



NEWS FROM SOQUEL NURSERY GROWERS

February 2010

Open weekdays 8 am to 4:00 pm

What Does Soquel Have?

We have several options to keep you informed of what we have available:

By mail: Once a month we send out this newsletter and availability by postal mail.

By fax: We update our availability every Friday. If you need the most current copy, call and ask for one. We can also fax it to you automatically every week.

By email: You may receive our availability every Friday by email. We send it as an attachment in three different formats: Windows Excel 2000, HTML, and PDF. Our email address is info@soquelnursery.com

Our website: www.soquelnursery.com has our weekly availability list without prices and our full catalog with photos.

If you would like to be put on or taken off any of these lists please call (831) 475-3533.

BullsEye™ Zonal Pelargoniums

The **BullsEye™** series of **Zonal Pelargoniums** (aka **Geraniums**, or **P. hortorum**) has deep chocolate-brown leaves with green margins. We are growing **Light Pink**, **Scarlet**, **Red**, **Salmon**, and **Cherry** in 4" pots. The flower heads are 4"-5" in diameter. **BullsEye™ Pelargoniums** have excellent heat tolerance and a long bloom season. The vivid foliage and flowers won't burn out in full sun. Their compact growth habit (to 13"-15" tall and wide) is great for containers.

Valentine Gardening

We always have a delightful assortment of pink, white and red "Flowers of Mass Cuteness" in February to help you **SPREAD THE LOVE!**

Dianthus, aka **Garden Pinks** or **Carnations**, are starting to bloom now. We have dwarf mounding varieties and taller ones that make wonderful cut flowers with their sweet clove fragrance. They have gray or green leaves and flowers in various shades of pink, salmon, white and red. **Dianthus** enjoy fast draining, slightly alkaline soil in sun or light shade. They are a classic romantic flower that makes a lovely Valentine's Day gift.

These four varieties have gray foliage and are available in 1-gallon cans:

Blushing Maiden: Double, pale pink. 18" x 12".

Helen: Double, salmon. 1' x 1'.

Rosie Cheeks: Double, vibrant pink. 6" x 12".
Fragrant.

Spangled Star has a red and white heart on each petal! Awww! 1' x 1', single.

These five varieties have green foliage and are available in 4" pots:

The **Super Parfait** series has 2" diameter single flowers with dark centers. Compact mounding habit to 8"-10". We have **Red**, **Raspberry** and **Strawberry**.

Fandango Purple Picotee: Fragrant, semi-double flowers with white frilled edges. Tall habit to 16" x 18".

Dulce White: A very heat-tolerant, long blooming single white. Compact mounding habit to 10"-12".
Fragrant.

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Valentine Gardening continued

Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra spectabilis*) This dainty woodland flower looks like a string of exotic jewels or lingerie. In our climate, they are best treated as a seasonal decoration or garden experiment. They want well-drained acidic soil, colder winters and no snails. We have two varieties, pink and white.

Saxifraga decipens or **Rockfoil** forms a tidy mound of intriguingly serrated bright green foliage. It looks pettable, like a little sheep. The flowers are little five petaled stars: pink, red, white, or pink and white. Give it good drainage and medium water. Sun or part shade.

Delphiniums

We have the **Pacific Giants** series of **Delphinium elatum** in 1 and 2-gallon cans this year. The 2 gallons are planted 3 per can for a spectacular show. The dense spikes of flowers can reach 4' tall.

Astolat: Pink with black center

Black Knight: Deep purple with black center

Blue Jay: Medium blue with black center

Galahad: White

King Arthur: Deep purple with white center

Summer Skies: Sky blue with white center

Delphinium 'Dasante Blue' is one of the earliest blooming varieties. The flowers are vibrant mid-blue with white centers and touches of violet. It has a compact habit to 28" x 12".

Delphinium bellamosum 'Belladonna' has airy, branching spikes of light blue flowers and a very long bloom season. 3' x 2'.

All delphiniums like rich, well-drained soil, full sun, plenty of water and fertilizer. Protect from snails.

Phlox subulata

Phlox subulata or **Moss Pink** forms a beautiful blue-green carpet of foliage covered with starry flowers. It looks especially nice rambling around rocks and stepping-stones. The variety '**Candy Stripe**' is pink and white and blooms repeatedly throughout the winter and early spring. **Crimson Beauty** is rosy pink. **Emerald Blue** has bright green foliage and pale blue flowers. We will also have **Coral Eye** (Pale coral with deeper eye) and **Snowflake**.

Lithodora 'Blue Star'

Lithodora diffusa 'Blue Star' is a great plant for a rock garden or to cascade over a retaining wall. '**Blue Star**' has an electric blue star in the center and white edges. Like its parent '**Grace Ward**', '**Blue Star**' has narrow, dark green leaves and a trailing habit to 1' x 1'. Grow it in full sun or light shade with moderate water.

Lobelia 'Queen Victoria'

Much of a garden's visual interest in winter can be derived from foliage. **Lobelia cardinalis 'Queen Victoria'** has splendid deep red leaves almost all year. Its bold texture and color makes a nice contrast with bronze, blue and gray grasses and other foliage plants. In summer it will have spikes of scarlet flowers to 4' tall. This is a great plant for a boggy spot in full sun or light shade. It grows to about 1' wide. It is native to the eastern U.S. Hummingbirds love it.