



**Your One-stop Source for**

- Bedding Plants
- Trees & Shrubs
- Topsoil & Compost
- Ground Cover
- Fertilizers & Sprays
- Landscape Supplies & Services
- Garden Statuary & Pottery
- Garden & Gift showroom
- Knowledgeable and Friendly Staff

**455-1868**  
30 Hitchcock Road  
Salinas, off Highway 68  
[www.bokaynursery.com](http://www.bokaynursery.com)



**FROST  
RELIEF  
COUPON**

**15% OFF**  
on any plant  
with coupon

Offer good until May 31, 2007

photos: www.jillhofmann.com

**ARBUTUS**

*Terry Hanam*

Arbutus may sound like the name of a long lost uncle in Ireland or points beyond and, in the plant world; this idea may hold some truth. Arbutus, most commonly know as Madrone, survived the ice age in pockets of Western Europe and North America with one isolated clan in Killarney, Ireland due to glacial fissures. Another common name for one species of Madrone is 'Strawberry Tree' because of the sparkling, brilliant colored fruit that hangs like candy from the trees over a long summer/fall season. The species *A. unedo*, strawberry tree, translates to "I eat one" which gives a hint as to how the temptingly delicious looking fruit tastes, you will want to eat just one!

This is all interesting trivia but BOKAY NURSERY wants you to know more. The nursery has always carried a great selection of Madrones because they are a hardy plant that thrives on neglect. They are versatile in form, attractive year round and do not care for fertilizers



*Creamy urn shaped flowers are followed by forming "strawberries"*

or special watering. In a small patio garden, large planters or in the lawn; madrones never have a 'sloppy' time of year. Flowering in spring, fruiting in summer thru fall and solid leafy green in the winter with the ever present artistic trunk and branching patterns, it is a plant that will fit any landscape.

If your garden has a theme pattern to it, madrones will, most likely, suit it. The plants seem to fit with desert, Japanese, native (the species *menziesii* is a true native of CA) tropical, temperate and modern-style motifs perfectly. Depending on what species or variety you select, mature plants can range from under 5' to well over 30'.

Plant an ice age survivor in your garden for a winter hardy, year-round beauty to enjoy, even with a name like Arbutus!



*Shiny green foliage and red bark add year-round color*

## MULCH ONWARD

Is there ever a month that mulch cannot be used? In spring we talk about a fresh dressing of mulch to start the garden season off looking elegant and suppress weeds, in summer the mulch is crucial to conserve water and keep plants from drying out, fall mulch helps cover spent spring and summer perennials and prevent the soil splash that spreads plant disease and by winter time, the mulch is needed to protect the roots of plants from freezing while giving the garden a neat appearance. Mulch can be in the form of chips, nuggets, shavings and leaf material, ask the nursery staff which might be the best selection for your garden. We recommend sprinkling SLUGGO™ slug and snail eliminator after a fresh layer of mulch is added to accomplish two jobs at one time.



The nursery still has a great number of **awesome roses and fruit trees**. There is a popular saying for fruit trees that fits with roses as well, The second best time to plant fruit trees (roses) is today, the very best time was yesterday, if all else fails, the weekend is the next best alternative date! If your struggling for space, plant strawberries in pots, then can find a spot anywhere it is sunny.



## DO THE WATER CAN-CAN

One thing that is hardly ever noticed but always present in any talented planters garden is watering cans. Tucked in between pots, near the water hose, next to the garden shed and at the edge of a deck or patio, there are always several watering cans to be spied. Regardless of what type of watering system is in place, how elaborate the drip irrigation is and the number of pop-up sprinkler heads; the watering cans are still there. The reason is that there is always a new plant that needs a bit of extra attention, a transplant that cannot dry out, seedlings emerging or a spot blocked by foliage that gets missed by the automatic watering, that where water cans come in handy. If it

were a matter of dragging a garden hose to the spot, the tender plants would get neglected by a busy gardener, but the ever present, handy watering can is there for the rescue. In all our years serving gardeners in Monterey County, we at BOKAY NURSERY have never heard someone say, "I just have too many watering cans" or "do you have a water can recycling bin?" You just can't have enough of them! The nursery has a large selection of different styles and sizes of watering cans that will happily hold a bouquet of flowers if you are giving one as a gift. Metal styles can be customized with acrylic paints to make them garden art while they are perched in handy spots in your garden for a thirsty plant in need.



*Pigs can fly! - when they are weather vanes. New offerings at the Nursery.*

## SUMMER SALSA STARTS NOW!

Terry Hanam

Warm days are the reminder that summer is on the way so it is time to plant a salsa garden (or pot). The ultimate in fresh is to harvest ingredients from your own crop and BOKAY NURSERY has every ingredient you need to get started. Tomato and pepper season is beginning with the best choices available in varieties of red, yellow and orange tomatoes as well as the full temperature scale of pepper hotness. Add in tomatillo plants for a crisp, light taste and be



*Mixing different varieties can make for some creative salsa!*

sure to plant cilantro, green onions and basil. Garlic may have to wait if you didn't get some bulbs in the ground last fall but there are garlic chives to substitute in your harvest basket. If a vegetable garden doesn't exist in your landscape yet, all of these salsa crops can be grown in containers, ask the nursery staff for advice on what size planters are best for this project. Remember to combine different plants to make an attractive feature while the plants mature into a mouth watering salsa waiting to happen, just add chips!

## GARDEN BOOKS GET INSPIRED!

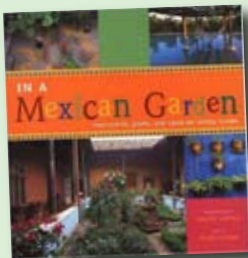
Terry Hanam

There are many books that are purchased, brought home and placed on a night stand or coffee table before eventually finding a permanent resting place on a bookshelf. Not true with gardening books, even if they get relegated to a shelf for a brief stay, they always seem to be put back into use. BOKAY NURSERY has, over the winter months, been adding to the shelves some of the finest gardening books available.



*Looking for something to curl up with after a good day in the garden?*

Interested in water gardens? Native plants? Year round flowering in the garden? Making pathways and walls? Insect and disease reference guides? Organic gardening methods? Pruning? Edible landscapes? Garden art? It's all there for a life time of learning, inspiring and motivating that will never end. Take a look at the nursery books to give to friends and to yourself, we promise they won't be dust collectors but they may get a bit dirty from your gardening gloves!



*Fantastic color schemes inspire!*



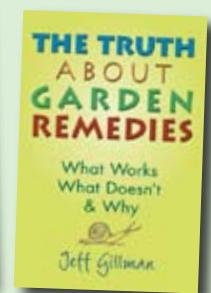
*Less work—more year-round color!*



*Beautiful native plants to consider for your garden*



*Stunning photos to reference*



*What really works?*

## FROST FATALITIES

*Terry Hanam*

This winter dished out some extreme temperatures that caused some plants to succumb to the freeze. Consider what the replacements will be and be sure to ask for advice. If it was a typically hardy plant that died, it may have been stressed going in to the winter from lack of water or too much fertilizer in late fall. If that is the case, you may want to plant the same again, which are healthy when

purchased at BOKAY. Or choose frost hardy plants to replace, such as our California natives that looked great before, during and after the freeze.

Before yanking the dead looking plant out of the ground, gently scratch the bark to check for any signs of green. Frost damaged plants may still have living stock closer to the ground and might leaf out or re-bud later than usual.

*Try planting frost hardy natives like Matilija poppies!*



30 Hitchcock Road  
Salinas, off Highway 68  
www.bokaynursery.com

**BOKAY**  
N U R S E R Y  
S I N C E 1 9 5 2