

Jeff Makes the Whole Process Pleasant



Both times Jeff Rebischung and Fine Tree Care have provided services at our rural home we've been most happy. The quality of the work is excellent, there is deference to our schedules, and scope can readily be adjusted to fit budget. Jeff makes the whole process pleasant, even when the project deals with worrisome conditions and we can't be present for the work.

The absence of collateral damage from the demolition of a gigantic rotten Bay hanging over the house really demonstrated outstanding professionalism, and we still don't know how a large leaning Oak tree was removed from the middle of a newly sprouted and very wet lawn area this winter without a trace on the ground!

If we arrive early from the city before the crews are finished working on a multi-day project, our final punch lists are much shorter than Jeff's; we carefully go over the work tree by tree. After Fine Tree Care has finished, we've found that they've added a few touches like cleaning up some of the debris piles of leaves and pruning we've generated, and helped dispose of some old tree bark in the firewood area of the barn. They even swapped out some of our wet tree wood for dry seasoned firewood so we could immediately enjoy our fireplace.

Jeff and his crews deliver extremely well done jobs. It is all too rare the "manner we should expect" is actually delivered! Fine Tree Care has our highest recommendation.

Leonard Fisher and Risa Teitelbaum, Sebastopol

For more Information and a Free Estimate... call Jeff Rebischung, owner of Fine Tree Care

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State of California Licensed Timber Operator #A10086

Dear Readers,

This is my 7th Annual Nursery Tour and Gardener's Resource Guide. It's grown considerably since the first time I published it as my Nursery Tour. The intent has always been the same...to encourage people who love gardens and gardening to support local nurseries and businesses.

Originally it was the Nursery Tour because I was still a professional gardener and I could take readers to my favorite haunts. I had the pleasure of buying as many plants as I wanted because I was hired to create and maintain gardens for my clients.

But since the paper has grown, I no longer have time for that business so I can't take you to each nursery and extol it's virtues like I used to. Now this is a self-guided tour. I'm providing you with a comprehensive list of nurseries, landscape material suppliers and landscapers.

This list (in the center pages of this guide) as well as the articles written by people who love gardening and care about the health of Sonoma County's environment, provides enough inspiration and resources to get you outside in the fresh air after a wet winter. With all the rain we've had this year, our earth is revitalized by our most precious resource...water.

Please remember as you plan your gardens, that one wet winter does not mean you can forget about water conservation. Every drop of water is a blessing and we never know when another dry spell will come. Plan your gardens to be water-wise and you will be ready no matter what rainfall we get in the future.

I encourage you to purchase plants and landscaping material from the businesses listed in this guide so we can keep our local economy strong, as well as keep Sonoma County safe from imported pests and plant diseases. Locally grown plants are also better adapted for our environment. And if you decide to plant California natives, your gardens will support what we love most...home.

Thank you for caring about Sonoma County. You will notice that some businesses listed in the guide are colored green...that's because they are the ones who chose to support this guide with their advertising dollars. We're pointing them out to you because we are especially grateful for their financial support and encourage you to support them in return.

Happy Gardening!

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The Real Value in Buying Locally Grown Plants

By Michael Skurtun
Healdsburg Nursery

In today's economy it seems that every dollar becomes harder to hang on to or to spend efficiently. I find myself thinking through and weighing some of the most seemingly simple and inexpensive purchases.

What I hope to learn in the process is not to jump at price without thoroughly examining the product. To me, this is where real value is determined. I don't want to be caught in that cliché of being "penny wise and dollar foolish."

This especially applies to buying plants because they are living entities. Starting with a healthy plant, regardless of its size, is one of the keys to successful gardening. Although not all varieties are locally available, buying plants that were propagated or grown in Sonoma County from a very young age is a good way to get started.

For the most part, locally grown plants are acclimated to our climate. As a result they generally do well here and are in sync with our seasons.

Buying too soon...

A classic example of purchasing plants by price is going to a "Big Box" center that sells nursery stock. It's early March and we are experiencing a classic Sonoma County "false spring". The sun is out, it's 60+ degrees and we have a touch of cabin fever so we go out to look at plants. It feels like gardening season has arrived and we're anxious to get started. The "Big Box" Center has a Bougainvillea in full bloom. There are perennials, annuals and even vegetable starts that look ready to plant so we spend a nice chunk of that ever-so-valuable dollar, load our vehicle and head home in anticipation.

Little do we know that these fresh looking, beautiful plants have recently arrived from a completely different climate that is much milder than ours, most likely somewhere in Southern California, and have only been out of the greenhouse for a matter of days.

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