



# Alden Lane Nursery Newsletter

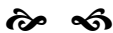
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2006

*Serving You Since 1955*

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA • [www.aldenlane.com](http://www.aldenlane.com) • (925) 447-0280

## Announcements

Watch the Valley Gardener for great gardening tips with host Jacquie Williams-Courtright. Check program guide for time – [www.ctv30.org](http://www.ctv30.org)



Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club meets the first Tuesday of the month. January 3rd join **Dick Turner of Pacific Horticulture** as he talks on the value of Mediterranean plants in the garden.

**Note this special date** for February's meeting. On the **second Tuesday, February 14th**, please join us at 7 p.m. to hear **Karen Platt**, founder of the International Black Plant Society. Karen is visiting from England and her talk is entitled "Purple Passion, Black Magic".

Visitors are welcome please **contact Bev at 485-7812** for more information. The location is the Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.



**Mt. Diablo Rose Society** meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. **Call for details 829-4929.**



**Winter Tours in Walnut Creek of the Ruth Bancroft Garden** will be held every Saturday until March 25th. Reservations are required. For more information call 925-210-9663 or visit their website: [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)



**Christmas Tree Recycling** – If you haven't made arrangements for your cut Christmas tree yet it can be dropped off at the nursery on **Saturday, January 7th from 8:30 to 3:00.** Local Boy Scouts will be on hand to take your cut tree for a \$5 donation.

ALDEN LANE  
NURSERY PRESENTS

## “Ring in the New Year” Pottery & Statuary Sale

ALL POTTERY & STATUARY  
20% OFF

Sale ends February 28, 2006

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## The 2006 New Trends Show!!

See It Here First Through This  
Unique “*Window on the Future*”

Join us on **Saturday, February 11th**  
from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. as we host our  
2006 New Trends Show.

Our suppliers will be on hand to show you what's new for 2006. *Don't miss this great event.* You'll hear about color trends for 2006, the latest to-die-for products and plants. You'll be able to visit various booths filled with all the latest plant 'fashions' and products. Whether it's a nifty garden gadget or new colorful plant introduction, you'll see it here first.

Come enjoy a hot cup of cider and tasty cookies while you browse the booths. Special drawings will be held during the day. We are looking forward to seeing you here!

## Gardener's Delight – Steve's Hot List!

◆ **Fruit Trees Have Arrived** – Choose tasty Peaches, tangy Nectarines, juicy Plums, delicious Cherries, crisp Apples and many more!

◆ **2006 Rose Collection Is Here!** This is the peak of selection.

◆ **Fragrant Lilacs** – Timeless . . . Classic . . . Plant now for spring bloom!

◆ **Daphne** – An old fashioned fragrance for your garden! Budded and Blooming now.

◆ **Happy Wanderer Vine** – THE #1 Best Vine for winter color. The "Royal Cloak" of the winter garden. Royal purple at its best.



## More Winter Garden Care

### Soil Soup – A Nutritional Booster for Your Soil

Our soils were once naturally teaming with microscopic life forms that help deliver nutrients to plant roots and help provide soil structure. Plants thrive in such soils but often suburban development and years of synthetic fertilizer & chemical use diminish or eliminate the natural bio-activity reducing plant performance. Inoculate your garden soil this winter with billions of fresh-brewed bio-organisms by applying a generous serving of Soil Soup. As soil temperatures warm in the spring, bioactivity will increase and begin to renew your soil to its former health, improving the look and health of your plants, vegetables and flowers.

Soil Soup is a liquid "tea" brewed from earthworm casting. The brewing process allows the diverse assortment of bio-organisms present in earthworm castings to reproduce exponentially in a short amount of time, providing the gardener with a highly concentrated form of liquid compost that is very easy to apply. One gallon can be spread as far as 1000 sq. ft. by using any means of application including a hose end sprayer.

Pick up an informational flier at the nursery.



### pH Adjuster Plus

Plants take nutrients up from the soil most efficiently when soil pH is neutral or slightly acidic. **pH ADJUSTER PLUS** when applied over the soil surface and watered in, gently acidifies the soil and allows nitrogen, iron and other essential nutrients and elements to be released for up-take through plant roots. The end result is a healthier, more beautiful plant with brighter, greener foliage.

Almost all plants will appreciate 2 to 3 applications per year but those plants that respond most dramatically to a pH adjustment include citrus, camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons and other plants that develop a seasonal yellowing of the leaf related to iron chlorosis. Most likely you can think of at least one plant you have around your home that suffers from leaf yellowing. Apply and then water or time your application to let winter rains do the watering for you.

### Last Chance to Dormant Spray

February is the last month for dormant spray. Apply **LILLY MILLER MICROCOP WITH STA-STUK**. 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  petal fall. 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.

### Guarantee A Picture Perfect Lawn – Prevent Crabgrass!

Crabgrass has pale green-yellow foliage that spreads through your darker green lawn, spoiling the uniform good looks. Crabgrass dies with the onset on cold weather, leaving seeds that will sprout as the spring weather warms the soil. January and February are the months to prevent crabgrass from sprouting in your lawn. Applying **MASTER'S LAWN FERTILIZER PLUS CRABGRASS CONTROL** now will prevent crabgrass seeds from sprouting.

# JANUARY & FEBRUARY GARDENING CALENDAR

☑ January is the month to apply **Master Nursery Hydrangea Blue** and monthly hereafter until summer for bright blue hydrangeas.

☑ 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.

☑ Keep your New Year's Resolution . . . join the **Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club** ( Ask for Bev at 485-7812). Call to join.

☑ Brighten the garden with jewel colored bedding plants. Refresh your garden containers with primroses, pansies, Iceland poppies and more. Check with the staff!

☑ Place three inches of mulch around trees, shrubs and flowerbeds to keep weeds under control. Keep the mulch away from the trunks of trees and shrubs as well as the stems of bedding plants to prevent crown rot.

☑ If you like armloads of cut flowers in the spring and summer you can start now by planting gladiolus, dahlias and other summer blooming bulbs. Alden Lane will have a full complement in February.

☑ Remove old flowers on camellias and azaleas to reduce the chance of petal blight.

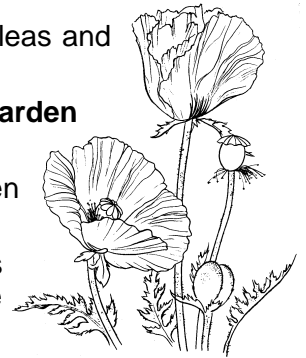
☑ A blooming token of your love this Valentine's Day says it best! Choose from an assortment of fragrant blooming bulbs, African violets, cyclamen and lush house plants.

☑ Choose azaleas and camellias now while they are in bloom. The selection is great and you'll pick just the right color for your Valentine's garden.

☑ Prevent crabgrass in your lawn. Apply **Master Master Nursery Easy Livin' Pre-emergent and Lawn Feed** this month or, where crabgrass is not a threat, apply **Master Fall & Winter Feed**.

☑ Use **Monterey Spurge Power**. It works on controlling broad leaf weeds like oxalis in your lawn even when it's cold.

☑ **ARBOR DAY IS MARCH 7TH**. Celebrate by planting a tree in your yard or a favorite school or park. In addition to baby tree seedlings each for second graders in the Livermore and Pleasanton School districts, Alden Lane is offering a free tree valued at \$39.99 - or a credit of \$39.99 toward a larger or more expensive tree - to be donated to your school or park (one tree per site please). Contact the recipient to ask what kind of tree they would like, then call us to reserve. We will hold your tree selection at the nursery until you or the recipient can pick up for planting. We are happy to help in the greening of our community. We will offer a tree starter kit at a special price to help ensure a healthy beginning.



## Try a New Crop - Plant Potatoes

by Greg Zollars

The smooth, buttery flavor of homegrown potatoes can't be beat. As a child I picked potatoes for my great aunt in Santa Cruz. The pungent earthy smell has stayed with me through the years bringing back memories of scratching away the soil to unearth another tasty gem. Alden Lane has a great selection of varieties that will do well in our valley. Create some memories with your family.

**All Blue:** A new gourmet variety that is extremely popular. It has purple skin and purple flesh. They are small to medium in size and offer an excellent flavor for a "baker".

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

**Cal White:** This great boiling potato makes a great potato salad & is also great for scalloped or mashed potatoes.

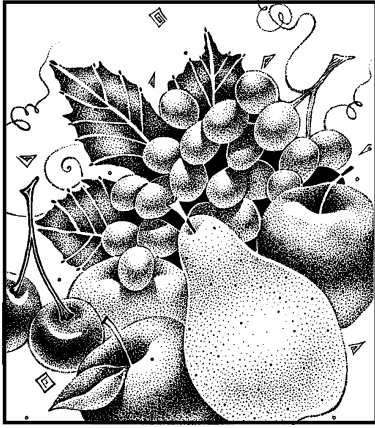
**Norkota Russet:** Very similar to Idaho's famous Burbank. The good old fashioned baking potato with the rough skin. This one is much more disease resistant than the Burbank and very productive too.

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

### GOOD GARDEN SOIL!

FOR EACH 100 SQUARE FEET ADD

- 5-8 bags (10 cubic feet) **Master Gold Rush** or **Bumper Crop**.
- 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.
- 50 lbs. **Gypsum**. It loosens hard soils as it adds calcium. (An excellent addition in our heavy soil.)  
Mix well with your soil to an 8" depth and water well.



## Fresh Fruit from Your Garden

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 prevent damage of the roots and from drying out. 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 tree – it will give you a summer of fruit!

Varieties on our list are selected to be successful in our area. New this year are 6 in 1 espaliered cherry tree (quantities are limited). Also there is a choice of two different combination Fruit Salad trees and over 20 varieties of grapes. This list is available to you at the Nursery or on our web site at [www.aldenlanenursery.com](http://www.aldenlanenursery.com).

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 and see our extensive selection and soon you'll be picking ripe fruit from your garden.

### Free Pruning Seminars Available

#### Rose Care & Pruning Seminar at Alden Lane Nursery

**Saturday & Sunday, January 14th & 15th:** Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Join us for our ever popular Rose Care and Pruning Seminars led by local experts. All American Rose Selections (AARS) Consulting rosarians **David Lowell** and **Ken & Judy Jones**. David will present on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and Ken and Judy on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. They will speak about proper pruning techniques, feeding, and general care as well as the best varieties for the valley. Call (925) 447-0280 to reserve a seat.

#### January 21st: Don't Miss These Great Classes at Concannon Vineyard

The experts at Concannon Vineyard, 4950 Tesla Road, will host both rose and grape pruning demonstrations on **Saturday, January 21st**. Rose pruning and care class with Consulting Rosarians Ken and Judy Jones will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by the Grape pruning demonstration from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Concannon expert Ernesto. Call Alden Lane Nursery at (925) 447-0280 to reserve a spot for these free classes at Concannon Vineyard.

#### January 22nd and 28th: Fruit Tree Seminar at Alden Lane Nursery

Join us Sunday, January 22nd or Saturday, January 28th at 1:00 p.m. for a **FREE Fruit Tree & Backyard Orchard Culture seminar**. Steve Campbell will teach the first session and Lydia Roberts the 2nd session. Learn how to maximize your fruit production by good pruning, variety selection and planting practices. **DRESS WARMLY!** Call ahead to reserve space – (925) 447-0280.

### The 2006 Daffodil Show

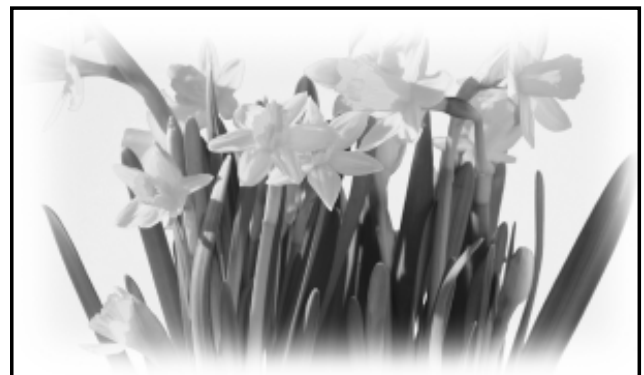
co-sponsored by  
**the Northern California Daffodil Society  
and Alden Lane Nursery**

Groom those blooms to enter on Saturday morning, March 11th. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the next newsletter.

**Come by:** March 11th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
March 12th 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Daffodil Lecture: **Saturday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m.**

Plan to attend this interesting and free special guest lecture entitled **"Greeting Spring With Amazing New Daffodils"** by daffodil expert, **Robert Spolts**.



### Las Positas College Horticulture Classes

Call now for registration information for great horticulture classes – 925-424-1000 or log on [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu). The spring semester begins January 17th. Also check into the Viticulture and Winery Technology classes.

## Plant a Memory With A Fragrant Rose

What's the first thing we do when we see a beautiful rose? If your answer to this question is that we smell its lovely fragrance, then you'll be pleased to know that rose hybridizers are making fragrance one of their priorities in the breeding process. It has been said that our sense of smell is the most powerful of our five senses in provoking memory. What better way to plant your own memories than with one of our new 2006 fragrant roses? Come in and see our wide collection!

### Give Your Roses Some Zing For Spring with Dave's Fertilizer Program

This Program provides for general plant vigor, and wonderful looking roses. For use on established (planted for at least 6 months) roses only in MARCH and AUGUST, for **each** rose mix together the following:

<b>12-12-12</b>	½ cup/rose (5# bag for 18 roses)
<b>Bone Meal</b>	½ cup/rose (4# bag for 18 roses)
<b>Sulfur*</b>	½ cup/rose (5# bag for 18 roses)
<b>Magnesium Sulfate</b>	2 tbs./rose (5# bag for 70 roses)
<b>Chicken Fertilizer</b>	1 shovel/rose (1 bag for 9 roses)

\* To supply sulfur use one of the following products: **Iron Plus, Iron Sulfate,** or **Ph Adjuster-plus.** **NOTE:** Iron containing products can stain, wash off adjacent paving after application.

✓ Sprinkle the first four ingredients around each rose and mix into soil if possible. Then sprinkle chicken fertilizer around each rose and water everything in.

✓ Alden Lane Nursery recommends applying **Master Nursery Rose and Flower Food** monthly, April 1 through July and September, skipping August for Dave's program.

✓ A one-inch mulch layer may be put around your roses to conserve water and insulate roots from summer heat. However to encourage early bloom delay mulching until after the soil has been warmed by spring temperatures.

✓ **Do not combine** this recipe with systemic rose fertilizer. It poses a serious health risk to pets if ingested. Pets are attracted to the bone meal and may ingest systemic rose food if it is included in this recipe, or applied other months in the same area.



## Tough Love Rose Glove

by Greg Zollars

Finally, a rose glove tough on protection, flexible on fit and unrivaled in comfort and style. We have carried West County Gardener gardening gloves for some time now. This year West County Gardener has introduced a rose glove that looks great and after my personal testing, I believe will satisfy the needs of the most active rosarians.

Thorn-proof, lightweight and flexible, the new West County Gardener Rose Glove is worlds apart from bulky rose gloves of the past. Made with unique 100% synthetic suede, they're tough enough to keep thorns out, but supple enough for delicate tasks.

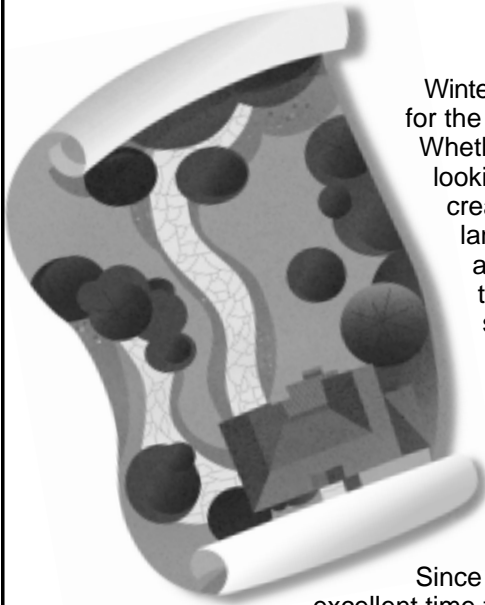
I met the glove's designer, Beverly Schor recently. (She's a bay area resident). I was impressed with her thought process. When designing her original garden glove, she sent samples out with landscapers to test them. When they returned, she studied the worn places and added reinforcement in weak areas and tried them again until they came back without significant wear. Continuous reevaluation through the design process has produced a glove that is comfortable, light and very durable.

I decided to give the rose gloves a try myself. The back of my hand is particularly vulnerable to rose thorns while pruning inside established rose bushes. Most gloves, even heavy leather ones, can allow a rose thorn to penetrate and injure the back of the hand. To my surprise and delight, the synthetic suede fabric protected my hand and even broke off the rose thorns without reaching my hand. The gloves come in several sizes and 2 nice colors.

It's no wonder Beverly Schor has designed a great gardening glove. Besides being an avid gardener herself, she has designed sportswear for years. Check out her company's website for her interesting story: [www.westcountygardener.com](http://www.westcountygardener.com).



## California Dreamin'



Winter is an excellent season to plan and dream over the landscape and garden possibilities for the coming spring and summer. **Our designers at Alden Lane would love to help!** Whether you are looking to redo a corner of your landscape to create a garden bed or looking to rework your whole landscape, front and back, we are prepared to help you create a dream garden from start to finish. You can have a beautiful and functional landscape this spring or summer with careful planning now. Call Alden Lane to set up an appointment with a professional and creative landscape designer while the temperatures inside are warmer than outside and the dreams for outdoor living are simmering.

We have experienced designers who can help re-organize your spaces, walkways, patios, etc. as well as assemble an interesting plant palette with great curb appeal. Our designers are California Certified Nursery Professionals to help assure your gardening success. Please call with questions or to arrange for an onsite consultation.

### Alden Lane Greenhouse News

Since we are settled into the quiet of winter and spend more time indoors, it's also an excellent time to bring your love of gardening into your home. There are many choices of indoor foliage to inspire you here at the nursery. We carry everything from hanging plants, large palms, orchids, ferns and tabletop choices. Be sure to take a look at our new line of plant stands, wall shelves, and nesting tables that are suitable for indoor or outdoor spaces. Don't forget we also offer custom plant gift baskets and special orders. **Be sure to stop by our Greenhouse soon** for inspiration!

## New Trends in Plant Material

We like to be on the cutting edge of new trends in gardening. We think these new plants fit the bill so we'd like to share them with you. Drop by the nursery and ask to see "what's new for the garden?"

**After Dark Willow Myrtle:** *Agonis flexuosa* is a large shrub or small tree from Western Australia, grown mainly for its small, fragrant, white flowers in late winter to early spring. The deep burgundy red foliage is really great. Color changes from claret/purple in spring and summer, to dark burgundy in winter.

**Icee Blue® Yellow-Wood:** This *Podocarpus* makes a stunning small tree that provides year around shade for patios and terraces. It's evergreen foliage makes an ideal screen for your neighbor's second story windows. Nearly litter free tree for swimming pool areas, driveways, parkways, and street side boulevards. Can be sheared or pruned to be kept at 8'. Ideal for screen or upright form for structure in the garden. Slow growing to 15-25' tall by the same width. Prefers morning sun or partial shade in our area. Likes to be deeply watered & fed in the spring.

**Jervis Gem Coast Rosemary:** This is a great performer, compact with long, bloom and very little maintenance. It also has great texture and is a colorful addition to the garden. The undersides of the leaves have a silvery tint. Beautiful light lilac bloom much of the year. Frost resistant. Rounded compact mounding shrub to 3 feet. Use as hedge, an accent, or in a container planted in heavy soil. Free of pests and diseases.

**'Ruby Cluster' Strawflower:** Distinctive deep red buds open to creamy, double white flowers with yellow centers that fade to buff. The felty grayish foliage is a great accent for the ruby red buds. This hardy perennial reaches a height 12" and about the same in width. Last year these plants

started budding in the winter. Plant in the sun. It appreciates well-drained soil and moderate to little watering when established.

**Twombly's Red Sentinal Maple:** A vigorous, red upright Japanese Maple with an unusually columnar growth habit. The deep red color of the leaves prevails all season long. In the fall after leaves drop the branches darken to a deep red to provide a truly incredible winter silhouette. It makes a great addition to any garden where space is limited. Hurry in! Supplies are limited on this variety.

**Variegated Coronilla:** This Mediterranean native is a real customer pleaser here at Alden Lane Nursery. It is valued for its clusters of fragrant yellow-gold, sweet pea-like flowers and blue-green leaves margined with creamy-yellow. It's a hardy, evergreen shrub that reaches 2' in height and up to 4' in width. Blooms late spring through fall. Makes a great shrub for borders, banks, meadow or containers.



*Happy  
Valentine's Day  
to All of Our  
Wonderful  
Customers!*

## SPRING BULBS ARRIVE EARLY FEBRUARY!

Pre-order **Tuberose** and **Lily of the Valley** pips early so you can be sure yours before we sell out. These popular bulbs (tubers and pips) sell out fast and are available only once a year. Tuberose are \$4.99 for a very large clump. Lily of the Valley are \$8.99 for a bundle of 10 pips. (*This year we will have a few Lily of the Valley available in pink.*)

### Summer Bulbs Start Today in the Garden

A home filled with fragrant cut lilies, gladiolus, dahlias and other blooming bulbs can be yours by braving the cold damp garden in February. Summer bulbs are here at the nursery. Best come early for the very best selection of colors and varieties.

Their bright and dramatic colors make great garden accents for the long, hot summer days. If you plant the **Gladiolus** every two weeks you will have a kaleidoscope of colorful cut flowers through the summer. **Dahlias** are available in different heights and flower forms. The tubers get bigger every year and provide a larger and more colorful show. **Fragrant Tuberose** are very popular and generally sell out, (call ahead and reserve some); **Lily of the Valley** are delicate harbingers of spring but have a small window to prepare for them so let us reserve a package for you. So be sure to call the nursery today – 925-447-0280.

Northern facing garden spots can benefit from the beauty of **tuberous Begonias**. Vivid reds, oranges and pinks as well as pastel shades are available in different flower forms: doubles and singles are just two to consider. Plant the hanging variety in baskets and enjoy at eye level through your windows. Come by and see our fabulous selections.



### Win A Rose Feeding Plan This February

- (1) 10 lb. 12-12-12 Fertilizer
- (1) 8 lb. Bone Meal
- (1) 4.5 lb. Iron Plus
- (1) 5 lb. Epsom Salt (magnesium sulfate)
- (1) 1 cu. ft. Chicken Fertilizer

A \$45 value  
(Please see recipe in this issue)

Drawing to be held February 28, 2006.

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win.

#### ROSE FEEDING February 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Win A Multi-Graft Fruit Tree & Planting Supplies In January

Now you can grow more than one variety of fruit tree in your garden, all in the space of one tree! We are offering a large selection of multi-grafts this year. You'll be able to select one when you win this month's contest!

- A Multi-Graft Fruit Tree**
- 1 cu. ft. Master Nursery Planting Mix**
- 2.5 lb. Master Nursery Bone Meal**

A \$50 value

Drawing to be held January 31, 2006.

No purchase necessary. Need not be present to win.

#### MULTI-GRAFT TREE & SUPPLIES January 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter online.

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

# SPECIAL COUPON FOR JANUARY

Present this Coupon & A Canned Food Item  
TO RECEIVE FREE

## 3 BAREROOT ASPARAGUS PLANTS

*\$1.69 value.*

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies.  
One coupon per family, please. Offer Good January 2-31, 2006.

# SPECIAL COUPON FOR FEBRUARY

Present this Coupon & A Canned Food Item  
TO RECEIVE FREE

## Any Packet of Vegetable or Flower Seeds

*(Up to a value of \$1.99)*

Food Donations are Optional. All donations go to local relief agencies.  
One coupon per family, please! Offer Good February 1-28, 2006.

# HOW TO FIND ALDEN LANE NURSERY



**JANUARY & FEBRUARY HOURS:** 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Note: Because of staff training we will not open until 9:00 a.m. **February 6th –10th** and **February 13th-17th.**



981 Alden Lane  
Livermore, CA 94550  
**(925) 447-0280**

Change Service Requested

**IMPORTANT!**  
Time Critical  
Please Deliver Promptly

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