



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

# GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



FALL

04

WWW.WALTERANDERSEN.COM



## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Forcing Paper White Narcissus</b> .....	1
<b>The Garden Railway</b> .....	1
<b>Fall Planting</b> .....	1
<b>SoilSoup Kitchen Compost</b> .....	2
<b>Backyard Vegetable Gardens</b> .....	2
<b>Improving Clay Soil</b> .....	2
<b>October Anniversary Events Calendar</b> .....	2
<b>Carefree Rose Gardens</b> .....	3
<b>WAN Rose Picks</b> .....	3
<b>Nighttime Gardens</b> .....	3
<b>Tips From the Pros</b> .....	3
<b>Myths of Decollate Snails</b> .....	4
<b>Garden Railway Expansion</b> .....	4
<b>Fall Gardening Classes</b> .....	4

## Book Signing with Lori Mitchell

Every gardener has a bit of Holly Bloom in them. A little girl whose plants refuse to grow despite the care she administers. Instead of letting such a failure get her down, she finds a way to grow beautiful flowers so goes the story charmingly illustrated by San Diego artist, Lori Mitchell. Mitchell will be at Walter Andersen Nursery, 12755 Danielson Ct., in Poway on Oct. 2 at 10:15am and 11:15am where she will read her latest book, "Holly Bloom's Garden" to children and sign copies.

The book is overflowing with the people and things that inspired Mitchell. The story details a family's gardening efforts and to illustrate the book, Mitchell looked no further than her Poway neighbors, the Lipson family. As for the colorful flowers Mitchell drew, she said she found inspiration at Walter Andersen Nursery. Treat the kids to a morning out at Walter Andersen Nursery on Oct. 2 starting at 10:30am when kids can attend a potting seminar and receive a free pumpkin. A month long series of special classes and events are being held to celebrate Walter Andersen Nursery's 76th anniversary. ●

## New Alstroemerias at WAN

Alstroemerias are a pretty addition to your garden with their bright colors and 'zebra' striping so a new introduction that is far different than what you usually find caught our attention. This is a pure white variety with a touch of pink and without the zebra pattern at its throat. The plants will be available in December or January. You may pre-order your plants by calling our Poway store, 858-513-4900. All orders must be pre-paid. ●

## Keeping Warm in Poway

The Poway store has begun carrying beautiful outdoor fireplaces created by Outdoor Living Products that are fitted with adapters to connect to gas lines. They are attractive and put out a lot of heat. There are four color choices to select from and can be delivered and assembled within two weeks of purchase. The price is a deal too, just \$3,199. Hand-



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

crafted to last a lifetime using a mixture of cement, fiberglass strands, sand and acrylic, they measure 32" x 60" x 82" and feature an attractive mantle for display purposes. "We are thrilled to make these fireplaces available to customers," said Ken Andersen, VP and GM of Walter Andersen Nursery. "Our landscape designers are so busy with work that we were convinced folks in Southern California are committed to their gardens and use their yard as an outdoor room. These fireplaces can be a focal point in any sized yard, and they are perfect for the smaller areas many homeowners have to work with. The more than reasonable cost allows those with a minimal landscape budget to feel like they've made a wise investment in their outdoor living space." Another bonus is that the fireplaces can be disassembled and transported should you move. ●

1)

## Forcing Paper White Narcissus

by National Gardening Editors



PHOTO: LANGEVELD

The process of forcing paper white narcissus is a blend of flower arranging and indoor gardening, and simpler than either. Forced paper whites spend all their energy in growth and bloom, and can be discarded when the blossoms fade, like a bouquet.

Unlike many other forced bulbs, the paper white bulbs available for forcing don't require a special chilling or rest period to provide their fragrant, starchy display. As soon as you plant them, they'll start growing!

**Tools and Materials** A container without drainage holes, such as a traditional bulb pan. Clean pebbles about 1/2-inch in diameter. Large, firm bulbs of paper white narcissus. Water. Prepare the container. Fill a container with pebbles to within an inch of the rim. You can use a glass bowl, clay pot, or even a tall vase, which will help support the paper white's tall stems. Add water until it is just below the top of the pebbles.

**Plant the Bulbs** Set the bulbs on the surface of the pebbles, crowding them together so they almost touch. Add more pebbles, covering the bottom third of the bulbs. Make sure the bulbs themselves are not touching the water, or they may grow mold and rot.

**Water and Wait** Maintain the water level described above and leave the bulbs in a cool location with little or no light. This cool darkness encourages root growth.

**Check for Growth** After a week or two, tug gently on the bulbs from time to time to test for root development. Once they feel rooted, move them to a bright spot without direct sunlight. They should flower in three to five weeks.

**Tips** Paper whites grow more slowly and last longer when temperatures are no warmer than 65°F. If it's too warm, they'll grow quickly, becoming floppy and leggy. To keep your paper whites standing tall, you can support them with a decorative plant ring or a circle of stakes and twine. For added appeal, use decorative or unusual containers for your paper whites. Instead of using plain pebbles, substitute colored stones, marbles, hydroponic gravel, or other unusual medium. Learn more about gardening from the National Gardeners at [www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org) ●

## October Anniversary Events!

Walter Andersen Nursery celebrates its 76th anniversary the month of October with special presentations, food, entertainment, events and savings off many items. Events for the kids include "Fall Magic" by Proven Winners (kids get a free pumpkin!), a garden workshop and Halloween Fest. Full calendar of events on page 3.



## Fall is a Favorite Time to Plant

Fall planting doesn't have to mean that your color choices will be monochromatic, dull or muted. Fall is a great time to plant, as popular as springtime and you will be surprised by the variety of color available. The suggestions below are usually readily available and will perform in a variety of conditions. If you need fall planting help, stop by the Oct. 2 Fall Magic class with Proven Winners at the Poway location. Selections are available at both WAN locations.

- Nemesia** 'Coconut', 'Blue Bird' and anything in the Sunsatia series would also be great!
- Osteospermum** Lemon, Orange & Peach Symphony and Soprano White
- Phlox Intensia Pink** and Lavender Glow
- Argyranthemum** Vanilla Butterfly & Butterfly
- Calibrachoa** Superbells Cherry Red, Pink, Red, White and Million Bells Terra Cotta

## The Garden Railway

by David Ross



It's like a virus that lays dormant waiting for the time when the body is weak so it can strike. For a few, it becomes a full-blown addiction that has been with them since childhood. For most people, however, they go through life unknowing, until some event occurs that causes it to surface.

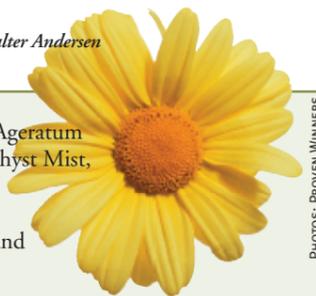
For most people, adult onset occurs around the holidays. What am I talking about? Why, model trains, of course. Gardeners are not immune to this affliction. Indeed, the garden railway has become a huge trend nationwide. The G-scale trains, which can be used indoors or out are big trains that are easy for small-kid hands to use and easy for older eyes to see without glasses (G-scale trains are built to a ratio of 1 to 22.5. A 75-foot long locomotive is 40 inches long).

It has become quite obvious to me that everybody loves trains, though some may not know it yet. "Children of all ages, from 1 to 99", as the song says, find trains fascinating. And, because a train around the Christmas tree presents a great opportunity to get started, this is how many garden railroaders begin. It usually begins with a starter set. This big box contains everything you will need: a steam locomotive that puffs smoke and has a headlight, a couple of cars, a power supply and about a 4-foot circle of track. It costs a little over \$300. That's all it takes to get started and hooked. It is a good idea to put a cloth under the track to protect the floor or carpet from the wheels that run over the track. Of course, after adding the station siding, it is always fun to add enough track to wind past the bookcase, go round the couch and under the table (aka, the bridge). This is usually the time when sets begin to move outdoors.

With a garden railway, the landscape that becomes part of your railway layout is limited only by your imagination. All of a sudden, small Japanese boxwoods become stately specimen trees. This is the world where dwarf Little Ollie olives become the olive plantation. A dwarf Leptospermum or tea tree with the silly name Nanum Ruru becomes a beautiful majestic oak in this miniature world. These are some of my favorite garden railway plants:

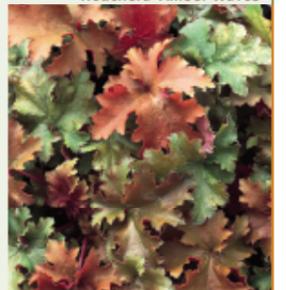
- Buxus japonica, Japanese Boxwood** open up to become trees.
- Buxus "Morris Midget"** dwarf boxwood, great for small shrubs, grows very slowly.
- Chamaecyparis pisifera cyano viridis, Boulevard Cypress** great blue-grey evergreen.
- Hokkaido Elm** very dwarf elm, great for trees, small leaves, grows about an inch per year.
- Cork Bark Elm** same as above but with cork-like bark.
- Leptospermum horizontalis** trained as upright, this becomes a weeping tree.
- Limonium** dwarf statice, a tiny variety that makes a good blooming shrub.
- Picea pungens glauca conica** dwarf Elberta spruce, great looking evergreen.
- Rosa** micro roses. Si and Hi are a couple of 2- to 4-inch roses that are ideal.

David Ross is store manager at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway location. ●



Argyranthemum 'Butterfly'

Heuchera 'Amber Waves'



PHOTOS: PROVEN WINNERS

## SoilSoup Kitchen Is Great Liquid Compost



**The SoilSoup Kitchen is self-sufficient and self-serving. Just push the red button and pour yourself a gallon or two. The SoilSoup Kitchen cart is a workhorse, capable of brewing up to 200 gallons of SoilSoup per day. The garden center supplies gallon jugs, but you are encouraged to recycle by bringing your own containers.**

Are you feeling the hot days of summer and prepared to keep wilting through our warm fall season? How about a thirst quenching blend of compost or worm castings extract containing fungi, protozoa and nematodes? Probably not your idea of a tea or soup you'd prepare to pour for yourself, but if you were a plant it's something you'd crave.

Walter Andersen Nursery has installed a "SoilSoup Kitchen" or liquid compost dispenser that allows you to dispense a gallon of beneficial SoilSoup at the touch of a button. The machine continuously brews a mixture of liquid compost, which is: microorganisms, a nutrient source for the microorganisms, water and air. This mixture is kept at a constant temperature and is continuously aerated to keep the beneficial microbes multiplying while the mixture waits to be dispersed.

The health of plants is improved because the aerating process extracts microorganisms from the compost into the brew. Oxygen and a food source, such as molasses, are added and the organisms reproduce. Adding these millions of microorganisms into the soil appears to improve its health. Each gallon of soil soup contains "aerobic bacteria" which is a very beneficial addition to the soil. The aerobic bacteria are living organisms that break down organic material and raw nutrients in the soil and converts it to a form that can be absorbed by the plants. SoilSoup becomes an essential part of the soil. Once the SoilSoup mixture is dispensed from the brewing environment of the cart, it should be used within 18 to 24 hours.

Depending on each individual gardener's needs, SoilSoup can be used as an organic soil addendum as often as once a week or as infrequently as once a month.

In addition to the SoilSoup dispensing kitchen, Walter Andersen Nursery also offers home brewing kits for the do-it-yourselfers. Home brewing systems come in 25-gallon and 6.5-gallon sizes. These products are available at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway location only. ●

## Ever Dream of a Vegetable Garden in Your Own Backyard?

by Lisa Singer



The simple things in life are often overlooked. Take the home vegetable garden for instance. The simple pleasure of going out into your own

backyard and harvesting vegetables from the garden that you've grown yourself can actually make a meal more enjoyable. There's just something very satisfying about eating the foods that you've worked to produce through your own efforts and knowing that it was really organically grown. Not to mention, vegetables and fruits picked garden-fresh taste so much better than those that have been packaged, shipped and set out on the store shelf before you get them.

Of course, the simple things are often really not so simple. Proper soil, irrigation, and plenty of sunshine are necessary for a successful vegetable garden. You may have to take preventative measures against possible pests like gophers, bunnies, or the family dog. And, of course, you'll need time to prepare and build your garden, and it needs to have an attractive finished look.

Instead, a ready-made vegetable garden can be purchased and installed right into your backyard. Walter Andersen Nursery in

Poway now offers Harvest Haven vegetable gardens, available gardens, available in seven different designs including the Fully-Enclosed Critter-Free Garden. Or, you may have a garden custom-designed to fit your yard. All Harvest Haven gardens come with raised redwood planter boxes (lined with mesh to keep out gophers), rich amended soil, soaker hoses, a watering timer and attractive bunny-proof fencing. The fencing can be either a picket or a post-and-rail system, which can be painted, stained or left natural. A spigot and a hose with a vegetable sprayer are also included to allow for manual watering. A licensed installation crew will assemble the garden, connect the irrigation system, and even finish the job by planting the vegetables, fruits and herbs of your choice.

To see Harvest Haven's bunny-proof fencing, stop by our Poway location and check out our vegetable garden. For more information on a Harvest Haven garden, you can call them at (858) 278-0650, or visit them at [www.harvesthaven.com](http://www.harvesthaven.com) ●



**We Carry Premium Sunshine Soil Products from Sun Gro**

## Improving Clay Soil

by National Gardening Editors

PHOTO: SABIN GRATZ/NATIONAL GARDENING ASSN.



If your garden has heavy clay soil, you know what a challenge it can pose to plants, not to mention gardeners. Heavy clay drains slowly, meaning it stays saturated longer after rain or irrigation. Then, when the sun finally comes out and the soil dries, it forms a hard, cracked surface. On the bright side, clay soils are usually richer in nutrients than sandy soils are. And clay's tendency to hold water tightly can be an advantage.

Here are some tips for making clay soil more manageable and easier to work.

### TOOLS AND MATERIALS

Soil Test Kit or commercial test / Organic Mulches: compost and aged manure, straw / Wheelbarrow or Cart / Shovel / Rake / Cover Crop (wheat, rye, clover, or oats).

### SOIL PH

Test soil pH, and adjust as necessary. Clay soils are rich in nutrients, but if the soil is too acidic or too alkaline, those nutrients won't be available to the plants. Use a home test kit or send a sample to a soil testing lab, then follow the recommendations for adjusting pH. For most garden plants, a pH of 6.3 to 6.8 is ideal. Find a lab near you by checking in your telephone directory, or by calling your local cooperative extension office.

### ADD ORGANIC MATTER

This helps improve drainage and lighten heavy soil. It also provides nutrients for beneficial soil microorganisms which will, in turn, also help improve the soil. Before planting in spring, add compost and aged manure. A 2- to 3-inch layer worked into the soil to shovel depth is a good amount. Throughout the

growing season, mulch with organic materials like grass clippings, shredded leaves, or additional compost. Since soil microorganisms literally "eat" organic matter, make a habit of continually adding it to your soil.

### BUILD RAISED BEDS

Because clay soils hold water, creating raised beds can help improve drainage by encouraging water to run off. Raised beds can be a simple mound of soil, or can be constructed out of wood, brick, or stone. To lessen compaction, size the beds so you can reach the middle without stepping in the bed.

### MULCH BEDS OVER THE WINTER

Driving rain can really pack down bare soil, so keep beds mulched with organic matter both during the growing season and over the winter. A layer of straw over the beds will protect the soil from compaction and reduce erosion; it can also help minimize weed growth. In the spring, transfer the mulch to the garden paths.

### PLANT A COVER CROP

A cover crop is like a living mulch. Different cover crops are appropriate for different regions. In the north, winter wheat and winter rye are popular choices; in warmer regions, crimson clover and oats are commonly used. For a winter cover crop, sow after the last crops have been harvested. The following spring, simply till the plants into the soil, adding yet more precious organic matter.

### ADD COMPOST ANY TIME

However, if you are tilling in fresh or uncomposted organic matter, such as a cover crop, leaves, or straw, wait at least a few weeks before planting to allow the material to break down.

### TIPS

Improving soil takes time, so don't expect overnight results. On the other hand, if you follow the above steps you should notice some improvement each year. Within a few years, you'll have rich, plant-friendly soil. Learn more about gardening at National Gardening at [www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org) ●

## Seasonal Recipe

### Pumpkin Fluff

- 3 large eggs
- 1 (1 lb) can pumpkin
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp ginger
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- ¾ cup melted margarine
- 1 cup chopped pecans



Mix together eggs, pumpkin, sugar, milk and spices on medium speed in mixing bowl. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Sprinkle the dry cake mix over the batter. Drizzle melted margarine over the top of the cake mix. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle nuts on top. Continue baking for 30 additional minutes. Serve with Cool Whip.

## Anniversary

## EVENTS FILL OCTOBER

Walter Andersen Nursery celebrates its 76th anniversary the month of October with special presentations, food, entertainment, events and savings off many items. See stores for timely event information. At press time, the events scheduled included:

### Poway

Oct. 2 – 9:30am **It's Fall Magic** with Proven Winners. Kids get a free pumpkin.  
10:15am **Children's Book Reading & Signing** of "Holly Bloom's Garden" by Poway illustrator **Lori Mitchell**.  
10:30am **Kids Potting Project**. Hotdogs from 11am-2pm.  
11:15am **Children's Book Reading & Signing** with Poway illustrator **Lori Mitchell**.

Oct. 9 – 9:30am Landscape designer **Kelly Fore Dixon** teaches a **Design Basics Class**. Look for areas of the nursery that have received the attention of our designers. **Patrick Poitras of Monrovia** will present spring introductions & answer questions.

Oct. 16 – 9:30am **Steve Goto** of Goto Nursery will present a class about **Asian Vegetables**.

Oct. 17 – **Dennis Fetco (Dr. Dog)** will answer your **Pet Questions** & show you how a citrus spray can keep pets away from where you don't want them.

Oct. 23 – **Trains, Collectibles & Fairy Gardens** – See the expanded garden railroad & hear the folks from **Department 56** talk about collectibles.

Oct. 30 – 9:30am **Tom Perkins** from Sunshine Soil will share **Soil Secrets**.

Oct. 31 – Enjoy **Street Tacos** from 11am-1pm & enjoy the Jimmy Buffet sound of **Musician Jerry Gontang** until 2pm.

### Point Loma

Oct. 2 – 11am **Tikis in the Garden** with Greg McMahon of Rice Canyon Tropicals.

Oct. 3 – 11am **Not a Bunch of Bull: Understanding Fertilizers**. Enjoy hotdogs 11am-1pm.

Oct. 9 – **Color, Texture, Features: Elements of Garden Design** by WAN designers.

Oct. 10 – 11am **The Elegant Camellia** with Tom Nuccio, owner of Nuccio's Camellia Gardens.

Oct. 16 – **Choosing Cides: Pesticides, Herbicides & Fungicides** with Randy Atrat, horticulturist.

Oct. 17 – 11am **Vegetable Garden Fusion: Asian Vegetables** with Steve Goto, owner of Goto Nursery.

Oct. 23 – 11am **Today's Organic Garden** with John Noble, owner of Coastal Sage Gardening. **The Wonderful World of Worms** with Sharon McLachlan, owner of Sharon's Worm World.

Oct. 24 – 11am **Garden Chat: Fern Expertise** with Miles Goodman, fern expert.

Oct. 30 – 1pm **Children's Garden Workshop & Halloween Fest!** Enjoy gardening fun & Halloween festivities for kids with Sally Sallume, nursery professional.

Oct. 31 – 11am **Going Native in Your Existing Garden** with Andy Maycen of Tom Pierogrossi Nursery.

# A Carefree Rose Garden



by David Ross

Do you like the idea of having a carefree rose garden? Sounds like a dream come true, doesn't it? Well that's what rose gardens all over southern California SHOULD become every fall. Now is the time to relax, smell the remaining roses, and do no more in the rose garden for the rest of the year.

Because of our mild Southern California winters, our roses are confused. They think they should still be growing and blooming. And because our roses are confused, many of our rose growers are confused as well. Some gardeners continue to feed, water, and spray their roses throughout the year, and that encourages your roses to continue growing. Roses do need a little encouragement this time of the year. Encouragement to go dormant! With a little help from you, your roses will go to sleep, and wake up big and be stronger next year.

Here is what you can do.

- 1 Stop feeding your roses. Fertilizer encourages growth, which is not what we want now.
- 2 Cut back on water. While there should always be some moisture in the soil, water only occasionally. If your roses are potted, you may have to do it a little more often, especially during drying Santa Ana winds.
- 3 Don't worry about pest and disease control. Because you will be doing a severe dormant pruning in January, and dormant spraying at that time as well, you can forgo any pest or disease controls for the rest of the year.
- 4 And finally, the most painful part, STOP CUTTING your roses. My mother was the first to complain to me about this rule of thumb. She always wants to be able to cut roses and bring them inside. If you leave the flowers on the plant, the old petals will drop, and your roses will form seed pods, or hips, and your plants will stop growing.

The combination of the above will allow your roses to get the rest they deserve, and they will be stronger, better bloomers for you next spring. So remember, DON'T DO IT, in the rose garden this fall and winter... ●

WAITING FOR THE ANNUAL ROSE INTRODUCTIONS IS LIKE WAITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS FOR THE FOLKS AT WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY. WE SCOUR THE CATALOGS FOR THE NEW PICKS THEN WAIT EAGERLY FOR THEM TO BE DELIVERED. THEN ANOTHER ETERNAL WAIT UNTIL THEY BEGIN TO BUD THEN BLOOM AND WE RUSH OUT TO SEE THE COLOR AND SMELL THE FRAGRANCE. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 2005 RELEASES, HERE ARE OUR FAVORITE PICKS FOR THE NEW YEAR.



**About Face** - A very novel 'backwards' bicolor Grandiflora whose deep golden yellow color is carried on the inside of the bloom, with a dark bronzy orange-red on the backside. This plant is loaded with full old fashioned blooms that blush and blend showing a unique array of colors. The mild fresh apple fragrance is released from its' long stems. Tall with deep green leaves this plant will be the main attraction in your garden.



**Black Bacara** - For years hybridizers have tried to breed a black rose. The tremendous success of this rose created a demand from the gardening public for "the blackest rose of them all". The velvety texture of the petals and unique color will be an instant success in your garden. A perfect addition to the landscape and a wonderful addition to any cutting garden this rose is sure to stand out. Used as a cut flower it will last up to 2 weeks in a vase.



**Bolero** - Finally, a pure white Romantica®. The smallest rose in size to be introduced into the Romantica® family so far, this striking white rose has an extraordinarily strong fragrance. The nice bushy habit and glossy green foliage make it a wonderful plant in the landscape.



**Day Dream** - Massive clusters of fuchsia-pink scented blooms open wide and flat on this new landscape shrub rose. The deep glossy green foliage is stunning against the mauve blended blooms. The disease resistance, very small size and compact rounded habit makes it an easy plant to incorporate into almost any landscape.



**ELLE** - The latest look for gardens! Discover the 2005 AARS winner and experience the strong fragrance and class high centered blooms of this new Hybrid Tea.



**Honey Dijon** - Warm golden brown is a most uncommon color in roses. Unlike any previous tan roses, Honey Dijon kicks it up a notch with its natural vigor, abundant flower production, show form and sweet fragrance. Even the finished blooms exude novelty, looking like silk flowers set in the landscape.



**Lady Elsie May** - This worry free shrub rose has masses of coral pink blooms from spring until autumn. The delicately scented flowers are generously dispersed throughout the plant and can only be outdone by its lush waxy green foliage. Resistant to blackspot and other common rose plagues Lady Elsie May™ is quite at home in mass commercial or residential plantings. This handsome shrub stands 30 to 35 inches tall, spreading about 2 feet. A vigorous grower, it can be used as a screen, low border as well as a specimen plant.



**Lime Sublime** - Apple green it's not. But imagine a key lime cream color that lights up any landscape with oodles of luminous blooms. Dark glossy green leaves set off the creamy pastel flowers and pointed buds. Great in mass plantings, mixed into borders or abides perfectly well all alone.



**Pink Knockout** - The Knock Out® Rose in a powerful pink color! It thrives in humid climates where most other plants require spray and maintenance. It blooms non-stop in the early spring until the first hard frost.



**Queen Mary II** - This striking pure white Hybrid Tea rose deserves a spectacular name. Appropriately named after the largest, longest, and tallest passenger ship ever conceived, the Queen Mary II, cruise ship. The high centered buds on this new rose combine the distinctive strong fragrance of sweet rose and banana.



**September Mourn** - This rose has received considerable attention. Selected and named in honor of the events of September 11 it is a lovely pure white hybrid tea hybridized from Iceburg and Sunfare has kept all of the good characteristics that made it parents famous. A classical flower that's ideal for cutting.

## Nighttime Gardens Increase The Plant Palette

by Ken Andersen



Today, more than ever, people are treating their gardens as an additional room of their house. They use the area for entertaining, cooking and dining as well as relaxing during and after sunset. Adding to that enjoyment is the increased plant palette that incorporates night color and fragrance. To enhance your enjoyment of a garden after dark consider adding some plants that will have an intoxicating effect. Here are a few that will make nice additions to most yards in San Diego.

### Angel's Trumpets - Brugmansia Species

These small trees have the most intoxicating fragrance at night. Deep yet not overpowering they will fill even a large yard with a great tropical fragrance. "Charles Grimaldi" is especially fragrant.

### Night Blooming Cereus

Selenicereus has a very strong fragrance and makes a great container plant.

### Night Blooming Jasmine

Cestrum nocturnum has a wonderful fragrance but be careful. If planted too close to the house or if grown too large it can be overpowering. Just to be safe, plant well away from windows and doors.

### Patio Gardens

For patio gardens or tropical areas consider buying some Cattleya, Brassovola, or Rhyncholaelia orchids and their hybrids. These epiphytic beauties will grow in containers or mounted on tree limbs with green moss. Their flowers are a bit short lived but the show and the fragrance are enchanting. Ryncholaelia digbyana is one of the most fragrant and its frilled lime green flowers are spectacular.

### Spanish Moss

Tillandsia usenoides is fragrant also. Its almost invisible green flowers emit a sweet fragrance in spite of their size. The more you have the more the stronger the fragrance.

### Kahili Ginger

While the flower heads will open in the daytime the fragrance lingers long into the evening.

All of these plants are available at our stores most of the year. Check with the store closest to you to see what we have in stock and add another dimension to your garden! ●

## Tips from the PROS

### Gardening with Tropical Plants & Tips for Overwintering Tropicals

by Monrovia Nursery

One of the hottest trends in gardening right now is tropical plants, even in colder climates, where gardeners either overwinter the plants or just grow them as annuals. Tropical plants are characterized by bright colored flowers, large leaves and vibrant foliage. If you're new to growing tropicals, try some heavy bloomers that are easy to grow, like MidKnight Blue Agapanthus; Bougainvillea varieties such as Purple Queen or Oo-La-La, or brightly colored Hibiscus like the Itsy bitsy Red or the double-flowered yellow Full Moon.

According to Nicholas Staddon of Monrovia, another great choice is Lantana, which blooms continuously and comes in a range of colors from bright yellow to cool lavender. Mandevillas are fast growing tropical vines with elegant trumpet-like flowers. Some newer varieties like Pink Parfait, Moonlight Parfait and the new Tango Twirl have spectacular double flowers.

"To create a great look with interesting foliage, start with some banana trees - either the Ensete Red-Leaf Banana, or the Musa Blood Banana, with its red-striped leaves,"

Staddon suggests. Canna Tropicanna not only has bright orange flowers, but its beautiful burgundy leaves are striped with red, yellow and green. Variegated Shell Ginger has gorgeous yellow and green leaves and produces 12-inch, pale pink blooms.

"Citrus trees bring wonderful fragrance into the tropical garden and are easy to bring inside if you're in a cold climate," Staddon said. "Try varieties such as Variegated Calamondin Orange, Nagami Kumquat, Dwarf Campbell Valencia Orange or Sungold Lemon."

#### Tips for Overwintering Tropicals

- Grow your tropicals in containers and when weather dips below 50 degrees at night, bring the container into your garage, basement or sunroom.
- If you will be digging up the plants, just cover their roots well with burlap or bubble wrap.
- Check with your local garden center on whether a particular plant variety needs the roots kept moist or dry.
- Make sure the plants are healthy before you overwinter. Remove dead leaves and flowers, and then make sure they are free of pests or fungus.
- For Cannas and other plants with rhizomes, cut the foliage to about six inches, dig up the rhizomes and let them dry out for a few days before storing in a cool, dark place for the winter.

# Debunking the Myths of Decollate Snails

they're good  
they're bad  
they're ugly!



They are thought to be the best thing ever introduced to take care of snail problems. And, who doesn't have snail problems? If you water, you've got snail problems.

Before introducing decollate snails, though, realize that they do eat brown garden snails, but only the small ones. The large, mature ones they leave alone. They also eat plants although perhaps not as many as European Brown snails, but they do eat the tender young plants, especially those planted in the ground from seed. If you grow vegetables and have decollate snails, consider planting only established plants from six-packs or larger. Most root crops do not come this way and you have to plant carrots, radishes, turnips, etc. from seed, which grow into the seedlings the snails love. Another snail favorite is strawberries and they don't turn up a meal of dichondra. Decollate snails do have their place mostly in citrus and avocado orchards. It is believed that also CalTrans finds them valuable and puts them in the ice plant along the freeways.

Walter Andersen Nursery doesn't sell decollate snails and we've been asked many times by customers who have used them how to get rid of them. We advise you use metaldehyde, the indredient in most snail controls. ●

## Fall Class Schedule

All classes are free and begin

at 9:00am in Pt. Loma at

3642 Enterprise Street, and

at 9:30am in Poway at

12755 Danielson Court. On

rare occasions, we may need

to make a last minute

change. If you have questions,

call 619-224-8271 (Point

Loma) or 858-513-4900

(Poway). Show up early if

you don't like standing, and

have coffee on us!

## POINT LOMA

### October

10/2 Shade Gardening

10/9 Camellias

10/16 Lawn Care

10/23 Fall Vegetables

10/30 Winter Color

### November

11/6 Holiday Decorating Ideas

11/13 Poinsettias

11/20 Dormant Spraying of Fruit Trees

11/27 No Class - Nursery Closed

### December

12/4 Rose Pruning (1st Class, 2nd in Jan.)

12/11 Pruning Apple, Pear & Persimmon Trees

12/18 Pruning Peach & Nectarine Trees

12/25 No Class - Nursery Closed

1/1/05 No Class - Nursery Closed

## POWAY

### October

10/2 Fall Magic w/Proven Winners & Kids Potting Event

10/9 Landscape Design Basics w/Kelly Fore Dixon, ASLA

10/16 Steve Goto Presents Garden Vegetables; Oriental Vegetable Tasting

10/23 Garden Railroading - See the Railroad Expansion

10/30 Soil

### November

11/6 Dormant Spraying - How & Why

11/13 Azaleas & Camellias w/Monrovia Nursery

11/20 Winter Color

11/27 No Class - Nursery Closed

### December

12/4 Winter Rose Care

12/11 Rose Pruning - Bare Root Roses

12/18 Fruit Tree Pruning

12/25 No Class - Nursery Closed

1/1/05 No Class - Nursery Closed



## Spring Trend Show Offers Individual Assistance

The folks at Proven Winners will join Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway location to hold a unique spring event. The event will be limited to 60 participants (ticketed attendance) and begins before the nursery opens. It will offer an exclusive presentation of spring plants, a one-on-one consultation with a Proven Winner garden artist and all participants will receive a gift bag and complimentary plants. Event planning is still underway and details will follow in the winter newsletter as well as being posted in the stores. ●

## Garden Railroad Expansion Has Something For Everyone

by Russ Green



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

The existing 600-square foot garden railroad at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway just didn't seem big enough. In fact, when opened four years ago, the trains had hardly completed a few loops before the creative forces

behind it were already weighing the possibility of an expansion. These things do take time, but after a year of planning and a rapid moving construction effort - the expansion is nearing completion.

Ground broke the beginning of August to build the design that Train and Project Engineer Russ Green created. The extension is not just for trains. It will display many types of plants and vegetation that may be used in any southern California garden as well as within a garden railway. Russ was able to engineer

35 percent more water plant retail space into the design to meet the growing demands customers. The water features incorporate water falls and streams which flow into ponds that in turn cascade between one another.

Four new train tracks, each independently operated will merge the old layout to the new layout so that five and potentially six trains can be operated independently and simultaneously. Here are some of the layout statistics: perimeter - 253 feet, fill dirt & top soil - 419 yards, blocks - 842 (80 & 40 lbs each), approximately 10 tons of rocks, 8 ponds holding 5900 gallons of water, 1400 feet of electrical wiring, approximately 1100 feet of new track, 46 track insulators, 27 switch turn outs, 15 bridges, a control panel containing over 400 feet of wire, seven independent throttles and numerous switches. The layout also includes three mountains, two water falls, a desert, a carnivorous plant bog, and over 50 species of plants and trees from micro miniature to full size. ●

## TOOLS



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

"Hi-ho, hi-ho, its pruning time you know, for roses soon and fruit trees too, hi-ho, hi-ho!"  
**Felco Brand Tools**

Fall is here and it's time for those Nips-and-Tucks or even the dreaded Hack-and-Chops of the plants you love so well. Don't be faint of heart. With the proper tools in your hand you can do anything. Walter Andersen Nursery will be giving lots of classes on the pruning of roses and fruit trees this Fall and Winter, so you can pick your time and of course, TOOLS. The best tool you can have is a good pair of hand pruners. And in my humble opinion "FELCO" is the brand to use. Felco has many styles of hand pruners to choose from. An Inexpensive choice beginner gardeners, ones for you "Lefties" out there, but the two main grip types are the #8 and #11 and of course my favorite the #7 with the rotating handle. Come and have a look at them all. Because it really doesn't matter which one you get as long as it fits. Here's my hint for the holidays: You can put one in someone's Trick-or-Treat bag or Thanksgiving basket. I have even been told by a certain someone that a nice pair of Felcos will fit just right in a Christmas stocking, Ho Ho Ho!  
by Richard Wright

4) **COUPON**  
Valid October 1 - 31, 2004

**SAVE \$2**  
On Stone Edna's Best  
Potting Soil  
1.5 cu.ft. Limit 6  
#10026907

**SAVE \$1**  
On Stone Soil Booster  
1.5 cu.ft. Limit 6  
#10026908

Limit Six (6) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

**Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!**

- 3642 Enterprise St. San Diego, CA 92110  
Phone 619-224-8271  
Fax 619-224-9067
- 12755 Danielson Ct. Poway, CA 92064  
Phone 858-513-4900  
Fax 858-513-4790

**Stores Close for the Holidays**

Both Walter Andersen Nursery locations will close **November 25th** for Thanksgiving, **December 25th** for Christmas and **January 1st** for New Year's Day. Stores may close early on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Holiday hours will be noted at each store.

We Proudly Carry Top-Quality Plants from **Monrovia**

**COUPON**  
Valid November 1 - 30, 2004

**Get 5# of Milorganite FREE**  
With Purchase of 50# Bag  
Ask Cashier for Bag at Checkout  
Limit 1. No Cash Value.

Limit One (1) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

**COUPON**  
Valid December 1 - 31, 2004

**\$2 OFF**  
Any Sunshine Soil Product  
1.5 cu.ft. or Larger Bag  
Limit 6  
#1002355

Limit Six (6) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

Reminder! With the end of daylight savings, the nursery is dark early evening. Therefore, effective October 31st, Poway hours will change to 9am-5pm.

12755 Danielson Court  
Poway, CA 92064  
858-513-4900

