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GARDEN TALK

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A Preview Of Roses For 2007

by Melanie Potter



PHOTO: JACKSON & PERKINS

Commemorative Rose Gets Early WAN Release

Jackson & Perkins is introducing Pope John Paul II, a commemorative rose to be released in limited edition for 2007. The rose, grown in the Vatican's private garden, produces pure, luminous white,

lavishly petaled blossoms and has a fresh citrus fragrance. It has consistently received top ratings for vigorous growth, superior disease resistance and magnificent bloom form.

Both Walter Andersen nurseries will have this rose available in December, but supplies will be limited. The roses are being pre-sold for \$19.99 and can be bought by calling the Pt. Loma store at 619-224-8271 or Poway at 858-513-4900.

AARS Names 2007 Winners

The winners are announced and Rainbow Knock Out, Moon-dance and Strike it Rich are the roses to watch next year, having been voted the best in the 2007 All-America Rose Selections.

PHOTO: JACKSON & PERKINS



Rainbow Knock Out



Moondance



Strike It Rich

Rainbow Knock Out is bushy and compact and features deep coral pink flowers with a yellow center finishing to light coral. It is fully resistant to black spot, mildew and rust. Moondance is a floribunda with large creamy white flowers contrasted with glossy, dark green foliage. It is highly resistant to black spot, mildew and rust. Strike it Rich is a grandiflora with clusters of deep golden yellow double blooms swirled with ruby red offset by dark green leaves and red stems.

78th Anniversary Events Planned!

Walter Andersen Nursery is celebrating its 78th year in business the entire month of November with special events planned at both its stores. Events are subject to change, but at press time here's what we've got in store at the stores!



Point Loma Events

Oct. 29 / 1PM
Halloween Scavenger Hunt for Children—All ages are welcome to search the nursery for clues. This fun and educational scavenger hunt will take youngsters through the nursery looking for hidden treasure!

Nov. 4 / 1pm
Florabunda Holiday Color—Get a jump on the holiday season! Fresh holiday plants & care instructions to make them last through the season will be highlighted.

Nov. 5 / 1pm
Zalinda Farms / Fall & Holiday Container Gardening—Learn how to design and create your own color bowls & patio containers. Emphasis will be on fall and holiday color, texture & design.

Nov. 11 / 10am
Dr. Earth Organics / In-Store Promo—Experts from Dr. Earth will answer your organic gardening questions from controlling bugs in your garden to the proper care and feeding of your plants, the kinder, gentler way!

Nov. 12 / 1pm
Wildlife Gone Wild with Tom Perkins—Got Mice? Got Rabbits? Discover some of the best ways to rid your garden of pests with safe & non-toxic animal repellents.

Nov. 18 / 1pm
New Offerings from Monrovia & Holiday Plants—For the true garden connoisseur, Monrovia will bring in a selection of new plant offerings in addition to a selection of holiday favorites. Be one of the first to see new plant varieties from this premier grower!

Nov. 19 / 10am
New Offerings from Monrovia & Holiday Plants—For the true garden connoisseur, Monrovia will bring in a selection of new plant offerings in addition to a selection of holiday plants. Be one of the first to see new plant varieties from this premier grower!

11:30am-1pm or while they last
Free Hot Dogs & Sodas—Enjoy lunch on us!

1pm
Winter Rose Care with Jack Schultz—Wondering what to do with your roses in the winter? Jack Schultz is a Consulting Rosarian who has numerous rose awards to his credit. He will be here to give advice and answer your rose questions.

Santa Claus will be visiting the Point Loma store again this year! Contact the store, 619-224-8271 and ask one of the elves for all the details! Schedule not available at press time.

Poway Events

Nov. 4 / 11am
Kids Love Gardening—Local artist and author **Lori Mitchell** will read to children. Join her as she reads 'Holly Bloom's Garden'. We'll have seeds for the kids and do a planting exercise with them.

Nov. 5 / 1pm
You Can Never Have Enough Poinsettias—with Dana Groot from Florabunda. Get holiday decorating ideas & care tips to make this a holiday plant you can't do without.

Nov. 11 / 11am-noon
We'll run the **Live Steam Engine** on our tracks.
11:30am
Dave Miller from our Pt. Loma store explores the versatility of **Cactus & Succulents**. Indoors or outdoors, with all their interesting color combinations, we bet you have a place to creatively use them.

Nov. 12 / 11am
Soil Secrets—Building Healthy Soil Naturally
Join Giselle from Dr. Earth for this informative presentation.

Nov. 18 / 11am-2pm
Street Tacos are back as well as music by **Local Musician, Jerry Gontang**. Have lunch at the nursery and enjoy music by Jerry. See his website at www.starsonthewater.net.

Nov. 19 / 10:30am
Egads It's Cycads!—They are over 220 million years old and we still can't get enough of them. Join **Irv McDaniel** as he shares cycad tales and shows plants from his own collection. ●

Coca-Cola Rolling Stock Departs Poway Railroad

Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway is discontinuing all LGB Coca-Cola branded rolling stock. While supplies last you can save 40% off the sticker price. Along with this merchandise, selected other rolling stock will be marked down 40% as well. These will make excellent additions to your collection or are great gifts for other railroaders. The discount will be taken at the registers and cannot be combined with any other discounts or offers. All sales will be final.

New Collection Selections at Walter Andersen Nursery

by Ken Andersen

Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway is now identifying collectable plants for you to add to your garden. The nursery has long been a destination for plant enthusiasts and collectors alike. We're making it easier to find these specimens by putting signs on plants that are particularly unique and interesting or collectable. With our broad base of plant knowledge we are here to help you be successful with some of these more unusual varieties so you can buy with confidence. We'll have selections of different plants that you won't find at most garden centers so be sure you shop both stores often as the stock will change seasonally as new plants become available. Set your garden apart by adding Walter Andersen Collection Selections today!

Holiday Home Tour Tickets Available at Our Poway Store

Once again, Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway will have tickets for sale, by early November, to the NCL Poway Holiday Home Tour (NCL



Poway HHT 2006). This is the fifth year the Poway chapter of the National Charity League has sponsored the home tour. More than 500 attendees are expected to visit the three homes on the tour that takes place Dec. 2 from 11am-4pm. Tickets cost \$25. Proceeds will benefit three local philanthropies, one of which is the Gayle Kennedy Scholarship Fund; the other two are to be decided. For more information, see www.nclpoway.org.

Holiday Closings!

Walter Andersen Nurseries will be closed
November 24 – Thanksgiving Day
December 25 – Christmas Day
January 1 – New Year's Day
We will be closing early
December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 31 – New Year's Eve

Understanding & Solving Soil Problems

by Heaviland Enterprises, Inc.



Often, when a plant is struggling, the two things considered are irrigation and fertilization. In many cases, the problem is the soil. Here is some information about soil that you might not know.

Soil has texture. Soil texture is determined by which soil separate is most predominating. A course texture has a higher percentage of sand. Course textured soils drain well but don't hold water or nutrients as well as other textures. Medium textured soils have a predominance of silt. Soils with medium texture are most ideal for plant growth. Fine texture soils have more clay than sand or silt. Soils with a fine texture hold water and nutrients better than soils of other soil textures, but don't drain as well.

Soil has structure. Soil can have a granular, blocky, prismatic, columnar or platy structure. Hopefully, your soil is more granular and blocky than prismatic or platy. Unlike soil texture, soil structure can be improved with soil amendments, tilling and aeration.

All soil amendments are not created equal. Soil amendments include mulch, peat moss, manure, compost, and sand. A soil amendment should improve soil structure, increase the soil infiltration rate, provide nutrients, increase the soil's water and nutrient holding capacity, improve the aeration of the soil and produce a favorable change in the soil's pH. A soil amendment shouldn't contain disease organisms, weed seed, toxic chemicals, have an adverse effect on a soil's pH and salt levels, or tie up nitrogen.

A soil's pH level should be between six and seven. Seven is neutral. Any soil with a pH above seven is alkaline. A soil with a pH level below seven is acidic. Vital plant nutrients are more abundant in soil with a proper pH level. You can raise pH with limestone and lower it with sulfur. Calcareous soil is an alkaline soil that can't economically be corrected. It contains free lime so adding sulfur won't have a lasting effect. Calcareous soils require the use of raised planters or mounds, or the use of plant material that performs better in alkaline soil.

A soil's salt level needs to be controlled. Soil with high salt content can cause tip burn on plant leaves. Irrigation water, poor drainage and fertilizers can cause a soil's salt content to increase. To reduce the amount of salt in soil, you should improve the soil's drainage and leach the soil. Leaching involves the use of excess water to remove excess salt.

Foot prints & tire marks bring out the worst in your soil. Soil is composed of 45% mineral matter, 25% water, 5% organic matter and 25% air. When soil is walked on or driven over, it gets compacted and air is forced out. Air is as important to plants as water or nutrients. A good example is a new lawn, on a new property. When a structure is under construction, trucks drive and workers walk on the property, compacting the soil. Before a lawn is planted, an irrigation system is typically installed. When irrigation is being installed, trenches are dug for piping and then backfilled with soil. The rest of the lawn is left alone. Weeks later, the grass, where the trenches were dug, is outperforming the grass in other areas. You can see where the trenches were dug because the grass there is greener. Aeration can help reverse the effects of soil compaction. ●

Rare Houseplant Provides Tropical Look

by Melanie Potter



In an effort to provide readers with more houseplant information, I was all set to write about aralias. There are so many choices and great looks found in this plant that it seemed a no brainer to do, and then we got something in that was rare, hard-to-find, ugly but pretty and drew comments such as, "Oh", or "Ummm". Anything that gets that kind of reception needs an educational marketing effort behind it.

And that may be your introduction to this member of the Euphorbia family, *Jatropha cathartica*. Also called 'Baseball Plant' or 'Dr. Seuss Plant' and known as Berlandier Nettle Spurge, it sports a huge bulb or caudex at the base from which a tall stalk grows with sparse groupings of lacy, araila-like leaves and spikes of red or pink flowers. The leaves are deciduous and flowers appear in summer. Green, pea-like berries, which are the seeds, follow. These can be dried and planted, but beware, they are poisonous and should not be ingested by humans or animals.

Its Caribbean origin, where it was spread as a valuable hedge plant to Africa and Asia by Portuguese traders, makes it a tropical and it is native to Texas, Africa and Mexico. The genus contains some 175 succulents, shrubs and trees. *Jatropha* is a slow growing plant that prefers maximum sun, minimum water and should be planted in well draining soil. You can use a succulent mix. It can rot if it becomes cold and damp. Let the plant dry out between watering. ●

The Importance of Going Dormant

by Kurt Peacock

Kurt Peacock is an arborist and the assistant manager at Walter Andersen Nursery in Pt. Loma.



Fall is an important time in the garden, especially for plants that go dormant in the winter. (As defined by Sunset Western Garden Book, dormancy is 'the annual period when a plant's growth processes greatly slow down'. For many plants, dormancy commences with the onset of winter, as days grow shorter and temperatures colder.) For deciduous plants, (any plant that sheds all its leaves at one time, usually in the fall) fall is a critical time for disease prevention in the coming year.

A complication of our wonderful weather, here in San Diego, is that many plants do not want to go dormant. Roses and many normally deciduous fruit trees will not fully drop their leaves due to our mild weather.

Why is leaf drop so important? The diseases that affect these plants can most effectively and safely be controlled with timely applications of fungicides at dormancy (when the fewest leaves remain on the tree) and spring bud break. Here are some tips for inducing leaf drop and dormancy in your deciduous plants and trees.

1. Withhold fertilizer in the fall; do not feed after September
2. Reduce and withhold water from mid-late October (drought induces dormancy)

Timing is critical for effective dormant spray disease control: Do not wait until every leaf has fallen to spray. The first application should be at half-leaf drop, second at pruning time and the third when the buds begin to swell.

There are many effective products like CopRSpray (Monterey), Daconil (Ortho Garden Disease Control), Immunox (Spectracide), Safer Garden Sulphur, and our most popular Polysul Summer & Dormant Spray. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL every time you apply a product. The label IS THE LAW in California. More is not better and misuse can damage or even kill your plants.

One last tip: Sanitation! Remove all diseased, fallen leaves, fruits and flowers as these can be a source for reinfection and the spread of the very diseases you are fighting. ●



by Sharon May

May in the Garden

Seasonal Color at the Door

The Holiday Season is full of special events, most of which involve the front door. From Trick-or-Treat, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, and New Year's Day, special visitors will gather on your doorstep. Here are a few tips to add to your "Door Appeal" and set the tone for your festive events!

Sharon May is a landscape designer at Walter Andersen Nursery. She will teach 'Fall Color at the Front Door' Nov. 4 at 9:30am at the Poway store.

People Walk Where They Look

Since it is ingrained behavior to look where we walk, people walk more comfortably where they look. By providing bright color by the door, your guests are warmly drawn to your door and will arrive at your home focused on the visit with you, not on what's in the neighbor's driveway. By using bright color in a bed by the door, in a container by the door, and even a door swag or wreath, you can set the mood for your memorable event!

Plan for the Season, Not the Holiday

Typically, color by the door means annuals which, when planted in the fall, will pump out blooms into the spring before needing to be replaced. Look for Chrysanthemum, Snapdragons, Dianthus, Schizanthus, Nemesis and Pansies in seasonal colors. Colored foliage is also effective and even longer lasting in a frost protected area. Heuchera provides gorgeous foliage in burgundy and gold and Lamium or Succulents can provide silver-green or golden-green accents. By using Burgundy, Silver, Gold or Red, you can plant colors that lend the feel for the season, not just one Holiday at a time. By adding a few extra touches the look can become specific to the occasion. Use a Pumpkin, corn stalks, or wheat sheaves for Halloween and Thanksgiving. Replace them with red or white flowers, such as Poinsettias or Cyclamen, to announce the Christmas or Hanukah! These plants can even set the scene for New Year's or Valentine's Day!

Seasonal Recipe

Mediterranean Avocados

- 2 avocados
- 3/4 cup plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1 chopped garlic clove
- 2 dashes Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup shredded spinach or romaine lettuce
- Sliced tomatoes

Mix yogurt, garlic clove, Worcestershire sauce, and lemon juice together. Refrigerate over night. Before serving, dice avocados and toss with dressing. Serve atop tomatoes and spinach.

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER



I love fall. The crispness in the air, cool nights and native plants are beginning to appear in abundance. Fall through spring are the best times to find native plant material in the nursery like these suggestions.

Well, they're not exactly natives of Southern California but they like it here. There are two types of *Tagetes* that I just love. One because it takes a lot of abuse such as very little water, bad soil, heat and smells tangy sweet; the other because it takes a lot of abuse such as very little water, bad soil, heat and smells like licorice.



Tagetes nelsonii aka Citrus Scented Marigold is a 3'-4' fast growing perennial marigold. It has a strong scent when disturbed but I find it more pleasant and herbal than the scent of *Tagetes lemmonii* aka T. palmeri or Mexican Marigold (which I also have in my garden). I especially

like the contrast of the dark green rose shaped leaves with the reddish stems. Blooms are gold/yellow and are best in late summer, early fall. Cut back in spring to rejuvenate the plant. Deer do not like this plant and I don't think bunnies do either, at least I haven't seen any nibbling on it.



Tagetes lucida aka Mexican Tarragon is another fast growing 4' perennial with golden flowers in the fall. Cut back after the bloom season to rejuvenate the plant. In colder areas it may die to the ground but it should return from basal foliage in the spring. The leaves are edible and taste of licorice. Mexican marigold has been in use since Aztec times, both for religious and medicinal purposes. Today, it is a popular herb in the South. Similar to tarragon, Mexican marigold is stronger and more robust; therefore, it goes better with spicy food. I only found one recipe that called for this herb and it was for a stewed chicken dish but hey, I didn't plant it to eat it, I planted it because of the smell.

Both of these *Tagetes* would prefer regular water and well drained soil with full sun. However, they will take a fair amount of abuse once they are established. You can easily over water these perennials. As members of the Asteraceae family they are edible.



Manzanitas are easy to grow in most of California and unfortunately are missing from most landscapes. The genus for this plant is *Arctostaphylos* and there are more than 40 species not to mention all the subspecies and hybrids. *Arctostaphylos X Pacific Mist* is a cultivar

I have been working with for three years now. I wanted one called "Arroyo Cascade" but couldn't seem to find it anywhere. A little more research and I found out that it is not commercially grown yet but "Pacific Mist" was the next closest variety.

Pacific Mist is a sprawling groundcover Manzanita of hybrid origin. It is very fast growing for a Manzanita and will lose its form very rapidly in interior heat if not kept in check. It can be a little fussy inland (I should know, I lost two before I figured out the trick), but in a coastal garden it can be a real winner. Low, grey and sprawling it will grow in beach sand or clay. Pacific Mist is drought tolerant in beach sand and along the coast but you need to work with watering needs in the interior. You can kill it with too much water.

Manzanitas have shiny red or mahogany colored bark, urn-shaped flowers that vary from pink to white. Evergreen, they look healthy even in the hottest, driest part of the summer. As members of the family Ericaceae, they are highly mycorrhizal (associated with symbiotic fungi). This allows them to survive in many harsh environments, however it also makes them very susceptible to over watering and fertilizing. They really do not like to be watered or fertilized. If grown correctly these plants, especially the larger forms, will grow for more than 100 years. Manzanitas are great wildlife plants providing nectar for butterflies, hummingbirds and native insects.



Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bermudianum*) is really not a grass at all. It is a member of the iris family. This perennial grows 6-12 inches tall in full sun to partial shade. Regular water is best but it will grow in the right spot with very little water. Hard frosts will cause the foliage to die back to the ground but it will be back in spring.

Blue-violet flowers with yellow-starred centers bloom in late spring to early summer but don't go looking for the blooms in the afternoon. This flower is a morning person. It self-seeds easily so leave the seed pods on for this plant to fill an area. The sword-like foliage stands straight up and out, creating a neat appearance for edging, the front of the border, or mixed plantings.

Blue color is always welcome in the garden, and the wonderful thing about this Blue-Eyed Grass is that it's so easy; you tend to forget about the flowering until the bright blossoms begin their showy display! The foliage stays fresh until hard frost. What could be simpler or more elegant?



Kangaroo Paws



Animal Kingdom Invades Plant World!



by Melanie Potter

Somewhere along the way gardening stayed confusing to novices who wondered where to put what plant and how to care for it as well as just being able to say its name. The scientific names are precise but can have more than five syllables to struggle with. Common names may be the same for ornamentals and weeds; they are imprecise and despite having the same name, plants may not be similar.

You'll need to know the scientific name when ordering plants to ensure you get the right variety. Here's an amusing look at plants commonly named after familiar things – like animals. A discussion about the elephant's ears, kangaroos paws, lambs ears or zebra plants may lead you to think a person has spent some time with animals, but in actuality, they have been to a nursery.

Caladium esculentum, Elephant Ears is also known by the scientific name Colocasia esculenta. Elephant Ears are prized for huge, bold-textured foliage that resembles an "elephant's ears". It is a wonderful,

fast growing tropical looking plant for shady areas. You can buy bulbs or already established plants. They prefer moist, well-drained soil enriched with organic matter. When in full leaf, Elephant Ears can drink a lot. The leaves will wilt if thirsty. This plant likes heat and humidity and will grow to a height of 4 to 6 feet.

Stachys lanata or Lamb's Ears is native to Northern Turkey and Southern Iran where it grows on rocky hills and scrub areas. In other words, it is a weed. It can take partial shade, but not an excess of water or frost conditions. Named for its ear-shaped woolly white leaves, these come from the

mint family. They make good edging for paths and flower beds.

Familiar with Anigozanthos, mate? It's the Australian native, Kangaroo paws and these showy flowers look great when planted in a big mass. They start with a big clump of long sword like leaves that give way to spikes of fuzzy, tubular flowers in red, yellow, green or orange that are curved at the tips just like the paws of a kangaroo. These like sunny spots in light sandy soil or heavier soil with good drainage but are prone to snails and slugs. They do attract hummingbirds.

Aphelandra Squarrosa is a beautiful houseplant and bears the name Zebra plant due to its long, dark green leaves veined with white stripes. It even flowers with waxy, golden yellow flower bracts. It will require bright filtered light or morning sun. Cut the bracts back to the stalk when the flowers fade and repot annually after bloom. The flowers, which protrude from the spike, are yellow, two lipped and persist for only a few days. The showy bract remains attractive for six to eight weeks. As beautiful as these plants are, they are from the hot and humid Brazilian tropics and can resent the cool, dry winter conditions found in many homes. Plant in highly organic, extremely well drained soil. The potting medium must never be allowed to dry out completely. Given routine fertilization and care, they should bloom again come fall.

Equisetum or Horsetail is one of my favorite plants because what you see is what you get. There are no leaves, just slim, hollow 4' stems that are bright green and ringed in black or gray at each joint. This is a great choice to use around ponds. It is best to confine it to containers as it is very invasive. It can have a tropical look, or place it in containers in a modern or Japanese themed garden. ●

Horsetail

PHOTO: DORIEEN WYNJA



Elephant Ears

Lamb's Ears



Zebra Plant



Going Native Is A Natural Way

by Carol Fuller



What are natives and why should we use them? By definition natives are those plants that are pre-historically from a region. We should use them because they are adapted to the area. They prefer their soil natural and unamended. They prefer natural rainfall patterns. Only minimal irrigation is used to help establish native plants and during times of drought stress.

Natives thrive under benign neglect.

Despite popular belief, a native garden is not full of cactus and brown scrub brush. Native areas consist of oak woodlands, alpine forests, fern and orchid river corridors as well as our beautiful Anza-Borrego desert. Native gardens also attract and support local birds and butterflies. Most natives are disease and pest resistant and provide a natural weed control after two to three years. Low maintenance and cost (no fertilizer or amendments) are another reason to go native.

Irrigation for natives is pretty basic. Do not use drip on drought tolerant species. Xeric natives want diffused moisture, similar to rainfall. Micro sprays are good for retrofitting an existing drip system. Plantings next to a lawn may need no additional water.

To install your natives, just dig a hole and put it in. No fertilizer, no amendments and no deeper than they are in the pot they came in. Just run a finger down the side of the root ball to break any root encirclement. Extensive root disturbance will kill the plant. Native plants have a symbiotic relationship with the surrounding soil. The more you disturb the soil, the more you disturb that relationship which could be disastrous to your plants. Water well when first planted but set up a system to water weekly for the first year. Water heavily in spring if the winter has been dry.

If designed correctly, occasional dead-heading is all that should be required in your native garden. It is important to keep the area weed free, until the natural weed inhibition of the plant community develops in two-three years. Keep a good level of mulch on the soil to help with weed abatement.

If you plan on installing a native garden, start with your trees and shrubs first. Island Oak, Coast Live Oak, Engelmann Oaks are large spreading trees for shade. White Alder, Box Elder, Desert Willow and Redbuds are wonderful accent trees that not only provide shade but movement in your garden.

Good screening plant materials are Elderberry, Current, Toyon, Manzanita and Island Mountain Mahogany. Small to medium sized shrubs are good fillers. Bush anemone, Woolly Blue Curls, Ceanothus "Julia Phelps", and salvias.

Some good groundcovers are Arctostaphylos "Carmel Sur", Ceanothus "Joyce Coulter" and "Yankee Point", and Baccharis "Pigeon Point".

Add perennial color with the mother of all; Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita Bop', Yarrow, Bush Morning Glory, Hummingbird Fuchsia, Monkey Flower, Goldenrod, and native iris.

Natives create very stable landscapes by working symbiotically with the local conditions. The local plant palette is massive and can be used to create any garden style. Shade or sun, natural, formal, Japanese, Mediterranean or Cottage, the choice is yours. ●

A Salute To A Stick & Entertaining The Troops

by Melanie Potter



If you knew a crooked man who walked a crooked mile, he may have been carrying a crooked cane and most likely it came from a shrub called Harry Lauder's Walking Stick.

Corylus avellana 'Contorta' is the version to look for and you may be surprised to learn this is kin to the filbert or hazelnut. Sometime in the early 1860s, a curious shrub was noticed growing in a hedgerow in Gloucestershire. It was a hazel but it was different, its branches were twisted and corkscrewed.

At times this tree may be difficult to find because it is susceptible to blight. Though the Western native, C. cornuta californica is blight resistant it can be banned from being planted because of difficulty in distinguishing it from its blight prone relative.

This may be a good choice for gardeners who like things that are unusual or have a great story behind them, and even if it isn't for you, you'll appreciate its tale.

You can plant this in the ground or in a large container. What you'll get is a unique deciduous shrub with interesting gnarled and twisted branches. If you haven't seen the shrub in person, chances are you've seen the branches in floral arrangements. There is terrific yellow fall foliage color with showy greenish-yellow catkins during the winter.

Plant in the full sun and you'll be rewarded with a slow grower that reaches 8-10 feet tall and wide. Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Watering can be reduced after establishment. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring.

As for Harry Lauder, he was a real person. Not many years after the discovery of the contorted hazel in the hedgerow in Gloucestershire, a boy was born at the north end of the same island in Edinburgh. His father died when Harry was 12 so he helped his mother support his

Invest in Your Lawn with Proper Mowing

Techniques

by John Gelhard

Heaviland Enterprises, Professional Landscape Managers

Proper mowing is the most important thing you can do for turf areas. Mowing correctly can save water, fight weed growth and disease and provide a natural fertilizer.

The cycle of cutting and re-growth produces beautiful turf areas when mowing is done at the proper height and frequency. Proper mowing removes no more than one third of the total length of the leaf blade.

In San Diego, tall fescue and Bermuda are the most common turf grasses. Tall fescue should be maintained at a height of two to three inches. Bermuda turf is cut shorter, typically to one inch. It is advisable to cut the lawn higher as temperature increases and lower as temperature drops. Ohio State University research demonstrates the following advantages of lawns cut to the proper height:

- Grass is more vigorous because of increased leaf surface for photosynthesis
- Roots are deeper and more drought tolerant
- The crown of the plant is shaded and kept cooler by the longer blades
- Soil and roots are shaded and kept cooler, reducing water needs
- Lush growth crowds out weeds

Frequent mowing is best. Too much foliage is removed at one time when mowing is infrequent. The grass plants are stressed by having more than one third of the leaf surface removed in a single mowing. The plants cannot produce and store adequate food. Instead, it must devote stored energy to re-growth of lost leaf surface.

Although wet mowing can produce clumped clippings that can be unsightly and damage the grass beneath them, it is better to mow when the lawn is wet than to let the grass grow too tall.

It is recommended to let grass clippings remain on the lawn rather than removing them and sending them to landfills. Mulching mowers finely chop leaf clippings. The clippings fall onto the turf and out of sight. Grass clippings return a valuable source of nutrients back into the soil. Research shows that up to one fourth of a lawn's nitrogen requirements can be provided by recycled grass clippings. If your gardener is removing your grass clippings, consider requesting the use of mulching mowers. This could reduce the amount of time required to maintain your turf areas and the amount of fertilizer required to keep them green.

Clippings do not cause thatch, which forms a barrier to water and nutrient penetration. Thatch occurs as a part of the natural regeneration of grass plants. Proper lawn maintenance keeps thatch at a minimal level. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn does not significantly contribute to thatch buildup. Grass clippings are more than 90 percent water. Thatch forms mostly from dead crowns and roots.

Mowing patterns should be varied. Mowing in the same pattern causes soil compaction and wear patterns. A varied mowing pattern can prevent continuous scalping of high spots and uneven mowing where sharp turns occur.

Professional gardeners should properly maintain their equipment. Mower blades should be sharpened regularly. Dull mower blades cause ragged leaf tips and give the lawn a brownish appearance. ●

seven siblings by going to school, working in a flax mill then later a coal mine and dreamed that one day he would be a music hall entertainer. His dream was attained and Harry became renowned for his mixture of comedy with music and he made laughable, yet lovable characters for his songs, like the stodgy Dame, the red-nosed slovenly Calligan, and the kilted tight-fisted Roderick McSwankay.

When the British Empire entered World War I, Harry realized he was too old to be a soldier and decided to do what he could do best, entertain. Realizing that soldiers and sailors maimed by the war would be left in poverty, Harry raised money for their pensions. Then Harry battled the war department to take entertainment to the trenches and battlefields of France.

In 1919, Harry was knighted for his charitable works. When World War II broke out, he launched himself into another round of entertaining the troops and raising funds. Harry Lauder died in 1950 and entertainers through the years have kept the tradition he started of entertaining the troops alive.

It was Harry's wild character, Roderick McSwankay that made the hazel famous. The decked-out Scotsman leaned on a Hazelwood cane. The shrub became known as Harry Lauder's walking stick. ●

the wee corner

by Jolene Andersen



Big Idea Takes Up Wee Space

Are your herbs fading faster than your summer tan? Have you snipped, ripped and chopped enough basil, sage and parsley to last you until next summer? Well, just wait a minute. In the deepest part

of the winter doldrums, you'll want some tangy basil to add to that pasta gravy or a little smidgen of sage to spark up your chicken soup when the kids are in bed with their Game Boys and a winter cold, so don't ignore the remnants of your leafy herbs.

It couldn't be easier to capture some of the summer magic that is herbs for those winter moments. Oh sure, drying can be tedious, whether you cut the stems and hang them upside down to dry them in some out of the way place or layer them in newspaper in the laundry room where everyone rifles through them and scatters them everywhere.

A much more simple method of harnessing summers goodness for soups and stews is to wash and chop the leaves of your favorite herbs. Put one teaspoon of herb in each cube of an old fashioned ice cube tray and fill the cubes almost full with water. Freeze until solid and pop the cubes out, into a plastic bag. Label the bag with the name of the herb in the cube and wow, you have captured the essence of summer in an ice cube to beat those winter blahs! Add to soups, stews, gravies, anything that will tolerate a bit of water and whatever herb is in it. You'll be surprised how flavorful the herbs remain in the cubes.

Editor's Note - herbs can be kept small and are perfect for wee spots. If space is tight, plant several in one container, making sure your selections have similar maintenance requirements.

Holiday Tradition May Include Paint *Continued from p1*

Technique

Use a spray can of Design Master Colortool, available at craft stores. Experiment with an application on scrap paper before you spray your plant, it won't wash off!

A light, sweeping spray will give a soft hint of color and continued light applications will build to a stronger effect. By contrast, a stationary non-moving blast will provide an interesting directional look to the natural crinkle ('Kris Krinkle') of the leaves. If the green leaves are to remain green for contrast or if you want to spray near a previously sprayed bract or petal, use a piece of paper as a shield. Try using a slightly dirty nozzle and very light pressure. The can will 'spit' out the paint, creating a lovely impressionistic spotted look.

Care Tips

All plants need to drain so remove the decorative foil. If you really need it, cut it out at the bottom of the plant so the foil remains around the sides to hide the pot. Provide as much light as you can and avoid sudden temperature shifts to keep the plants looking their best. After the season is over, poinsettias will do well in full sun in a well drained garden, but give them room! They will reach 6 feet wide and 10 feet tall.

This year the nursery will provide a 10% discount on the purchase of 10 or more poinsettias. Mix or match your sizes or colors - just buy 10 or more for the savings!

Join Dana Groot from Floribunda on Nov. 4th at 1pm in the Pt. Loma store for a presentation on "Holiday Color". On Nov. 5th at 1pm in the Poway store, Dana will lead a decorating with poinsettias demonstration.

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

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

4) www.walterandersen.com

Fall Class Schedule

All classes are free unless otherwise noted. Classes 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 any 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 9am

October

- 10/7 Protea - Planting & Care
- 10/14 Holiday Decorating Ideas
- 10/21 Herbs - Autumn Care
- 10/28 Fall & Winter Vegetables

November

- 11/4 Camellias & Azaleas
- 11/11 Poinsettias
- 11/18 Dormant Spraying/Pruning Grapes & Berries
- 11/25 No Class

December

- 12/2 Pruning - Apples, Pears, Figs, & Persimmons
- 12/9 Pruning Roses (First Class)
- 12/16 Pruning - Peaches & Nectarines
- 12/23 No Class
- 12/30 Pruning - Apricots & Plums

POWAY 9:30am

October

- 10/7 Wildlife Gone Wild
- 10/14 California Natives with Carol Fuller, Author of 'Fuller's Finds'
- 10/21 Groundcovers & Erosion Control, Get Ready for Winter!
- 10/28 Fall Rose Care

November

- 11/4 Fall Decorating Ideas with Sharon May, Author of 'May In The Garden'
- 11/11 Ornamental Grasses with Randy Crow from Green Meadow Growers
- 11/18 Tillandsias & Bromeliads with Ken Andersen
- 11/25 No Class

December

- 12/2 Houseplant Care & Culture
- 12/9 Pruning Roses (First Class)
- 12/16 Caring for Poinsettias, Living Christmas Trees, & Cut Trees
- 12/23 No Class
- 12/30 Fruit Tree Pruning

WAN Wins Pat Welsh Award at the 2006 San Diego County Fair



Walter Andersen Nursery was the winner of a new award for its display at the 2006 San Diego County Fair. The Pat Welsh Award was presented to the nursery for its display, 'Believe', in which a little boy living in a black and white world spies a magical fairy village that is alive with color. The Pat Welsh Award recognizes the importance of inspiring children's imaginations.

PHOTO: CLYDE ROBBIN SEEDS

TOOL SHED by Melanie Potter

Snails & Slugs Go with Sluggo



Who isn't bothered by snails and slugs? Probably everyone with a garden judging from the saucers of water or beer left out on lawns for them to drown in. If you don't have kids who pluck them off the plants then run over them with their tricycles or you do have kids and don't want to leave beer readily available in the garden for them, then Sluggo is a product that should be in your Tool Shed.

This slug bait is a unique blend of an iron phosphate active ingredient, originating from soil, with slug and snail bait additives. It is also used as an ingredient in fertilizers. The bait not ingested by snails and slugs will degrade and become a part of the soil.

Sluggo is attractive to slugs and snails, luring them from their hiding places and plants. Ingestion, even in small amounts, will cause them to cease feeding. This physiological effect of the bait gives immediate protection to the plants, even though the slugs and snails may remain in the area. After eating the bait, the slugs and snails cease feeding, become less mobile and begin to die within three to six days.

The bait can be scattered on the lawn or on the soil around any vegetable or seed crops, flowers or fruit trees to be protected (won't hurt pets either). These pests like damp areas and with the rainy season on the horizon, you're likely to see more.

Once again, Walter Andersen Nursery was voted "Best Nursery/Garden Store" in this year's San Diego Union-Tribune's Reader's Best poll. We sincerely thank all the customers who voted in our favor and for the continued patronage at our stores!

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY Voted Best Nursery/Garden Store!

COUPON
Valid October 1 - December 31, 2006

\$2 OFF
Any Sunshine Soil Product
1.5 cu. ft. or Larger
Limit 5

#10025759

Limit Five (5) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited stock on hand.

COUPON
Valid October 1 - December 31, 2006

Upgrade to the Best! Bring in Any Old Garden Shear & Get

\$10 OFF
Any Felco Pruning Shear
In Stock
Limit 1

#10025741

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

COUPON
Valid October 1 - December 31, 2006

Reduced!
4-Inch Bedding
\$2.49
Regularly Priced \$2.99
Limit 32

#10030084

Limit Thirty-Two (32) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited stock on hand.

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