

## Springtime at El Dorado Nursery & Garden

Spring is our most amazing season. If seasons were male or female, Spring is female.

She can be beautiful and sunny for a week and then cold and raining with the blink of an eye. She is unpredictable, enticing, and just plain hard to handle. To a novice gardener, the first hint of Spring causes one to lose all common sense and run to the nearest nursery and shop away. The seasoned gardener rushes to the nursery and then makes careful notes, knowing that this warm weather is just a teaser and the Spring lasts for months. At the nursery, we feel terrible when we have to tell a customer, no-it is too soon to plant, or wait until it's warmer. Plants just know when it is the right time to wake up! In California, we are blessed with a very long growing season. Spring Fever hits in March and April, and lasts through June.

April is National Gardening Month and in keeping with the tradition, every year, the largest gardening organizations get together and come up with the "Hot Gardening Trends for 2005". The results are based on a lot of very scientific evidence. Actually, they poll area gardeners, professional gardeners, and retailers and ask "So, what do you think is hot right now?".

The "Hot Garden Trends for 2005" are....

1. Large scaled container gardens. We know that people love to garden and they love to garden in containers. The bigger the better! When they create the container, they are adding accessories such as "Forest Faces", "Shroomyz" and animals, such as rabbits, turtles, birds. See our article on "Themed Container Gardening" on our web page. We will have a container and hanging basket class in July. If you do not feel creative, we can create your garden for you.
2. Fancy Foliage. No longer is the consumer just shopping for flowers. The hottest plants on the market are being grown for the foliage (leaves) and not the flowers. Look for Coleus, Caladiums, Japanese Maples, Sweet potato vine, Hostas, ferns, and lots of different leaf colors and shapes in the years to come. This year El Dorado Nursery will offer an exclusive collection of plants by "Proven Winners" for your yard.
3. Mixed Up Flower Beds. Combination planters/beds are all the rage. Filling up planters with trees, shrubs, annuals, and perennials has replaced the old standard of shrub-shrub-shrub surrounded by bark. The result lends us to a more "cottage garden" or "meadow" look. No longer do we love the shrub/bark front yard. We love color!

4. Less lawn more landscape. Homeowners are removing turf at increasing rates and adding more flowers, shrubs, and trees. The belief is that lawn is more work, requires more chemicals, and water than mixed bed plantings.
5. Vertical Gardening. Put up a trellis and watch it grow. Trellises, fences, and arbors have returned to the gardening world once again. Smaller lots and impatient gardeners may be responsible. The choice to go vertical is easy with all the options out there. Wood, iron, or plastic to name a few. We have brought in a large collection of trellis' this year.

Remember Spring is unpredictable but lasts a long time here in beautiful California. For more info on Perennial plantings, look for our featured article on perennial on the web page.