

Wegman's Nursery April Garden Tips

It's time to get busy in your garden!

ANNUALS



Time to plant summer annuals! 1) Marigolds, 2) Impatiens, 3) Alyssum, 4) Asters, 5) Petunias, 6) Lobelia, 7) Vinca rosea, 8) Mimulus, 9) Fibrous Begonias, 10) Zinnias, 11) bedding Dahlias, 12) Cosmos, and many more are here! To ensure their young livelihood, don't forget to apply **Deadline®** or to control snails and slugs after planting. (Remember, **Monterey Sluggo®** is safe for pets and people, **Deadline®** is not.)

Remember to replenish your soil before planting. Add one to two inches of **Master Nursery® Bumper Crop** or **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and broadcast **Master Nursery® Master Start** at the rate of one pound to every 50 square feet. Roto-till or mix in to a depth of four to six inches.

Pansies 13) and 14) Violas planted for the winter months will serve you through summer if they are in dappled light or where they only receive morning sun.

It's too late to plant Sweet Peas from seeds, (plant seeds in September or October) but seedlings are available in cell packs and four-inch containers. Sweet Peas are available as vines which will grow to

be six or eight feet tall or as dwarf forms which will only get to be about three feet tall. The vines will need support, but the dwarfs can grow in containers and drape over the edge. Sweet Peas need six to eight or more hours of full sun, a rich, porous soil, regular watering and monthly fertilizer. (See our [Care Guide for Sweet Peas from Seeds](#) for more details.)

You can still plant from seeds multi-colored, multi-stemmed 15) Sunflowers for great colour and as a good summer cutting flower.

The Vinca rosea is a summer look-alike for Impatiens to grow in full hot sun or half day sun.

It's still not too late to start some annuals from seed. Some good choices are: Cosmos, 16) Nasturtiums, 17) Forget-Me-Nots, Marigolds, Zinnias, and Sunflowers. The multicolour, branching Sunflowers make beautiful bouquets.

BULBS



1) Herbaceous and 2) Peonies are blooming about now and are available in two-gallon cans. Plant the Peonies in full to mostly sunny areas. Amend the soil liberally with **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** to facilitate drainage and mulch with two inches of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**. Plant so that the roots are only one inch below the soil surface.

Deadhead and feed the following: 3) Daffodils, 4) Dutch Iris and 5) Grape Hyacinth and other long-lived perennial bulbs, with **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when they have finished blooming. Fertilizing currently is crucial, as they soak up the sun and store food in the bulb, all for next year's blooms. Accordingly, don't cut, braid or tie foliage! If you have bloomed out Daffodils or other 6) Narcissus in containers; knock them out of their pot, don't separate them, and drop them in a hole four to five inches deeper than the root ball. Then plant in a sunny area with little or no summer water.

The key to strong and sturdy 7) Dahlias is planting them in 12 inches deep holes and covering them with only three inches of soil. Install a five or six-foot, one-inch by one-inch stake next to the bulb if you are growing the large 'dinner plate' or Cactus Dahlias. Let them grow and then gradually cover them with soil until the hole is filled. Planted this way, Dahlias will develop strong and sturdy flower

stalks. To get more blooms, pinch tips back when they are 12 inches tall. Please see our [Care Guide for Dahlias](#).

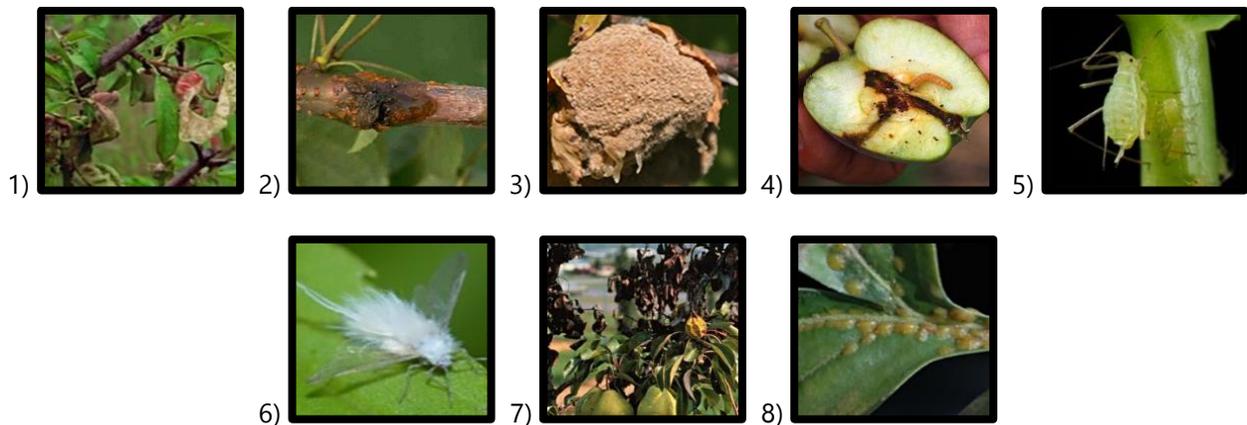
When planting 8) Tuberous Begonias, remember to leave about one-quarter inch of the bulb exposed to prevent crown rot.

Prepare soil for bulbs by broadcasting two inches of **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and working it in about four to six inches deep. Once you have planted bulbs, you can also broadcast a starter fertilizer such as **Master Nursery® Master Start** or a scattering of **E.B. Stone™ Cottonseed Meal**. Alternatively, you can add **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** and **Master Nursery® Master Start** to individual holes, mixing in well with native soil.

Apply **Master Nursery® Bulb Food** when bulbs break ground and again when they finish blooming.

FRUITS

Fruit trees are still available. If you don't find your favourite selection in the nursery, it can be ordered. It is too late for oil or copper (i.e. dormant sprays) on your deciduous fruit trees.



There are reports of 1) peach leaf curl on Peach trees despite having treated them with the three necessary dormant sprays in November, December and January. Research data from UC Davis states that there are no control once symptoms appear. As the infected leaves fall, they should be collected and disposed of—not composted. The tree will replace the fallen leaves.

Bacterial canker 2) and 3) Brown rot of the stone fruits: Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Plums and Cherries manifests as twig dieback or oozing from short fruiting spurs or branch tips and a decrease or absence in fruit production. Often there will be a good bloom of flowers which shrivel and turn brown and then produce little or no fruit. While it is too late to spray for this disease this year, next year apply two additional sprays of **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** or **Chlorothalonil** at pink bud and full bloom. When pruning this summer or next winter, you should also remove dead or oozing wood or wood with any visible cankers. Discard these trimmings, do not compost.

To control worms 4) Codling Moth Larva in your Apples and Pears, spray with **GardenTech Sevin®** when all the flower petals have fallen (so the bees are not killed) and again four weeks later.

GardenTech Sevin® often causes fruit thinning (which is probably a good thing). **Codling Moth Traps** will help reduce the number of wormy Apples, but their main function is to detect the presence of the pests so that you know it is time to spray. Using two of the Codling Moth traps per tree will reduce moth damage by about 50%.

Be watchful of 5) aphids on Plums and Cherries, which disfigure leaves by causing them to curl and is often mistaken for Peach leaf curl. Spray with **Safer® Insect Killing Soap** or **Malathion** when leaves are three-quarters to one inch long. The curled leaves may be unsightly, but it is not a serious problem. Do not spray when the tree is in bloom and being visited by bees. If you have narrow, orange and black beetles flying around the aphids, these are soldier beetles that will eat the aphids.

If needed, spray Apple and Pear trees for 6) woolly apple aphid, which appear as a white cottony mass, usually in crevices, pruning cuts and on the roots next to the trunk use **Master Nursery® Year-Round Spray Oil**. Do not spray when the tree is in bloom and being visited by bees.

If you had fire blight 7) (Pear blight) on Pear or Apple trees last year, a preventive spray of **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** (one tablespoon per gallon of water) is helpful. For Apples, apply when buds are at the silvery tip stage; for Pears, apply when in bloom.

Paint deciduous fruit tree trunks and citrus trees up to the first scaffold branches with a white, water-based, interior latex paint, cut 50% with water. This is especially important for new trees or trees planted in blazing hot locations.

If you haven't had a chance to prune your fruit trees, it's still safe to do so. If you're unsure of which wood will fruit, trees in flower or just beginning to set fruit are the branches to save and the others to trim out.

Select and plant citrus now.

Citrus should be pruned to remove dead wood, crossing branches or long water sprouts. Cut the water sprouts back to the branch or trunk from which they originate.

Check citrus for scale, #8 photo above, a sucking insect that usually clusters along fruit stems, new growth and the undersides of leaves. If found, spray the trees with **Master Nursery® Pest Fighter Year-Round Spray Oil**. Wait two weeks and apply a second application, and never spray oil more than four times during the growing season. Ants running up and down the trunk often indicate the presence of scale, so look carefully, as more than one kind of scale may be present. If you have scale on your citrus, you may also have sooty mold (a black powdery fungus which rubs off easily) on the leaves of your plants. The mold fungus grows on a sugary waste left by the scale.

Fertilize citrus in March, May, July, and September with **Master Nursery® Citrus Food**.

Deciduous fruit trees can be fertilized around Memorial Day and Labor Day with **Master Nursery® Fruit Tree and Vine Food** or a month earlier with **Gardner & Bloome® Citrus & Fruit Tree Fertilizer**. Supplement organic fertilizers with **Iron Sulphate**.

By now, your Peach and Nectarine trees should be showing fruit about one-half to one inch in diameter. If these trees have peach leaf curl, as shown above, the symptoms should also be visible. The leaves will eventually fall off and be replaced by new leaves. Some of the fruit may also be affected. Spray thoroughly next November, December and January. Please see our [Peach & Nectarine Care Guide](#) for further information.

GROUNDCOVERS



Now through mid-May is the best time to plant groundcovers, as they become easily established before the heat of summer. 1) Erigeron, 2) Ceanothus, 3) Manzanita and some 4) Junipers are excellent groundcovers for hot, dry locations (though they do need water the first 2 or 3 years while becoming established).

Fertilize groundcovers, with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™**, on Memorial Day and Labor Day until well established and then only about Memorial Day.

Mow low-growing groundcovers such as 5) Ivy, 6) Periwinkle (Vinca Minor) and 7) Peruvian Verbena if you haven't already done so.

To ward off slugs and snails, bait with **Monterey Sluggo®** (safe for pets and people) or **Deadline®** (toxic to all).

IRRIGATION

Although Mother Nature has provided us with much needed rainfall; suggestions on how to conserve water are as follows:

Review all the advice given to reduce the amount of water used indoors so that there will be more available outdoors for your garden (shorter showers, full dishwashers and laundry tubs, check for leaks, don't leave faucets running, flush number 2 but not number 1, use shower run-off to flush toilets and on and on).

Connect the laundry discharge to a hose and run it into the garden, reconsider installation of heavy water uses landscaping such as lawns, large orchards and large annual beds. Get some free, more efficient sprinklers if you live in Redwood City. Reduce your irrigation schedule by 30%-40%. The plants will show slow growth but will survive since we tend to overwater. Water plants at night to reduce evaporation.

Check all your irrigation devices to be sure they operate properly and apply water only to plants. Use soaker hoses where possible. Download our [Irrigating Plants Care Guide](#) for best methods of water distribution. As trees and shrubs grow, additional drippers, sprinklers or time may have to be added. Remember, your priority should be your trees.

In Redwood City, phone 780-7436 for a "water house call" both inside and outside for a water conservation analysis. In the [Santa Clara Valley Water District](#), call (408) 265-2600 x 2554. Check out the [BAWSCA](#) web site for more conservation ideas.

LAWNS

Spread seed or lay sod March through May. For details on preparing an area for installation, check out both our [Lawn Preparation](#) and [Lawn Preparation to Replace Bermuda Grass Care Guides](#). Sod orders placed with Wegman's usually take two to three days for delivery. Call us for details!



Now is the time to treat lawns for grubs to prevent raccoons and skunks from digging and rolling up your turf later this Summer. **Bayer Advanced Lawn™ Grub Control** is available as a spray or pellets and will eliminate the grubs and other meaty things in your lawn which the raccoons and skunks feed on. Or, **Beneficial Nematodes**, microscopic parasitic worms, can be sprinkled on the lawn and will only attack grubs, fleas and harmful larvae. **Bonide® Molemax® Mole & Vole Repellent** doesn't kill anything but works quite well in chasing away gophers, moles and skunks.

Fertilize lawns with **Easy Livin' Master Green Lawn Food** or **Master Green Weed & Feed**. For organic products, use **Concern® All Natural Weed Prevention Plus®**. If you have **Fall & Winter Feed** left, it is okay to use.

If you have had problems with Bermuda grass in your lawn, apply **Monterey Turflon® Ester**, which also controls annual and perennial Broadleaf weeds in established lawns. For Crabgrass and some other weed grasses, as well as a host of other tenacious Broadleaf weeds, use **Trimec Plus**. Both Turflon and Trimec must be applied at the right time of year and to the proper plants. Recently, a gardener complained that his Trimec was not working. Turned out, he was using it on Bermuda grass.

For Oxalis and Broadleaf weeds, use **Monterey Turflon® Ester** which is particularly effective for controlling Oxalis.

Trimec Plus is the only product to control wild Onion and Nutsedge in lawns or tilled areas.

It's time to set mowers to summer levels: two and one-half to three inches for Fescue and Bluegrass lawns and one to one and one-half inches for Bermuda grass lawns. **Remember:** You cannot use pre-

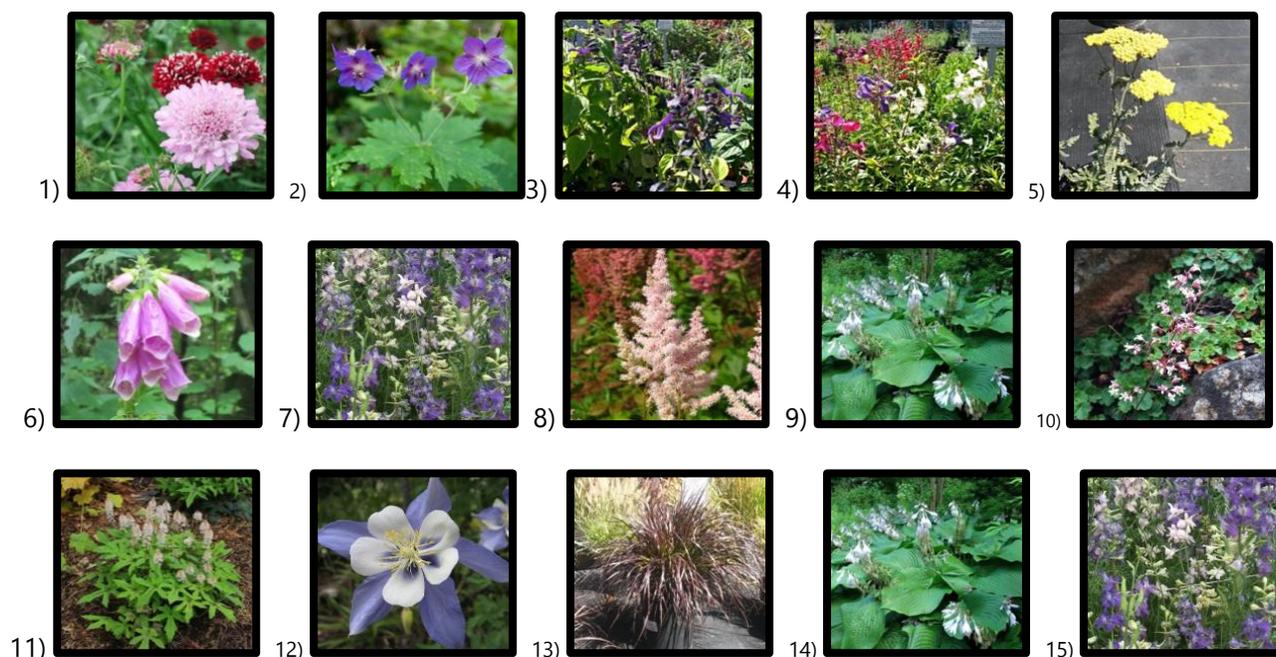
emergent products for three to four months prior to seeding a lawn or laying sod. You can, however, use **Master Nursery® Kleen-Up** three to four days before seeding or laying sod. Click here for our [Sod Care Guide](#).

If you leave lawn clippings, you can reduce fertilizer use by 30% to 50% without any danger of thatch or unsightliness. You never want to leave clippings one and one-half to two inches or more.

Spring is the time to aerate and dethatch your lawn while the soil is still soft. Aerating is particularly important so that water will penetrate the soil and sod rather than running off.

Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annual*) is an obnoxious weed grass only controlled by hand pulling and the use of pre-emergent herbicides applied in September through February. Please see our [Care Guide](#) for [Controlling Annual Bluegrass](#).

PERENNIALS



As the season warms up, many perennials become available. Check out these perennials for sun: 1) Scabiosa, 2) Erysimum, 3) Sage, 4) Penstemon, 5) Yarrow, 6) Foxglove, and 7) Delphinium. Some plantings appropriate for shaded areas, would be: 8) Astilbe, 9) Hosta, 10) Heucheras micrantha (Coral Bells), 11) Heucherella alba and 12) Columbine.

A few perennial grasses, such as 13) Purple Fountain Grass, can still be cut back to 9 to 12 inches through mid-April. Fertilize lightly with a lawn fertilizer that *does not* contain an herbicide.

Bait now with **Deadline®** or **Monterey Sluggo®** to control snails and slugs. Especially vulnerable are perennials such as 12) Columbine, 14) Hosta and 15) Delphinium.

ROSES

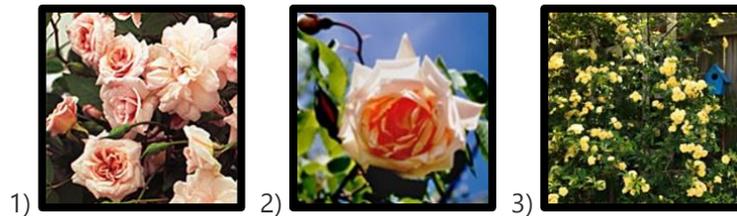
As new leaves emerge, watch for aphids. Apply **Master Nursery® Pest-Fighter Year-Round Spray Oil**, **Safer® Insect Killing Soap**, **Malathion** or blast with water.



Spring rains make ideal conditions for Blackspot. Spray **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** plus **Horticultural Oil** or **Bonide® Fung-onil™** (Chlorothalonil) now as a preventive. A non-chemical preventive is one tablespoon of **Monterey Liqui-Cop®** plus three tablespoons of **Master Nursery® Pest-Fighter Year-Round Spray Oil**, in one gallon of water. Apply every two to four weeks.



Rub off leaf buds that are facing the center of the plant. This will redirect growth to outward buds and help keep the center of the rose bush open for air circulation. Watch, too, for sucker sprouts below the graft and remove as needed. Cut at the graft; do not trim at ground level.



Prune Climbing Roses such as: 1) Cecile Brunner, 2) Belle of Portugal and 3) Lady Banks Roses (which bloom only once) after bloom.

Prevent weeds in Rose beds by applying **Concern® All Natural Weed Prevention Plus®**. This product contains corn gluten, which prevents seeds from germinating and contains 9% nitrogen, providing slow-release fertilization. Never use **RoundUp® Weed & Grass Killer** or any other herbicide within 100 feet of Roses; it's the surest way to deform new foliage and developing buds. If there are little annual weeds or grasses coming up around the Roses **Bonide® BurnOut® Weed and Grass Killer** can be safely used or pull by hand.

Begin monthly feedings with **Master Nursery® Rose & Flower Food**. For an organic alternative, apply **Gardner & Bloome® Rose & Flower Fertilizer** every other month. Alfalfa meal contains the chemical *triacontanol*, which spurs the formation of new canes. If you do not use a natural fertilizer, supplement your regime with alfalfa meal every April and July. Remember, the organic fertilizers do not contain Iron or Sulphur so if your Roses appear chlorotic, give them a treatment of **Iron Plus** or **GreenAll® Iron Sulphate**.

Last year was a bad year for rose slugs and many bushes were left with small irregular holes in the leaves. In severe cases only the veins were left as a leaf skeleton. Spray now with **GardenTech Sevin®** or **Malathion** if any bushes show symptoms. For the organic gardener, use **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** (Spinosad). **Spinosad** will control all chewing insects, but not sucking insects such as aphids or scale.



SHRUBS & VINES



1) Rhododendrons, renowned for their whopping trusses and masses of colour, are bursting into colour. We carry over 30 hybrids, including large sizes.

Now is a good time to plant drought tolerant shrubs such as: 2) *Garrya elliptica*, (Silk Tassel) 3) *Ceanothus*, 4) *Cotoneaster*, 5) *Fremontodendron* (Flannel Bush), 6) *Manzanita* and 7) *Rosemary*. Remember, once these plants are established, they only need water about once a month and should never be planted where they are irrigated by lawn sprinklers.

Deciduous Clematis 8) is beginning to bloom. As the month progresses, a great selection of the large-flowering and the longer-blooming hybrids will be available. Excellent in part to full sun, rampant and colourful, these vines simply require that their roots be kept cool by mulching freely

with bark, planting under the edge of a deck, or at the foot of a tree or shrub. May also be covered with 9) Vinca Major or 10) Star Jasmine.

Mediterranean climate natives continue their unique displays of bloom through April. Some plants to check out would be: 11) Boronia, 12) Watsonia borbonica, 13) Protea compacta, 14) Leucospermum cordifolium (Nodding Pincushion), 15) Grevillea, and 16) Correa. While you may not be familiar with these plants, they make excellent additions to the landscape with their early bloom, deer-resistance, and tolerance to wet Winters and dry Summers.

If you haven't already done so, fertilize evergreen shrubs and vines now with **Master Nursery® Formula 49™** (8-4-4).

Now's a good time to select 17) Azaleas, as their flurry of colour continues.

Both 18) Camellias and Azaleas are susceptible to petal blight, which appears as brown spotting on petal margins of open flowers, partly open flowers and flower buds. A fungus causes both petal blights. Camellia petal blight can be partially controlled through sanitation. Remove infected flowers and buds and try not to let infected petals hit the ground. If they do, gather and place in trash immediately-do not compost! Azalea petal blight is controlled by spraying weekly with **Bonide® Fung-onil™** before the buds open. No spray is effective for Camellia petal blight.



Both Camellias and Azaleas can be severely pruned, even as hedges. Prune now when they finish blooming and they will bloom next year.



Prune tender shrubs and vines (25° -30°F) such as: 19) Bougainvillea, 20) Abutilon, 21) Geraniums, 22) Lantana, 23) Mandevilla, and 24) Fuchsia, by mid-April.



Fuchsias grown in containers can still be re-potted through mid-April. Pot up into larger containers or root-prune. If you prune the roots, remove about one-quarter to one-third of the root mass and add fresh soil to the pot. Cut the tops back to the edge of the pot or about one-half to one-third of the top. Pinch new growth as it appears to make the plants bushier. Fuchsia mites (you would need a 50X magnifier to see them) cause the leaves to crinkle up and appear all gnarly. U.C. Davis recommends spraying once a month with **GardenTech Sevin®**, starting when the first leaves are about one inch long. If you had mites last year, start spraying as soon as you prune. Please see our **Fuchsia Care Guide**.

TREES



The first shipments of Japanese Maples have arrived. This year's selection that is here and can be ordered include Bloodgood, Burgundy Lace, Fireglow, Emperor I, Oshio Beni, Red Dragon, Shaina, Seiryu, Shishigashira, Sango Kaku, Crimson Queen, Garnet, Inabe Shidare, Tamukeyama, Viridis, and Waterfall.

Prune flowering deciduous trees, such as 1) Plum, 2) Cherry, 3) Crabapple, and 4) Deciduous Magnolia, after they bloom. Do not prune flowering fruit trees the same way you would edible fruit trees.

To eliminate fruit on olives, liquidambar and ornamental plums, apply anytime once they begin blooming through full bloom.



The Mediterranean olive fly has reached San Mateo County and surrounding areas. **Monterey Garden Insect Spray** and **Bonide® Captain Jack's DeadBug Brew** both with the active ingredient **Spinosad** is now available for control of this pest. **Spinosad**, (four tablespoons per gallon of water) should be used in conjunction with the olive fly traps so you will know when to spray. Please see our **Olive Care Guide** for more details.



Now is the time when Oak Moth Caterpillars are on the rise. Spray with **Bt** or **Spinosad** or **GardenTech Sevin®** while they are small.

VEGETABLES

The vegetable collection in cell packs and four-inch pots at Wegman's is the most diverse and complete of any on the Peninsula.



1)



2)



3)



4)



5)



6)



7)



8)



9)



10)



11)



12)



13)



14)



15)



It is time to plant 1) Basil, 2) Tomatoes, 3) Peppers, 4) Eggplants, 5) Squash, 6) Corn, 7) Green Beans, 8) Cucumbers, and 9) Melons from starts. Remember to amend soil liberally, as vegetable crops deplete nutrients from soils rather quickly. We like **Master Nursery® Gold Rush**, which includes chicken manure, giving plants a quick nitrogen boost. Apply it one inch deep, scatter **Master Nursery® Tomato and Vegetable Food** over the area and mix all into the existing soil four to six inches deep. Please see our **Vegetable Gardening Care Guide** for more details.

Don't be disappointed if you try to grow herbs on the windowsill of your kitchen window as is being recommended on TV and some magazines. Unless you have a greenhouse window, herbs need to be out of doors in order to grow properly. Indoors they will be tall, spindly and flavourless.

Tomatoes make great container plants. Use at least a 15-gallon container filled with **Master Nursery® Gardener's Gold™ Potting Soil** for most types. Try Sweet 100s or Sungold in a 16-inch hanging basket.

You can plant 10) Artichokes, and 11) Rhubarb **now** from four-inch pots or one-gallon pots.

Cool season greens can be planted through spring. 12) Lettuce, 13) Spinach, 14) Cilantro, 15) Chard, and

16) Mustard should all perform well until the heat kicks in. After that, plant them in a part of the garden that gets only morning sun.

A yearly application of **chicken** or **steer manure** is not enough to replace the nutrients used up by a successful vegetable garden. At least two applications of a balanced fertilizer such as **Master Nursery® Tomato and Vegetable Food** is needed during the growing season when the soil is first prepared and then about six weeks after planting. Animal manures can be used to replace depleted organic material in the soil, but they cannot replace the minerals used to produce healthy vegetables.

Check out the herb collection. In addition to all the common plants: 17) Rosemary, 18) Oregano, 19) Thyme, 20) Basil, 14) Cilantro, etc., are many of the ethnic Herbs you've probably only heard of in your specialized cookbooks.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Outdoor container plants must be fertilized with an appropriate granular fertilizer monthly through October. To determine the amount of granular fertilizer to use: measure the diameter of the container in inches and divide that number by six (6). The answer is the number of level tablespoons

of fertilizer to use per month. (Example: 18-inch diameter divided by six = three level tablespoons full.) If you are a fan of liquid fertilizers, Fish Emulsion is a good choice; follow directions on the container. Miracle-Grow won't be enough since it only lasts about one week.

Camellias, Citrus and Gardenias may need extra *Iron* if they show yellowing between green leaf veins (chlorosis). Treat by sprinkling **GreenAll™ Iron Sulphate** around the plant one or two times a year (Valentine's Day and Fourth of July) in addition to the regular Camellia fertilizer.

Consider watering indoor plants with one tablespoon of vinegar per one gallon of water, once a month, in order to reduce salt build-up and to lower pH.

Check your potted plants to see whether they will need re-potting this season. If so, re-pot now. You can plant up into larger containers or root-prune and replant in the same container. When root-pruning, prune away one-quarter to one-third of the root mass and add new soil. To help avoid dieback on the top, you should prune one-third to one-half off the top when you prune the roots.

Mosquitoes are already showing up in our gardens. Be sure to empty dishes, pots and saucers of water. Use Mosquito Dunks in ponds and fountains. If you have holes in trees which collect water, squirt a teaspoonful of **Horticultural Oil** into the hole.

Don't be misled by heavy handed advertising of a major 'garden soil' sold in bags and which purports that everything else is just dirt. Compare it to **Master Nursery® Gold Rush** or **Master Nursery® Bumper Crop** and see where this lesser product comes up short. And remember, potting soil is not meant to be a soil amendment.

Check plants for spittle bugs, (the larva of leaf hoppers) and blast them off with a stream of water or spray with **Pyrethrum** found in **Safer® End ALL™ Insect Killer** or spray with **Malathion**.

If you are encouraging birds to your garden with food and flowers, don't forget drinking water. Keep the bird bath clean and full all year round (Yes, even during the rainy season.).

Sharp pruning tools make clean cuts that heal quickly. Check out our **Pruning Tool Renovation Service**, which includes cleaning and sharpening and replacing missing parts. If you're unsure whether we can service your tool, bring it in for assessment.