

GROWERTALKS

Article Archive

Pack Your Bags

Chris Beytes and Jennifer White

The California Pack Trials keep growing in size, and we continue to get more requests from growers on how they should plan their trips. It's a great way to see the newest varieties and marketing first hand. You'll find plant breeders, distributors, propagators and even finished plant growers during a trip up (or down) the coast of California. Contact each company individually to make appointments, and remember that some of them may be closed all or part of the weekends. For those of you who want to experience European trials, check out our sister magazine [FloraCulture International](#). *note: highlighted names below contain e-mail links*

April 6-16--Plug Connection, Vista. Contact [Lisa Finnegan](#), Tel: (760) 631-0992, Fax: (760) 940-1555

April 8-17--Paul Ecke Ranch, Encinitas. Contact [Dawn Woodruff](#), Tel: (760) 944-4085, Fax: (760) 944-4002

April 8-17--Fischer USA (at the Paul Ecke Ranch), Encinitas. Contact [Harvey Lang](#), Tel: (303) 415-1466, Fax: (303) 415-1605

April 8-19--Selecta First Class (at D&E Propagators), Encinitas. Contact [Angela Storm](#) or [Stefan Reiner](#)

April 5-17--EuroAmerican Propagators, Bonsall. Contact [Nicole Jackson](#), Tel: (760) 731-6029

April 5-17--Proven Winners (at EuroAmerican Propagators), Bonsall. Contact [Nicole Jackson](#), Tel: (760) 731-6029

April 6-18--GroLink, Oxnard. Contact [Jeanne Grant](#), Tel: (800) 451-6319, Fax: (805) 984-7248

April 6-18--Danziger (at GroLink), Oxnard. Contact [Jeanne Grant](#), Tel: (800) 451-6319, Fax: (805) 984-7248

April 6-15--PanAmerican Seed, Santa Paula. Contact [Mary Long](#), Tel: (630) 588-3187, Fax: (630) 231-3609

April 8-17--Twyford International Inc., Santa Paula. Contact Charline Chandler or Susan Smith, Tel: (800) 905-3263, trials@Twyford.com

April 6-16--Benary Seeds (at Colorama Greenhouse), Carpinteria. Contact [Niles Riese](#), Tel: (219) 982-0758, Fax: (219) 982-1139

April 8-16--Oglevee, Ltd., Lompoc. Closed April 13-14. Contact [Jason Riley](#), Tel: (724) 628-8360; or [Alan Zaeske](#), Tel: (517) 381-8708

April 8-18--Bodger Seeds Ltd., Lompoc. Contact [Janice Seiberling](#), Tel: (626) 442-6161, Fax: (626) 442-5063

April 8-19--Suntory Corporation/Jackson & Perkins Wholesale (at Gilroy Young Plants), Gilroy. Contact [Lou Aguirre](#), Tel: (800) 877-6737, Fax: (541) 864-2819

April 8-19--Royal Van Zanten, Nipomo. Contact [Peter Hesse](#), Tel: (805) 431-0741

April 6-15--Ball FloraPlant, Arroyo Grande. Contact [Jen Calhoun](#), Tel: (630) 588-3153, Fax: (630) 231-5921

April 7-16--American Takii, Salinas. Contact [Nicole Shioya](#), Tel: (831) 443-4901, Fax: (831) 443-3976

April 8-13--Yoder Brothers, Inc., Salinas. Contact [Karrie Smith](#), Tel: (800) 232-9557, Fax: (330) 564-0047

8-15--Sakata Seed America, Salinas. Contact [Danielle Casa-Sorci](#), Tel: (408) 778-7758 ext. 250, Fax: (408) 778-7768

April 8-17--Goldsmith Seeds/Goldsmith Plants, Gilroy. Contact [Keith Muraoka](#), Tel: (800) 549-0158, Fax: (408) 848-5429

April 7-16--S&G Seeds, Gilroy. Contact [Hope Evarts](#), Tel: (800) 323-7253, Fax: (630) 969-4580

April 8-19--Golden State Bulb Growers, Watsonville. Contact Tom Lukens, June Roque or Tom Weaver, Tel: (831) 728-0500, Fax: (831) 761-1282, gsbg@cruzio.com

8-16--Daehnfeldt Inc. (at Golden Field Greenhouses), Castroville. Closed April 14. Contact [Kathy Cron](#), Tel: (219) 982-7969, Fax: (219) 982-7970

9-17--Kieft Seeds (at Gilroy Young Plants), Gilroy. Contact [Jeff McGrew](#), Tel/Fax: (360) 445-2031

How to Go

Plotting a Pack Trial schedule can be more daunting than the actual trip. Here's a sample itinerary to use as a guide. Last year, I flew into San Diego and worked my way north; just reverse the schedule to travel north to south, flying into San Jose or San Francisco. There's no benefit to either direction. I usually alternate from year to year for variety's sake. The real juggling act is making sure the trials can accommodate me when I want to visit. I often have to change a schedule two or three times to make it all work out. Be sure to call or fax each trial you plan to visit.

Chris Beytes, editor and eight-year Pack Trial veteran.

Sunday		
Fly into San Diego		
Lodging: Country Inn, Encinitas (619) 944-0427		
Monday	Timeframe:	
Plug Connection	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	
Paul Ecke Ranch/Fischer	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Lodging: Country Inn		
Tuesday	Timeframe:	Notes:
Selecta	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	

EuroAmerican Propagators, Proven Winners	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	EuroAmerican is about 45 minutes from Selecta, which is about five minutes from the Country Inn.
Drive North to Ventura Beach (about 4 hours from Encinitas; take I-15 to 1-10 to 101 into Ventura)		
Lodging: Clarion, Ventura Beach (805) 648-4653		
Wednesday	Timeframe:	Notes:
GroLink/Danziger	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	GroLink is about 15 minutes from the hotel.
PanAmerican Seed	11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	PanAmerican is about 30 minutes from GroLink.
Benary	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Benary is about 45 minutes from PanAmerican.
Lodging: Clarion		

Thursday	Timeframe:	
Twyford	7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.	
Oglevee	12 p.m. to 2 p.m.	
Drive to Lompoc (about two hours from Santa Paula)		
Bodger	2:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.	
Lodging: Sandcastle Inn, Pismo Beach (805) 773-2422		
Friday	Timeframe:	Notes:
Van Zanten	8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	
Ball FloraPlant	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	
Drive North to Gilroy - about 4 hours.		
Lodging: Forest Park Inn,		Forest Park Inn is "Seed Central" in

Gilroy, (408) 848-5144		Gilroy--every guest is visiting Pack Trials.
Saturday	Timeframe:	Notes:
American Takii	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Both Takii and Yoder are about 45 minutes south of Gilroy, in Salinas.
Yoder Brothers	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	
Lodging: Forest Park Inn		
Sunday	Notes:	
Day off	Take a drive up to San Francisco or the Napa Valley, or head out to the Monterey Peninsula, Cannery Row, Pebble Beach, etc.	
Lodging: Forest Park Inn		
Monday	Timeframe:	Notes:
Sakata Seeds	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Sakata is in Salinas, hence the slightly later start
Goldsmith Seeds/Goldsmith Plants	1 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Be sure to stick around for dinner at Goldsmith
Lodging: Forest Park Inn		
Tuesday	Timeframe:	Notes:
S&G Seeds	8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	S&G is five minutes from the Forest Park Inn.
Golden State Bulb	12 p.m. to 2 p.m.	Golden State is about 45 minutes from S&G.
Daehnfeldt	3 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Daehnfeldt is about 20 minutes from Golden State.
Lodging: Forest Park Inn		Be sure to have lunch or dinner in Castroville at the Central Texan BBQ! Tell Don you're one of those crazy flower people and he'll treat you right.
Wednesday	Timeframe:	Notes:
Kieft Seeds, Suntory, Jackson & Perkins (at Gilroy Young Plants)	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Gilroy Young Plants is just 15 minutes from the hotel.

Fly Home from San Jose in afternoon.		It's about 45 minutes to the San Jose airport; 1 1/2 hours to San Francisco International.
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