on roses will help reduce pest populations by smothering over-wintering eggs. Spraying fungicides, as well, will halt diseases such as rust, blackspot and powdery mildew. *Bonide All Seasons Spray Oil* is listed for use on organic gardens.
- ♪ **Protect frost tender plants** when frosts are expected. Spray with *Cloud Cover* and for added protection drape frost tender plants with *Fast Start Plant Blanket Fabric*. Try not to let the covering material rest on the plant. String non-LED Christmas tree lights on your frost tender plants when a freeze is expected. The warmth from the bulbs will provide another measure of protection.
- ♪ **Prune** most fruit trees, roses and other leafless trees and shrubs from December through January. **WARNING:** Do not prune spring blooming shrubs and trees such as lilac, quince, flowering cherry etc. until the blooming period is over.
- ♪ Keep up your **New Year's Resolution** . . . join the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club (www.lavgc.org) and the Mt. Diablo Rose Society www.mtdiablorosesociety.org.
- ♪ This is the month to **plant perennial vegetables and fruits**. You can set our artichokes, rhubarb, raspberry, blackberry and many other cane fruits.
- ♪ **A blooming orchid** for your love this Valentine's Day says it best! Choose from an assortment of fragrant blooming bulbs, African violets, cyclamen and lush houseplants.
- ♪ **Prune evergreen shrubs and hedges** such as boxwood between mid-February and early March so that pruning cuts are quickly covered with spring's new growth. (Leave frost tender plants like citrus to prune later.) Prune strap leaved New Zealand Flax and African Iris to 4" if a biennial renewal is wanted. Foliage will grow back with a fresh crop of gorgeous leaves.
- ♪ **Apply Iron Sulfate or non-staining Iron Plus** now to help restore and maintain good green color in acid loving plants such as citrus, camellia, azalea, gardenias, Japanese Maples and Blueberries as well as many others including jasmine and photinia.

Mashed, Boiled, Baked, Fried – Plant Potatoes & Enjoy Home Grown Flavor!

➔ **Cal White:** This wonderful boiling potato is also great for scalloped or mashed potatoes. And, it makes a great potato salad.

➔ **Red la Soda:** It will produce potatoes that have bright red skin and white flesh. They are ideal for boiling with no darkening after cooking.

➔ **Norkota Russet:** Very similar to Idaho's famous Burbank. The good old fashioned baking potato with the rough skin. This one is much more disease resistant than the Burbank and very productive too.

➔ **Yukon Gold:** An early potato maturing in 65+ days. Buttery yellow flesh is delicious. Variety makes a good steamer/boiler or use in salads.

➔ **Adirondack Blue:** A wonderful deep blue gourmet potato that looks good and tastes great. Blue color all the way through the potato; delicious pan fried.



Welcome to 2018 & A Brand New Year!

♥ *Pamper the ones you love on Valentine's Day!* Come in and check out our Valentine's selection. Yummy **Jelly Belly** candies and **Abdallah chocolates** are sweet treats to show you care. In addition to candy we have **jams, jellies, honey, sauces** and more. We would love to create a **Valentine's basket** for him or her to express your loving thoughts!

♥ We have a full selection of **gardening books** sure to inspire any gardener and our **Fairy Garden supplies** are fully stocked. **New statuary and pottery** will be arriving in February so come in for the best selection for the new year.

♥ We have many unique items for that special someone, either for



Valentines, birthdays, or just because — a gift of Olivina olive oil or jams and sauces from Fontana Farms supports local farmers and tastes wonderful. A small box filled with our most popular sea salt Dutch House

caramels will melt any heart.

So come in and check out the selection. Remember, **gift wrapping is complimentary** and is a beautiful way to present your gift!



Fresh Fruit from Your Garden

Plant now & enjoy summer fruit from your garden for years to come!

Nothing beats the taste of a sun-warm, tree-ripened fruit picked straight from the tree in your own yard. You know it's fresh, juicy and with the right cultivation, pesticide and chemical-free which you can't always say about store bought fruit, which is often held in cold storage for months and has been treated with who-knows-what to get that perfect market appearance!

We have a great inventory of fruit trees, berries and grapes available for your selection. All of our trees are planted in bio-degradable pulp pots which prevents damage to the roots. This means you'll have even more success than with traditional bareroot plants.

Consider using fruit trees in the yard to provide shade or block unwanted views. You don't need a lot of space. Grow an espaliered apple or pear along your fence or wall train a grape or kiwi up over an arbor or trellis, plant a dwarf peach or apple in a container on your deck. Plant a combination multi-graft tree – it will give you a summer of fruit!

Watch for news of our culinary-themed demonstration gardens this year which will show ways of adding fruit to your garden and many more.

Varieties on our list are selected to be successful in our area. Also there is a choice of two different combination Fruit Salad trees and over 20 varieties of grapes.

We just brought in a full range of **Dave Wilson** container grown blueberries, pomegranates and figs that will complement the new season bare root collection.

Here are just a few to consider:

- In **Blueberries** we've selected great varieties that thrive in our climate. Choose from *Sunshine Blue*, *South Moon*, *Misty*, *Jubilee*, *Jewel*, *O'Neal* and *Sharp Blue*. We recommend preparing the soil with acid planting mix and locating the plants in morning sun until 1:00 for best results.
- **Figs and Pomegranates** were born to live in our valley. These Mediterranean plants love our climate, are water-wise and thrive



with very little care.

- **Figs:** Black Jack, Brown Turkey, Kadota, Black Mission and Peter's Honey
- **Pomegranates:** My new favorite Ambrosia is the sweetest pomegranate you'll ever eat. Grenada, Wonderful, Eve, Eversweet & Parfianka are among our collection.

So come in and meet our expert staff. They'll be happy to help you choose the correct varieties based on ripening times, taste and space availability. We'll provide you with planting instructions and all the necessary items and knowledge to get you growing. Whether you have space for a whole orchard or just a single tree – come in and see our extensive selection and soon you'll be picking ripe fruit from your garden.

Make a New Year's Resolution to Eat Healthier!

It's that time of year again, let's all set a goal that is easier to achieve, but still makes us feel great! You can grow more things here in the valley than most places the world. We get enough frost to produce delicious stone fruit, and with a little protection of that frost, you can also grow avocados. You can start pomegranates and berries now that you can actually enjoy this year. Potatoes are the easiest, most prolific seed to start, right next to your fig tree.

This is the time of year where we have the widest selection of fruit trees, and is also a great time to get them in the ground.

We can't explain the difference of harvesting your own fruit and vegetables from buying them in the store (organic or not), but you will certainly know the difference.

You can also sleep well at night knowing that you have complete control over what is used on your produce.



Start a farmers market in your own backyard, and don't be shy to share with us how great your food is!

Pruning Demonstrations at Alden Lane Nursery

Please call ahead to reserve a seat for these **FREE** informative classes.

Rose Care and Pruning Seminars

- Join us on **Saturday, January 13th from 10 - 11 a.m.** for our ever popular seminar led by the Mt. Diablo Rose Society.
- Gerry, from the Alden Lane staff, will lead the Seminar on **Saturday, January 20th from 10-11 a.m.**
- Both seminars will cover proper pruning techniques, feeding, and general care as well as the best varieties for the Valley. *Call (925) 447-0280 for more information.*

Grape Pruning

- Join us on **Saturday, January 20th from 1 - 2 p.m.**, with expert Jim Ryan.

Last Pruning Basics Class

- **Sunday, January 28th from 1 - 2:30 p.m.** Learn the basics to shape deciduous trees and shrubs, prune fruit trees properly, or get any of your own pruning questions answered.



Easy Weed Prevention!



Late January through early February is the ideal time for preventing many weeds in the garden using pre-emergent weed control products.

Many weeds will wake up with the first warm weather and the rains will only encourage them. Take advantage of this narrow window of opportunity to prevent weeds in your garden this year before weather warms and weeds sprout. **Just a reminder**, pre-emergent weed preventers don't affect existing plants or weeds. Prevention is the best cure, and an application of pre-emergent weed

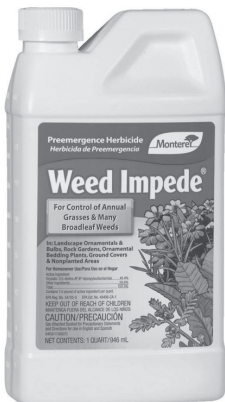
preventer in February and also in September will go far in the battle against garden weeds.

Apply one of the following options:

★ **Concern Organic Weed Stopper Plus** (corn gluten meal)

★ **Bonide Crabgrass & Weed Preventer** (granular) water in to activate

★ **Monterey Weed Impede®-Surflan®** (liquid concentrate) easy to use



Apply Dormant Sprays In January & February

February is the last month for dormant spray. Apply *Bonide Copper Fungicide* or *Monterey Liquicop*. Spray at the "pink bud" stage. This is when the flower buds just start to show color at the tip of the bud. Generally this occurs sometime between the



second and third weeks of February.

For peaches and nectarines spray again at 3/4 petal fall with gentle effective *Bonide Copper Fungicide*. This stage is the best time to control Peach Leaf Curl.

NOTE: If it should rain within 24 hours of application then reapply material. Rain can make your treatment spotty at best.



For Fabulous Flower Beds . . . Read on!

Spectacular flower beds can be yours with just a little pre-planning and a trip to Alden Lane Nursery. You can still plant your flower beds with white Alyssum, yellow Calendula, red Dianthus, orange Iceland Poppies, blue Violas, pink Stock, and purple Pansies.

For shade gardeners do not forget Primroses in a multitude of colors. All of these blooming beauties will flower for the months ahead.

Summer Bouquets Start in February

All the bulbs you plant this spring will fill your summer gardens with armloads of beautiful cut flowers. Think about what a great addition the dahlias and gladiolus will provide to a summer bouquet.

- ✧ GLADS – The tall flower stalks are covered with beautiful florets. If you plant two weeks apart you will have plenty of garden color and loads of cut flowers to arrange in summer bouquets.
- ✧ DAHLIAS – Take your pick of separate colors in dinner plate, decorative, cactus and pompom flower forms. Dahlias are show stoppers.
- ✧ Begonias, Canna Lilies and a variety of unique specialty bulbs will provide color and interest into summer.

Check with our staff for detailed planting instructions. *We have the bulbs, the know-how and the experience to get you growing.*



Seasonal February Favorites

➤ *Fruit Trees Have Arrived* – Choose from a full complement of Peaches, Nectarines, Plums, Apricots, Cherries, Apples, Pears and much more! Not to mention our fruit salad trees.

➤ *2018 Rose Collection Is Here!* This is the peak of selection.

➤ *Old fashioned Lilacs* – Timeless . . . Classic . . . Wonderfully fragrant . . . plant now for spring bloom! Pure white to the deepest purple.



Angel White, Ludwig Spaeth and Sensation are a few of our favorites.



➤ *Sweet Daphne*

– An old fashioned fragrance for your garden! Budded and Blooming now. Perfect for bright shade. Great container plant. Waxy pink and white flower clusters will perfume a room.

➤ *Happy Wanderer Vine* – THE #1 Best Vine for winter color. The “Royal Cloak” of the winter garden. Royal purple at its best plus it’s evergreen, water wise and hot sun loving.

GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

For each 100 square feet add:

- 10 cubic ft. of soil conditioner: **Master Gold Rush** or **Bumper Crop**® (5 - 8 bags).
- 5 lbs. **Iron Sulfate** to acidify and add iron.
- 10 lbs. **Master Vegetable Food** or **Master Flower Food**, **Master Formula 49** can be used for ground covers.
- 40 lbs. **Gypsum**. It loosens hard soils as it adds sulfur & calcium. (An excellent addition in our heavy soil.)

Mix well with your soil to an 8" depth and water well.

Recipe for Good Garden Soil! Good Garden Soil Starts Here!!

It's a great time to improve the soil. Follow our “Recipe” to improve the texture and fertility of your little piece of earth. This should be a part of your garden routine 1 to 2 times a year. Amend the valley soils to give your plants their best opportunity for growth. Keep this recipe handy for your planting needs.



981 Alden Lane
Livermore, CA 94550

(925) 447-0280
aldenlane.com

Nursery Hours

8:30 to 5:00 Daily

*See below for holiday and training dates and times.

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IMPORTANT!
Time Critical
Please Deliver Promptly

1-2-18

***Holiday Hours:** CLOSED December 25th; OPEN December 26th from 8:30 to 5:00.

CLOSED: December 27th - January 1st! OPEN: January 2nd.

***Special Hours:** To accommodate staff training, we will open at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. on the following seven days: February 1st - 2nd and 5th - 9th.

SPECIAL COUPON FOR FEBRUARY

Present this Coupon & a Canned Food Item to BUY

TWO 4" RANUNCULUS FOR \$2.50
(REGULAR PRICE \$3.99 EACH)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please. Offer Good February 1-28, 2018.

SPECIAL COUPON FOR JANUARY

Present this Coupon & a Canned Food Item to receive

ONE 4" PRIMROSE PLANT FOR \$1.00
(REGULAR PRICE \$2.69)

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies. One coupon per family, please. Offer Good January 2-31, 2018.

HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY

