

## About Suncrest Nurseries Inc.

Suncrest Nurseries was founded in 1989 with the purchase of Leonard Coates Nurseries by Stan Iversen and a group of investors from the agricultural industry. Leonard Coates was a hundred-year-old nursery legendary for its work with California native plants, work which has been enthusiastically preserved and enhanced. In late 1991, Suncrest purchased Wintergreen Nursery. Wintergreen was a small, diverse operation devoted to new and unusual plants, including original native plant selections and flowering shrubs, perennials and bulbs from around the world.

From this combined base, we grew quickly both in sales and in the breadth of our plant palette. Our 3000-plus current selections reflect several different tangents, all aimed at enriching the variety of ornamental plants available to California gardeners. California natives are a dominant thread, and we continue to explore the wild for new gardenworthy plants. We also work extensively with plants of several other Mediterranean-climate regions, including the Mediterranean itself, South Africa, Australia and Chile. Among general plant categories, we offer a large collection of showy vines; many bamboos, both familiar and unusual; an eclectic mix of flowering shrubs; hundreds of herbaceous perennials; over 100 unusual bulbous, cormous and tuberous perennials; and a generous assortment of native and exotic ferns.

A continuous stream of new plant selections, including a growing number of deliberate hybrids, are made here at the nursery. Others are made by our staff in the wild. For still others, we depend on a variety of commercial sources, botanic gardens and other institutions, and most of all, on gardening friends literally around the world, to whom we owe a great debt.

We have carved our own path in techniques of plant culture and presentation. Planting mixes are tailored to the needs of the plants at hand. Some incorporate materials like perlite for better drainage, making touchy plants easier to handle at their final destination. Cultures of beneficial fungi are added to our propagating mixes to reduce the need for fungicidal applications. The use of long-term osmotic fertilizers rather than line-injected nutrients improves overall growth, color and shelf life in a retail setting. Several plant groups that have been traditionally grafted for ease of propagation (wisterias, for example) are offered on their own roots, avoiding the future headache of unwanted suckers. Our practice of double-staking vines for a fuller, sturdier scaffold has become a model for the industry.

We have branched out on other fronts as well. All irrigation runoff is captured and reused at the main nursery yard. Nursery tractors are run on biodiesel, and this fuel is mixed with regular diesel for our delivery fleet.

We have always felt that a nursery that offers new and unusual plants should take responsibility for describing them properly. Accordingly, we have led the way with an informative prose plant guide, descriptive block and individual plant labels and well-detailed availability lists. We have just completed an extensive renovation of our Web site, with many new features, including database-driven plant searches and improved informational displays. Backing up these measures is a knowledgeable staff, happy to answer specific questions and to help with problems.

Independent commercial nurseries are our primary route of distribution, because of their direct contact with the gardening public of California and the interest they have shown in trying the new and unusual. A second route is composed of rewholesalers with a flair for non-standard plants. We are also pleased to deal with licensed landscaping professionals.

You are cordially invited to visit the nursery, meet the staff and see our progress "on the ground". Please see "Terms of Business"(page v) for business days and hours. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

## Contacting Us

There are several ways to reach us for questions, comments, orders, or what have you. Here are the details for a few.

Phones (Main Office): 800-949-5064 and 831-728-2595      Fax: 831-728-3146

Real Mail: 400 Casserly Road, Watsonville, CA 95076

Email: [salesdesk@suncrestnurseries.com](mailto:salesdesk@suncrestnurseries.com) and [postmaster@suncrestnurseries.com](mailto:postmaster@suncrestnurseries.com)

## **Suncrest on the Web**

The new Suncrest Web site finally made its debut in October, 2013. Since that time we have been busy adding pictures and other enhancements, a process likely to continue for many months to come. All plant searches are database-driven, using a variety of tools ranging from simple letters of the alphabet to a full form allowing specification of plant features, uses and cultural tolerances. Searches for retail sources of Suncrest plants use a pair of drop-down lists of counties and also tap into a database file for rapid display. Both the public downloads page and the customer service page (with weekly availability list updates and other publications for regular customers) have been retained, updated and expanded.

We think you'll enjoy these new features, the site design and the pictures uploaded thus far. Please give us your comments and help us make the site even more useful to you.

The address of the new site, like the old one, is [www.suncrestnurseries.com](http://www.suncrestnurseries.com).

## **Using This Annotated Price List**

We have found a few ways to make the list more informative, especially for new customers unfamiliar with some of our plants. The heading for each genus now includes the plant family to which it belongs (pardon the botanese, but this can give a much clearer picture of the relationships among plant groups) and the general plant types (for example, trees and shrubs) represented in that genus. The use of geographical symbols at the left margin of each entry has been broadened a bit in an attempt to mark out climatic origins most compatible with the typical range of garden settings in California. In cultural terms, this often means less fuss and bother in satisfying cultural needs. California natives, our single most important geographical group, are marked with a "CN". Those of other western states are shown by a "WE". Plants of the Mediterranean region are marked with an "ME". Australian plants have an "AU". "NZ" is used for the plants of New Zealand. And those of South and southern Africa are designated with (what else?) an "SA". Hybrids arising in cultivation often involve species from different regions, or may be of uncertain origin; in these cases, we have generally avoided assigning a geographical region.

[www.suncrestnurseries.com](http://www.suncrestnurseries.com)