



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday September 7th, 6-8 pm**

**Spooky Creepy Halloween Party at  
The Lazy K & Harvest Market Place**

*Come join the fun - Costumes encouraged*

**Saturday & Sunday, October 6th & 7th**

**Opening weekend of Orchard's  
Harvest Festival 2007**

*Fall planting and decorating workshops,  
farm animals, scarecrows, pumpkins, music  
and family fun! Come in and pick up your  
schedule of events, or download it online at  
[www.orchardnursery.com](http://www.orchardnursery.com)*

**Saturday October 13th, 8 am to 1 pm  
& Sunday October 21st, 8 am til Noon**

**Stay healthy this winter, get your Flu  
shots from a licensed RN - \$25**

*Subject to availability of vaccine*

**Saturday & Sunday, October 20th & 21st**

**Our Annual Christmas Open House**

*The Christmas store will be open with all its  
magic and surprises. Celebrate the Tradition  
that is 'Christmas at Orchard Nursery'*

**Orchard Nursery  
Home & Garden News  
September 2007**

## Extending Your Tomato Growing Season

One of the great pleasures of vegetable gardening is finding new and unusual varieties to grow and tantalize our taste buds. Heirloom tomatoes are one of these that have surged in popularity in the past several years. Tomato enthusiasts are finding bounties of bright rainbow colored, sugar sweet flavored tomatoes that they harvest from their gardens with pride and consume them or share them with friends and family. This enthusiasm is evident at garden centers during spring where many serious tomato enthusiasts mob the tables for their favorite variety to satisfy their craving for these ripe sweet fruit.

Until recently our tomato season would finish at the first signs of frost and then we endured the next several months without our favorite sweet bounty.

But, what about if we could prolong the season and have plants that would bring us a late harvest of fruit in what we would normally consider the off-season?

After several years of trialing many tomato varieties, we found it possible to grow tomatoes in the "off-season." After the completion of the trial, we chose those varieties that we felt would produce well on the west coast.

These Cool Season Varieties were selected for their adaptation to cooler temperatures, less daylight hours and higher humid climates.

You will need to follow a slightly different set of rules when planting these varieties, it is well worth the effort to have tomatoes when the only tomatoes offered are the tasteless fruit you would find at the grocery store.

The rules are simple. To have a successful crop, we recommend planting these varieties from August through the end of September. It seems strange that these off season varieties would be planted so early and in such warmer temperatures, but getting your plants started in mid-summer is important because we need to utilize the heat of the summer to produce a large canopy of foliage and a mature root system.



When cooler temperatures arrive, the plant will be able to withstand the cold and still survive to produce fruit. In most cases if temperatures fall into the 40°F range, these plants will survive. If you live in an area that falls below 40°F, use your tomato cage from spring as a shelter and cover the cage with a frost fabric or wrap the cage with clear plastic sandwich wrap. Leave a six inch gap at the bottom and top of the cage to allow for some air circulation and put a piece of cardboard over the top of the cage to prevent cold air from traveling down the cage from the open top. As long as foliage does not have direct contact with the frost, it will survive.

*continued on back page*

# Orchard Nursery's HARVEST FESTIVAL 2007

Something Fun Every Weekend!  
October 6<sup>th</sup> thru Halloween

Enjoy fall planting and decorating workshops, farm animals,  
scarecrows, pumpkins, music and family fun!

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

## Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>

### 10-11 Meet Brian, the orchid guy™

Discover Brian's secrets to growing orchids, while watching his hands-on demonstration. You may recognize Brian from his many appearances on 'Henry's Garden'.

### 11-1 The East Bay Banjo Club

If you love Banjos, happy music and fun, this is the place to be. Tips and compensation are donated to various charities.

### 11-4 The Bubbling Cauldron Co.

Sally Case's handmade Haunted Halloween Houses are back. Perfect for your tabletop Howl-i-Day decorating!

### 1-3 Healthy Gardening, Family Style

Learn how to maintain a healthy garden that's safe for children, pets and good for the environment, too. Presented by Stephanie Ripple, of the Neudorff Co.

## Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>

### 11-12 Living with Lavender

Learn preparations for the culinary and household uses of lavender. Sandi Hunt, of "Oh Taste & See", demonstrates which varieties work best for particular applications.

### 11-4 The Bubbling Cauldron Co.

Sally Case's handmade Haunted Halloween Houses are back. Perfect for your tabletop Howl-i-Day decorating!

### 1-3 It's Tomato Tasting Time!

The Heirloom Tomato Co. provides us with a variety of delicious tomatoes for you to sample and consider planting in next year's garden.

### 2-4 4th Annual Pie Contest

Bring us your favorite Harvest Pie and we'll let our esteemed judges hand down the verdict. Entries must be presented by noon. Winners will be announced at 4PM. Put your name and phone number on your pie plate. Contest limited to 12 entries. Please call Chris at 925-299-5444 ASAP to reserve your space!

### 3-5 Classical Guitar

Solo artist, Glenn Staller has performed at Davies Symphony Hall, The Kennedy Center, Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts and others.

## Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>

### 8-1 Get Your Flu Shots

Stay healthy this winter! Get Flu shots from a Licensed RN. \$25 each. (Subject to availability of vaccine.)

### 10-12 Make a Mosaic Pot, Part 1

In Part 1, Nursery Pros, Shawna and Victoria, teach you how to create a beautiful and artful container. Return Sunday to complete your project. \$20 material fee per pot. Reservations required, call Chris at 925-299-5444.

### 11-4 The Bubbling Cauldron Co.

Sally Case's handmade Haunted Halloween Houses are back. Perfect for your tabletop Howl-i-Day decorating!

### 11-1 Smooth Jazz with 'Daybreak'

Seasoned musicians who play a hybrid style of Jazz, Rhythm & Blues and Light Rock.

### 1-2:30 Home Composting Seminar

Home Composting For Busy People. Learn from the experts at Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority how to make your own "Garden Gold".

### 3-5 'The Blue Moon Brothers'

Always a crowd favorite, come and kick up your heels with one of our favorite bands.

## Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>

### 10-12 Make a Mosaic Pot, Part 2

In Part 2, you will learn how to finish your container and add a colorful plant to complete the project! Attendance on Saturday Oct. 13th, at the 10AM class is required.

### 11-4 The Bubbling Cauldron Co.

Sally Case's handmade Haunted Halloween Houses are back. Perfect for your tabletop Howl-i-Day decorating!

### 2-3 "O" is for Organic Gardening

Learn from an expert how to grow a beautiful, bountiful and healthy garden organically with products readily available at Orchard. Presented by our favorite sales rep, friend and Advanced California Certified Nursery Professional, Tom Jones, from E.B. Stone & Son.

### 3-5 'Harmonics' Steel Drum Band

Join Peter Best and Friends and enjoy their soothing island sounds.

## FROM THE GARDEN SHOP



### ClearFast Pond Water Treatment

Do you own a pond or waterfall and have a difficult time with the water becoming cloudy or discolored? We have a solution. Laguna Clear Fast Pond Water Treatment contains a special fast-acting formula that clears cloudy or discolored pond water. Laguna Clear Fast Pond Water Treatment also helps clump debris which makes it easier for removal by mechanical filtration. Laguna Clear Fast Pond Water Treatment is safe for pond fish and plants and the 8 fl oz bottle treats 1250 gallons of water. And for those of you who own fish, we also carry Koi sticks.

## No Cat Zone

No Cat Zone cat repellent, from Monterey Lawn & Garden, is made from naturally occurring Garlic and Citronella oils. The persistent odor drives cats away and one 8oz package will cover 500 Sq. Ft. Apply Monterey No Cat Zone cat repellent at the rate of 1 tablespoon per 10 sq. ft., spreading evenly over the area in question. The effectiveness of No Cat Zone cat repellent is based on purely vegetable aromatic ingredients, bonded to a clay-based mineral granulate. No Cat Zone cat repellent drives cats away effectively, without harming them, from back yards, terraces, patios and places where birds regularly gather.

*The*  
*Lazy K House*  
*Presents*

# Halloween 2007

*As you've never seen it before*

*Spooky haunted houses*

*Creepy spiders &*

*Other delectable treats*

*Fearsome pirates &*

*Chandeliers to swing from*

*Witches, warlocks &*

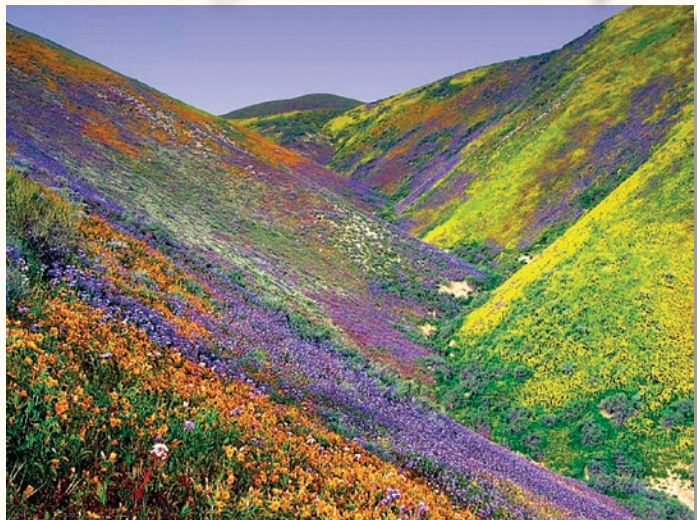
*Spells to curl your toes*

*Halloween opens*  
*On the eve of*  
*September 7th*



Wildflower seed is best planted in the fall. If your area has extremely harsh winters, then a spring planting is preferable. We often see wildflowers blooming and want to plant seed. When you see the flowers blooming, you must realize that the seed, which produced those blooms, were planted perhaps months prior to the bloom! The time to plant isn't when you see the blooms, but well in advance of that. Seed that is planted too late will run out of soil moisture and will likely not mature before frost. If it doesn't have enough time to mature and set seed, then it will not return the following spring. This isn't the case with perennials, which will come back each spring, as long as they have sufficient moisture in the soil to keep them alive during the summer months.

## Wildflower Tips



Once your flowers have finished blooming, they will normally start to dry up and set their seed for the following year. If you wait till the seed has matured, it will replenish your garden for fresh flowers in the spring. You may wish to cut down the dying flowers to make the area look more uniform. Don't cut until your seeds have matured, otherwise you won't have wildflowers the following spring. You can check to see if the seedpods are mature by opening one or two of them. If the seeds are brownish or black, or if they have started to harden up, they are mature enough to cut. Once cut, leave them on the ground for a couple of days until the seed has dispersed. That way, you'll have a garden ready for you in the spring!

Seed will last several years if stored properly. The best way to store it is in the container in which you purchased it. Keep it in an area that is cool, dry, and out of direct sunlight. If it is in a cloth bag, do not set the bag directly on concrete flooring, as the seed will wick any moisture in the concrete into the bag. Stored this way, your seed will last for several additional seasons.

*Orchard Nursery has a wonderful selection of wild flower seeds available now for a great show of blooms next spring!*

# Orchard's Garden Calendar

## Garden Tasks and Tips for September

- Keep annuals well-fed and well-watered to promote more flowers and maintain healthy foliage. Feed your potted plants twice a month. Try **MasterNursery All Purpose Plant Food (18-18-18)**.
- Deep irrigate and feed established shrubs and trees to prepare them for winter.
- Feed citrus with **MasterNursery Citrus Food** to strengthen them for the cold weather ahead and to ensure healthy plants and good fruit production.
- Switch to **MasterBloom (0-10-10)** for your rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas. This will help promote larger, more profuse blooming next spring.
- Plant Sweet Peas now, from seeds or starts, for fragrant blossoms throughout the late winter and early spring.
- This is California's "Second Spring" and now is the time for fall bedding plants. Pansies and violas are at the top of everyone's list with primrose, snapdragons and stock not far behind. But, don't forget the ornamental cabbage and kale, nemesia, schizanthus and Iceland poppies! Calendula are an old favorite, too and cyclamen are a "must have" for your pots and borders.
- Get a jump on spring by planting perennials and biennials this fall. Foxglove, dianthus, delphinium, coreopsis, Canterbury bells, coral bells and columbine are but a few of the choices available now in 6-packs or by the flat for that "massed" effect you've always dreamed of. Talk to our Bedding Plant pros for some helpful advice.
- Don't forget the fall vegetable garden. Choose from broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, chard, peas, spinach, lettuce, turnips, garlic, onions, herbs, and more.
- Use **Monterey Weed Impede** to prevent weeds in your flower beds, ground covers, around trees and shrubs. In non planted areas, such as driveways, along fences, around buildings, patios, walkways, etc., where you don't want weed growth spray early to keep weeds away.

## 2008 Roses & Fruit Trees

Our new lists will be available by early-September, so come in or visit us online to see what all the excitement is about. We're stocking many new rose varieties, including the new AARS award winners for 2008; '**Mardi Gras**', and '**Dream Come True**'.

Our in-house **Bareroot Fruit Tree List** is somewhat streamlined, but one of our suppliers is making a large selection available for your shopping pleasure (before Nov. 1st)—ask for the **Special Order Fruit Tree List**. Both are available online at [www.orchardnursery.com](http://www.orchardnursery.com)

*Have a question about your garden, home decorating or houseplants?*  
**Ask the experts at Orchard. We're here to help!**

## Summer Harvest Series Pt.2

Okay, now your summer vegetables have been growing, here are some tips about when to harvest and recipes to further enjoy your summer harvest.

**Basil:** *Flavor is best in the morning and before flowers open.*

**Eggplant:** *Slightly immature fruits taste best. The fruits should be firm and shiny. Cut rather than pulling from the plant.*

### Pesto Minestrone

Preparation Time: 30 minutes      Number of Servings: 8  
Cups of Fruits and Vegetables Per Person: 3.0

#### Ingredients:

##### Minestrone

2 cups coarsely chopped cauliflower (the equivalent of about 2 small heads)  
1½ cups chopped zucchini (1-2 medium)  
3 14.5 oz. low sodium chicken broth  
1 16 oz. can diced tomatoes, drained  
1 cup uncooked elbow macaroni or small pasta shells  
3 cups canned kidney beans or black-eyed peas, drained and rinsed  
1 cup sliced carrot  
1 cup chopped onion

##### Pesto

2 Tbsp olive oil      2 garlic cloves  
1 cup fresh, loosely packed basil leaves      1 Tbsp water

#### Directions:

##### Minestrone

In a 5-6 quart saucepan bring ½ cup water to boil and add tomatoes, cauliflower, onion and carrots; reduce heat and simmer covered 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Add zucchini, beans, broth and pasta. Return to a boil, reduce heat and simmer uncovered 10 minutes.

##### Pesto

Put all pesto ingredients in food processor or blender and process until very finely chopped. Just before serving, remove soup from heat and stir in pesto.

### Stuffed Eggplant

Preparation Time: 45 minutes      Number of Servings: 4  
Cups of Fruits and Vegetables Per Person: 1.0

#### Ingredients:

1½ cups bread crumbs      2 eggplants  
2 diced tomatoes      ½ cup diced green bell pepper  
½ cup diced onion      ½ cup diced celery  
2 Tbsp fresh minced parsley      2 Tbsp fat free Parmesan cheese  
vegetable cooking spray

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cut eggplants in half lengthwise. Scoop out and save the flesh, leaving the shells ¾ inch-thick. If necessary, trim a small piece off the bottom of each shell so it won't tip over. Set aside. Coat large skillet with vegetable cooking spray. Chop up reserved eggplant and add to skillet. Add tomato, bell pepper, onion, and celery. Place skillet over medium heat; cover and cook about 5 minutes, until vegetables are tender. Remove skillet from heat. Stir in bread crumbs and parsley. Spoon mixture into the hollow eggplant shells. Arrange stuffed shells in a shallow baking dish coated with vegetable spray. Sprinkle 1½ tsp Parmesan on top of each shell. Bake for 25 minutes, until filling heats through and top is golden brown.

These recipes are from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website. You can get the nutritional facts and diabetic exchange information for each recipe. <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/dnparchive/recipe/recipe.aspx>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Produce for Better Health Foundation (PBH) are leading this initiative and are in partnership with other health organizations. The goal is to achieve increased daily consumption of fruits and vegetables.

For more information on the Fruits and Veggies—More Matters health initiative, brand and logo, please visit PBH at [www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org). You will also find activities and tips for getting children involved as well as more recipes.

*Thanks to Randall Barnes, our Bedding Plants Manager, for these tips.*

*continued from page 1*

As an advocate for organic gardening, I prepare my soil with an organic planting mix, add earthworm castings, compost teas and an organic fertilizer with Humic Acids. Liquid kelp used as a foliar can increase plants resistance to colder air.

In our experiments, we found that using fertilizers with Humic Acids help prevent our test plant from frost damage. Humic Acids stimulated the plant to create a larger canopy of foliage which translates to the amount of starches it could produce. These starches in the vascular system act like anti-freeze in your automobile and protect the foliage from frost damage. Our trials have proven unprotected survivability to 36°F. Synthetic fertilizers, however, have proven to be detrimental to cool season tomatoes as the forced growth cannot withstand temperatures below 40°F.

Water as necessary. Tomato plants still need as much water in the cooler season as they need in the summer. The only constant that changes is the humidity level and the rate of evaporation.

Staking is not a real issue here. Most of the plants are determinates and only grow to 3 feet tall. A short stake is enough just to hold the plant up.

This year we will feature 9 varieties of Cool Season Tomatoes.

**Galina's Cherry**, Indeterminate, 59 days maturity. One of the most flavorful yellow cherry available. Great crops of 1 in sized fruit with bright shiny skins.

**Glacier**, Semi-indeterminate, 63 days. Extremely early producing 2 to 3 oz. red fruit. Cold tolerant with high yields.

**Ispolin**, Indeterminate, 70 days. A giant from Siberia. Ispolin can produce 1-2 pound round pink fruit on vine that can reach 7 feet tall.

**Jetsetter VFFNTA Hybrid**, Indeterminate, 64 days. A short season plant that doesn't sacrifice size or flavor. Good, rich flavor from tomato fruit that grows to 8 oz. Large yields on vigorous plants and highly disease resistant.

**Legend**, Determinate, 68 days. Developed at the University of Oregon. This glossy red tomato produces high yields and very disease resistant. Fruit has a nice acid to sugar blend.

**Sasha Altai**, Indeterminate, 59 days. Extremely early and extraordinarily sweet and juicy. Slightly flattened red fruit to 8 ozs.

**Siberia**, Determinate, 48 days. A very early Russian variety smuggled out of Siberia in 1975. Capable of setting fruit at 38°F, this sturdy dark green plant produces 3 to 5 oz. fruit in clusters of 30 or more. A very popular variety in Alaska.

**Stupice**, Indeterminate, 52 days. From the Czech Republic, this extremely early, cold tolerant variety is our workhorse for fall, as well as spring and summer. Small, red, 2 oz. fruit to have superior flavor. Produces outstanding yields. Averaging 90 per plant, in our trials, this plant produced over 300 fruit in 2004.

**Taxi**, Semi-indeterminate, 65 days. An attractive bright yellow tomato is the favorite of its class. 1 to 2 oz. fruit have a sweet distinctive flavor. Voted in our tastings in the top 25 competing with spring/summer varieties. Heavy yields on smaller plants. The best yellow tomato for cool areas.

*Our thanks to Steve Goto for this informative article.*

---

Orchard's Home & Garden News is published by Orchard Nursery & Florist, Inc. Articles are written or selected from current horticultural publications by the staff of Orchard Nursery & Florist.

---



Orchard Nursery & Florist, Inc.  
4010 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-284-4474



VISIT US ONLINE AT... [www.orchardnursery.com](http://www.orchardnursery.com)