

# THE EL DORADO NURSERY AND GARDEN NEWSLETTER

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## Oct-Jan 2023-4

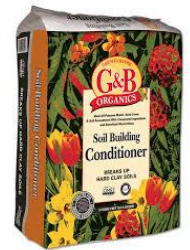


### GARDEN CALENDAR



#### OCTOBER

- It's one of the best times of the year to plant a tree – especially a deciduous one. It can add some beautiful color to your yard for the fall, it will let the sun in during the winter and it will help to shade and cool your home for the summer. The freshly planted roots love the warm soil and the cooling temperatures are quite forgiving on the foliage. Add the impending rain and you've got the perfect formula for successful tree planting. Add G&B Fish Bone Meal and top dress with G&B Soil Building Conditioner.
- Last chance for winter vegetables from transplants. Protect them from cabbage worms with Monterey BT or Garden Insect Spray.
- Select and plant spring blooming bulbs this month and early next month. Keep tulips, daffodils (also known as narcissus) and hyacinth cool until the weather outside is wintry. They benefit from being refrigerated for 4 to 6 weeks. Plant them by Thanksgiving weekend. Use G&B Bone Meal in the planting hole. Plant hollies and other berry-producing shrubs for winter decoration indoors and out. Try pomegranates for ornamental and edible fruit.
- Make sure to keep your gardenias green this winter. Feed with G&B Rhodie, Azalea, Camellia (RAC) Fertilizer and Iron Sulfate. When the soil cools, they can no longer absorb nutrition.
- Plant cool-season flowers now. Select from pansies, violas, snapdragons, iceland poppies, calendulas, and more. Plant sweet peas from seed or transplants for late winter bloom. Choose old-fashioned climbing types or newer bush varieties. Protect them from snails and slugs with Sluggo Plus.
- Onion and garlic are in. Plant now for harvest next summer.



#### NOVEMBER

- Plant hyacinth, paperwhites, and amaryllis bulbs for forcing, for colorful bulbs during the holidays.
- Knock down basins around trees for rain drainage.
- Rake leaves and recycle to your compost pile.
- Clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools.
- Remove fallen leaves from under your rose bushes to reduce the chance of blackspot next year.
- Continue watering your landscape until the rains begin. Pay special attention to anything you planted late in the season.
- Apply first dormant spray (dormant oil and copper). We have handouts and supplies to assist you.



## DECEMBER

- Cover succulents and citrus (especially young trees) with Remay (garden cloth) or old sheets. Do this before the sun goes down to help retain heat from the day's sunshine. Non-LED holiday lights are also a good alternative.
- Ornamentals: Don't clean up too much, a little litter helps protect them from winter weather. Do use a layer of mulch around the base of your plants to keep roots warm.
- Tender perennials like Abutilon and Angel Trumpet should be covered with Remay (frost blanket).

## JANUARY

- Shop for bareroot fruit and berries. See us for a complete list or find it on our website.
- Prune fruit trees as needed. After pruning, clean up old leaves and debris to prevent spread of disease. Do not prune spring blooming shrubs until after they bloom.
- Buy vegetable and flower seeds at the nursery for your spring garden. Sow indoors for an early start.
- Apply 2nd dormant spray to fruit trees.
- Watch out for dry spells. 3 weeks of dry winter winds with no rain can call for a little extra irrigation.

More like this: [Full year in the garden](#)

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## Fall Around the Nursery:





## *Shade trees for Fall Color*

Why plant in the fall? It is the best time in Northern California, as it is warm enough to encourage root development before dormancy, but not so hot they stress out. Add in a little rain, and it's a recipe for success!

Tree planting 101 – Top tips:

1. **ALWAYS** remove the nursery stake if there is one. It is not your tree's friend.
  - If the tree can't stand on its own, use 2 stakes at the edge of the tree's canopy and tie loosely. This prevents the stake from damaging the bark and branches. Stake should never stay on longer than a year.
2. Dig a hole twice as wide as the pot, but only as deep as the pot soil.
3. Don't plant lower than surrounding soil, if anything an inch higher is good. Don't create a water dam, this encourages trunk rot.
4. Do use a starter soil with phosphorus to encourage root growth, such as SureStart or Bone Meal. Our soils are generally low in phosphorus unless previously amended.
5. Mulch with a soil amendment such as Fir Mulch or Planting Mix, preferably. Bark is ok. Keep all mulch 4 inches away from the main trunk.
6. Do have irrigation ready and available. You will have to water even in winter if we have a couple of weeks with no rain, which is common here.

Questions? Please come into the nursery and chat with us!

***Sorbus – Mountain Ash - Red Fall color - 35Heightx20Width***



***Pistache – Chinese Pistache - Orange/red fall color - 30x30, Deep roots***



***Morus* – Mulberry – yellow fall color - 50x50, Surface roots, don't plant close to house or sidewalk**



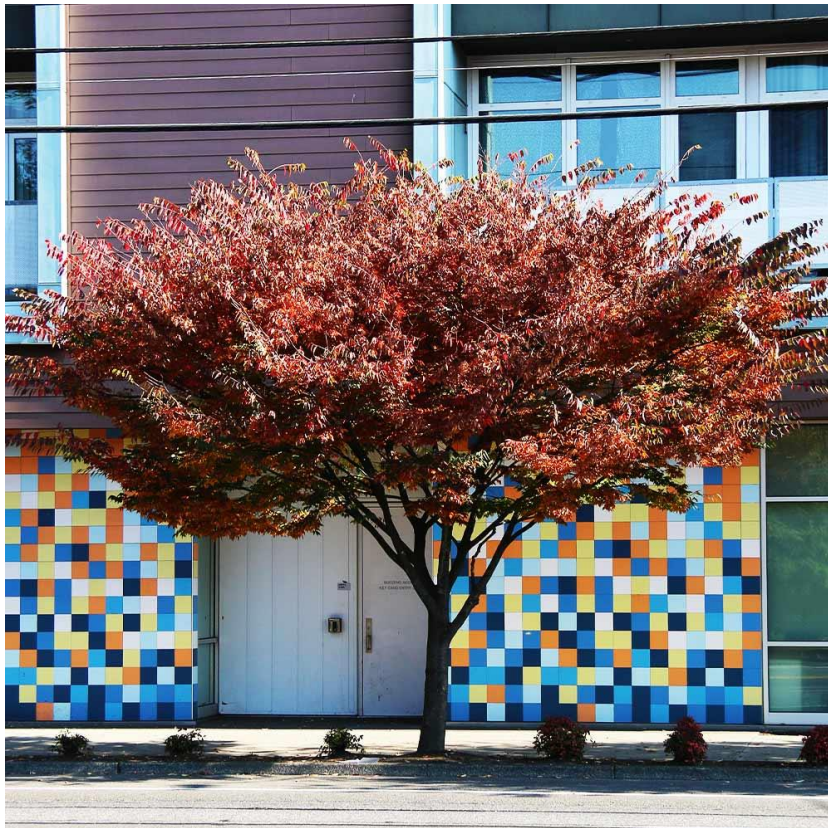
***Acer truncatum* – Urban Sunset Maple – Red/Burgundy fall color - 35x20, Surface roots**



***Lagerstroemia – Crape Myrtle – orange/gold fall color - 20x15***



***Zelkova – Red fall color – 24x36***



***Nyssa – Sourgum – Red/orange fall color - 30x30, deep roots***



***Catalpa – Indian Bean Tree – Yellow fall color - 50x40***



# Cover crops

Aka Green Manure

A **cover crop** is a **plant** that is used primarily to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity and bring a host of other benefits to your garden.

Cover crops have also been shown to increase crop yields, break through a hard pan, add organic matter to the soil, and attract pollinators. They protect the soil from erosion and from drought. Cover crops help when it doesn't rain, they help when it rains, and they help when it pours!

Plant now through late October as you remove your summer veggies. If they aren't producing like they were, off with their heads! Toss them in the green waste can if you don't do active composting, as they may harbor disease you don't want in next year's crop. It is not necessary to pull all the roots, these will add to soil health as they break down. (Do practice crop rotation, so the same type of plants aren't going in this same spot next year)

Planting most cover crops is a simple matter of scratching the soil with a garden rake or broad fork and broadcasting the seed by hand. Larger seeds such as peas or beans should be covered with a half inch of soil. Water your seeds with a light mist to avoid moving them around on the soil surface, which can leave bare spots.



The beauty of a cover crop is its self-sufficiency, but if you leave it to its own devices, its descendants might compete with the veggies or flowers you plant next year. To prevent your crop from setting seeds, you'll need to scout it regularly so you can terminate its growth before the seeds ripen. Once about 80% of them are in flower, break or cut them at the ground and leave in place. This is how they become Manure! Leaving the roots to rot in place will also enrich the soil and add to its aeration.

Don't be tempted to till, this destroys the soil horizons and the natural flora and fauna that inhabit them which aid plants in nutrient gathering.



We have a mix of BellBean, Field Pea and Vetch seed available at the nursery. These plants are legumes, so they are excellent nitrogen fixers.







We have 2024 Garden Calendars for sale. From The Placer County Master Gardeners, this calendar has great pictures and good information **for foothill gardeners.**



Bareroot Season is January. Order now to reserve yours, see our list and more information for planting on our website – [eldoradonursery.com/bareroot](http://eldoradonursery.com/bareroot)