



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

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Arbutus Offers Variety & Fits Many Needs

By Melanie Potter



Need a tree that can work in a tropical landscape? What about a Mediterranean or xeriscape landscape, or with a single or multi trunk option? Look no further than Arbutus which receives the blessing of many a landscape designer as well as city governments and the Sunset Western Garden book.

I asked Walter Andersen Nursery landscape designers their thoughts on what is also called a Strawberry Tree and the testimonials rushed forth. Michael Waters ticked them off as if he were looking at a checklist, but from the top of his head he noted that it's a good choice for a small scale tree and it appears on many approved street tree lists issued by cities. Another glowing recommendation comes from the Sunset Western Garden book that declares it is one of the best behaved trees of all. It's also deer resistant.

Our favorites are Arbutus 'Marina' and Arbutus unedo. All varieties have ornamental bark that is mahogany colored and appears to be peeling. They will bloom with little white, bell shaped flowers (hummingbird attractants), have decorative and edible fruit (rumored to not be too appealing and is best used in jams) and dark green foliage.

Longtime WAN landscape designer, Maryon Kinsella, cited how forgiving a tree Arbutus can be. It can take many soil and water situations. "Arbutus has a nice form, nice branching structure and the dark green goes well as a background in landscapes. It can be trimmed as a shrub and I have used it in landscapes with a tropical, Mediterranean or xeriscape theme", said Kinsella.

"Marina" is a mutt among trees. Its parentage is uncertain and its leaves are larger than Arbutus unedo and will have rosy pink fall flowers. It can grow to 40' tall and wide. Unedo promises to be a good tree for a lawn as it does not have invasive roots. The ones Walter Andersen receives from vendors tend to be bigger than other new trees and that helps homeowners feel they got more bang for their buck. It will take sun or part shade although some shade is recommended if planting it in desert climates. If your Arbutus will be in an area where it will get frequent water, make sure the soil is well draining. The tree is a moderate grower to 8-35' tall and wide but it can be trimmed as a shrub. If you want a smaller performing variety of Arbutus, look for Arbutus 'Compacta' which seldom exceeds 10' in height. ●

Phalaenopsis—The Moth Orchid



Phalaenopsis, the moth orchid, is a favorite with green house growers and is perhaps the best orchid for growing in the home. Well-grown plants can flower often, sometimes with a few flowers throughout the year, though the main season is late winter into spring. Average home temperatures and conditions are usually sufficient. Flower stems on certain

hybrids can sometimes be forced to rebloom by cutting the stem just below where the first flower appeared after the initial flowering. Only healthy plants should be induced to flower repeatedly.

Light is necessary and easy to provide for phalaenopsis. They grow happily in a bright window, with little or no sun. An east window is ideal. A shaded south or west windows are acceptable. Artificial lighting can be provided. Four fluorescent tubes in one fixture supplemented by incandescent bulbs are placed 6 to 12 inches above the leaves, 12 to 16 hours a day, following natural day length. In a greenhouse, shade must be given; 70 to 85 percent shade, or between 1,000 and 1,500 foot-candles, is recommended. No shadow should be seen if you hold your hand one foot above a plant's leaves.

Temperatures for phalaenopsis should usually be above 60 degrees F at night, and range between 75 and 85 degrees F or more during the day. Although higher temperatures force faster vegetative growth, higher humidity and air movement must accompany higher temperatures with the recommended maximum being 90 to 95 degrees F. Night temperatures to 55 degrees F are desirable for several weeks in the autumn to initiate flower spikes. Fluctuating temperatures can cause bud drop on plants with buds ready to open.

Water is especially critical for phalaenopsis. Because they have no major water storage organs other than their leaves, they must never completely dry out. Plants should be thoroughly watered and not watered again until nearly dry. In the heat of summer in a dry climate, this may be up to 2-3 times a week; in the winter in a cool northern greenhouse, it may be every 10-14 days. Water only in the morning so that the leaves dry by nightfall to prevent rot.

Humidity is important to phalaenopsis and the recommended humidity is between 50 and 80 percent. In humid climates, as in greenhouses, it is imperative that the humid air is moving. Leaves should be dry as soon as possible, always by nightfall. In the home, set the plants on trays of gravel, partially filled with water, so that the pots never sit in water.

Fertilize on a regular schedule, especially if the weather is warm which is when the plants are most often growing. Before fertilizing, water thoroughly and follow with fertilizer solution. Twice a month applications of high-nitrogen fertilizer (such as 30-10-10) are appropriate where bark-based media is used. Otherwise, a balanced fertilizer is best. When flowering is desired, a high-phosphorus fertilizer (such as 10-30-20) can be applied to promote blooming. Some growers apply fertilizer at one-quarter strength with every watering which is best for warm, humid conditions. When cooler, or overcast conditions occur, fertilizer should be applied twice per month at half strength.

Potting is best done in the spring, immediately after flowering. Phalaenopsis plants must be potted in a porous mix. Potting is usually done every one to three years. Mature plants can grow in the same container until the potting medium starts to decompose, usually in two years. Root rot occurs if plants are left in a soggy medium.

Seedlings usually grow fast enough to need repotting yearly, and should be repotted in a fine-grade, medium mix. Mature plants are potted in a medium-grade mix. To repot, remove all the old medium from the roots, trim soft, rotted roots, and spread the remaining roots over a handful of medium orchid bark in the bottom of a new pot. Fill the rest of the pot with medium, working it among the roots, so that the junction of the roots and the stem is at the top of the medium. ●

Get Your First Peek At 2009 Roses!

by Melanie Potter



Carefree Spirit



Cinco de Mayo



Kimberlina



Legends



Light My Fire



Pink Promise



Rock & Roll



Shockwave



Summer Love



Sweetness



Teeny Bopper

Here's a quick look at the new roses that will be for sale in December, 2008.

Carefree Spirit

Better disease resistance, habit and blooming power than its award-winning siblings, Carefree Delight™ and Carefree Wonder™. This vigorous, well-branched shrub rose boasts huge clusters of lightly fragrant deep cherry red blooms over a long season, and healthy dark green glossy foliage.

Cinco de Mayo

Wildly bright floribunda offers giant clusters of blooms containing every shade of red, orange, magenta, purple, smoke, and more! Moderately fragrant.

Kimberlina

Jackson & Perkins 2009 Floribunda of the Year® Winner. One of the healthiest, toughest, most vigorous floribundas ever introduced. Glossy dark green foliage with an upright habit and well branched plant, light pink spicy fragrance blooms.

Legends

Oprah Winfrey's newly named rose, a large hybrid tea, is red with black tips and ruffled petals.

Light My Fire

This flaming hot orange floribunda is sure to set your garden ablaze with traffic-stopping color! Large clusters of red-orange blooms offset by dark green, glistening foliage.

Pink Promise

The official rose of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, this hybrid tea combines all shades of soft pink. Long stems for cutting with lightly fruit-scented flowers.

Rock & Roll

Big creamy buds that unfurl to reveal a different pattern of striped & splashed burgundy, red & white. Strong fragrance.

Shockwave

Loads of pure neon yellow flowers, holding their brilliance until the next round is ready. Glossy apple-green leaves make a perfect backdrop for this radiant roundup of color.

Summer Love

Blooms become more intensely marked with coral as they mature. Appearing singly or in small clusters, this hybrid tea flowers perpetually all season, releasing a spicy scent. White, yellow, and coral varies from flower to flower. Vigorous, upright, and very well-branched, with lush, disease-resistant foliage

Sweetness

A vigorous, healthy grandiflora, lavender color. Bred from the powerfully fragrant French rose Melody Parfumée, Sweetness packs an intoxicating sweet lemon fragrance.

Teeny Bopper

A low, compact rose of scarlet & white blooms. Clusters bear very pointed buds that open into knee-high hydrangea-like heads of very long-lived flowers. Deep green glossy leaves, light fragrance. ●

Make a Note!

The Pt. Loma store will close for inventory Tuesday, November 4. The Poway store will close Wednesday, November 5 for inventory. It will also close December 6 at 4pm for a private event.



Both stores will be closed Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving. Both stores will be closed Thursday, December 25 for Christmas, and Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Both stores will close at 2pm on December 24, Christmas Eve, and at 2pm on December 31 for New Year's Eve.



Fall Hours: The Poway store will begin closing daily at 5pm on October 6.

Cheer Up Cold Climate Transplants! Reminders Of Home Are Here!

by Ken Andersen & Maryon Kinsella



Liquidamber

I recently received an email from a customer, originally from Minnesota, who was so thrilled to have found Descanso Hybrid Lilacs here. The fragrant bouquets of spring flowers remind her of home and she shares the blooms with her friends and neighbors. Her email reminded me that we have a lot of people in San Diego who come from cooler climates and that as much as they might love the weather here there are things they miss about the cooler climates they left behind. However, there is good news for all of you transplants! Many of your favorites are available, one way or another, for you to enjoy here in San Diego!

I asked our resident transplant Maryon Kinsella, one of our landscape designers, what plants she missed from her home state of Michigan and lo and behold we can get a bunch of them! Her favorites include:

Lilacs - Descanso Hybrids in various colors suited for warmer dryer climates, Daffodils, Anemones, Lily of the Valley, Flowering Quince, Snowball Viburnum, Hostas, Sedum Autumn Joy, Miscanthus gracillimus, Eastern Redbud, Daylily, Japanese Barberry, Boxwoods, Peonies, Rhododendrons, and Forsythia to name but a few.

While not all of these plants will "thrive" in our climate, all are available and have at one time or another been part of our inventory. Some of these plants, like Peonies, we caution people to treat as annuals. You may get more than one season out of them but it is not very likely, unless you live in Julian! Still, if memory lane has you pining for something like Peonies, then maybe just a quick fix is all you will need to keep those memories alive.

For those who like fall color and miss raking up mountains of leaves each October and November, then look to Liquidambers. The grafted varieties - Festival, Burgundy and Palo Alto, are great choices along with Ginko "Autumn Gold". Make sure if you are going to buy a Ginko that you get a grafted variety as you can be assured that they are typically male plants. The females, while they look the same, produce quantities of large foul smelling fruit, something you definitely don't want around your yard!

Because availability of these plants is seasonal and sporadic and sometimes requires us to bring them in from growers that are farther from us (like Oregon), we do not always have them around. However, check with our sales staff throughout the year and we can let you know what is available at that time. If there is something that you remember from your home town that you haven't seen here, ask us about it!

One of the great things about gardening in San Diego is the diversity of plants that can be grown or obtained here. Don't be afraid to look around and ask for things that you might not think would be available. Sometimes we can surprise you and you, too, can have a reminder of home. ●

A Look BACK

With Ken Andersen



A recent incident at our Poway store reminded me of how things were in the "Good Old Days" of the nursery business. We had a customer who wanted to order a very large quantity of sod from our grower Southland Sod. Unfortunately they lived in Santa Ysabel and Southland doesn't deliver that far. Not wanting to disappoint the customer, we informed them of the situation and offered to take the sod up on our truck. Well needless to say, what looked simple on paper didn't turn out that way! It also reminded me of how lucky we are today compared to when I was working at the nursery in high school and college.

Sod orders at that time, no matter how large, were handled very differently than they are today. In nearly all cases today, the customer places the order and we call it in to the grower. The grower then cuts the sod in the field, palletizes it and delivers it via their truck to the customer's door step. That's NOT the way it used to be! In the old days, my Dad's uncle (Walter Sr.'s brother), James, had a sod farm in the middle of Rancho Santa Fe (how it got there is another story!) and they supplied us with all of our sod, which at that time was Kentucky Bluegrass, Tif Dwarf Bermuda, Dichondra and Korean Grass. We would drive up to the farm in our truck where Jim's son Billy would drive the tractor (barefoot, I never saw him wear shoes at work!) and cut the sod into long strips one foot wide. He would then hand cut the sod into two foot long strips. That is when we got to work. We would pick one piece up and flip it over on top of the one next to it, pick both pieces up, carry them to the truck and stack them on the tailgate or bed. Then go over and pick up another

Continued Page 4



by Melanie Potter

Frightfully Fabulous Plants For Halloween

Planning for Halloween at the nursery is just one of the many perks of welcoming fall. Natives come into their time, new color palettes are waiting to be shown off and finally, the plants you can't get until the season changes become available.

The spooky holiday offers challenges to the company's designers who create the containers you see scattered throughout the nurseries as they are eager to incorporate fall colors with the novelty items that arrive for the season.

One of the favorite tricks is to simply plant, or even just place, some fall color into the terra cotta jack-o-lantern containers we stock. You can also take a look at the glazed pottery and imagine putting a black, orange or purple container at your door and filling it with contrasting colors found in foliage or blooms.

Some plants make it into many of our Halloween containers. A couple of years ago, an African Mask Plant was showcased with a ceramic witch's shoe. Black pansies, 'Black Beauty', barely make it to the display tables outside because they are snatched off the vendor's truck and get sidetracked in our outdoor potting areas where employees do the stores' planting. Smaller Violas, "Sorbet Black Delight", work too. For a ready-to-plant pansy, try Jack-o-Lantern Mix, which is a nice 6-pack mixture of pumpkin colored and black pansies. Spilanthes, or better known by their descriptive name, Goblin's Eyes, are a 'must have' in an arrangement. Carex, especially 'Toffee Twist', is a grass that gives a nice, warm, tawny fall color but also might make you think of a witch's broom or even scarecrow's hair. If you like the look of grass, consider using Black Mondo Grass or Pennisetum rubrum. Don't miss Bat Faced Cuphea and just use a bit of your

imagination when looking at the flower. Sure enough, it does resemble a bats' face. Heuchera is a great addition to any container and Amber Waves has a nice contrast of lime green and orange foliage.



Other Halloween-like plants are Capsicum annum 'Black Pearl', an ornamental Pepper plant with black-purple leaves and shiny black berries, Juncus spiralis which is an interesting plant has spiraled stems and no foliage, Acalypha 'Sizzle Scissors' pairs deep red-orange leaves edged in green, and Ipomea batatas is a foliage choice that is almost black. Persian Shield may make you think of Dracula's cape with its pointy leaves that are deep purple and black. For good fall color blooms, don't forget to hold up a container of Calibrachoa 'Million Bells' next to your other selections. These cute, almost Petunia-looking flowers come in bright colors like purple, red, orange and yellow and can make good additions to your fall containers or they might lend the right spooky color you are looking for. Geranium 'Vancouver Centennial' provides Halloween color with its lime green leaves and light orange flowers.

For a really unique look, take a peek at the cactus table. One designer suggested using Old Man Cactus in a Halloween container. Put a couple of googly eyes from the craft store on it and 'voila' you have a ghost. Don't forget to add Halloween novelty items to your container, like spiders, skeletons or a witch's hat. ●

The Rise And Fall Of Tulips

by Ken Andersen



Fall is bulb season and this is the time of year to get your bulb gardens growing. While bulbs are still popular, people are not nearly as fanatic about them as they were in Holland in the 1600s when tulip mania ruled the day!

For an interesting story of this market phenomenon take a look at this excerpt from Wikipedia.

Tulip mania is discussed in the book, 'Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds', published in 1841 by the Scottish journalist Charles Mackay. He proposed that crowds of people often behave irrationally, and tulip mania was one of his examples.

His popular, but flawed description, of tulip mania as an economic speculative bubble remains prominent even though since the 1980s economists have debunked many aspects of his account.

According to Mackay, the growing popularity of tulips in the early 1600s caught the attention of the entire nation, "the population, even to its lowest dregs, embarked in the tulip trade". By 1635, a sale of 40 bulbs for 100,000 florins (also known as Dutch guilders) was recorded. By way of comparison, a ton of butter cost about 100 florins, a skilled laborer might earn 150 florins a year, and "eight fat swine" cost 240 florins.

By 1636, tulips were traded on the exchanges of numerous Dutch towns and cities. Mackay recounted people selling or trading their possessions in order to speculate in the tulip market. A single bulb of the Semper Augustus that was purchased in exchange for 12 acres of land, and a single bulb of the Viceroy was purchased for a basket of goods worth 2,500 florins.

Many individuals grew suddenly rich. Everyone imagined that the passion for tulips would last forever, and that the wealthy from every part of the world would send to Holland, and pay whatever prices were asked for them. Nobles, citizens, farmers, mechanics, seamen, footmen, maidservants, even chimney-sweeps dabbled in tulips.

The increasing mania contributed several amusing, but unlikely, anecdotes that Mackay recounted, such as a sailor who mistook the valuable tulip bulb of a merchant for an onion and grabbed it to eat. The merchant and his family chased the sailor and found him "eating a breakfast whose cost might have regaled a whole ship's crew for a twelvemonth". The sailor was jailed for eating the bulb.

In February 1637, tulip traders could no longer find new buyers willing to pay increasingly inflated prices for their bulbs. The demand for tulips collapsed, and prices plummeted so the speculative bubble burst. Some speculators were left holding contracts to purchase tulips at prices ten times greater than those on the open market, while others found themselves in possession of bulbs worth a fraction of the price they had paid.

The panicked tulip speculators sought help from the government of the Netherlands, which responded by declaring that anyone who had bought contracts to purchase bulbs in the future could void their contract by payment of a 10% fee. Attempts were made to resolve the situation to the satisfaction of all parties, but these were unsuccessful.

Want to recreate tulip mania in your yard? HedgeFund members save 10% on ALL bulb purchases through November 30.

Remember, when planting bulbs, mass plantings are the key. One or two bulbs don't have the impact that mass plantings do. Don't forget to add Dr. Earth Bulb Food when planting. Many Daffodils and Narcissus will naturalize in our area as well. If you plant them deep, you can still plant seasonal bedding over the top of them, like Pansies, and the Daffodils that will push right through them in spring.

For more information on Tulip Mania of the 1600s, see this article: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulipmania> ●

80th Anniversary Savings & Events In The Works

This year, Walter Andersen Nursery turns 80 years old. Both stores will have the following items on sale. Join the Pt. Loma store on October 26 at 1pm for a scavenger hunt. The Poway store will be serving food on Oct. 11 from 11:30am-1:30pm. Check the events page on the website, www.walterandersen.com for an updated list of events!

Super Fall Savings for October!
October 1st through October 19th*

HedgeFund\$™—Remember all purchases earn HedgeFund\$ points for January - February savings!

Buck A Gallon Off Sale!™—Take \$1 off of 1-gallon plants reg. priced \$6.99 or more, or \$5 off of 5-gallon plants reg. priced \$19.99 or more. See stores for additional savings on larger plants as well!

3 For \$9 Gallon Color!—Save on assorted 1-gallon color and get a jump on renewing your color beds now!

Book Sale!—Save 20% on selected titles in stock! Selections vary by store so browse around!

Sunset Western Garden Books—Stop by for special savings!

20% Off All Hand Tools In Stock!—From shovels to shears and more; save big just in time for fall clean up!

Fall Lawn Renovation!—Save 15% on grass seed (except Annual Rye) in stock.

Save Green Going Green!—\$1 off all SAFER Ready-To-Use Garden Organic Garden Products

*No quantity limits on 1- and 5-gallon sale plants. No special orders on all sale merchandise, limited to stock on hand. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Buck a gallon off sale applies only to standard 1-gallon and 5-gallon plant material.



Not-To-Miss

by Kurt Peacock

Fruit Trees

Pluots



If you are planning to add or replace a deciduous fruit tree this year, take advantage of bare root season and all it has to offer.

Bare root trees offer advantages in lower cost and wider selection

versus container trees the rest of the year. The varieties available offer unique hybrids such as pluots (hybrid of plum and apricot), apriums (hybrid of apricot and plum) and a new nectarine-plum hybrid called Spice Zee Nectaplum, which has rich flavors from both parents and unique flavors. Spice Zee is a beautiful ornamental tree with a tremendous spring bloom followed by dark red leaves in the spring that mature to a rich green-red in late summer. This variety is self-fruitful and very productive.

We now have fruiting cherries for our mild winter climate. Be sure to consider 'Minnie Royal' and 'Royal Lee' cherries to plant together for cross pollination. There is also a 'donut' type white nectarine named Sauzeeking that is a super sweet nectarine. This tree sets fruit at a young age and produces heavily.

Many of the newer varieties have limited availability so you might want to place a pre-paid order at either Walter Andersen Nursery location to ensure your best chance of getting these varieties. It is really true that the nurseries now have varieties of almost every fruit tree to plant here in Southern California. •



Apriums



Creating an Eco-Friendly Garden

BY MONROVIA

There are lots of great ideas for going greener in the garden. Some you can start right away. Other ideas, such as reducing the size of your lawn may be more gradual. One small thing often leads to another and one day you find that you're not only an active eco-gardener; you are a true friend of the planet.

WATER WISELY

The very first step in going greener would be to water wisely and use organic pesticides and fertilizers. Organic gardening is growing without the use of petrochemical pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilizers that pollute our soil and water. It relies on the use of beneficial insects, diversity of plants, and the use of compost to supply the soil with nutrients. There are more and more organic pesticides and fertilizers on the market every day. Even if you only use a few organic products and techniques, you'll be helping.

You can water wisely by reviewing your irrigation. Drip irrigation is a controlled, slow application of water that flows under low pressure through plastic pipe or hose laid along each row of plants. The water drips out of tiny holes that are made in the hose wall or from fittings called emitters that are plugged into the wall at proper spacing. Soil moisture remains constant, and air is always available. By delivering water directly to plants, little is lost to evaporation or runoff so this technique is very water efficient. A variety of emitters allow the proper amount of water to be delivered to each individual plant. It is one of the best techniques for watering gardens, fruit trees, vines and container plants. If you don't have a drip irrigation system, having a well-designed, well-timed sprinkler system saves money and reduces water waste. Sprinkler timing devices range in price and are fairly easy to use. Use a moisture sensor in your landscape to help determine when to water and the right amount. Remember to adjust the timer on the sprinkler system according to changing weather conditions. This will also help save water and money. The time of day you water is very important. Try to water in the early morning or in the evening. Otherwise, the water from the sprinkler will evaporate before it soaks into the ground.

Rain barrels offer an inexpensive and virtually effortless way to capture mineral- and chlorine-free water for watering your garden or lawn. By harnessing this resource from nature, you'll not only notice a significant decrease in your water bill, you'll also see a reduction in stormwater runoff, which will help prevent flooding and erosion.

MAKE COMPOST

Try making compost from green waste. It's a great way to enrich your soil fertility, giving it a dose of high-powered nutrients. Aside from encouraging strong root development, the addition of compost also will improve your soil texture, aeration and water retention. Good soil has better water absorption and water-holding capacity, allowing you to reduce the amount of water needed.

MULCH

By helping to retain moisture, suppress weeds and insulate plants from extreme temperatures, mulch helps your garden thrive. Any material such as wood chips, straw, nut shells, paper, sawdust, leaves, seaweed, grass clippings or compost can be used as mulch. Mulching is a way to recycle materials that might otherwise be discarded while improving your soil.

CONTAINERS & PLANTERS

In addition to reusing plant containers to house your greenery, why not check out the variety of attractive, environmentally friendly planters available. Whether you choose pots made from recycled copper, plastic, or even rubber to anchor your tender shoots, it all helps make a difference – plus you end up with a fabulous-looking garden.

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

It may sound like a novel idea, but really, what could be more basic than growing your own food? You can start small by looking for an area in your yard with some sun and good drainage. And if you need more space, don't be afraid to reclaim a little of your yard for more edibles.

TOUGH TURF CHOICES

When considering a landscape's water requirement, it is important to note that turf grasses require more frequent watering and maintenance than most other landscape plants. Carefully select grass according to its intended use, planting location and maintenance requirements. Planting the lowest water-use turf grass adapted to the region is an effective way to reduce landscape irrigation requirements. Achieving a significant reduction in water consumption and landscape maintenance may also involve reducing the size of water sensitive lawns through the use of patios, decks, shrub beds and groundcovers.

PLANT TREES

Many newer neighborhoods in this country just don't have enough trees. Recent suburbs and developments are built on former farm fields with no trees. If possible, homeowners should plant trees. Trees, just like all plants, breathe oxygen back in to the atmosphere. They create shade which can cut air-conditioning costs for your home and they add all season beauty.

BEES & BUTTERFLIES

Welcome bees and butterflies to your garden by including a variety of native flowers they're drawn to, such as lemon balm, wild lilac and goldenrod. By the way, you may have already heard we're in the midst of a major bee-loss epidemic. This is serious business because pollinators affect 35 percent of the world's crop production and increase the output of 87 of the leading food crops worldwide. •

You're Invited!

To the holiday event at the Poway store on Dec. 6 from 5-8pm. This has become an annual event in which the store closes at 4pm and then reopens for an after-hours shopping experience. Hotdogs, beverages and holiday treats will be served; there are crafts to keep kids busy and a visit by Santa. This is your first notification of this popular event. In November, invitations will be mailed.

Eco-Friendly Products Were Once Computers, Shoes & Plastic Bottles

BY MELANIE POTTER

We were very excited to see these new products from Smartware even if it meant one of our employees had to lug



what looked to be a heavy whiskey barrel planter up a flight of stairs to show it off. It was a pretty good looking whiskey barrel and those are great choices to plant in, but there was something different about this one.

First of all, it isn't made from oak and second of all, it wasn't that heavy. It did have a wood grain look, weighed 1/3 of what a wood barrel does and will not dry out or fall apart. What sets this container apart from the rest, best of all, is that it is made from recycled plastic computer monitor cases which reduce waste that could end up in a landfill.

The nurseries are also stocking a small quantity of 14", 18" and 24" planters from Smartwear that resemble terra cotta pots, also made from recycled materials. There are no drawbacks from these pots that you may encounter when planting in clay pots. They will withstand freezing, thawing and heating and plant roots are better insulated than when in clay pots.

All these receptacles can be used to hold water gardens, or ice, and can be used as party utensils as the barrel promises to hold a keg.

The products are made with long years of use in mind as they are specially formulated with additives that resist ultraviolet (UV) degradation from the sun. •



Seasonal Recipe

Here's a great fall recipe from Barbara Weihe, an employee in our Poway store. For more pumpkin recipes look at our 'It's The Great Pumpkin' Walter Andersen' page at www.walterandersen.com/pumpkin-recipes.html

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Bread

Nonstick cooking spray

Flour for dusting

3 cups flour

3 cups sugar

2 t baking soda

1/2 t baking powder

1 t salt

1 t cloves

1 t allspice

1 t cinnamon

1 cup vegetable oil

4 eggs

2/3 cup water

2 cups canned pumpkin

2 cups chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Coat two 5x9 loaf pans with cooking spray. Dust with flour.

Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cloves, allspice and cinnamon in a large bowl. Whisk the oil, eggs and water together. Add to the flour mixture; mix well. Add the pumpkin and chocolate chips; just until combined.

Divide the batter between the pans. Bake for 1 1/4 hours or until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from the pans; cool on a wire rack.

the wee corner

by Ken Andersen



Impatient For Some Sunny Color? Try Impatiens!

Walter Jr., was making his regular Thursday trek up to the Poway store one day in July when he noticed that there were

Sultana Impatiens planted in full sun outside of a fast food restaurant on Scripps Poway Parkway.

Intrigued by the fact that these plants were growing well outside of the comfort zone we used to prescribe for them, he decided to do a little experiment. When he got to the store he planted some up in a container approximately equal in size to a three gallon can, marked them "Not for Sale", and placed them in the center of one of the bedding tables in full sun all day long. Low and behold, he and I checked on them on August 14 and they were doing just fine!

It appears that these colorful beauties will take full sun, IF they get plenty of water. Not a good choice for a drought tolerant garden by any means, and I would try to shelter them a bit during the hottest part of the day just for a small margin of safety. But, they will take the heat and give you that great color they are known for. They won't get as tall or as bushy as they will in shade or semi shade, but that means less pinching back to keep them full. If you are stumped for some seasonal color in a sunny area and don't mind the extra water they will need, don't forget to think about Impatiens for a change! ●

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 9am

October
10/4 Ferns - Tall, Low & In-Between
10/11 Fall & Winter Veggies
10/18 Autumn Herb Care
10/25 Holiday Decorating

November

11/1 Camellias
11/8 Poinsettias
11/15 Winter Color For Your Yard
11/22 Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying
11/29 No Class

December

12/6 Pruning Roses
12/13 Bare Root Roses New Varieties & Old Favorites
12/20 Pruning Apricots & Plums
12/27 No Class

POWAY 9:30am

October
10/4 Growing California Natives
10/11 Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying
10/18 Cold Hardy Plants
10/25 Fall Flowers & Color

November

11/1 Holiday Planters & Color
11/8 Garden Railroad, Part 1 with Tom Rey
11/15 Holiday Decorating with Plants
11/22 Garden Railroad, Part 2
11/29 No Class Scheduled

December

12/6 Making Your Wreaths & Swags
12/13 Pruning Fruit Trees
12/20 Rose Pruning
12/27 No Class

Hedge Fund\$ Points A Huge Hit & Additional Savings Announced!



In the last issue of GARDENTALK we announced that our Hedge Fund\$ points program had started. After the first round of Hedge Fund points were redeemed, we are pleased to announce it was a great success! Our loyal customers that hold Hedge Fund cards redeemed over 17,000 points for merchandise purchases!

Remember, all you have to do to participate is pick up a Hedge Fund\$ card at either location. We will attach the number to your account and you are set! Not only will the cards make it easier to look up your account in our database, you will begin to accrue points for the next redemption period which starts January 1! Unlike supermarket clubs, you don't need to have your card with you to earn the points, the cashiers can look you up at the register if needed. It does make it a bit faster if you have your card though. You will earn 1 point for every \$10 in purchases* from July 1 to December 31. These points can then be redeemed from January 1 to February 28th for up to 50% of the purchase price of qualified products. There is still time to earn points so come in today and get a card if you haven't already! Also in this issue, look for special savings available ONLY to Hedge Fund\$ card holders!

*Commercial accounts earn points at a different rate than retail accounts. There is a maximum earning limit of 500 points on accounts. See stores for complete details.

TOOL SHED

by Ken Andersen

Dormant Spraying Is An Easy Chore



Dormant spraying each winter helps to keep destructive insect populations as well as potentially deadly disease infections under control. This is especially important to prevent Peach Leaf Curl on peaches and nectarines and Fire Blight on pears and apples. Dormant spray can be applied to all deciduous fruit trees and roses, especially those that had disease or insect infestations during the prior year. Walter Andersen Nursery recommends spraying fruit trees and roses with a Lime Sulfur spray (Lilly Miller Polysol Summer and Dormant Spray Concentrate) or a Copper based dormant spray (Monterey Liqui-Cop) to control fungal and bacterial diseases. For those of you who have apricots in your yards, use the copper based sprays as the Lime Sulfur can burn them. If you don't have apricots, the Lime Sulfur is safe for everything else. At least two applications are recommended at 3 to 4 week intervals.

To control overwintering insects and their eggs, an oil spray should be used (Ortho Volck Oil or Summit Year Round Oil Spray). This suffocates the insects and deprives the eggs of needed air causing them to die. Since it is not a poison it can be used during the growing season as well. Dormant oil spraying should be done on a clear day when there is little or no breeze. The ideal temperature for application is between 40 and 70 degrees F., preferably temperatures should remain over 50 degrees F. for at least twenty four hours in order to get the oil to spread out over the tree and cover all crooks and crevices. Complete coverage is required for effective control of all overwintering pests.

Apply these sprays under pressure with a pump sprayer, or with a hose-end sprayer two times; after pruning when the leaves have fallen (late November or early December), and again in early February before buds begin to swell. In some instances, gardeners are successful with only one application during the period of early December through late January. But, if the infestation or disease was very bad during the previous season, two sprayings would be the best bet.

Either oil spray can be mixed together with Lime Sulphur to save time. Because these products are oil based, be sure to shake, not stir, them to ensure complete blending. Also, be very careful of overspray on evergreen ornamentals and fruits. Wear all proper protective clothing and eye wear. Do not allow spray to drift to painted or metal surfaces. Always follow the label instructions.

A LOOK BACK

Continued from Page 2

four square feet and repeat the process until the tailgate was full. Then one of us (there were almost always two of us on these trips) would get in the truck and move the sod forward and restack it four square feet at a time until the order was filled. Filthy and sweaty, we would sign for the sod and get in the truck for the drive to the customer's home. Once there, we would get into the back of the truck and reverse the process, moving sod to the tailgate then to the customer's driveway. On large orders, this could take a two-person crew all day to complete.

What makes this whole process all the more amazing is that Jim and Bill supplied all the sod for the Del Mar Fair each year and this same process was used! While things have come a long way since those days, I still miss those summer days standing in the middle of an acre plus field of Dichondra, absolutely perfect in height with not a bare spot or weed to be seen. Though the hard work has long passed the generations of nursery professionals working for us today, they also miss out on some of the sights and wonder of how it used to be done. There was always something very satisfying about that job. Maybe it all goes back to the farmer roots that my grandparents both had from their childhoods in Nebraska, just after the turn of the century.

Whatever the case, it is an era that is lost today, but one that I can, like my Father before me, tell any of my children that enter the business "You don't know what nursery work is, when I was a kid we had to..." ●



Seasonal Savings!

COUPON
Valid October 1 - December 31, 2008

\$3.00 OFF
Sunshine All-Purpose
Planting Mix
2.5 cu. ft. / Limit 6

#103810

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.

COUPON
Valid October 1 - December 31, 2008

\$2.00 OFF
Bumper Crop
Limit 6

#103811

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.

COUPON
Valid October 1 - December 31, 2008

\$2.00 OFF
Gloves Including Garden Gaiters
Regular Price \$9.99 or More
Limit 3

#103812

Limit Three (3) 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 Street
San Diego, CA 92110
619-224-8271

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900 / Fax 858-513-4790

www.walterandersen.com

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



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