

Orchard

NURSERY & FLORIST

Home & Garden News

Certified Nursery Staff • Rare and Unusual Plants • Distinctive Gifts • Floral Design Services

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOP A LITTLE LATER

For your Springtime Shopping convenience, starting April 13th, Orchard will remain open until 6:00 PM everyday. You can swing by the Nursery on your way home from work, or just when you get the urge to do a little work in the garden and need a few last-minute supplies. We will have sales staff available in every department except the Lazy K Gift House.



EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22ND

Now observed in 175 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, according to whom Earth Day is now "the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a half billion people every year."

MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10TH

A lot like 'Earth Day' only a little more personal! Orchard has gift ideas in every department. Mom will love you for it!

**Orchard Nursery, Florist
& Lazy K Gift House**
Home & Garden News
April 2009

Encore Azaleas!

People who adore spring blooming azaleas can now enjoy an explosion of Encore



Each of the Encore varieties begins their performance with the spring flowering season. Once this "first act" of blooming concludes, new shoots begin to grow and set buds. The Encore Azalea's "second act" opens when these buds begin blooming into full flower mid-summer. This unique bloom season continues through the fall, the curtain dropping with the onset of cold weather. But, the show goes on. As an "encore," these exceptional azaleas flower again with traditional spring azaleas and the process starts over.

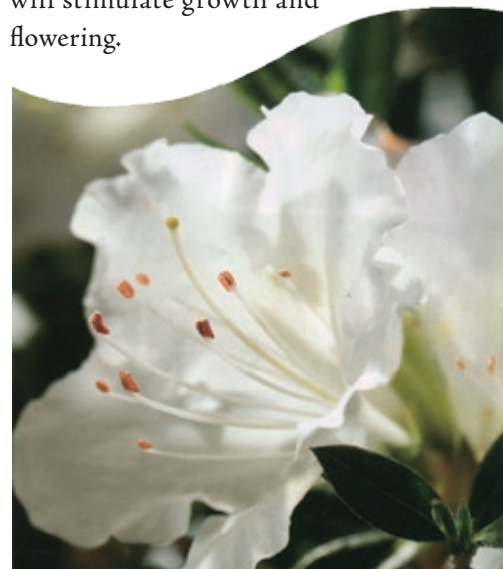
The Plant: Encore Azaleas® are similar to traditional azaleas in that they require proper planting, watering and care to thrive in their new home. Here are a few simple guidelines to help your new plants grow to their fullest potential.

Sun Exposure: Encore Azaleas® perform best in full sun to light, filtered shade, preferably an afternoon shade. A minimum of four to six hours of direct sunlight per day is required for proper blooms. Care must be taken to prevent exposure to drought or other heat related stress conditions associated with

full sun exposure. However, too shady an area can result in skipped or significantly reduced bloom cycles.

Spring & Summer Planting Care: Water your Encore Azalea® well when you first plant it, and keep the soil moist until winter. New azaleas will die quickly if the soil dries excessively. Your new Encore Azalea should only need moderate watering after the first year unless there are periods of excessive drought. Fertilize with the recommended levels of azalea feed soon after planting. Do not fertilize after August.

Pruning: Encore Azaleas® require very little pruning to retain good form and do not need "dead-heading." If you think your Encore Azalea® needs pruning, do so immediately after the spring flowering for maximum bud set. Light pruning of more established plants will stimulate growth and flowering.



continued on backpage

from The Flower Shop...

Mother's Day May 10th

*Make her heart sing
with Fresh Flowers by*

Orchard

FEATURED IN THE GARDEN SHOP

"Oh my! My lawn is turning brown, and I know the sprinklers are working because the lawn is wet!
HELP ...!"



If this is you, I would like you to perform a test. Take a walk on the lawn, look down and the little bugs jumping at your feet are probably lawn moths. Lawn Moths, when disturbed makes a short flight close to the grass. At night, these moths drop their eggs indiscriminately on to turf. Sod webworm cut off leaf blades. Heavily infested turf quickly appears moth eaten, with irregular patches of brown grass or bare areas. Significant damage can also occur on drought-affected lawns. When sod webworms are present, de-thatching the turf grass may help. Feeding the lawn with RINGER Lawn Restore Natural Lawn Food will encourage a new healthy lawn and the sod webworms may be controlled at the same time.



Don't forget, we are here for you, so come on in and see us today. Oh, by the way... Green Light Lawn & Garden Spray with SPINOSAD also controls cat fleas.

Calling Dr. Earth...

We have added more Dr. Earth Organics to our selection of "Earth Friendly" products.

The Dr. Earth difference, of course, is in the performance. Dr. Earth products provide FAST growth results PLUS the long-term plant and soil health associated with true organic fertilizers.

Dr. Earth has made the well-known benefits of organic gardening available to the typical home gardener and each Dr. Earth product is formulated to provide the perfect nutrient ratio based on a plant's needs.

Thanks to Michael Parten, CCNPro, for his "timely tips" from The Garden Shop.



The Lazy K Gift House



Happy Mother's Day To all our favorite Lazy K Mothers

*Here's our recipe for a great
Mother's Day:*

*Create a Happy Place for
Mother in her garden!*

Start with a bright butterfly bench.

*Add garden ornaments, fun
flowers, or lanterns on a stake.*



*Top it with a heavy dose of
blooming spring bulbs and
annuals.*



*We have so many extra
special gifts for Mom at the
Lazy K House. Our
silk floral designers have an
amazing array of small*

precious arrangements that will delight any flower lover.

*Maybe a wreath to welcome
guests at the door.*



*And with all the new
fashions and accessories
arriving daily there is
something exciting for
everyone you want to
remember.*



Eat Your Garden!



Somewhere, sometime, someone started a pesky rumor that growing vegetables is more work and trouble than growing flowers. Let us now lay that rumor to rest - *it isn't so!* The National Garden Bureau reminds us that keeping a vegetable garden is no more trouble than a flower garden and, for many gardeners, the rewards are even greater because (in one sense) you can have your garden and eat it, too!

The Seven Joys of Vegetable Gardening

If you haven't tried growing vegetable in your garden, you don't know what you are missing. Not only does a neatly tended vegetable garden (we'll get to the tending part later) look great, but you can enjoy many of the fruits of your labors well into the winter months. Here are seven reasons to start or continue a vegetable garden.

1. Exercise: Gardening does require some work, but this can easily be considered exercise. *Stretch* to pull that nasty crabgrass ... *dig* to remove that dandelion root ... *breathe* deeply to fill your lungs with fresh air. All of these gardening activities help to burn calories and increase your physical well-being.

2. Food: An obvious benefit to vegetable gardening is that it results in good things to eat. And fresh vegetables always taste better than any store-bought produce. In fact, the exceptional flavor of home grown foods is one major reason why people grow vegetables.

3. Health: Fresh vegetables are health foods. Many vegetables have traveled miles to be on display at the grocery stores. This journey results in lost vitamins and minerals. The vegetables from your garden are the most nutritious, containing the vitamins and minerals for healthy bodies.

4. Beauty: A vegetable garden is as pleasing to the eyes as a flower garden. And most vegetables flower before they grow fruit, so you really do get both in one garden.

5. Knowledge: Experience is the best teacher. When you garden you can see Nature at work. You can't help but learn about nature and nurturing plants. As a parent, you can share this knowledge with your children.

6. Self Satisfaction: There is something very satisfying about tending a garden and reaping its rewards. One feels almost virtuous. Plus gardening is an occupation that the whole family can do together.

7. Money Savings: The monetary investment in seeds, plants, fertilizer, etc. is minimal and compared to buying fresh or canned produce you could save a lot of money, especially if you store some of the bounty for the later months.



Orchard's Garden Calendar

April Garden To Do's

- Once the danger of frost is past you can plant impatiens, petunias, marigolds—all the spring/summer annuals.
- Continue to pick up and destroy camellia flowers that fall to the ground so that they don't become a home for diseases.
- Check with our California Certified Nursery Professionals™ about the best controls for spring pests such as aphids, scale, slugs and snails. We have many "less toxic" choices to offer.
- As the soil warms, this is the month to plant a vegetable garden—cucumbers, squash, beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers and egg plant. Short on garden space? Ask us about containers for the deck or patio. Let the kids join in on the fun of gardening. Quick results can be seen by planting radishes to keep the kids' interested while waiting for the others to grow.
- If you have a container garden, be sure to watch out for their watering needs since plants in containers tend to dry out faster than those in the ground.
- Deciduous flowering shrubs and trees can be pruned right after they finish blooming.
- Pinch back new growth for fuller fuchsias. Try morning glories, nasturtiums or black-eyed Susan vines to hide an unattractive fence, to provide shade or create privacy on your porch.
- Start feeding camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons with Master Nursery™ Camellia/Azalea/ Gardenia Fertilizer as they finish blooming.
- Add a 1-2" layer of Master Nursery™ Bumper Crop or Gold Rush Mulch on vegetable/flower beds and garden areas to conserve moisture and reduce the number of weeds.

Take quick action to control Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are delicious food for fish and other aquatic creatures, but their buzzing and itchy bites make them a serious annoyance to people. And with the West Nile Virus still "at large" these pests pose an even greater threat to humans. Here then, are a few control methods as outlined in the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District pamphlet entitled "Keeping MOSQUITOES Away From You and Your Yard", such as; eliminating standing water in containers, fixing leaky outdoor faucets and sprinklers, keeping swimming pools, hot tubs and fountains clean and circulating.

There are many "Less-Toxic" product available and here are just a few: 'Mosquito Dunks', 'Mosquito Bits', and 'Pre-Strike'. For more information please come in and pick up the pamphlet on controlling Mosquitoes the Less-Toxic Way; as well as other control methods for a variety of garden pests.

Mark Your Calendar... May 2nd

The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host its 6th annual Lamorinda garden tour, "Through the Garden Gate," Saturday, May 2nd from 10am – 3pm, rain or shine. All proceeds go to UCSF Children's Hospital Child Life Services' Music Program.

Tickets for the tour will be for sale at Orchard Nursery in March as well as through www.moragajuniors.org and MJWC members. Tickets cost \$30 per person and gourmet box lunches can be pre-ordered for \$10 each.

Have a question about your garden, home decorating or houseplants?

Ask the experts at Orchard. We're here to help!

**AT ORCHARD
NURSERY**
**money really does
grow on trees!**

**BONUS BUCKS
are here again!**

**Collect them in
March and April.
Spend them in July!**

**Your Purchases Will Earn
Bonus Bucks in March & April!**

Again this year you can earn **Bonus Bucks** only during the months of March and April. At that time we will give you 10% of your purchase back in **Orchard Nursery Bonus Bucks**. Then use them toward your purchases during the month of July.

Encore Azaleas *continued from page 1*

Availability: Encore Azaleas® have been in short supply in the past, however, we believe that we have secured a source for these highly sought-after plants. Our plant buyer, Peter T., says that by mid-April we will have the following 7 colors in stock. Retail prices will be \$19.98 for the 1 gallon size and \$45.00 for the 3 gallon size. Stop by and see these gorgeous azaleas for yourself!

Autumn Amethyst - purple

Autumn Angel - white (*lower corner front page*)

Autumn Carnival - medium pink

Autumn Royalty - purple (*middle front page*)

Autumn Sangria - deep violet-pink

Autumn Sunset - orange-red (*this page*)

Autumn Twist - white with purple stripes



Through the Garden Gate — May 2nd 2009



The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host its 6th annual Lamorinda garden tour, "Through the Garden Gate,"

Saturday, May 2nd from 10AM – 3PM, rain or shine. All proceeds from this year's event will go to UCSF Children's Hospital Child Life Services Music Program.

Started with a seed grant from Rock Against Cancer, the Music Program provides music listening, composition, production, and performance opportunities for the hospital's young patients. By attending medical procedures with patients and participating in and leading bedside musical play, music circles, and one-on-one instruction, the musician-in-residence, Gabe Turow, aims to reduce patient pain medication needs, speed healing times, and help comfort and lessen the stress and anxiety of the patients.

The garden tour will showcase six Lamorinda gardens – 3 in Lafayette, 1 in Moraga, and 2 in Orinda. In addition to stunning plant and hardscape elements, highlights from this year's tour include an aviary, a putting green, sculptures by Northern California artists, outdoor kitchens, waterfalls, and bocce ball courts.

Tickets for the tour are on sale at Orchard Nursery as well as through www.moragajuniors.org and MJWC members. Tickets cost \$30 per person and gourmet box lunches can be pre-ordered for \$10 each.

For more information about the tour, visit www.moragajuniors.org or call event tri-chair, Kana Ryan, at 377-0601.

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Because Life Should Be Beautiful™

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