



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## SHARING SECRETS

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*Compiled by Laura Bauer & Debra Bushweit Galliani*

**“What are some of your favorite nurseries – near or far? Tell us why, what they carry and where they’re located.”**

Another round of answers to one of our most popular questions.

### **Annie’s Annuals & Perennials**

740 Market Ave.  
Richmond CA 94801  
(510) 215-1671  
[www.anniesannuals.com](http://www.anniesannuals.com)

They propagate many plants that no one else seems to have, including a large variety of poppies. Their plants can also be found at many local nurseries and through mail order.

### **Berkeley Horticultural Nursery**

1310 McGee Ave.  
Berkeley CA 94703  
(510) 526-4704  
[www.berkeleyhort.com](http://www.berkeleyhort.com)

An upscale-type nursery with a wide selection of perennials set in a comfortable shopping atmosphere. They also specialize in flowering trees, Japanese maples and rhododendrons. An attractive demonstration garden at the entrance entices purchases.

### **Half Moon Bay Nursery**

11691 San Mateo Rd.  
Half Moon Bay CA 94019  
(650) 726-5392

They have a large supply of perennials in small containers that aren’t typically seen. Good prices, helpful staff and a spacious setting. It’s a spectacular place to visit in the spring with many of their plants in bloom.

### **University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum**

1156 High St.  
Santa Cruz CA 95064  
(831) 427-2998  
[www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/)

I’m enthused about how well organized their plants are and the way they’re marketed; it’s a good system. The majority of their plants are from Australia and South Africa, and some are not readily available.

**Western Hills Rare Plants**

16250 Coleman Valley Rd.  
Occidental CA 95465  
(707) 874-3731

This nursery has been closed for some time. I went in February and the new owner planned to open to the public in March. In a park-like setting in the redwoods area north of San Francisco, this nursery has many rare and unusual plants in the ground.

- *RK*

**Armstrong Garden Centers**

25225 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Torrance CA 90505  
(310) 326-1892  
www.armstronggarden.com

It's not hard to find something I want to have at my local Armstrong. They carry Native Sons and San Marcos Growers plants, a wide variety of perennials, and unusual seasonal selections. They'll order what you're looking for and accept returns.

**Buena Creek Gardens**

418 Buena Creek Rd.  
San Marcos CA 92069  
(760) 744-2810  
www.buenacreekgardens.com

I'm lured there by their periodic sales and am always happy I endured the traffic. Their demonstration gardens have evolved into lush attractions for both wildlife and shoppers. I've added to my garden some of their choice plants that I've never seen elsewhere.

**Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**

1500 N. College Ave.  
Claremont CA 91711-3157  
(909) 625-8767  
www.rsabg.org

They generally have a good selection of California native plants at the Gift Shop from November through May. Their plant sales offer an array of native plants appropriate for the season (some are exclusive RSABG introductions), as well as interesting exotics in the fall. Knowledgeable folks are there to provide guidance and answer questions. A helpful list of sale plants is posted on their website.

- *DBG*

**Bellefontaine Nursery**

838 S. Fair Oaks Ave.  
Pasadena CA 91105  
(626) 796-0747

When I was in there a few weeks ago, I noticed they are now carrying plants from Annie's Annuals.

- *KM*

**California Cactus Center**

216 South Rosemead Blvd.  
Pasadena CA 91107  
(626) 795-2788

Cacti and succulents.

- *PM*

**Blue Hills Nursery & Gift Shop**

16440 Whittier Blvd.

Whittier CA 90603

(562) 947-2013

[www.bluehillsnurseryandgifts.com](http://www.bluehillsnurseryandgifts.com)

This is a small, family-owned, full service, general nursery.

- *DW*

**Barrister's Nursery and Garden Center**

915 El Centro Ave.

South Pasadena CA 91030

(626) 441-1323; [barristers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barristers@sbcglobal.net)

Within the last year, this new nursery has opened in South Pasadena and I think it is a real gem. Located right at the Gold Line stop at Mission Ave. (exit south to el Centro Ave.), you are right at the nursery and have been able to preview its stock and layout from the station.

I think the plant selection is out of the ordinary and the design and flow of the site is what I would like in a garden of my own. Their hours of operation are a bit loose so calling ahead might be wise. Generally, Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm. Worth a visit.

If you visit on a Thursday, the South Pasadena Farmers' Market is another attraction. Mission Avenue and the surrounding area is studded with interesting restaurants, coffee shops, antique stores, and just interesting shops. Library is near for clean restroom.

- *MB*

**Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch**

Cal State Polytechnic University Pomona

4102 S. University Dr.

Pomona CA 91768

(909) 869-4906

[www.csupomona.edu/~farmstore](http://www.csupomona.edu/~farmstore)

Cal Poly Pomona plants are grown by students and are sold at The Farm Store. It's kind of eclectic and mostly what you'd expect. They don't have a huge selection but it varies.

CPP is known for its plumeria. They get a lot of different tomatoes in spring. Last year they had a number of interesting salvias in the summer. Aside from their nice, if rather small selection, it's good to support the agriculture program at CPP.

- *JC*

**H&H Nursery**

6220 Lakewood Blvd.

Lakewood CA 90712

(562) 804-2513

Their plants all look really good. Ben, who is in his 70s, seems to be able to answer any question.

- *DH*

**Green Thumb Nursery**

1019 W. San Marcos Blvd.  
(near 78/15 intersection)  
San Marcos CA 92078  
(760) 744-3822

They have a wide selection of plants and other garden-related items. It's a big place and is interesting to walk around.

**Myrtle Creek Nursery**

2940 Reche Rd.  
Fallbrook CA 92028  
(760) 728-5340  
www.myrtlecreeknursery.com

Located in an oak grove with its own garden displays, plants and several outbuildings with antiques and other stuff for sales. Good place for kids. Hosts fairs and events.

- *SL*

**Lincoln Avenue Nursery**

804 Lincoln Ave.  
Pasadena CA 91103  
(626) 792-2138

I've been watching the changes at this nursery over the past few months. The owners, Ramon and Teresa, are attentive and knowledgeable, and they like to bring in new and interesting plants. They have a fairly large cactus and succulent selection, a nice pottery selection and a large shade house. They also produce a fun, little, email newsletter with seasonal information and recipes. The nursery is located just northwest of the Orange Grove intersection (where Burkard's Nursery is located).

**Theodore Payne Foundation**

10459 Tuxford St.  
Sun Valley CA 91352-2116  
(818) 768-1802  
www.theodorepayne.org

My favorite place to get California native plants. They have the best selection for dry, shady areas.

- *LB*

**Rainforest Flora**

19121 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Torrance CA 90503  
(310) 370-8044  
www.rainforestflora.com

Good nursery for tillandsias. A fun place to walk through with a nice tropical display.

- *LW*

**Rolling Hills Nursery**

25633 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Torrance CA 90505  
(310) 325-8200

A small nursery that carries good, interesting perennials, including California natives.

- *LC*

**Sperling Nursery**

24460 Calabasas  
Calabasas CA 91302  
(818) 591-9111  
www.sperlingnursery.com

A large variety of strong, healthy plants. Have had good results when planting them.

- *HG*

A wide collection of plants on 11 acres, most of which is a terraced hillside. Nice gift shop and patio area displays. Good selection of pots as well as not so common perennials in 4 inch pots and gallon containers. Nice selection of citrus trees.

- *Anon.*

**Sunflower Farms**

17609 S Western Ave.  
Gardena, CA 90247  
(310) 527-8371  
www.sunflowerfarmsnews.com

Older family-run nursery, like a botanical garden, lots of mature trees, laid out like a walk through a garden. Lots of unusual plants, pots and art for the garden. Come by for a tour.

- *DC*

**WorldWide Exotics**

11157 Orcas Ave.  
Lake View Terrace CA 91342  
(818) 890-1915

I discovered them at the Hollywood Farmer's Market and have made many pilgrimages to their nursery for Mexican weeping bamboo, palms, exotic and unusual vines, bromeliads and succulents. Their plants are always healthy and Shelly, the owner, is extremely knowledgeable.

- *NM*

They've been selling at the Torrance Farmers Market every other Saturday and have even brought specific plants by advance request.

- *DBG*

Great plants and service at fair prices.

- *GS*

*Anonymous Contributors*

**Australian Native Plants**

9040 North Ventura Ave.  
Ventura CA 93001  
(805) 649-3362  
www.australianplants.com

**Burkard Nurseries**

690 N. Orange Grove Blvd.  
Pasadena CA 91103  
(626) 796-4355  
www.burkards.com

Quality merchandise at upscale prices. A few times a year they have a 25% off sale on everything in the store.

**Green Thumb Nursery, Hardware & Patio Shop**

21812 Sherman Way  
Canoga Park CA 91303  
(818) 340-6400

Full service nursery. Large selection of annuals, perennials, and especially vegetables and herbs in 4 inch pots and 6 packs. Large hardware, boutiques, and gift department.

**J Woeste in Los Olivos**

2656 Alamo Pintado Ave.  
Los Olivos CA 93441  
(805) 693-9104

Very nice things for your garden, including pots and succulents.

**Marina del Rey Garden Center**

13198 Mindanao Way  
Marina del Rey CA 90292  
(310) 823-5956  
[www.marinagardencenter.com](http://www.marinagardencenter.com)

A large nursery with a wide selection, including unusual plants and many drought-tolerant plants. They also have fountains, pots and statuary.

**Papaya Tree Nursery**

12422 El Oro Way  
Granada Hills CA 91344  
(818) 363-3680  
[www.papayatreenursery.com](http://www.papayatreenursery.com)

By appointment only! A backyard nursery that specializes in exotic fruit trees suited to our climate.

**Persson's Nursery**

3115 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Pasadena CA 91107  
(626) 792-6073  
Well worth a visit.

**San Gabriel Nursery**

632 S. San Gabriel Blvd.  
San Gabriel CA 91776  
(626) 286-0787 and 286-3782  
[www.sgnursery.com](http://www.sgnursery.com)

A spacious nursery with a wide variety of plants that are well arranged.

**Sego Nursery**

12126 Burbank Blvd.  
N Hollywood CA 91607  
(818) 763-5711

**Sunset Boulevard Nursery**

4368 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Silver Lake CA 90029  
(323) 661-1642

They have a nice selection of drought-tolerant and California native plants.

**West Valley Nursery**

19035 Ventura Blvd.

Tarzana CA 91356

(818) 342-2623

A relatively small, select nursery. Roses, color and unexpected, unusual plants. Artful displays of plants in containers.

**Yamaguchi Bonsai Nursery**

1905 Sawtelle Blvd.

West Los Angeles CA 90025

(310) 473-5444

Specialize in bonsai and Japanese garden supplies.