

# What's. Growing On...

March 2008

## Plant of the Month - *Ceanothus spp.*

Also known as California Lilac, this native plant is available in many varieties, from groundcovers to large shrubs, and colors, from deep cobalt blue to white. Ceanothus also attracts beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies to your garden!



### Understanding Fertilizer Labels

Knowing how to fertilize your garden doesn't have to be a mystery. Think about the nutritional needs of people. Too much, or not enough of one thing can cause us to be sick. Plants need nutrients too, and a lot of plants we use in our landscape are not originally from here and may need additional supplements to thrive. A catchy phrase that gives us an easy way to remember the specific functions of each of the basic nutrients is "Up, Down, & All Around." These nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium and the formulation is always written as N-P-K. (Example: 16-16-16)

- **Nitrogen (N = Up)** For the most part, plants use nitrogen on the upper portion of the plant. It stimulates leaf growth and gives leaves a nice healthy green glow. Symptoms of nitrogen deficiency are pale leaves and stunted growth.

- **Phosphorous (P = Down)** This macronutrient encourages strong root formation and maturity. This means good flowering and fruit set. Indications of lack of Phosphorus include a redish or purple hue, and reduced or nonexistant blooms.

- **Potassium (K = All Around)** The last number in the fertilizer sequence promotes resistance to disease, heat and cold, and overall hardiness of plant. Deficiency symptoms can include reduce vigor and leaf tip scorch.

**Tips:** Help maximize the performance of your fertilizers while reducing the risk of burn, always water thoroughly before and after fertilization. Also

**Ask an Expert:** Choosing the correct fertilizer can be difficult. Our knowledgeable sales staff are always happy to offer helpful suggestions.

Now through March 31, 2008

# Save \$3.00

## On any single fertilizer item!

(Must present coupon at time of purchase, limit one per customer)



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