

BERKELEY HORTICULTURAL NURSERY

Gardening Suggestions

May ★ June 2020

As I write this, looking out of my office window at the nursery I see many plants. Beautiful plants with new leaves and flowers in every direction; but not a single customer.

Just before our Shelter in Place order on March 16th we had taken steps to ensure that we'd have a diverse inventory of flowering trees, maples, azaleas, rhododendrons, flowering vines, rare succulents, shade perennials, natives, herbs, indoor plants, fruits, and of course vegetables. They are still here, waiting for your next visit.

The latest update from the City of Berkeley made it clear that we are a non-essential business, and as such had to remain closed for all business activities until at least May 3rd. Note that I feel gardening is essential to staying in touch with nature while providing food, but BHN management wants to do the

right thing; to protect our workers and the general public from rapid spread of COVID-19. You are most likely reading this after that date, and we HOPE to be open for business in May.

It is difficult to project what daily life will be like over the next few months, but you can be sure that at Berkeley Hort we will be practicing new social distancing protocols, sanitization of carts, baskets, and other high contact surfaces, and monitoring nursery traffic throughout the day to limit numbers to a safe level.

We know how important it is to plant a garden in spring, especially herbs and vegetables for future harvest. To that end we plan to focus more energy on these items, working diligently with certified organic growers in order to meet the pent-up demand that we currently see.

Thank you for your patience as we get back into the swing of spring.

— Paul



WEEKEND SPECIALS

May 8-10

Citrus

All varieties ~ 25% OFF

May 15-17

Outdoor Ferns

1 gallon and larger ~ 30% OFF

May 22-24

Deciduous Shrubs

All sizes ~ 25% OFF

May 29-31

Glazed Pottery

All sizes/colors ~ 25% OFF

June 5-7

Tomato Seedlings (organic)

3½ in. pots ~ \$3.50 (reg. 5.00)

June 12-14

Hand Tools

Cultivators, weeders, etc. ~ 20% OFF

June 19-21

Herbs (organic)

3½ in. pots ~ \$3.50 (reg. 5.00)

June 26-28

Roses

All sizes ~ 25% OFF

LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND. NO DELIVERIES ON SALE MERCHANDISE.

Free Class at BHN

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration

Saturday, June 27th at 10:30 am, in our front display garden.

The early training of a fruit tree is the most important pruning you do. This establishes the basic structural framework so that it can support the weight of its ripening fruit. After that, summer pruning should be done in June, July, or August, and is essential **every year** to keep the size of your tree under control. We will discuss basic pruning guidelines and answer questions while pruning our established Fuji apple.

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GARDENER'S CALENDAR

May Checklist

- ✦ It's safe to plant warm-season veggies in the Bay Area now.
- ✦ Loosen or remove stakes from trees planted in winter.
- ✦ Select succulents now.
- ✦ Support or cage tomato plants early.
- ✦ Deadhead and groom geraniums for longer flowering.

June Checklist

- ✦ Prune fruit trees for a dwarfing effect.
- ✦ Check your automatic watering systems for leaks.
- ✦ Finish planting summer veggies.
- ✦ Aquatic plants look best now, and are in good supply.
- ✦ Feed ornamental grasses with an organic all-purpose fertilizer.

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery

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