

# CARLMONT NURSERY

APRIL/MAY 2010  
Vol. 28, No 3

## Home Gardener's Newsletter

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- All deliveries to driveway only unless previous arrangements have been made
- 25% restocking fee on all returns.

### WIN - WIN WIN!

Read our newsletter carefully. If you see your name printed in the text, come in and claim your prize

#### A \$20.00 Gift Certificate!

Must be claimed by May 31, 2010. (Look carefully, there are 6 names)

## Buy 3 get 1 FREE!

Yes! It's that time of year again. We constantly remind you to prepare your beds with a combination of Master Nursery Paydirt and Bumper Crop. We're so determined to get your garden off to the right start that we're putting our money where our mouth is. Now's your chance to get your soil going, so we're offering a **buy 3 get 1 free on both Paydirt and Bumper Crop.** Now's your chance to take advantage of this special offer and put your neighbor's garden to shame.



Oh, and don't forget the *Master Nursery Tomato & Vegetable Food* or *Rose and Flower Food* depending on what you plan on putting in your garden. Regardless, you'll always need some *Master Nursery Master Start* to get things going good from the start.

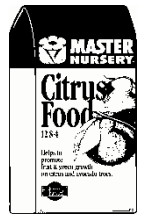


## Citrus Blow-out

Citrus priced to go! *We have a huge inventory of citrus waiting to go.* Now that the fear of frost is over it's the perfect time to plant citrus in your garden. Citrus loves the warm summer months we give them coupled with the mild winters. Some will even produce fruit year round.

Ever wish you had that perfect, care-free, solid green shrub or tree that lends a sturdy presence to your garden Rhonda Carney? Citrus just may be the answer. Oh, and who can pass up the amazing fruit you get each year?

**Oranges, Lemons, Kumquats, Grapefruits.** The choice is endless. Even if space is limited, you'd be surprised how well these easy growing plants do in containers. Ask one of our nursery members just what's right for you. And to keep your plants going year round, don't forget the Master Nursery Citrus Food.



## Japanese Maple Sale

Looking for that small tree to fit perfectly into that empty space you have on the porch? Or maybe you're a collector who likes to get the trees young and train them to your specifications. Regardless of your reason, now's the time to get that small Japanese Maple you've been eyeing Mario Viarengo. We're discounting our 1 gallon and 5 gallon Maples to make sure they find the right home this spring—and that home could be yours.

1-gallon trees \$29.95

Buy 2 \$25.95 each

Buy 3 \$21.95 each

5-gallon trees \$149.99 each

Buy 2 \$125.00 each

Buy 3 100.00 each

### NOW OFFERING

#### Professional Landscape Design, Installation & Maintenance in Your Area!

We specialize in full landscape maintenance service for residential properties. Our team of experienced technicians will provide you with a great looking, worry-free yard to enjoy! Call today to speak to a professional with over 30 years of experience in the industry.

*Mention this flyer and receive a 10% discount on your first three months of service.*

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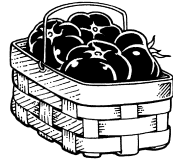
## April/May Success Tips

### 1. It's Spring Planting Time!

Now is the time to plant both *edible* and *ornamental plants* to create a more beautiful yard and home. Enjoy the spring weather while you plant!

2. **Release some of our ladybugs and praying mantids** to help control pests safely and naturally. Read the label directions to improve results. Also pick up some of our live *earthworms* to help improve your soil.

3. It's a great time to **plant warm-season vegetables and herbs**. Try new vegetables, and some new varieties of old favorites.



## Container Vegetables!

Think about the extraordinary taste of sun-ripened vegetables and the convenience of having the ingredients for a gourmet meal right outside of your kitchen. A container vegetable garden is an easy way to have all that!

Select containers about 18-24 inches wide and at least a foot deep. This gives the roots enough room to grow, and reduces the need for frequent watering. Use our *Master's Pride Potting Soil* and *Master Nursery Tomato & Vegetable Food*. The soil levels should be about 2" below the rim of the pot to allow for deep watering. Be sure to provide support, such as tomato cages (which can be used for other vegetables too), trellises, or poles.

Some vegetables to plant in containers include **bush beans, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants, compact squash, leaf lettuce, chard**, and everyone's favorite: **tomatoes!** Add **herbs** or low-growing **annuals** around the edge of the pot to make the planting more decorative.

## Prepare Your Soil and Then Plant

It's April, and serious planting time has begun! We're well stocked with all kinds of flowers, vegetables, herbs, shrubs, trees and groundcovers to plant now, with new stock arriving almost daily.

Prepare your soil properly to ensure success. Whether you have been preparing your soil every year or are working on a new plot, you will want to use a soil conditioner—*Nurseryman's Bumper Crop*, plus add *Master Nursery Master Start Fertilizer*.

This combination enriches the soil and promotes healthier plant growth by enhancing air circulation and allowing greater water and nutrient availability.





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## Create Beautiful Roses!

With just a little care your roses will look their best! Feed roses throughout their growing season, beginning in early spring when growth first appears. Use our *Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care*, which contains a fertilizer, a systemic insecticide that kills aphids and other insects feeding on the plant, plus a systemic fungicide to prevent powdery mildew, rust and black spot.

Or use our *Bayer 2-in-1 Rose & Flower Care*, which contains a fertilizer plus a systemic insecticide to kill aphids and other insects feeding on the plant.

### Protect Your Roses Organically

Keep a sharp eye out for rose diseases, especially this year because of our unusually wet weather, Brooke Joseph. An excellent multi-purpose organic product that controls rust, powdery mildew, and black spot on roses is *Green Light Rose Defense*.

The active ingredient in this product is *neem oil*, which is derived from the tropical neem tree. Neem oil has low toxicity to mammals and beneficial organisms. Plus it controls many insect pests, too, and completely biodegrades within a few weeks, so it is an excellent product to use to maintain healthy roses.



## Grow Your Own Blueberries

In recent years more and more excellent new blueberry varieties have become available that bear fantastic crops in our California climate. Blueberries are a nutrition-packed "super food" that cost a bundle in stores, Charmaine McCrystal. But you can grow plants that yield crops year after year. Blueberries are easy to grow, plus they are very attractive plants.

Plant at least two varieties for better pollination; about two plants for each household member. They prefer acid soil, so add our organic soil amendment and some sulfur at planting time, and when you fertilize use our acid fertilizer. Mulch them because they are shallow-rooted, water regularly, and enjoy a long season of plump, incredibly delicious fresh berries!



## PUZZLED ABOUT YOUR GARDEN?

CALL RAYMOND OR RICHARD TYLER FOR GARDEN CONSULTATION.

8:30-5:30 AT (650) 591-6845

THERE IS A ONE-TIME CHARGE OF \$750.00. THIS CHARGE WILL BE REFUNDED TO YOU AFTER YOUR TOTAL PURCHASES EQUAL \$750.00 OR MORE. SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS. WHEN YOUR

RECEIPTS TOTAL \$750.00, ASK FOR YOUR REFUND.

[www.carlmontnursery.com](http://www.carlmontnursery.com)

### BONUS GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Don't despair if your name doesn't appear in this issue as a Gift Certificate winner! You have a 2nd chance! Come into the Nursery and take a look at the Gift Certificate posted on the bulletin board. If your name is on it, you've won our Bonus Gift Certificate worth \$25.00!

## Live Safer— Grow Your Own!

It's hard to stop talking about how much *better tasting* homegrown fruits and vegetables are than store-bought. But *food safety* is another important reason to grow your own. Here are three serious health hazards lurking in the form of foodborne illnesses and toxins on foods bought in stores.

The FDA found *Salmonella* and *Shigella* bacteria, (which are typically passed on from an infected person who handles them) on 3.5% of *domestically grown cantaloupes*. An amazing 7% of *imported melons* carried these disease-causing bacteria. Recommended: scrub store-bought melons with mild dish soap and warm water before slicing.

**Salad mixes** labeled "*triple-washed*" may still harbor germs. If you aren't growing some of your own greens, protect yourself by always washing store-bought greens under running water one more time. Remove and discard the outer leaves of cabbage and head lettuce before washing thoroughly as well.

Grow your own **peaches**, and avoid as many as *nine different pesticides* used to prevent skin blemishes. Health bonus—studies show the potassium found in peaches and other fruits and vegetables makes your body's pH more alkaline, which helps your body build more lean muscle mass!



## Water-Wise Thinking

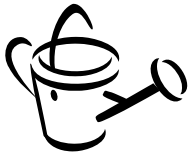
We've had some welcome rainfall this winter, but it's always good practice to be "*water-wise*." Here are a few ideas:

❶ Select plants that thrive in our local conditions, soil, and climate. Many of our plants that are *native, Mediterranean,* and from *similar areas of the world* are low-maintenance, easy to care for, and have low water needs.

❷ Replace or reduce the size of your water-thirsty lawn with *edibles, perennials, and shrubs!* Since mowing, watering, and general upkeep can be quite time consuming, you'll love

having more time to enjoy the variety of blooms, diversity of foliage, and added curb-appeal, plus some healthy food!

❸ Use rain barrels to catch the free water running off of your roof, Rosie Nguyen.



## Plant a Pizza Garden!

"*What is a pizza garden?*" you ask? It is a fun project for families to plant, look at, and eat! Picture a circular area (about 8 feet in diameter) with 6-8 "slices"—each featuring a topping for your delicious homemade pizza. Here's how:

In an area that receives full sun, divide your circle into triangular slices with edging, bricks, or wooden dividers. String attached to stakes can also be used.

Start with **tomato plants**—about four will do. With their sweet taste and pasty consistency, Romas are a favorite choice. Avoid any varieties that result in a watery tomato sauce, as they will make your pizza soggy, Michele Sarko.

**Herbs!** Basil is the staple here; we recommend at least one *sweet basil*, and two other varieties to complete this slice. For the best flavor, pick leaves before the plant begins to flower. For variety, consider basil pesto instead of tomato sauce.

Other popular herbs are *chives, parsley, oregano,* and *thyme*. If planting one herb per slice, use three plants of each type. For multiple herbs, conserve space with just one of each.

Here are some favorites for your remaining slices: **onions** (red, yellow, or white), **scallions, sweet peppers, corn, eggplant, artichokes,** and **zucchini**. For those who like to add zip to their pizza plant **hot peppers** (several should be sufficient!), and **garlic**. An **olive tree** is a lovely addition outside of your pizza garden!



## Do You Know Your NPK's?

Ever notice the letters "**N, P, & K**" on fertilizer packages and wonder what they meant? They represent the primary nutrients a plant uses. Deficiency of any or all of these can cause poor plant health. Here's an explanation of how each element helps a plant grow and thrive.



**N: Nitrogen** is necessary for growth above ground and for greening of the leaves. It's particularly important for leafy plants like lettuce, spinach, cabbage, and grasses.

**P: Phosphorus** increases root growth, improves fruit and flower formation, and improves disease resistance.

**K: Potassium** strengthens stems and roots, increases fruit size, and improves resistance to disease, drought, and other stresses. Root and tuber crops such as carrots, beets, and potatoes require larger amounts of potassium than other vegetables.

Secondary elements (*calcium, magnesium, and sulfur*) are also essential to plant growth, but plants don't require as much as they do of the primary nutrients. Required in still smaller amounts are micronutrients *boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum,* and *zinc*.

Proper feeding makes a huge difference in how well plants perform. Don't get just any fertilizer—ask us to recommend the best ones for your particular plants.

## Buried Treasure & Happy Endings

While digging in his backyard, 3-year-old Ryan Baima, of Franklin, MA, found a set of wedding rings. Ryan's mother was able to locate Joan Mulligan, who had lost them while she was gardening back in 1976. Curiously, the rings managed to migrate to the other side of the yard from where they were last seen, and be found—despite a recent removal of over eight truckloads of dirt!

We wonder if Mrs. Mulligan remembered to take off her rings before gardening during the last 33 years? Bonus happy ending: the long-lost rings will be repaired just in time for the Mulligan's 50th anniversary.





# Fido Loves Your Garden

*Now you need to love Fido in your garden*

Gardening is one of the most popular pastimes in the world. Dogs are one of the most popular pets in the world. So, it would stand to reason this can cause some dog vs. garden issues. But those issues can be headed off long before they become problems with a little bit of planning. Creating a dog friendly garden will help you and your canine friend enjoy the garden.

Dogs need boundaries and rules, just like kids, in order to be welcome in the garden. If you'd like to have Fido by your side as you work, teach him to lie down and stay in a special spot. Just as he learns to go to his crate or his bed in the house, so he can learn quickly to lie down in his own place in the garden.

Owning a dog can also mean giving up perfectionism and learning forgiveness. So what exactly is it that will keep you and Fido happy in the garden?

## **Paths to run and patrol**

Fido needs exercise. Paths give him a designated space to do it as well as a venue to perform his perceived job — to patrol your property line and keep out intruders. If you watch most dogs in a yard, they establish a natural path and will often patrol the perimeter of the yard. So if you're starting a new garden, putting the plants out of the dog's travel path would be a good idea.

## **A place to answer nature's call**

Fido needs a spot to relieve himself, but it doesn't have to be your lawn or flower bed. Set aside a corner of your yard as a toilet area, and train your pet to eliminate there and nowhere else. Cover the designated area with material Fido will accept and that you can clean easily. Flagstone, pea gravel, bricks, and cedar chips are all good choices. If you have a male dog, consider adding a marking post so he can define his territory.

## **Shade and shelter**

Like humans, Fido enjoys basking in the sun. So by all means, give him a deck or a patch of lawn for sunbathing. But remember that dogs can overheat easily, so it's even more important to provide them with cooling retreats. Most dogs seem to appreciate having a shelter of their own, such as a doghouse.

## **Plant densely and wisely**

As much as we would like Fido to not tear up our new plants, chances are he will. When you put a new plant into your garden, you may want to invest in a larger plant. A larger plant is less likely to be disturbed by your dog than a small plant. Keep in mind that if you plant landscaped areas densely, dogs will stay out.

As for safety in the garden, be very cautious about growing poisonous plants. See our "How-To Guide" on poisonous plants on our website at [www.CarlmontNursery.com](http://www.CarlmontNursery.com). Also avoid thorny and spiny plants, which can cause serious eye injuries.

Compost pile should be off-limits. Weeds can be dangerous, especially foxtail grasses with barbed seed heads, which dogs can accidentally inhale with serious consequences.

## **Make Solid Paths**

Use solid pavers rather than mulch or gravel. To a dog, loose materials are ideal for digging in. If your dog is still going through your flower beds even after you have provided paths, get down to his level and see what he sees. Perhaps there is a "doggy" path through your bed in the form of gaps in your plantings. Add additional plantings or place a barrier in these unintended paths.



## **Limit Pesticide and Herbicide Use**

A no-brainer. While most pesticides and herbicides will not kill poor Fido, it can make him very sick. Remember, your dog is much closer to the ground, and these chemicals, than you are and he has less body mass which makes the chemicals more concentrated. Consider using more natural ways to fight off pests and weeds. If you must use chemicals, limit your dog's contact with the affected area for at least a few days after you have applied the chemicals.

So next time you wander out to the garden and see your favorite Petunia laying on the pathway, don't yell at Fido, he was only doing what comes naturally. You've put a lot of thought into creating a garden to suit your needs and desires, now think about how Fido fits into this scenario.

