

BERKELEY HORTICULTURAL NURSERY

GARDENING SUGGESTIONS

Sept | Oct
2022

Let's Party!

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration is in full swing, and we have lots going on. The following is a partial list of **free** live musical performances on our stage. Times are 12:00 to 3:00 except as noted.

- Saturday, September 3** – **Caltucky**: Jam-grass.
- Saturday, September 10** – **Manning Music Kids**: Local talent.
- Sunday, September 11** – **Três Baías**: Choro.
- Friday, September 16** – **The Bay Water Boys**: Bluegrass.
- Saturday, September 17** – **Mark Holzinger + Takeoff Guitar!**: Swing.
- Sunday, September 18** – **Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums**: Upbeat.
- Friday, September 23** – **The Propagators**: Old time. (1:00 to 4:00)
- Saturday, September 24** – **Past Due & Playable**: Roots.
- Sunday, September 25** – **Berkeley Old Time Music Convention**: (1:00 to 4:00)
- Saturday, October 1** – **Wake the Dead**: Celtic fusion.
- Sunday, October 2** – **The Bernal Beat**: Latin.
- Friday, October 7** – **Cascada de Flores**: Trad Mex.
- Saturday, October 8** – **Birches Bend**: Bluegrass.
- Sunday, October 9** – **Berkeley High School Jazz Quintet**: Jazz.
- Friday, October 14** – **Thompsonia Cajun**: Cajun.
- Saturday, October 15** – **Bangers & Grass Reunion**:
Trad bluegrass.
- Saturday, October 22** – **Buffalo Gals (West)**: Trad mix.
- Saturday, October 29** – **Broken Compass Bluegrass**:
New-grass.

Check www.berkeleyhort.com/100th-anniversary/ for complete descriptions and other musical performances on our patio.



WEEKEND SPECIALS

Sept 2-4
Roses

All sizes/varieties ~ 50% OFF

Sept 9-11
Bellingham Gloves

'Blue' all sizes ~ \$6.50 (reg. 8.99)

Sept 16-18
CA Natives

All sizes ~ 30% OFF

Sept 23-25
Camellias

All sizes ~ 30% OFF

Sept 30 - Oct 2
Chrysanthemums

Quart pots ~ \$3.75 (reg. 4.95)

Oct 7-9
Recipe 420 Potting Soil
1.5 cu. ft. bags ~ \$17.00 (reg. 22.99)

Oct 14-16
Happy Frog Fertilizers
4 lb. bags ~ \$10.25 (reg. 13.99)

Oct 21-23
Iceland Poppies
4-inch pots ~ \$2.75 (reg. 3.95)

Oct 28-30
Cover Crop Seeds
All varieties ~ 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
510-526-4704 • berkeleyhort.com
mail@berkeleyhort.com

THE GARDENER'S CALENDAR

September Checklist

- Deep-water young trees to reduce leaf scorch.
- It's harvest time. Share your bounty with friends and neighbors.
- Visit farmers' markets; make notes of varieties for next year's edible garden.
- Make sure your garden is fire-safe. See us for recommendations.
- Withhold water from your *Amaryllis* (*Hippeastrum*) plants this month.
- Buy spring-blooming bulbs now. You can plant later if necessary.

October Checklist

- Give your potted plants a boost with Fish Emulsion.
- Our first 2023 calendars come this month!
- Plant Iceland Poppies now for a spectacular winter display.
- Sow your cover crop seeds as the weather cools down.
- Come see the new Japanese Maples before leaf-drop.
- Our first rain may come this month. Adjust your watering system accordingly.

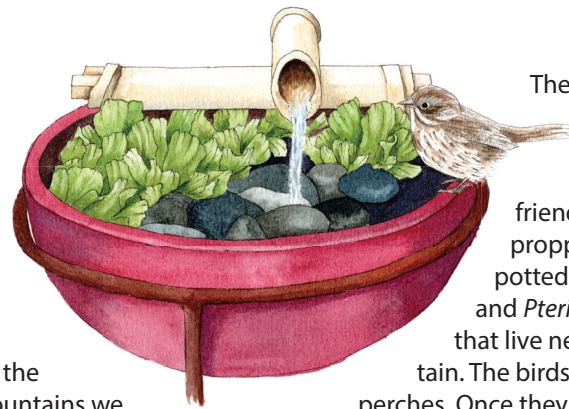
Bird watching at the Spa d'Oiseaux

I didn't understand the appeal of bird-watching until I inadvertently created my own backyard bird sanctuary.

I bought one of the little bamboo fountains we sell, along with a water bowl, to enhance the peaceful, easy feeling of my back patio. I love my little fountain! The sound of the falling water truly is calming and lovely. It enhances the incessant sound of the freeway nicely, the little splashes adding a melodic tinkle to the hum. (City living is convenient, but noisy!)

The birds didn't arrive right away. For years, my neighbor's cat utilized my patio as an escape from its three French bulldog siblings, each more hyperactive than the last. When the neighbors moved to Portland, the cat and dogs moved, too, and that's when the neighborhood birds moved in.

The hummingbirds arrived first, sipping from the spout and dipping their tails and wings into the gently falling water. When larger birds started investigating the fountain, I added some river stones to the bowl to make different perches and pools. There's now a shallow pool for the finches, chickadees, bushtits and kinglets, and a bigger pool for the towhees. The birds hop from the sides of the bowl into the pools, splash about vigorously, then hop back out to shake and shimmy themselves dry. It's a hoot to watch!



Then I scavenged some gnarled manzanita branches from a friend's burn pile, and propped them in the potted *Cestrum* 'Newellii' and *Pteris quadriaurita* fern that live next to the fountain. The birds really like these perches. Once they land on a branch, they take a look around to make sure the coast is clear of predators (including the very territorial hummingbirds) before swooping down for a bath. The branches also provide a nice place for the birds to wipe off their wet beaks and fluff themselves dry.

It's not all bliss at the Spa d'Oiseaux. When the water is dirty, the bowl and stones get slimy and need to be washed. Aquatic plants like *Pistia stratiotes* (water lettuce) help keep the water clean, but the roots can get tangled in the pump. (I just learned you can wrap your pump in a piece of nylon stocking to prevent this and I look forward to seeing how it works). Bird poop collects at the bottom of the bowl (oh, those dirty birdies). I know it's time to change the water when the birds stop drinking and bathing. The fountain is a bit of work to maintain, but completely worth it given the sheer delight I take in watching the birds cavort in their spa. I keep meaning to go to the local pet supply shop to buy a fish tank net so I can scoop out the plant debris that falls in, but every time I get ready to leave, I hear another "cheep", and the bird watching begins again...

—Amy

In Memoriam ~ Victor Yool

At press time we received this sad news. Vic worked at Berkeley Hort from 1965, when he was a high school student in El Cerrito, until his retirement in 2011. We have fond memories of him at countless trade shows, long drives to select nursery stock, buying trips to Oregon, nursery conventions, nursery parties, workshops, unsanctioned fiestas, garden contests, and introductions to noteworthy garden celebrities. And who can forget him as the inimitable **Dr. Chlorophyll**? To read his obituary, search [sfgate obituaries](#).

Fall is the best time to plant perennials

For most people autumn is a time of transition. Summer vacations have ended, school is back in session, and less time is spent on outdoor activities. Yet, this is by far the best time to be planning and planting for the following year. The reason for sharing this valuable information now is to prepare avid gardeners for the sequence of activities that should take place later—say around October.

The benefits of Fall planting are many. Most obvious is the fact that plants have completed their growth phase and are entering a state of dormancy. This means

they are easier to handle and the potential damage and transplanting trauma is reduced. The cooler and shorter days which bring on dormancy also make subsequent root development more effective. As soils are still warm, bulbs, perennials, trees, and many native plants are best planted now.

The winter rains and cool weather encourage gradual establishment and primary root growth. Planted at this time, your plants will be better able to fend for themselves and be that much more sensational the following year.

Availability of plants is another important reason for planting in autumn. Growers gear their production to have more bulbs and perennials available at this time of year. That means costs will be less and the selection will be greater. Don't wait until plants are blooming to decide what you might want; it may be disappointing.

A few hours spent digging in your garden this fall can be as pleasant as it would be in spring, but the satisfaction you derive from your foresight can't be matched.

NEW ARRIVALS

Agave spp.

These succulents make dramatic architectural accents, especially in water-wise gardens or in containers. Their colors, shapes and sizes vary greatly. Some grow as solitary rosettes, and others generate many offsets ("pups"). Some have dangerously, pointy spines, but there are a few soft, friendly cultivars, too. Mature plants shoot very tall, asparagus-like spikes into the sky, which burst with white or yellow flowers. They all need well-draining soil, and infrequent watering.

Many sizes & prices

Banksia spp.

Got a dry, rocky hillside, in full sun? Want something different? Banksias offer some spectacular options. Nectar-rich flowers are borne in cone-like clusters at the ends of the branches, and they attract many pollinators. Fossils of them have been found, dating as far back as 60 million years! Some are now considered endangered. Check out our great selection of these Australian *Protea* relatives.

**#5 size cans
\$89.95 to \$119.95**

Grevillea spp.

Also native to Australia, these tough & colorful shrubs are well suited to our Bay Area climate. Bright fire-engine red to orange-scarlet, pink or white flowers attract hummingbirds. A few of our favorites are the tall growing *G. 'Superb'*, the low-growing *G. lanigera 'Mt. Tamboritha'*, as well as the unusual-looking *G. nudiflora 'Medusa'*. Give them a sunny spot with well-draining, LOW-nutrient soil.

#1 size cans \$19.95 to \$22.95

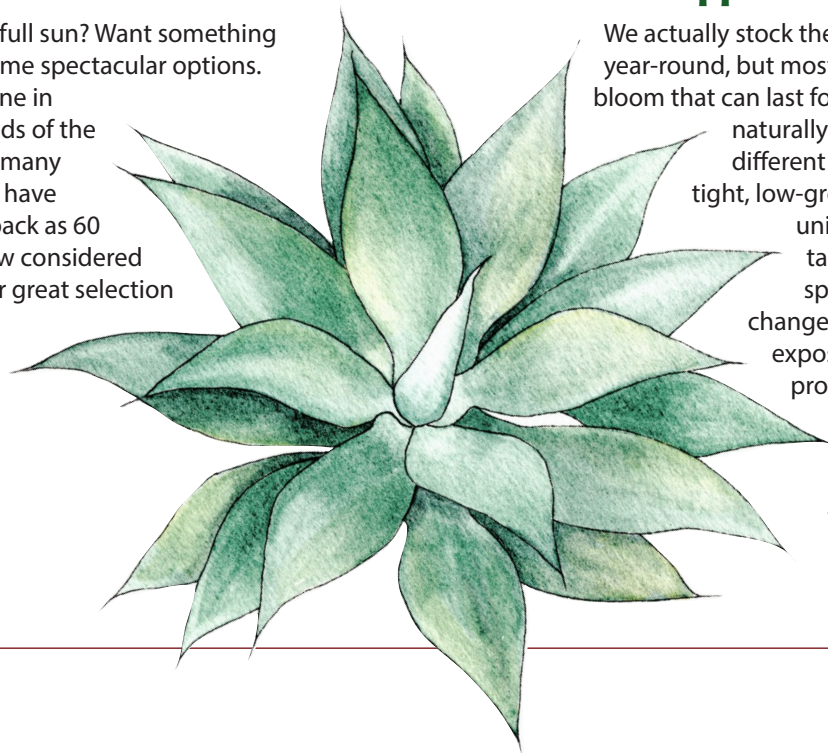
#5 size cans \$59.95 to \$69.95

Sedum spp.

We actually stock these diverse succulents year-round, but most offer a nice late season bloom that can last for months. They can be found naturally around the world in many different habitats. Growth habits are tight, low-growing groundcover types, unique spilling varieties and tall, upright plants. Their vast spectrum of foliage color often changes with light & temperature exposure. Very easy to grow & propagate.

**4" pots
\$7.95 to \$12.95**

**#1 size cans
\$16.95**



Dry ideas are good ideas

My front lawn is dying! Well, we're letting it happen. When my wife & I purchased our house a couple of years ago it had a lush, very curb-appealing green front lawn, edged with billowing blue Hydrangeas. Right off the bat, we had plans to convert it into a more water-wise garden. But working full-time and raising a 4-year-old has delayed our *ideas* for a bit. We can't put it off any longer.

Over the past few years we've all seen a significant decrease in our rain & snowfall totals. By now we are fully aware of the drought that our state is again experiencing. You can't help but see a change in how plants have been affected, both in our native habitats and our neighborhood gardens. Some well-established or drought tolerant plants are thriving (i.e., Ceanothus & Manzanita). But many others are showing signs of a lack of water. Some plants may have a delayed response to the stress of drought conditions, taking a few years or so for the plant to show they are not happy (i.e.: Coastal Redwoods). Others are instantaneously affected by the missing ground moisture (i.e.: my lawn & Hydrangeas). Also, stress may make them vulnerable to bug infestations or diseases.

Some local municipalities were at first "recommending" & pleading with residents

to cut-down & conserve their residential water use. Now it seems almost inevitable that they will be putting restrictions on supplemental water use. Some "hold-outs" are still regularly irrigating their putting green-like lawns & lush fern grottos. But many grass lawns are now a very California gold color. As I drive around my neighborhood, I notice other folk's front yards look similar to mine. Some look to be in the process, and some have recently been replaced with a creative "dry-scape" or with lush green artificial turf!

Of course, a few neighbors who know where I work have been picking my brain about interesting plant options that won't require regular irrigation, and still look cool. But, before I rattle off a plant list of *dry ideas*, one of my best recommendations is to walk, or drive around and take notice of some of the more established water-wise gardens. Quite a few of you have been water-conscious gardening for many years. You know that some plants didn't quite work out, while others are doing great and continue to look better each dry year. Some develop deep tap roots to get the water they need. While others may have fuzzy leaves that aid in preventing moisture loss. Because all plants are different their watering needs may vary slightly, but

most will eventually be happy with little to no irrigation once established.

For many years, Berkeley Hort. has been conscious about, and provided customers with beautiful plant options for low-water landscapes, as well as proper gardening advice. Take a look in our DRY IDEAS Section for a collection of some of the plants we recommend. It's not just cacti & succulents. You'll find many creative & inspiring options for your garden like *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Leucadendron*, *Leucospermum*, *Protea*, *Acacia*, *Aloe*, *Agave* and *Yucca*. Many of these plants are very pollinator friendly. In every section of the nursery except the Aquatics you can find different water wise plant options, as well. Consider some Grasses, CA Natives, Conifers and even some Ferns & other shade tolerant plants.

If you're planning on redoing your whole landscape, design it using mostly low water plants. If you are renovating an old established garden, tackle it in small stages. Consider keeping regular irrigation on certain edibles or a cherished old Japanese Maple. Soon you'll enjoy less time & money spent irrigating your garden and more spent enjoying the beauty that you've created! —Che

Pinch Pot Workshop

Jim and Brenda Atchinson own **LickinFlames**, an incredible pottery business in Nevada City. You can see some of their beautiful work at www.lickinflames.com. Jim has been creating things made from clay since 1973.

As part of our **Nevada County Fiber Arts Trunk Show** happening on Saturday, October 22nd, we are excited to announce that Jim will be giving 2 workshops. In these workshops, you will be making your own pinch pots. You will learn about clays, the culture of clay, and the humanity of clay. He will demonstrate the process of making the pot and then you will get to make your own. You will get dirty in the process so dress appropriately. Jim will also assist in helping you get cleaned up. He will take your piece back to Nevada City to fire it. We will then have them transported back to the nursery for you to pick up.

The workshops are limited to 10 people each, and there will be 2 workshops: one at 11:00 am and the other at 1:00 pm. There is a \$20 fee (\$45 value). If you would like to participate, please email Events@berkeleyhort.com and let us know which workshop you would like to attend. We will call you to confirm and collect payment information.

Come join us to make your own piece of beautiful art. —Jeanne

