

WINTER WEEKEND

From Friday sundown to Sunday wind-down, places to play on a chilly night and day

SANTA ROSA



THE SEASON'S TOP PICKS

Great places to eat,
meet and celebrate

HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST

Ideas for the gardner, cyclist and cook

WINTER 2010/2011





CHAD SURMICK

A Cordyline in landscape architect Helene Morneau's Santa Rosa garden.

TOP PICKS

From flowers to outdoor furniture, 12 places to satisfy your green thumb and decorating dreams

Get it for Growing

STORY BY ROSEMARY McCREARY

Luther Burbank got it right – Santa Rosa is a chosen spot of all this Earth! In every neighborhood throughout the city, gardens flourish for dabblers and serious gardeners alike. When it's time to tweak your landscape, go the distance and create a Wow factor in your own backyard, or simply find a garden gift or accessory. Here are a dozen top picks in Santa Rosa to help you get the job done.

GARDEN COLOR

King's Nursery, 1212 13th St. (542-4782; kingsflownursery.com). For more than 100 years, family-owned King's Nursery has supplied Santa Rosa gardens with vibrant beauty. A walk through the gate tells why: Luxurious displays radiate a rainbow of color every season of the year!

Bare root roses are a winter specialty at King's, but veggie starts and other edibles like citrus figs, pomegranates and olives also are featured, along with a constant selection of flowering plants and distinctive containers.

PERENNIALS

The Nursery at Emerisa Gardens, 555 Irwin Lane (525-9644; emerisa.com). With acres of its namesake commercial nursery next door, this retail outlet stocks outstanding garden species sought after by design enthusiasts. Focus is on specialty perennials, but shrubs and groundcovers are in good supply, too, along with stacks of containers to suit your style – sleek, contemporary lines or colorful Talavera pottery.

Thinking of replacing your lawn? Before you do, explore stunning plant combinations and water-saving ideas in the perimeter demo gardens. The nursery is open March thru October.

TREE NURSERY

Urban Tree Farm, 3010 Fulton Road (544-4446; urbantreefarm.com).



KENT PORTER

Through almost 50 years, Urban Tree Farm has added shrubs, vines, and grasses to its expansive collection of tree varieties.

Anyone needing a tree won't go wrong here. For nearly 50 years, trees have been this company's business, and stock has expanded to nearly countless varieties. Today, that means shrubs, vines, grasses, perennials, and edibles like fruit and olive trees and berries.

Before you go, visit the web page, scroll through several planting guides and browse the catalog for plant descriptions and photos. Need a recommendation for a specific plant in a specific space? The staff can give you a dozen scenarios and long lists of choices.

NATIVES

California Flora Nursery, Somers & D Streets, Fulton (528-8813; calfloranursery.com). Here's a must-stop destination for anyone ready to give up water-hungry exotics in favor of species adapted to our wet winters and dry summers. The nursery is at the far end of Santa Rosa in the little community still known as Fulton where there's lots of space for a diverse plant collection, much of which is propagated and grown on site.

You'll find natives and Mediterranean climate plants for growing in all of our local microclimates. Closed weekends in winter.

GARDEN CENTER

Friedman Brothers Home Improvement Center, 4055 Santa Rosa Ave. (584-7811; FriedmansHome.com). Proud of their landmark local presence for more than half a century, Friedman's retains the warm & friendly service of a neighborhood establishment despite its big-box size.

The garden center overflows with racks of colorful annual bedding plants for unstoppable seasonal color, and there's always a wide selection of herbs, vegetable starts and native plants as well as climate-appropriate perennials, shrubs and trees.

Landscape and hardscape materials are stored outdoors in the adjacent yard, while tempting selections of houseplants and racks of garden products and tools are housed inside.

SOIL, MULCHES, ROCK

3-Way Tie for Landscape Supplies: Soil — **Sequoia Landscape Materials**, 1330 King St. (527-5512; sequoiascape.com). If you're buying by the bagful, nearly any nursery or garden center has what you need, but buying in bulk takes you to Sequoia Landscape Materials. Look for Amended Loam for general planting, Garden Mix for raised beds and Plant Mix for blending into existing soil.



Photos by CHAD SURMICK, left, JOHN BURGESS, above

Left, a Canna "Pretoria" in Morneau's garden. Top, an iris at California Flora Nursery. Above, the wonders at the Urban Tree Farm.

Mulches — United Forest Products, 1051 Todd Road (585-6056; unitedforestproducts.com). There's nothing like fresh mulch spread under shrubs and trees and around perennials to snazzy up your front yard. Have a flair for the dramatic? Go for black, a tad flamboyant but under sculptural succulents like agaves and phormiums, you'll get oohs and aahs at every turn.

Rock — Wheeler Zamaroni, 3500 Petaluma Hill Road (543-8400; wzsupply.com). This landscape supplier features an astounding array of products, but if you don't see what you want, they can fabricate it for you. In stock, you'll find manufactured and natural stone, solid and veneers, aggregates and decorative rock from pebbles for pathways to boulders. Drop by and examine their products first hand.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Exteriors Landscape Architecture, 6066 Melita Road (528-8696; exteriorslandscapearchitecture.com). Helene Morneau & Kristina Sunderlage design the kind of home landscapes that invite outdoor living whether in an urban backyard or on sprawling country property. Their eye for detail and skill of integrating the garden into a natural setting while meeting a client's lifestyle have been their forte for more than 15 years.

Their focus is your home's exterior, but designs always reflect

the owner's personal needs and aesthetics. A final touch of artistry comes with carefully selected plant species that even the seasoned gardener finds fascinating.

OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Iron Village, 4135 Santa Rosa Ave. (584-7131). Unless you've driven to the southern end of Santa Rosa Avenue, you may never have noticed this 37-year-old purveyor of quality furniture for decks and patios. True to its name, the sprawling display yard holds a vast array of wrought iron sets in various styles to serve any size setting. Indoors, you'll find cast aluminum sets with sling chairs and rattan sets with cushions.

Display areas also feature cast benches, fountains and glazed pottery from Thailand and China to compliment the furniture. And if you're looking for custom gates or fences, Iron Village can fabricate them for you.

GARDEN OUTING

Luther Burbank Home & Gardens, Santa Rosa & Sonoma Avenues (524-5445; lutherburbank.org). Always a top spot for tourists, this manicured horticultural show place is perfect for a rejuvenating stroll on your own or with visitors, every day of the year from 8 a.m. to dusk at no charge. Take along your cell phone and tune in at more than two dozen spots to hear about spineless cactus, fruit