

BERKELEY HORTICULTURAL NURSERY

GARDENING SUGGESTIONS

July | Aug
2022

Come on in...the water's fine!

Water gardens have been a part of civilization for thousands of years; from the hanging gardens of Babylon to ancient Japanese koi ponds, water gardens have provided an outlet for artistic expression and a sanctuary for thought and reflection. Today the term "Water Gardening" can mean many different things, from a small water feature that provides relaxing sound to a full sized pond with both fish and plants. By answering some commonly asked questions we hope to make water gardens less intimidating.



How do aquatic plants differ from terrestrial plants?

The main difference between aquatic and terrestrial plants is the way they respire (breathe) in their respective environments. Plants that grow in wet soils or under water have structural differences that allow them to absorb and move oxygen and carbon dioxide in ways that terrestrial plants don't.

What is aquatic soil and why do I need it?

The most important reason to use aquatic soil versus garden soil is to minimize the amount of organic matter going into your pond. Made mostly of clay, sand, and rock, aquatic soil has very little organic matter. Too much organic matter in your pond will result in an increase of nutrients, and if the nutrient level is higher than your filter and or plants can consume, you will find yourself stuck with algae blooms and an environment toxic to fish and other beneficial life.

Why can't I keep my new aquatic plant in the pot I bought it in?

We highly recommend aquatic planting baskets. Many aquatic plants are sold in pots that do NOT have drain holes. Allowing the plant's roots to have physical contact with the water will increase their ability to act as a filter for your pond. And, aquatic planting baskets are important for plant and pond maintenance. Since many of these plants are fast growers, dividing and pruning is necessary for maintaining their health. This is easier when you are able to lift the plant out of your pond, and it simplifies pond cleaning.

How deep can this be planted?

We offer five classes of aquatic plants here at the nursery; bog, marginal, emergent, submerged, and floating. Floaters can be placed into the water and left to float freely wherever the current or wind may

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WEEKEND SPECIALS

July 1-3
Ground Covers
cell packs ~ 30% OFF

July 8-10
Dogwoods
all sizes ~ 30% OFF

July 15-17
Deciduous Fruit Trees
all sizes ~ 50% OFF

July 22-24
EcoForms Pots
all styles/colors ~ 25% OFF

Jul 29-31
Salvias (flowering sages)
#1 size pots ~ 30% OFF

Aug 5-7
MaxSea Plant Foods
1.5 lb canisters ~ \$17.00 (reg. 22.99)

Aug 12-14
Japanese Maples (Acer)
all varieties ~ 30% OFF

Aug 19-21
Vines
30% OFF ~ #1 size & larger

Aug 26-28
Grasses
#1 size pots ~ 30% OFF

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



Summer hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
No entry after 4:50 pm • Closed Thursdays
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mail@berkeleyhort.com

THE GARDENER'S CALENDAR

July Checklist

- › Mulch the soil around vegetable plants for water conservation.
- › Check your water garden to see that it is clear and free of mosquito larvae.
- › Tropical plants will benefit from extra feeding during these warm months.
- › Feed acid-loving plants with Cottonseed Meal or Fish Emulsion.
- › Deadhead and feed early-flowering perennials for a second bloom.

August Checklist

- › Dig and divide Bearded Irises now (also check our selection).
- › Last chance for Summer Pruning of fruit trees.
- › Remove canes from Berry Plants that have already fruited (raspberries, etc.)
- › Include your garden when making vacation plans. What happens when you are away?
- › Deep-water winter/spring flowering shrubs, as now is when the buds are initiating.

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take them. Bog plants like wet feet. For this reason, they are best planted in either the splash zone of your pond's waterfall, or at the lowest and soggiest point in your yard. Some bog plants can tolerate sitting in water, but most like to have their crown above the water's surface. Marginal plants can be planted in 1"-8" of water, calculated from the crown of the plant to the surface of the water. Emergent plant's leaves and flowers actually break the surface of the water and are healthily planted at a depth of 12"-24" below the water surface. Submerged plants prefer to be planted in 18"-36" deep water.

How do I keep my pond's water clear?

Planting a variety of plants that tolerate different water depths is one of best ways to maintain a healthy, balanced pond. This is because your pond water is similar to your garden's soil, in that there are different

bacteria, fungi, gasses and nutrients at different depths. If fish are added to the equation additional filtration will be needed. There are a wide variety of filters on the market today. Which kind of fish, and how many will dictate the type of filter you will need.

How do I get my water lilies to bloom?

Warm days and sun will help. Then, feed, and prune, feed and prune. Water lilies are hungry plants during the growing season. A heavy feeding once a month is crucial for these plants to perform the way they should. The other trick is to remove BOTH leaves and flowers as they near the end of their life cycle. Take note of when your water lilies' leaves start to turn yellow, and your lilies' flowers stop blooming. Removing tired leaves and flowers will trigger your water lily to produce more blooms.

Another Generation

In this issue I would like to share some of my memories of my son, TC (the current general manager) growing up and working at the nursery.

Paul and I got married in 1990 when TC was 9 years old. We lived in Moraga and had our work cut out for us making our blended family work. When TC was 10 (when he could lift a 2 cubic foot bag of soil) he began going into the nursery during holidays and on some weekends. I remember him coming home the first day—rather wide-eyed, saying "Mom, these Berkeley people are different." From then on, he would continue working at the nursery through high school. TC was a child who saved every penny he earned until high school, when he bought a stereo system and a car.

After graduating from high school, TC played around with junior college. He told me that he definitely did not want to work at the family business. He worked with small children, tried his hand in the sound business and held various other jobs. He kept insisting that he did not want to work at BHN. A few years later, I asked if he could just fill in on a couple of weekends as we were short of staff. He agreed and the rest is



history. Those "different Berkeley folks" are now his customers and friends.

Drawing on his horticultural studies at Merritt College and a lot of hard work over the years, TC has brought a fresh perspective on the way the business is run. Currently, we have the best group of employees who work well together and seem to enjoy their comradery. We have wonderful buyers who make a point of finding new and interesting plants and garden merchandise. We feel comfortable retiring and leaving the nursery in TC's competent hands. Thank you, TC.

—Jeanne



Radishes: The Reliable Year-Round Crop

Want to grow a zesty snack that can be directly sown in the garden at any time of the year? Radishes are a perfect choice. They thrive in the Bay Area's mild climate, and they reach maturity in less than two months' time. These peppery root veggies make a great addition to salads, soups and sandwiches and they're delicious straight from the garden!

Native to Asia and Europe, radishes have long been cultivated on both continents. Selective breeding of radishes has resulted in an abundance of varieties. Their roots can be long or short, thick or thin, and have either a mild or spicy flavor. They may be black, purple, red, pink, or white. Many varieties can be found at your local grocery store; many more can be grown from seed. The following are a few interesting varieties that can be found in the BHN seed section.

'Watermelon' (a.k.a. 'Beauty Heart' or 'Red Meat') Probably the most spectacular looking of all radish varieties has a light green outside and a hot pink heart. It adds the perfect bit of flair and peppery sweet flavor to green salads.

'Everest' A fourteen inch long variety popular in China. Roots are entirely white and have a mildly sweet, peppery taste. 'Everest' radishes prefer a warmer soil, making them an excellent option for your summer and fall vegetable beds.

'German Giant' A beautiful raspberry-red variety that is resistant to becoming pithy and hollow. This radish enjoys cool weather and will reach maturity in as little as 30 days.

'Iwai Daikon' This petite white radish only reaches one inch in length and diameter. It has a refreshingly crisp texture and mildly peppery flavor. They have long been used in the celebration of the Japanese New Year and are perfect for use in *Namasu* (pickled radish), and *Ozoni* (shrimp and veggie soup).

'Easter Egg II' These Rainbow Radishes come in a range of colors from pink or purple to red or white. They make eye-catching appetizers or can be used as a garnish to brighten your garden salad.

Like most root vegetables at The Nursery, radishes can only be purchased to grow from seed. Six pack starter cells are not very accommodating to the bulky roots of these plants. With many radish varieties available, these warm peppery roots are worth a look.

Free Events in the Nursery

By now you know that we are celebrating our 100th Anniversary. Here's a list of what you can expect during these months.

- July 9:** Talk on our patio. **AQUATIC PLANTS** learn from Jim Purcell of Southwest Aquatics.
- July 15:** Music on our stage. **GOLDEN BAY COMBO** jazz by local High School Students.
- July 23:** Music on our patio. **MONTALVO STRINGS** a classical duo of cello & violin.
- July 30:** Music on our patio. **CHRISTIAN LAREMONT** classical guitar with an emphasis on Spain.
- August 6:** Throughout the nursery. **ART IN THE NURSERY** a showcase of local artists.
- August 6:** Music on our patio. **MONTALVO STRINGS** a classical duo of cello & violin.
- August 13:** Music on our stage. **THE CHOSEN WONDERS** gospel music, amen.
- August 20:** Under the shade canopy. **NORTHBRAE VENDORS** meet local merchants & sample goods.
- August 20:** Music on our stage. **BRYAN GIRARD QUINTET** the best in Bay Area jazz.
- August 26:** Music on our stage. **ZINGER PHILLIPS** country, jazz, and western swing.
- August 27:** Under the shade canopy. **TOMATO TASTING** many delicious varieties to sample.
- August 27:** Music on our stage. **BAGUETTE QUARTETTE** imagine Paris between 1920 & 1940.

Detailed descriptions for each of these events, and others through October can be found at berkeleyhort.com/100th-anniversary/

Come celebrate with us

To find a calendar listing information about **Free Gifts for Customers, Merchandise Raffles, Speakers, Workshops, Food and Live Music**, go to:

berkeleyhort.com/events/1922-to-2022/
or scan this QR code for details.

Plan your nursery visits. There will be something for everyone!



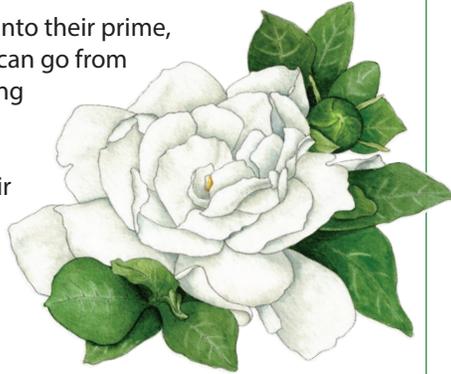
NEW ARRIVALS

Gardenia jasminoides

Warm weather brings these beauties into their prime, scenting the air with a fragrance that can go from gentle and sweet, to intense depending on variety. Glossy bright green leaves act as a perfect foil for the single or double white flowers. Read up on their needs or ask us. It's worth the extra effort!

#1 size cans \$22.95

#5 size cans \$59.95



Achillea millefolium

A European native with a few forms that are native to CA. Go figure. We love them for their durability and bee-attracting attributes. 'Sonoma Coast', 'Hoffnung', 'Fireland', and 'Paprika' are popular varieties. EASY.

4 inch pots \$7.95 to \$8.95

#1 size cans \$16.95

Dahlia hybrids

These summertime favorites can be purchased as tubers in the late winter or in pots right now! There are many different forms and brilliant colors. Give them good air circulation and plan to stake. Excellent cutting flowers for the sunny garden.

#1 size cans \$16.95

Rudbeckia hirta

It attracts butterflies, honeybees and other pollinators, it blooms from summer through fall, it is not attractive to deer, and it prefers a warm sunny spot. **Black-Eyed Susans** have been popular for centuries, for good reason. Plants are short-lived but will come back from self-sown seeds.

4 inch pots \$5.95

#1 size cans \$16.95

Heuchera hybrids

Consulting my botanical pronunciation guide I find, *hoy ka ra*; not at all the way I have been saying it! Regardless of what we call them, these **Coral Bells** are spectacular foliage plants for the shade garden. Colors range from chartreuse to peach, to blackish purple.

4 inch pots \$7.95 to \$12.95

#1 size cans \$16.95 to \$19.95

RECIPE

Savory Slow-roasted Green Beans

This is one of my favorite summer recipes. It's a great addition to any brunch, barbecue or nice dinner.

Hopefully your bean plants (from Berkeley Hort!) are giving you a bountiful harvest this year. The fresh herb starts are still available on our shelves.

—Che

Ingredients:

2½ lbs. tender green beans, trimmed

3 bunches scallions, trimmed with 1 in. green tops still attached & halved lengthwise

6 large garlic cloves, each cut lengthwise into 4 slices

½ cup extra virgin olive oil

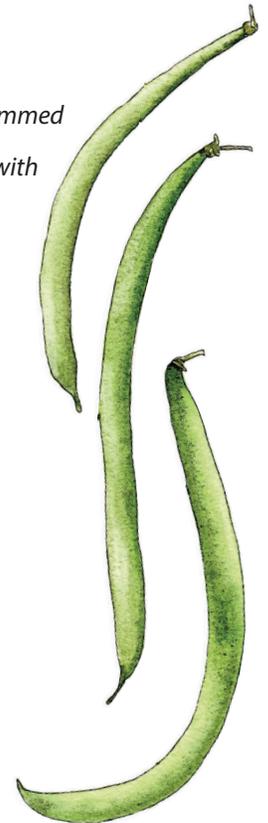
2 Tbsp. fresh sage leaves

1 Tbsp. fresh rosemary leaves

1 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves

2 tsp. Hawaiian or Kosher salt

a pinch of ground pepper



Preparation:

Step 1:

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Combine first eight ingredients in a large bowl and season with pepper. Toss to evenly incorporate. Transfer beans to a rimmed cookie sheet (or Pyrex baking dish).

Step 2:

Roast beans, stirring every 10 minutes, until wilted, shrunken, and browned at edges, about 1 hour. You may need to stir more often toward the end for even browning.

Options:

Serve with crumbled bacon or crisped prosciutto ("Mmmm...bacon." —*Homer Simpson*). Or try a squeeze of fresh 'Meyer' lemon or 'Yuzu' lime.