

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 * SEPTEMBER 2004

A Newsletter by Joseph Pattin

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A Path Through Thyme

Are you tired of walking on a muddy garden path to pick your lemons or clip your roses during the winter? Now is the time to consider creating a beautiful natural pathway with flagstone or pavers with a little Thyme. The process is fairly simple. *First* define the pathway into the garden that will give you easy access from your patio, walkway or porch to your desired spot in the garden. A comfortable foot path should be no less than 30 inches in width and preferably 36 inches for moving wheel barrels and gardening equipment. *Second* step is to excavate about 2 inches of soil from the pathway or you can leave it at grade and make the path a little higher the surrounding area. Go visit a rockery to select a flagstone, slate or paver stones. Or you may be able to reuse existing flat rocks, old stepping stones or even pieces of concrete for a pathway. *Third* step is to mix in some garden sand and compost to the top several inches of existing soil which will make it more pliable to place the stepping stones and to provide nutrients for the plants. *Fourth* layout the stepping stones with a gap of 1 to 2 inches between them and simply plant each stone so it is level with the soil. And the *last* step is to plant the Thyme in between the stones about 1 foot between the plants. Buy plants in a six pack so they can easily fit in between the stepping stones. Varieties of Thyme to consider:

- ❖ Woolly Thyme (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*)
- ❖ Lemon Thyme (*Thymus citrodorus*)
- ❖ Silver Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* ‘Argenteus’)

Favorite Autumn Tree

It's never too late to add a colorful small tree 20 feet tall to your landscape. *Cercis canadensis tenaxis* known as Eastern Redbud is a wonderful tree for spring flowers and autumn color. The ‘Oklahoma’ variety is known to be more resilient to our Sacramento Valley heat. The wine-red flowers bloom with great profusion in spring and then the foliage will yellow the in fall.

Premier Japanese Garden Tour

You are invited to join us on a delightful tour of the Lang Japanese Garden in Granite Bay on the morning of Friday November 12th, 2004. Please contact me at jkpattin@sbcglobal.net to RSVP.

Photo Gallery

Visit the www.GardenRetreats.net website for latest completed gardens.

Happy Gardening