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WHITING NURSERY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS also vegetable gardening classes in March

[St. Helena, Napa Valley, CA](#), February 2007---Whiting's Nursery in St. Helena is celebrating 50 years in business this year. There will be a year-long celebration of this milestone, with drawings for free products each month and several fun events. David and Margaret Whiting purchased the nursery from David's cousin Jack Champion in 1957; the nursery had been operating since 1948 at the corner of Adams and Railroad Avenues.

Other news this spring is that [the owner of Whiting Nursery in St. Helena, Kevin C. Twohey, is teaching](#) a class on vegetable gardening on two Sundays in March (March 4 and March 18, 1-3:30 p.m. each day)—as part of the nursery's ongoing series of classes. "Learn the ins and outs of vegetable gardening in the Napa Valley," he explains. "You will review everything that will make you an expert vegetable gardener including site selection, soil preparation, seed selection and starting, planting, watering, harvesting, diseases and pests," he adds. The class is a fast-paced, fun-filled time. Cost is \$10.00, which includes refreshments, extensive hand-outs and a raffle. Pre-registration is necessary, by calling 707/963-5358.

Whiting's has just received new roses for 2007; these include Moondance (a hybrid tea rose which is white edged with pink), Strike It Rich (a grandiflora which is a deep golden yellow blushed with ruby red and a fragrance of fruit and spice) and Pope John Paul II (an elegant rose grown in the Vatican's private rose garden; it has luminous white blossoms).

[Whiting's Nursery is located at 738 Main Street \(at Charter Oak Avenue across from Tra Vigne and Taylor's Automatic Refresher\) in St. Helena. Whiting's is open Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sundays 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.](#)

Kevin's suggestions for gardeners for February and March:

- plant potatoes, asparagus, strawberries and rhubarb now
- start spring vegetable seeds in a cold frame, greenhouse or inside your home (Whiting's has extensive choices of new 2007 seeds)
- make sure you've dormant-sprayed fruit trees
- plant summer blooming bulbs now (Whiting's inventory of these includes lily of the valley, gladiolus and dahlias).

Dates to watch for in the world of gardens:

March 3 is a full moon; March 11 is the beginning of daylight savings; March 20 is the vernal equinox.

In 2005 Kevin Twohey, the owner of Whiting's Nursery, renovated and restored 2.9 acres in the heart of St. Helena as a state of the art wine country nursery. In visiting nurseries and gardens across the U.S. and England, he'd envisioned a nursery which would feel like an American 'country estate.' "We wanted something which would feel like a country garden, with grounds inviting enough that people would stroll around at their leisure."

Whiting's is known for its quality plant material and long-term knowledgeable, friendly staff. Since the spring of 2006, Whiting's houses the biggest West Coast display garden of David Austin roses. Twohey and his staff advise locals on home gardens as well as wineries and business---whether the customer wants heirloom tomatoes or herbaceous perennials.

In 1948 the nursery which today is Whiting's was established by Merle Abbott; it was then owned by Jack Champion and subsequently by David Whiting, who changed the name to Whiting's in 1956. In 1986 Kevin Twohey ['too-he'] purchased the business. Twohey, a Cal Poly graduate who had run a commercial landscaping business with his brother Mark in San Diego, was working on an 80,000-acre cattle ranch in Nevada at the time. In 2005 the nursery moved to its present location on Main Street at Charter Oak Avenue. Whiting's encompasses a new 3,400-square-foot barn (a display area, shop and office) as well as one of St. Helena's most historic homes, which is being renovated as additional office space. The house was built in 1875 by James Logan, an Illinois carpenter who arrived in St. Helena in 1865 and became one of the town's most respected citizens. "We wanted to keep the historic house under the trees as a feature of the property," Twohey said.

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