



Edition 8.51

Yamagami's Nursery

December 18, 2008

Featured Quote :



"The richness I achieve comes from Nature, the source of my inspiration."

~ Claude Monet

3 Day Forecast

| Mon | Tue | Wed |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | |
| HI: 79F Lo: 55F | HI: 80F Lo: 59F | HI: 80F Lo: 59F |
| www.weatherforyou.com | | |

Cupertino

Weather Courtesy of:



"The very best for your container gardens!"

Yamagami's Nursery Holiday Hours

Wed., Dec. 24: Yamagami's Nursery will close at 3 PM.
 Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 25-26: Yamagami's Nursery will be closed to celebrate with our families.
 Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 31-Jan. 1: Yamagami's Nursery will be closed.

We wish you all Happy Holidays!



Figs and Pomegranates have arrived!

Our first dormant fruit trees, **Figs and Pomegranates**, have arrived just in time for holiday gift giving and early planting. These trees are grown in liner pots (4" square, 10" deep) because they have a **much better success rate than those from bare-root**. We offer 8 varieties of Figs and 10 varieties of Pomegranates for those with discriminating tastes. In this issue we will focus on the figs.

Since 1948, Yamagami's Nursery has been committed to the promotion of beauty and the plants, products and friendly, professional support needed to attain and maintain that Beauty. In my parents' footsteps (and Taro Yamagami's before them), I promise to continue that tradition. I invite you to visit us in the nursery and on our website, yamagamisnursery.com for help in making your yard into a beautiful garden.

Thanks for visiting,



PRESTON OKA

President of Yamagami's Nursery

*"When you want to succeed...
the first time."*

**Have a Look
Around the Site:**



Our first dormant fig trees have arrived just in time for holiday gift giving and early planting! Photos, clockwise from Top left: 1. Brown Turkey Fig; 2. Panache Fig; 3. Peter's Honey Fig

For some people, only the dark skinned figs will do. Among these, **Black Mission Fig** is the most popular. It is a heavy bearer of rich tasting, purplish-black fruit with strawberry colored flesh. It dries well, can be canned and is good eaten fresh. **Black Jack** has very similar fruit but the tree itself is dwarf, topping out at 10 feet. It is an excellent candidate for containers or espalier. Less dark but just as tasty, **Brown Turkey Fig** has a brownish purple skin and pink flesh. It is larger than Black Mission, sweet with a rich flavor but is best eaten fresh.

For other folks, the sweetness of the light skinned figs is irresistible. **Janice Seedless Fig** is a newer white Kadota variety. Its pale fruit is large, VERY sweet and delicious, with almost no seeds! New for us this year is **Peter's Honey** with medium sized golden yellow fruit. It is very fragrant as it ripens and tastes like honey, Yummo! **Conadria** is a heavy bearer of light yellow fruit with pink flesh. It is not quite as sweet as a Kadota, but has a richer flavor and keeps better.

Panache (Tiger) Fig has small-to-medium size fruit with a fine flavor. It's called 'Tiger' because the fruit is striped green and yellow. Even the stems are striped! Another striped fig is **Flanders**,



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CAROLYN VILLA-SCOTT
ADVANCED CCN PRO,
MASTER FRUIT TASTER

a highly productive tree with long-necked, violet striped and pink flesh. It offers a rich, old-world flavor.

Figs grow well here in sunny spots and can be grown in tree form, as espaliers, and even in containers. Add them to your kitchen garden as they can be used in both sweet and savory dishes. See our [2009 Fruit Tree Catalog](#) on our website, [YamagamisNursery.com](#), for descriptions of other fruit trees arriving in January. You can always give a gift certificate for a specific fruit listed. Give a garden gift that will keep on giving, a fruit tree from Yamagami's Nursery!

Carolyn Villa-Scott, Advanced CCN Pro, Master Fruit Taster

Houseplants for Clean Air!

Furnaces and fireplaces are going day and night, and it's too cold to open windows. It's getting stuffy indoors. It turns out that stuffy is only one problem. Newer buildings are much more energy efficient, meaning they are insulated and airtight. This means that pollutants are trapped indoors with you. The phrase coined to describe this unfortunate result is "sick building syndrome". Houseplants to the rescue!

We know that houseplants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen to freshen the air, but now we are learning that they also scrub harmful gasses from the air. Additionally, some pollutants are absorbed by the plant's soil and neutralized. NASA has been researching the use of

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FICUS 'BENJAMINA'



GOLD POTHOS



BLOOMING SPATHIPHYLLUM

houseplants to cleanse the air in space stations. NASA researchers have found many common houseplants absorb benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene. Decorating with houseplants is an easy fix. The more vigorously they grow, the better job they'll do for you.

Plants found effective air cleansers by NASA include:

Botanical Name *Common Name*

Aglaonema modestum Chinese Evergreen

Chamaedorea sefritzii Bamboo Palm

Chlorophytum comosum Spider Plant

Dracaena deremensis 'Janet Craig' Dracaena Janet Craig

Dracaena deremensis 'Warneckii' Dracaena Warneckii

Dracaena fragrans 'Massangeana' Dracaena Cornstalk

Dracaena marginata Red-Edged Dracaena

Epipremnum aureum Golden Pothos

Ficus benjamina Weeping Fig

Philodendron scandens 'oxycardium' Heartleaf
Philodendron

Sansevieria trifasciata Snake Plant

Spathiphyllum 'Mauna Loa' Peace Lily

It seems likely that all houseplants will clean the air, but these are proven to do so. Come to Yamagami's Nursery for help keeping your houseplants healthy and happy so they can return the favor for you!

Contact Information:

E-Mail:

[Click to e-mail us.](#)

Telephone:

(408) 252-3347

Address:

1361 S. De Anza Blvd
Cupertino, CA 95014

Hours:

7 Days a Week:
9 am to 5 pm



**Red
Festival
Grass
from
Monrovia**

Deck Your Halls with Fresh Holiday Greenery!

Decorating the house with fresh greenery is one of the oldest winter holiday traditions. People have been decorating with greenery since the 1800s, with some homes elaborately decorated with garlands of holly, ivy, mountain laurel and mistletoe hung outside from the roof. Other homes went a simpler route, with indoor greenery, boughs in the window frames and holly sprigs stuck to the glass with wax.

Today, decorating for the holidays with fresh greenery is more prevalent than ever. Greens such as cedar, cotoneaster, pine, and holly add a fresh look and natural scent to our homes, and are good to use since they dry out slowly and hold their needles well. Spruce, nandina and most broadleaf evergreens can also be used, but will last longer if used outdoors. Berried plants add color to arrangements.

In addition to using greenery in traditional methods such as wreaths, garlands and table centerpieces, you can also create beautiful arrangements in window boxes, pottery or vases. The key is to either immerse the cut ends in water before arranging or place them in an pre-soaked Oasis inside the container, which you can keep moist.



Besides the more commonly used evergreens, consider using other plant parts such as acorns, berries, dried flowers, cones, seed pods and branches of dormant plants such as pussy willow or forsythia to give added color and texture interest. Branches and seedpods of Southern Magnolia are beautiful in arrangements. You can even incorporate fruits such as lemons, limes, apples, pears, kumquats and pineapple.

It's important to decorate safely during the holidays. Dried evergreens can become flammable when in contact with a heat source such as a candle flame, space heaters, heater vents or sunny windows. Using an anti-transpirant like Wilt Stop or Cloud Cover will help slow down their drying out. If you use lights near your green arrangements, make sure that lights stay cool and, if



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'Charming Fantasy' Snowberry

outside, make sure that they are rated for exterior use.

Nothing can beat the look of fresh greens scattered around the house and in arrangements. It's hard to beat the aroma of fresh evergreens decorating your house in the winter months. You can find all kinds of fresh greenery at Yamagami's Nursery, so come on in and let one of our Nursery Professionals help you choose fresh greenery for your home.

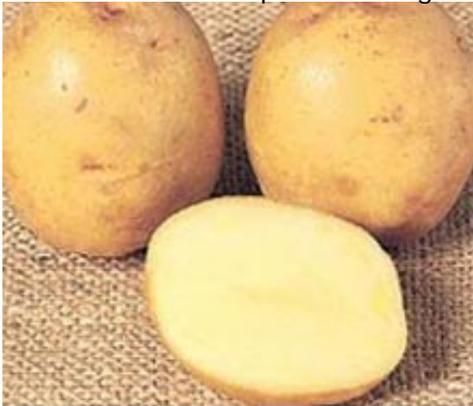
Be sure to see our newly arrived selection of berried plants. Plant these in your garden and use them for arrangements every year! Selection includes cotoneasters, hollies and 'Charming Fantasy' Snowberry

(Symphoricarpos). The 'Charming Fantasy' Snowberry is a fast growing deciduous shrub (to 4' tall) with pale pink flowers in summer, then pearl-like berries in winter. It is prized by flower

arrangers for the berries on bare branches which last two weeks when cut.

Grow Your Own Spuds!

After running out of stock within days of our last newsletter, we are happy to report we have received another shipment of Organic Seed Potatoes! Many are heirloom varieties and all are tasty. We offer seed potatoes in a rainbow of colors including red, white, blue and yellow. We even have the "fingerlings" found in finer dining. The flavor of fresh dug potatoes far surpasses that of grocery store spuds.



YUKON GOLD POTATO

Pick up a copy of our FREE Growing Potatoes Guide for complete planting instructions. If you don't dig digging, then try growing them in a half barrel, a garbage can or even in a garbage bag. This is a great family project.

Yamagami's offers the following varieties:





ALL BLUE POTATO



FRENCH FINGERLING POTATO

All Blue

All Red

Butterfinger

Cal White

Dark Red Norland

French Fingerling

Red Gold

Red LaSoda

Rose Fin Apple

Russet Norkotah

Russian Banan

Yukon Gold

Let our knowledgeable Nursery Pros help you grow your own organic produce! We are here to help you succeed...the first time!

Coming Events:



Yamagami's Cut Christmas Tree lot is open through Dec. 24th.

Come choose your fresh cut Noble Fir!



Yamagami's Nursery will be closed to celebrate with our families on the following days:

Wed., Dec. 24 we will close early at 3 PM.

Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 25-26 we will be closed all day.

Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 31-Jan. 1 we will be closed all day.

We wish you all Happy Holidays!

Winter Garden Classes start in January!

Time to brush up on Fruit Tree Pruning, Winter Rose Care, and Japanese Maple Pruning. **There is a \$20 fee per person, per class, which is rebated as a coupon good for merchandise.** Space is limited so pre-paid registration is recommended. To pay to reserve your spot, come in or call us at (408) 252- 3347 and use a credit card. Walk-ins will be allowed if space is available.



BRADLEY STRAWHORN

Winter Fruit Tree Care: Pruning and Dormant Spraying Basics with Bradley Strawhorn, Horticulturist and Pruning Specialist.

Learn about pruning and dormant spraying from an expert. See fee info above.

Sat., Jan. 10th at 10 AM
Sat., Jan. 17th at 10 AM and
Sun., Jan. 18th at 2 PM.



ALAN TAGAMI

Pruning 101: Winter Garden Clean-up with Alan Tagami, Landscape Consultant.

Learn what needs pruning now and how to do it. See fee info above.

Saturday, Jan. 10th at 2 PM and
Saturday, Jan. 24th at 2 PM.



LORENA GORSCHÉ

Winter Rose Care for Healthy Roses with Lorena Gorsche, Yamagami's Rose Expert.

Learn about pruning, dormant spraying and year-round care. See fee info above.

Sun., January 11th at 2 PM,
Wed., Jan. 14th at 10 AM or 2 PM,
Sat., Jan. 24th at 10 AM,
Sun., Jan. 25th at 2 PM,
or one "Last Chance" class on
Sun., Feb. 8th at 11 AM.



NANCY GARRISON

Backyard Fruit Trees with Nancy Garrison, local fruit guru.

Learn how to maximize harvests in small spaces through planning, planting, pruning and training techniques. See fee info above.

Saturday, Jan. 31st at 10 AM or
Saturday, Feb. 7th at 10 AM.



ALAN TAGAMI

Japanese Maple Pruning with Alan Tagami, Landscape Consultant.

Learn how to bring out the shape of your tree. See fee info above.

Sun., Feb. 15th at 11 AM or **2 PM,**
Sat., Feb. 28th at 10 AM or **2 PM,**
Sun., March 1st at 11 AM or **2 PM.**

FEATURED RECIPE:

**Caribbean
Christmas Ring**



Try this delicious Bundt cake topped with an orange sugar glaze.

- 3 tablespoons vegetable shortening
- 2 1/2 cups finely chopped walnuts (split)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 cup softened butter
- 1 1/3 cups granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup sour cream or plain nonfat yogurt
- 1 ripe banana, mashed
- 2 tablespoons orange liqueur (cointreau, triple sec)

Orange Sugar Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 2 tablespoons orange juice

Step by Step:

- Thoroughly grease a 10 to 12-cup microwave-safe bundt pan with shortening; sprinkle with 1/2 cup of the chopped walnuts to coat evenly.
- Sift flours, baking powder and baking soda.
- Cream butter and sugar until fluffy; beat in eggs, one at a time.
- Stir sour cream or yogurt, banana and liqueur into egg mixture.
- Fold flour mixture into banana-egg batter; stir in remaining walnuts.
- Spoon into prepared pan and place on top of microwave-proof bowl in microwave, bringing cake up to center of oven.
- Cook on medium 10 minutes, then on high 5 to 7 minutes until cake tests done, turning twice. Let cake stand 15 minutes. Turn out onto serving plate.
- Let cool.
- Mix sifted powdered sugar and orange juice until smooth. Pour glaze evenly over cake and serve.

Yield: 20-24 servings



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