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NEW TEAK GARDEN FURNITURE LINE AT BOKAY

Bokay is proud to introduce a new line of outdoor furniture made from plantation grown teak. Teak is ideal for use outdoors, because of its extreme density and high resin content. Teak is resistant to rot, insects and warping and requires little or no maintenance when left outdoors.

This line is made from solid teak in Java, Indonesia—using sustainable forestry and manufacturing techniques.

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

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photos by Juli Hofmann

Chicken Soup

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TOMATO TROUBLE

Terry Hanam

The only problem with tomatoes is what to do with all the fruit, right? Well there can be trouble in tomato paradise, some years are worse than others for insect and disease invasions. This is a general guide to common tomato maladies but at Bokay Nursery we recommend that you bring a sample of leaves and fruit in a zip-lock baggie for us accurately identify if you are unsure of what the problem is.

Purchasing seed or starter plants, there are usually one or several initials near the tomato name such as V, F, N or T. This is a listing of disease problems that the variety is resistant (not immune) to. Verticillium Wilt is a common fungus that can persist in the soil for years and causes crop loss. Fusarium Wilt, Nematodes and Tobacco Mosaic Virus are frequently listed as well in desirable, hardy varieties because there is no treatment once the disease has struck a plant. Many people specifically choose resistant plant varieties in order to (hopefully) avoid these problems.

There are methods that will help as preventative medicine of sorts and recommend even if you have not had any problems growing tomatoes in the past. Water only the ground, let the plants dry almost to the point of wilting before you



Want to grow good tomatoes? Start by selecting disease resistant varieties that do well in your area.

water again and then water heavily. Place mulch under the plants for moisture retention and to prevent the splash of soil pathogens onto the leaves.

Foliar kelp spray is another proven winner in the fight for disease prevention. For years now Bokay Nursery has been promoting Kelp as a fertilizer and now there is more research that ever before to back us up. Fruit production, super immune booster, insect resistance, more drought

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Tomatoes continued from front page

tolerance, healthier soil and roots, longer production time: kelp is the key. More and more gardening publications and general news items are showing up toting the wonders of kelp, especially as a foliar spray. Blossom end rot, where the tomato looks perfectly fine except the bottom end is blackened or gray and soft is usually calcium deficiency. This can be helped with Calcium spray or refer to the kelp, which has loads of Ca in it as well.

Where tomatoes may have an array of disease problems, they have relatively few insect pests. Aphids may appear and can be spritzed with a mild soap spray. Tomato Horn Worms are avid eaters and can usually be readily spotted by the missing, eaten leaves and their enormous green bodies, remove by plucking off the plants and relocating them to a rest home of your choosing. Whitefly may find a home on the underside of leaves, mild soap or Neem spray will be effective.

Deer defy logic, the tomato plant, the green leafy part, is toxic, not to be consumed by anyone but apparently the deer have developed a taste for the toxin. Protect your tomato plants from browsing deer. Ripened fruit that is found with the underside chewed is often a sign of voles. These short-tailed mouse-like animals love almost ripe tomatoes—basic snap mouse trap are effective eliminators.

SIZZLING SUCCULENTS

Juli Hofmann

Looking for an easy to grow plant that looks fabulous year round? Something that does not need a lot of water or care? Try planting a bowl of succulents!

Succulents can be planted in whimsical containers such as cowboy boots or other found objects. Rock gardens are perfect for adding a few succulents. Hanging wreaths and colorful pottery are another natural pairing with these versatile plants.

With little effort, you can mix succulents with other Mediterranean climate plants. Anigozanthos (kangaroo paws), grasses, euphorbia, salvias, phormium, yucca, trailing geranium, & erigeron (Santa Barbara Daisy) are just

a few combinations to consider trying in a container.

With so many new varieties to choose from at Bokay—you can create a kaleidoscope of texture and color to delight the eye at every season.



Hanging baskets of succulents are eye pleasing and easy-care.



Aeoniums grow in many colors and textures - check out "Sunburst."

Two Hydrangeas Must-Haves

Terry Hanam

Oak Leaf Hydrangea

(*Hydrangea quercifolia*) This is not your flamboyant, huge colored pom-pom plant. The Oak leaf species is a native to US with grand and stately features. Beginning in Spring, buds swell and open quickly to lush, oak shaped leaves. Early Summer and persisting through the season are white, open cluster blossoms that appear to cool the hottest days.



Climbing Hydrangea add light in shady spots

Fall is bronze and copper and crimson shades as the leaves turn to brighten shorter days. The Winter months can host dried flower arrangements of spent blooms that remain attractive on the plant until late winter pruning in preparation of Spring.

Climbing Hydrangea

(*Hydrangea petiolaris* or *anomala*) When a customer comes to Bokay asking for a climbing vine that blooms in a shaded location there is only one dependable answer we can give: Climbing Hydrangea! A sturdy vine that can resemble grapevines in its climbing structure, they boast white, lace-cap blooms. In shaded glens the flowers appear like lights in the dimness.

Both the Oak-leafed Hydrangea and the Climbing Hydrangea have no particular insect or

disease problems, enjoy regular watering and require little to no fertilizer supplement. Let us show you these fantastic, all too often overlooked garden treasures.



Oak Leaf Hydrangea has fall color on oversize leaves

MULCH

Terry Hanam

It can be a tiresome, not so thrilling topic but MULCH is the constant ingredient in successful gardens. Yes, the flowers and fruits and foliage get all the attention but the mulch is the backbone of it all. There are no bragging rights with statements like “hey look at those 40 bags of beautiful mulch I just picked up for the garden” or “check out the fine composition of this stuff and its rich colors” or “they have such beautiful mulch in their garden, can we get some for our garden too?”

Mulch rarely even gets the credit for keeping plants from wilting in drought by holding in moisture and keeping breezes from further drying, protects them from folding over in frost, works as border patrol for weeds and has the duty of warding off disease on the vegetation.

Gardeners are not even sure what to call it, Mulch? Compost? Bark? Wood Chips? A neglected item with an identity crisis, mulch needs to be raised to celebrity status soon, possibly a bit part on American Idol could help its image. At Bokay

we have a large selection of different types and we will be glad to explain the differences along with reviewing costs of buying already bagged mulch or our bulk supply. At the front counter we have a chart that helps determine how much you may need based on an estimate of the size area that will be covered.

Want a great looking landscape? Mulch your garden beds to at least 3 inches in depth and replenish every year. When your garden looks fantastic, now you’ll know who to thank, MULCH!
