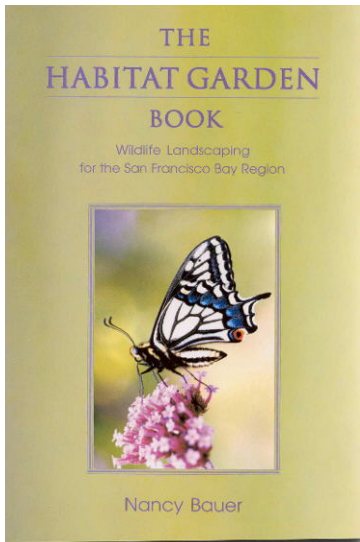


Larner Seeds, August 2008
August Book Sale, Plant Sale, Seed Sale
The Quiet Time

Remember, Larner Seeds prices are going up on August 15!



End of Summer Book Sale. 10% off across the board. Summer is the time to read, to plan your fall plantings, so once again we have our annual Book Sale, which includes two new books:

The Habitat Garden Book, by Nancy Bauer, \$14.95. This compact, well-illustrated book is a very useful tool for the restoration gardener and also provides a great introduction for someone new to the concept of “habitat gardening.” It’s packed with information, presented accessibly. Out of print for a while, it’s back and revised. We’re glad to be able to offer it again. Makes a great gift.

Special on Tarweeds

Tarweeds are a group of mostly annual wildflowers whose botanical names have changed so many times that many botanists in conversation refer to them by their common name of tarweed. Its unique drought-evading strategies allow it to bloom from mid to late summer, and along the coast, they light up August’s foggy day. Inland, they symbolize deep summer, coming to an end. Their fragrance is pleasant and uniquely Californian, their cheerful yellow or white flowers are a welcome sight for butterflies, damselflies, and a host of other beneficent insects, at a time when much else is dormant.

The seeds of tarweed were important food for indigenous Californians, and though small, are quite tasty when lightly roasted. One writer from the early 1900s referred to tarweed as “wild wheat,” saying that the Indian’s autumn begins when “*the le-mo-lo sap-o-lil (wild wheat or tarweed) had all been gathered and winnowed and the whole countryside could now be baptized with fire.*” Containers of tarweed seeds have been found in archaeological digs. Some of us are eating them again.





Extend your blooming border into summer with tarweeds. Buy all three, a cost of \$18.00 reduced to \$15.00, and become an honorary member of the ***Tarweed Appreciation Society***, a select group of gardeners not afraid to take a chance. Sow in the fall.

Packet. Hayfield tarweed *Hemizonia congesta* ssp *congesta*, yellow, under 1 ft. tall, \$6.00

Packet. Elegant madia *Madia elegans*, yellow with occasional red circle at base of petals, \$6.00

Packet. Hayfield tarweed *Hemizonia congesta* ssp *luzulifolia*, 2.5 ft tall, white blossoms. Pkt. \$6.00

The Just in Time Plant Sale

In our nursery, we have many 4" pots of *Lepechinia calycina*, Pitcher sage, *Cirsium occidentale*, Cobweb thistle, and *Wyethia angustifolia*, coast sunflower, both ready to go into gallons; they are a bargain now at \$5.00 each. Once established in 1-gal containers, the price raises to \$9.00. So come to the Larner Seeds Demonstration Garden on Saturdays from 12 to 4:00 pm, to catch plants just before they go into gallons. Directions can be found on our **website**.

Next year we'll be offering seed of species from the grow-outs we're planting now, like the semi-woody subshrubs, like pitcher sage, *Lepechinia calycina*, and both the purple and yellow flowering shrub lupines, *Lupinus propinquus* and *Lupinus arboreus*, have so much to offer our gardens. Fast growing, drought-tolerant, and frequently with showy flowers, this category seems to me to be unique to California, and a great asset in the garden.



The "We Don't Mean to Brag, But It's Nice" Department

Two people from Marin Magazine came into the shop last week and presented us with an award certificate, tastefully framed with a mat of my favorite California sagebrush grey-green. The award is from Marin Magazine 2008 Editors' Choice, "Best Place to Buy Seeds."

The East Coast had Johnny Appleseed but, here in Marin, we have Judith Larner Lowry, who has spread the message on (and the beauty of) California's native annuals, perennials, wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees by encouraging home gardeners to go native.

From Marin Magazine, August 2008

Coming Up

A surge of interest in edible native plants has led to a rewriting and expansion of our "Notes on Natives" pamphlet called "Notes on the Real California Cuisine." First printed in 1991, it met with relatively modest interest. However, the times they are a-changin'.



This booklet will be revised, updated and available in September. Also, a new icon (yes, we're going icon crazy) will indicate those species that we know from our own experience to be relatively easy for a modern person to prepare and enjoy. Sadly, many species were eaten, but their preparation and gathering parameters are now lost in the mists of time. However, this renewed interest is turning up all kinds of new information, which we hope to share with you.

Summer hours (Tues 10 – 2/Saturday 12 – 4) continue till September 15. Or, call for an appointment to visit the nursery, shop and garden.

Larner Seeds

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