

# Miller Farms

*I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature's rebirth? ~Edward Giobbi*

## Weedin's

### Well Drained Soil

Most plants need well drained soil. An easy way to check your soil drainage is to dig a hole about 6-8 inches deep and wide. Fill with water, if the hole drains within 3 hours then you are set to plant. If it is still filled with water after 12 hours you might want to consider a raised bed.

### Winter Yellows?

After a rainy winter, our lawns may be a little leached of nutrients and will appear yellow. A healthy lawn starts at the soil level and keeping the microbes happy. We recommend **Dr. Earth Super Natural Lawn Fertilizer**. It will green up your lawn and because it's a natural based verses salt based fertilizer it will not destroy the soil fauna. The grass and the soil will be happy.

### Plant Summer Bulbs

Now is the time to plant summer blooming bulbs such as begonias, dahlias, gladiolas and much more. Mix in **Dr. Earth Bulb Food** at planting and be rewarded with bouquets of blooms.

### Potatoes

Miller Farms is your potato headquarters. Potatoes are easy to grow and the freshly dug spuds are delicious. You can plant them in the ground or even in containers. Did you know that the Miller Family actually grew 150 acres of Kennebec potatoes in the 1970's? The potatoes were sold to Frito Lay which were then shipped to Hawaii for processing. This year we have: Yukon Gold, Chieftain, Fingerlings, Russet Burbank, Yukon Gold, and Cascade (a new sub for Kennebec).

### Crane Fly

You might be seeing the ugly (their mom thinks they are gorgeous) larvae of the European Crane Fly hanging out on your sidewalks during the heavy spring rains. A patchy and yellowing lawn is also a sign that the larvae population is growing. We recommend **Ortho Max Insect Killer for Lawns**. This is a long lasting solution. For a less toxic solution we now have the predatory nematodes. This microscopic creatures will kill the larvae.

### pH

Checking your pH is important for many trees and shrubs to be healthy. pH is a measure of the soils acidity or alkalinity. This can affect the vigor of your lawns, trees and shrubs. In our climate our soils tend to run a little acidic. With our simple pH kits you can get a good idea of where your pH is at and then how to adjust it. If you have been feeding your lawn and it is not greening up and application of lime may help. Blueberries and Rhodies need the soil to be acidic in order to thrive.

### Slimy Creatures

Keep your eyes out for slugs and snails. They love to pop out of the ground this time of year and munch your daffodils and tulips. **Worry Free** and **Sluggo** (same stuff) are effective and safe to use around pets. **Sluggo Plus** will also kill earwigs, sowbugs and snails.

## April 2010



### Encore Azaleas

We have just received our shipment of Encore Azaleas with over 10 different varieties.

Encore Azaleas are the only patented brand of azaleas to bloom in spring, summer and fall. Encore varieties begin their performance with the spring flowering season. Once this "first act" of blooming concludes, new shoots begin to grow and set buds. The Encore Azalea's "second act" opens when these buds begin blooming into full flower mid-summer. This unique bloom season continues through the fall, the curtain dropping with the onset of cold weather. But, the show goes on. As an "encore," these exceptional azaleas flower again with traditional spring azaleas and the process starts over.

## Clematis



We are excited to offer over 40 different varieties of Clematis this year. Clematis come in a variety of colors from deep purples and pinks to soft silvery white. Making a repeat appearance are the Raymond Evison Collection. Many of his hybrids have a compact growth habit and are very floriferous.

Clematis are easy to grow though, they do require a couple of things to make them happy. Plant in partial sun. The ideal growing conditions for most clematis is to have their "feet" in the shade and their tops in the sun.

They do require well drained soil (try the soil drainage test we mentioned earlier). Prune spring blooming clematis right after they bloom and summer blooming clematis in the spring.

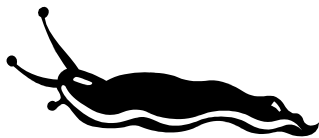
With the huge variety of clematis available you can have gorgeous flowers from late winter to fall. Even after they bloom, many of the clematis have beautiful seed pods, especially Clematis tangutica with its bright yellow bell shaped blooms.

## What's Growing On?

**Annie's Annuals** We have been getting great orders from Annie's every couple of weeks. Just in this week are poppies, nicotiana, Zauluziansky (a.k.a Midnight Candy), nasturtiums and more.

**Annie's**  
Annuals & Perennials

**Snail and Slug Away**— a natural slug and snail killer that is completely safe for children and pets. Safe to spray on your vegetables, fruit and flowering plants.



**In bloom:** Pansies, Nemesia, Salvias, Daisies, Rhododendrons, Brunnera, Wisteria, Deutzia, Rhododendrons, flowering cherries and crabapples. It's looking great right now. Come by and take a look.



Ladybugs and Praying Mantis eggs have arrived. For best results make sure you have aphids or mites and wait until dusk to release the ladybugs. They will stick around better. The Praying Mantis come in egg cases and will need some time to hatch out. This is a great project for your kids. Place them in a glass jar with netting secured over the top. Give them bright indirect light in a warm spot indoors.

**Seasonal Garden Mulch** is a new biodegradable paper mulch. This is great for using with your vegetable plantings to help suppress weeds.

Eco Bamboo Dishes have just arrived. If they break throw them in your compost pile.

Beautiful new pottery has just arrived, including some in oxblood red colors!

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Lilacs in bloom around Humboldt County and here in the nursery. It just would not be spring with out those bright colorful and fragrant clusters of blossoms. To grow them successfully here on the coast, plant in full sun and well drained soil. Make sure the plants get plenty of air circulation to help prevent mildew. Sometimes Lilacs don't come into bloom and some of the reasons could be: poor drainage, acid soils, over crowding, improper pruning or too much shade. If your soil is acidic then apply dolomite lime once or twice a year as needed. A pH test kit will help determine if this is needed. If you need to prune your lilac get it done right after they have finished blooming. If you wait too long then you will remove next year's flowers.

**SALE!**

All Bareroot Fruit,  
Ornamental Trees and  
Shrubs

50% OFF

All J&P Roses and Weeks  
Roses

50% OFF

'Till they are gone or  
potted up