

Welcome to the New Suncrest Web Site

This is a brief guide to getting the most out of the new Suncrest Nurseries Web site. We hope you'll find it useful for its plant information and new search features. It is a work in progress, with many pictures and other features to be added in the coming months.

To begin, look at the main menu bar on an orange background at the left. This will display a slightly different set of options than the previous home page. The same menu is repeated on all of the subsidiary pages of the site.

Selecting "**About Us**" leads to a page giving our company history and describing some of the things that set us apart from other wholesale growers.

The "**Our Plants**" page describes our plant line in detail. Following this description, at the bottom of the page, is a big green button titled, "Search the Suncrest Plant Database". Clicking this button takes you to a rather elaborate "search" page, described below.

The "**Search Plants**" item on the menu bar directly calls up the same "search" page mentioned above. Please note that searches and displays are organized by botanical names (genus, species and cultivar, or selection), not by common names.

Option 1 under the "Search Options" heading is for free-form exploring of our plant collection. It lets you pick any letter of the alphabet and get a listing of all of the plants we offer whose genus (say, *Grevillea*) begins with that letter. At the top and bottom of the list will be a row of page numbers, few or many, according to the number of plants belonging to the letter you've chosen. If you click one of the more populous letters, like "C", you'll see immediately why the alphabet isn't the fastest way to get to a particular plant, though it's extremely thorough. As with large listings found on some major merchandising sites, you may have to wade through many pages to get to the part of the listing you're really interested in. However, you can choose to display more (up to 50) items per page, to speed up your search a bit.

Ok. Having gotten as far as the first list display of plants, where do you go next? If you see the one plant you're after (not hard, since the list is in strict alphabetical order), just click on the icon at either the left or the right edge of the name line. On the left, this will be a little green leaf or, if a picture is available, a thumbnail of that picture. On the right, the icon is a small magnifying glass. Clicking either one will call up a display page for just that one item, with a picture (if available), and both capsule and extended descriptions of important plant features, geographic origin, uses and cultural tolerances. To retain the plant list you've just left for further choices (as well as numbers for succeeding or previous pages), just click the "back" button of your browser. Clicking "Plant Search" on the menu will result in a fresh call to the search page, with data in all of the search forms blanked out.

Option 2, "Search by Genus", provides the faster way to get to a specific plant. You can type in the full genus name or just the first few letters (for example, "arct" for *Arctostaphylos*), then either click the "Search" button or just hit the Enter bar or its Mac equivalent. You'll get the same type of list as the one produced by clicking a letter of the alphabet in Option 1, with pagination for genera requiring more than one page to display.

Option 3, "Do a custom search..." is a more elaborate form allowing you to pick from a series of drop-down lists addressing plant type, plant features and cultural tolerances. It is intended as a tool for finding a group of plants that fit your own specifications (for example, a California native evergreen shrub, blooming in spring, with blue flowers and good drought tolerance). It should be particularly helpful to landscapers and individuals seeking that "perfect plant" for a difficult spot. For the rest of you, it's just

plain fun to see what turns up for a given combination. It is *not* necessary to fill in all the items on the form; just select the one or ones you find useful for a particular search.

The main menu item “**Publications**” is a gateway page with links to lists of flyers, articles and an annotated plant list available to all visitors. Just click any link in one of these lists to download a file in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format.

The item “**Retail Sources**” provides the means for you to search for retail nurseries and garden centers in your area that handle Suncrest plants. The searches are database-driven, using either one of a pair of drop-down lists of county names and displaying name, address and phone numbers for each source (we hope to add Web site and contact email addresses in the near future, as they are submitted).

The item “**Wholesale Customers**” calls up a login page (login details remain the same as before), which in turn leads to a page specifically addressed to you, our wholesale customer. It provides an email link to our sales desk and links to our annotated price list, availability lists, and other useful documents in pdf format.

The item “**Related Sites**” is linked to a page with some of our own favorite horticultural Web sites, including those of other wholesale nurseries, some outstanding retail nursery sites, and various mail-order plant and seed businesses, horticultural book dealers, and public gardens.

“**Gallery**” is the one menu item not yet quite operational. Its purpose is to provide larger displays of plant pictures where these are available. Getting them up will take some time!

You’ll also notice that, in the upper right-hand corner of each page on the site is a small search box entitled “Quick search by genus”. Entering a genus name or just the first few letters will have exactly the same effect as using the “Search by Genus” form on the Plant Search page, taking you to that page and calling up a paginated list of items with genus (or genera) names fitting the letters you’ve entered. The link line, “Click Here for Advanced Search”, simply calls the entire Plant Search page, with all search forms displayed.

But wait. There’s more.

Along the bottom of the page (the “footer”, in Web parlance) is a row of four (probably more in the future) items of more specific interest.

“**New and Recent**” is intended to provide space for periodic reviews, with pictures, of some of the most recent and interesting of our continual parade of plant acquaintances. The first installment concerns our native sunshine daisies, of the genus *Eriophyllum*.

“**Suncrest Introductions**” is exactly what it says—a listing of the many plant introductions we have made over the years to the horticultural industry, paginated like the lists in the “Plant Search” page. It will keep expanding as the process continues.

“**California Natives**” is devoted to the plants of California, those nearest and dearest to our own hearts. It describes our ongoing work with these plants and provides an alphabetic portal to all of the California natives in our database. Simply click on one of the highlighted letters for a full listing arranged by genus of plant names belonging to the letter you’ve selected, just as you did on the general “Plant Search” page.

“Our Meadow Program” describes the newest project of Suncrest Nurseries, devoted to large-scale production of grasses and grasslike plants in plugs and larger sizes. The page includes a link to the **“Retail Sources”** page for individual gardeners and a link to the login for the **“Wholesale Services”** page for our periodic availability lists focused on plants of this program.

Our guiding purpose in building this site has been to make it both beautiful and as useful to you as it can be with the information at our command. We hope you’ll find it worth the effort. Happy browsing!

Nevin Smith