

Orchard

NURSERY & FLORIST

Home & Garden News

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shop a little later... through May 31st!

For your Springtime Shopping convenience, starting April 5th and running through Memorial Day, May 31st, 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 knowledgeable sales staff available in every department.

Mother's Day Sunday, May 9th!

Say "Happy Mother's Day" to those you love with something special from Orchard. We have wonderful gift ideas in every department.

Don't forget Father's Day Sunday, June 20th

And the Grads on your list!

Orchard always has lots of gift ideas in every department. Stop in and see us!

**Orchard Nursery, Florist
& Lazy K Gift House
Home & Garden News
May-June 2010**

Geraniumus In Your Garden

When you think of geraniums, often the big, showy Martha Washington's come to mind, or the colorful, trailing Ivy Geraniums. But these are, in reality, what botanists and nursery people refer to as Pelargoniums. Although in the same family, Geraniaceae, they are very different from their woodland and alpine relatives. There is another term for these charming and sometimes diminutive plants—The true Geraniums.

The genus Geranium encompasses a large group of plants, mostly perennial, that come from around the world—from the Himalayas to South Africa and even the U.S. Often known as hardy geraniums, they are more commonly called Cranesbill, after the beaked shaped fruit that forms after flowering. In gardens, Geraniums are useful as ground cover or for rock gardens, and they behave well with other plants! They can have a pungent, citrus-like scent to the leaves.

In our area Geraniums perform best in light shade, but most can take full sun west of the hills, and prefer moist, well-drained soil. They are some of the most reliable plants to grow, and can often naturalize just a little too much and become a bit of a pest, albeit a pretty one!

Geranium habits go from the very tiny, like G. 'Bertie Crug' with dark, bronzy foliage and bright magenta flowers. At only 6" tall, it is definitely for the front of the border. At the other end is G. maderense with huge, 8" leaves and hundreds of deep pink blossoms with dark magenta eyes. It can reach 3-4' tall and is easily the largest geranium.



G. macrorrhizum 'Album'

Flower color is also a factor in selecting geraniums. They come in whites like G. macrorrhizum 'Album' to shades of pinks and violets, to deep plum (G. phaeum). It can range from the hot pink G. x riverleianum 'Russell Pritchard' to the near blue of G. 'Johnson's Blue' or G. 'Brookside' to the lilac, double-flowered G. 'Summer Skies'.

Many varieties have distinct veining on the petals, like the violet veins of the white flowered G. renardii or the black veins of the magenta G. 'Ann Folkard'. There is even a "splashy" one —white flowers that look as though purple paint has been splashed on it (G. pratense 'Splish Splash'). There is a color to please every garden palette. If foliage is your thing, then G. incanum 'Sugar Plum' with its fine ferny foliage,

From the Flower Shop

*When it comes to
Mother's Day...*



And Father's Day...



We've got you covered!

Out With the Old, In With the New

Part 3 in a 3 part series highlighting the benefits of organic pest control.

Raccoons and Moles Dig Your Lawn but, it is not a good thing!



Raccoons and moles often feed off of grubs in a lawn, leaving upturned patches and holes. Grubs are small, white, C-shaped beetle larva that feed on grass roots just below the

surface of the soil underneath the grass. Even healthy lawns can have grubs but an overabundance can produce wilted grass and brown patches in spring and fall. You can check your lawn for grubs by pulling up a small patch near the edge and use a trowel to disrupt the soil. Grubs have also been seen in vegetable beds eating the roots of lettuces and other soft-root vegetables.

We carry a product called Grub Beater, by Bonide, which is a concentrated organic spray that comes in a 32 ounce ready to spray bottle (that attaches to a hose) and covers up to 4,000 square feet. Grub Beater is derived from the Neem tree (*Azadirachta Indica*) seed and is similar to Neem oil which has many uses in Indian medicine, but also here in America, it's used in the production of shampoos, soaps, and even acne cream. The spray works several ways against grubs. It suppresses the grubs' desire to feed while actively repelling them from the area and stopping their life cycle before they can grow out of their larval stage. The active ingredient in Grub Beater bears the same name as the Neem tree, Azadirachtin, and has been used on California vegetable crops by licensed pesticide applicators.



Grub Beater can be applied once it is dry outside (best in the morning or evening) to keep the grubs from doing too much damage. We have had numerous customers coming in recently, whose lawns are being torn up by raccoons looking for grubs. The other most common season for raccoon damage is in fall because they are eating grubs to fatten up for winter. Spray again in mid to late summer to avoid raccoon raids in the fall.

A big thanks to Brandon Brooks, from our Garden Shop, for these informative articles.

For Mothers Day

*Surprise and Delight her this year
with a gift from the Lazy K House.*



*Sweet Fragrance,
what could be nicer!
A touch of silver?
She so deserves it!
Or maybe
something with a
touch of nostalgia?*

*There is nothing
sweeter than an old
fashioned hanky.
A little book to tell
her how special she is.*



Everything her heart desires can be found at the...

Lazy K House

"Always your Source for the Exceptional"

Fruit Drop: Mother Knows Best

Every year Mother Nature seems to pay a cruel trick on those of us who eye all of the little nubs of fruit on our trees with glee. It seems that overnight our fruit trees can drop far too much fruit and our crop appears to have become a ghost of what it once was. There can be many reasons for this happening, but on the whole, Mother Nature did it knowing it was best for the tree.

A tree can basically produce a certain total weight of fruit. This has to do with the weather, the roots' ability to support and feed the plant, the amount of food and water it has to use as well as the insects available to help pollinate that flower. For instance, if there is a sudden change in the weather that is not good for fruit, the tree will thin itself so that the fruit remaining will have a better chance of reaching full maturity.

Let's say that your tree is able to produce 200 pounds of fruit. If the tree retained all of the little fruits that pop out at the beginning of the season, the final size of the mature fruit would be far less than if the plant thins itself to half as many fruit to produce.



You probably would want to thin out the fruit on the tree yourself if, for example, you have a branch supporting a whole cluster of peaches where really only one or two pieces should be. Otherwise, nature is likely to cause the entire cluster to be a flop or to drop them. You can pick the best positioned ones to save, (which are not always the largest) and give yourself a better chance at reaping a harvest. It seems that when left in clusters, often all of the fruit rots or gets a disease.

If you're not sure whether your fruit drop is caused by Mother Nature or because you didn't feed or water the tree correctly, visit Orchard and talk to one of our Certified Nursery Pros.



Newborns

Nursery people love plants. When we sell our plants it is like sending our children out in the big world with their new adoptive parents. With that in mind, we would like to offer you some helpful hints.

Newborn care starts with the ride home. Remember that if you purchase your plants, load them into the car and then proceed to do other shopping on the way home, your plants will suffer in a hot locked car just as children and pets do. If possible make the nursery the last stop of the day. When you do get them home, water them if they seem dry, and make sure the plants are in the shade until you get a chance to plant them. Until you plant them, they will dry out very quickly and will need a thorough watering every day.

When new plants are first planted they need fairly constant attention, just like babies. If it is warm they need water each and every day for the first few days (sometimes twice a day if it's hot) and then every other day for the rest of the week. Twice a week watering should suffice until the weather cools and the rains of winter start. No matter what, you should check your plants once or twice a day to see how they're doing, you can't just plant them and forget them. Even automatic watering systems can't replace your eyes and ability to see what they need.

Where you live and what sort of soil and sun you are providing has a lot to do with setting a watering schedule. So come in and let's talk about what's best for your "babies."

Your May Reminder for Roses in Containers

If you are growing your roses in pots and using the recipe on our 'Rose Care' sheet, now is the time to give your plants that "extra" feeding. Because plants in pots can't take the full dose you would give roses in the ground, give them ½ doses, but you need to feed them an extra time in May. Your potted roses will look spectacular all season long.

Orchard's Garden Calendar

Garden Checklist for May

- ✓ Add 3 to 4 inches of mulch, such as MasterNursery™ Gold Rush, to flower and vegetable beds to keep the ground weed-free and to prevent loss of moisture.
- ✓ Feed hanging basket fuchsia, ivy geranium, lantana, etc. with MasterBloom™ once a month, or half strength every two weeks.
- ✓ Thin fruit on fruit trees, especially apples. Leave about 5 inches between fruit and get ready for apple pie.
- ✓ It's a great time to plant tasty herbs for use in summer BBQ's. Try mint and rosemary for lamb or basil for beef and pork.
- ✓ Feed roses and keep a sharp look out for blackspot, powdery mildew and rust which can develop on the leaves. If you aren't sure of what is damaging your roses bring a sample into our California Certified Nursery Professionals for a diagnosis.
- ✓ There's still time to plant summer blooming annuals. Try celosia, petunias, marigolds, dahlias, nicotiana, salvia or zinnias. Bait for slugs and snails. We recommend non-toxic Sluggo™ from Monterey Lawn and Garden Products.
- ✓ "Deadhead" spent blooms on annual flowers to promote continual flowering. Feed with MasterBloom™ fertilizer monthly to keep plants healthy and flower production high.
- ✓ Don't forget to put on sunscreen when you go out to garden—and a hat to keep your head cool.

Garden Checklist for June

- ✓ Vegetable gardens need deep and infrequent watering to reach the roots several feet below the soil surface.
- ✓ Tuberous begonias can give bountiful flower displays in summer and should be fed throughout the hot months.
- ✓ Remember Dad with a growing gift from Orchard. Citrus trees, fragrant gardenias, and blooming roses are just a few suggestions.
- ✓ Yellowing foliage on camellias and azaleas is often due to a lack of iron. If an acid plant food like MasterNursery™ Azalea/Camellia/Gardenia Food doesn't green them up, try adding MasterNursery™ Iron-Plus.
- ✓ Frequent trimming of hedges promotes new growth and a full, dense look, while infrequent trimming causes a bare, woody look.
- ✓ Keep petunias and fuchsias pinched back for a compact plant and more blooms this summer. Be sure to bait for slugs and snails. We recommend non-toxic Sluggo™.
- ✓ Keep an eye out for budworms, especially on petunias, nicotiana and geraniums. Spray with Bt to control.

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

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

Continued from Front Page

or the silvery sheen of *G. harveyi* provide interesting textures to the garden and the bright flowers become an added bonus!

Geraniums are dependable bloomers, most flowering from spring through fall. Some get beautiful reddish coloration to the foliage with the onset of cold weather (*G. x cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo' or *G. sanguineum*—known as "Bloody Cranesbill" for the red color the leaves turn!) and most will take our wet winters just fine. They can be divided in early spring. There is sure to be a spot or two in your garden for these treasures, and you, too will become a "geraniophile"!

For additional information we offer the following as a starting place for the world of species geraniums can be quite large.

web sites:

<http://www.hardygeraniums.com>

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/hort/meg/archives/v6n4/meg2.htm>

<http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/getgro33.html>

books:

Gardener's Guide to Growing Hardy Geraniums by Trevor Bath & Joy Jones

Hardy Geraniums (RHS Wisley Handbooks) by David Hibberd

Hardy Geraniums: The Complete Guide to the Genus by Peter F. Yeo



G. 'Johnson's Blue'

Originally submitted (2004) by our dear friend and former Collector's Corner guru, Jennifer [Hidalgo] Ratza

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Because Life Should Be Beautiful™

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