



## Popular Pomegranates

By Layla Cordero

Probably the easiest fruit tree to grow is also the one with the most health benefits. Pomegranates are jam-packed with antioxidants – they have higher amounts than oranges, cranberries, and blueberries. Excellent as a juice and a fun late summer treat to eat fresh, there are many varieties to suit your preferences: sweet or tangy, dark purple or clear pulp, shrubby or small trees.

Because pomegranates are drought-tolerant and thrive in the heat, they really are a great plant for our area, especially for those who are concerned with their plants “frying in the heat.” The hotter the better for pomegranates! As far as the cold, they are hardy to 12°. The fruit will split with the first frost so the higher in elevation you live, the earlier ripening variety you should choose. Here are the varieties you can find at the Nursery. Some are here now; some are available in the fall. Check with us for availability.

- **Wonderful:** is the #1 pomegranate grown in California. The large fruit has red skin and purple-red pulp with a tangy flavor. This long lived tree has been known to survive for over 200 years. It is the most common pomegranate found at the supermarket.
- **Ambrosia:** the giant pomegranate. Sometimes seen at the supermarket, this variety is three times the size of ‘Wonderful.’ Skin is pale pink, juice is sweet-tart, and has a similar flavor to ‘Wonderful.’
- **Angel Red:** has bright red fruit inside and out. Harvests one month earlier than ‘Wonderful,’ so is a good choice for colder climates. It is a high yielding plant with lower amounts of waste pulp than other pomegranates.
- **Eversweet:** very sweet, nearly seedless pulp. Light red skinned fruit with a light pink to clear, non-staining pulp. Smaller tree, usually maxes out at 10.’
- **Garnet Sash:** extremely precocious tree known to bear fruit the first year! The fruit is small to medium sized, yellow skinned with a pink blush. Seeds are dark pink with a sweet-tart flavor.
- **Pink Satin:** medium to large sized fruit has a fruit punch flavor. Seeds are softer and easier to eat. Skin is pink to dark red with a light pink pulp.
- **Red Silk:** this smaller plant is perfect in pots. Large crops of medium to large sized fruit has a silky, bright red exterior. Seeds are sweet with a berry flavor.
- **Sharp Velvet:** Fruit is large with very dark red pulp and skin with very mild acid flavor. Plant has more upright growth and habit and is very high yielding.
- **Sweet:** just as the name suggests, ‘Sweet’ has a sweeter flavor than ‘Wonderful.’ Its skin is greenish-pink with light pink pulp. Tree bears heavily at a young age.

Have more questions about pomegranates? Come into the Nursery and let us help you. We also have a very informative handout on planting and care.

## Spring Bulbs



March and April are the months to get spring bulbs going that will bloom this summer. This season we have some new fun varieties to try:

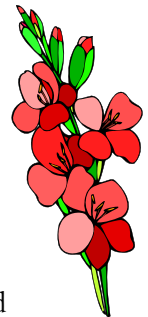
If you haven’t grown tuberose before, you really should give it a try. A member of the Agave family, it blooms at night with a powerful and exotic perfume. In fact, extracts of this flower have been used in perfumes for hundreds of years. The flowers are also used in Hawaii to make leis. They can be planted in pots or in ground, but in the colder areas of El Dorado County they are best dug up at the end of the summer. They need rich, well draining garden soil and lots of sun. Try them in a



pot by your door or a window where the perfume can waft into your house in the evening. They also make good cut flowers, and will continue to bloom all summer if you give them regular feedings (once a month with Dr. Earth Bud-n-Bloom would do it).

Other great bulbs available for a cutting garden are Lilies, especially the fragrant Stargazer, and tiger lilies. Gladiolas and dahlias come in wonderful multi-colored hues. The butterfly Gladiola “prins claus” is white with a red eye, a must-see! Also available are Amaryllis “Naked ladies,” so named because the flowers come up before the foliage.

A new one this year is the cool striped Crinum lily which grows rapidly, is deer resistant, and is an excellent cut flower that attracts birds and butterflies. It is ideal for patio pots. Of course, don’t forget the Dahlias. We have new multi-toned varieties that will make your neighbors jealous! We also have the Canna “Durban” which has orange flowers and multi-colored striped foliage, the flowers are self-cleaning.



Last but not least, the shade garden – fancy-leaved caladiums and begonias are the stars of low light. Picotee begonias are known for their two-toned frilly edges. Also available will be hanging begonias and the ever-popular rose-formed begonias in various colors. Plant some this spring and enjoy beautiful flowers this summer!