

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

# GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

FALL

09

www.walterandersen.com



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### Roses & Fruit Trees Available By Special Order Order by Nov. 8 for Savings

Whether you are looking to expand your orchard or rose garden, Walter Andersen Nursery is the place for you! Our extensive fruit tree and rose lists are now available on line as well as in the stores for you to review to see what will be available in just a few short months.

Choose from a fantastic selection of apples, apricots, nectarines, peaches, plums, pluots, pomegranates and many, many more. Also get a sneak peak at the tremendous selection of roses to be arriving mid-December.

To help you get started, Walter Andersen Nursery will be offering a 10% discount on fruit trees and roses ordered and purchased through Nov. 8. Be sure to get roses at the bare root season sale price of \$19.99 minus 10% which lasts until Nov. 8

Of course, if due to circumstances beyond our control, your special order doesn't come in, you'll receive a full refund. All other special orders are subject to a 50% restocking fee. Additionally, we will be offering special orders of single fruit trees of varieties we don't intend to stock, making available to you hundreds of trees and assorted root stocks as well.

If you are looking for a rose not on our list, just place your order for at least five bushes and we will order those for you as well. Prepayment is required.

## 2010 Rose Preview

by David Ross

Winter usually brings us outstanding new roses and this year will be no exception. In addition to many old favorites, our three main rose growers, Jackson & Perkins, Star, and Weeks, have some "must have" new roses for your garden.

Jackson & Perkins leads the way with their Rose of the Year, 'Sedona'. Sedona is a Hybrid Tea with the rich, warm colors reminiscent of the bluffs and sunsets of Sedona, Az., a blend of reds, corals, and oranges, and as a bonus, Sedona is very fragrant.

Another great rose is Jackson & Perkins Floribunda of the year, 'Monkey Business'. This vigorous rose produces wonderful clusters of lightly scented yellow roses.

From Star Roses this year, look for a VERY fragrant new sport from the AARS winner 'Secret' by the name of 'Secret's Out'. This beautiful white Hybrid Tea has a hint of light pink, and did I mention it is VERY fragrant!

Also from Star, look for 'All American Magic', a grandiflora that has candy striped red and yellow blooms, glossy foliage, and just a hint of fragrance.

Also look for 'Apricot Drift', a very disease resistant shrub rose that blooms and blooms, producing clusters of apricot pink blooms.

From Weeks roses, look for the rose that I will have to buy two of, 'Daddy's Little Girl'. This new rose, a pink mini, has a cream reverse and is great in the ground or a container. Also look for this year's only AARS winner, 'Easy Does It'. Ruffled petals in a blend of oranges, peaches and pinks will make this florabunda a standout in any rose garden.

Be sure to shop early for these and many other new roses, as well as lots of old favorites.



All American Magic



Apricot Drift



Daddy's Little Girl



Easy Does It



Monkey Business



Secret's Out



Sedona

## Plants Scary Enough For Halloween

by Melanie Potter



Begonia 'Iron Cross'

It is said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It is also said that some faces only a mother could love and I think I found some plants that fall into that category, just in time for Halloween.

It wasn't that these plants were positively unattractive, but they had unpleasant features like being hairy or warty.

Begonia 'Iron Cross' is found in the house plant department where it likely haunts the rest of the plants. It is named for the cross shape that appears on each side of its broad leaves. The thick leaves are pocked with dimples, and covered with small hairs. The stems of the plant are covered in white, short hairs sort of what you see when looking at a hairy spider leg under a microscope. The foliage is actually very impressive looking and in spring you'll see delicate pink and green blossoms, so, it's just the texture of the leaves and stems you'll need to get beyond.

Place in medium to high light during the winter and medium light the rest of the year. Allow soil to dry out slightly between thorough watering.

Not far from 'Iron Cross', you'll find Begonia 'Denver Lace' and once again beauty may reside in the eye of the beholder. The green leaves are spotted with white, pink and red, though not smooth, they are warty and unusually crinkly. One website described the appearance 'like taffeta'. That sounds romantic and better than warty.



Begonia 'Denver Lace'

These begonias need good air circulation and can take full shade to partial sun. They are adaptive to water conditions. They are more colorful if given bright light which enhances their appearance.



Brunnera

Brunnera macrophylla is also known by its common name of Siberian Bugloss, a moniker that does nothing to enhance the plant. The description I read for it started out in a most appealing way. It was described as having "azure-blue flowers similar to forget-me-not flowers above (now here's where the description turns for the worse) rough, hairy, dark green heart-shaped leaves. Rough, bristly and hairy, sort of

Continued on p2

## Autumn Calendar '09

### Fall Party

October 24 / 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Join us in Poway for an evening Fall event. We'll have music by Jerry Gontang (jerrygontang.barmusic.com).

Special pricing on fruit trees and roses. Free hotdogs and crafts for the kids. Since it's close to Halloween, your kids can wear their costumes and trick-or-treat at the nursery!

On hand will be Maryon Kinsella from MK Landscape and Kurt Peacock, a viticulturist from our Pt. Loma store who will answer your questions about landscape design and growing wine grapes.

### Fall Hours

The Poway store will change its hours to 9am-5pm daily beginning Oct. 5.

## You're Invited To Our Annual

# Holiday Event

December 5 / 5 pm to 8 pm

Our Poway store will hold its annual holiday event. Here's a chance to get some of your holiday shopping done early.

Visit with Santa, and courtesy of Nelson Photo, have your holiday photo taken with Santa! Eat a free hot dog (or two) and get a start on buying the things you need to prepare your home for the season. Shop early for the best selection on poinsettias and Christmas trees, and take advantage of the savings offered below.

Please note that this year the event is being promoted in this newsletter and e-blasts so you won't need to watch your mailbox for an invitation.

### Visit From Santa!

Bring the kids as Santa visits the Pt. Loma store.

December 12 / 11 am to 1 pm

### Closed for Inventory

The Pt. Loma store will be closed Nov. 3. The Poway store will be closed Nov. 4.

### Holiday Closings

The Poway store will close at 2pm on November 25.

Both stores will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Both stores will close at 2pm on December 24 & 31.

Both stores will be closed Christmas Day & January 1, 2010.

COUPON  
Valid December 5, 2009 Only  
**Save \$25 Off**  
the purchase of \$100 or more.

Use this coupon all day December 5, 2009 in our Poway Location Only.

This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other discounts, landscape consulting services, and sod or gift certificate purchases. Valid December 5, 2009 from 9 am - 8 pm only at our Poway store. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.

COUPON  
Valid November 27 - December 31, 2009  
**Save \$10 Off**  
the purchase of \$50 or more.

Use this coupon at either Walter Andersen Nursery locations.

This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other discounts, landscape consulting services, and sod or gift certificate purchases. Valid November 27 - December 31, 2009. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase.

# Red Heart Has Red Hot Color

by Melanie Potter



**Iresine 'Red Heart'**

If you haven't seen a plant that will stop you in your tracks, then here's a plant you'll want to get this month because its availability will dwindle as fall moves along.

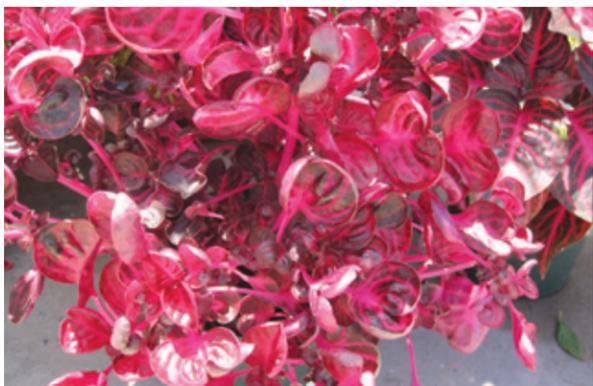
Iresine 'Red Heart' is an intensely magenta colored plant with no green on it whatsoever. The magenta leaves are dappled with brown or black on ridges that run on each side of the heart-shaped leaves, and the stems are, that's right, magenta. The upright flower spikes bloom atop its foliage.

This plant was spotlighted at the 2007 Pac Trials (where new plant varieties are unveiled for those in the industry) and it promises to be a great addition to combinations and mixed plantings.

This iresine can be planted in bright light and will take full sun at the coast. It is heat and humidity tolerant and does well in a moist, well-drained soil. It is bred to be easy to root, with a rooting time of 3-4 weeks.

Outdoors you can grow it as an annual or bring it inside as a house plant. It's a shrubby plant that can reach two feet high and as wide.

If you can't commit to having such a brightly colored plant in the garden and you are a fan of the color green, you can also find this variety, 'Variegated Heart', with green and yellow heart-shaped leaves. ●



# Houseplants That Just Hang Around

by Melanie Potter



**Codonanthe**

When I poke around the nursery, I tend to look at what is on shelves and benches at eye level or lower; but lately, I've been looking up.

That's when I noticed it's not just spider plants that like to be in hanging baskets, there are a whole lot more.

Nematanthus, commonly known as 'Gold Fish' has a fun name and since it was in bloom, I could see how the name fits the plant. A relative of African Violets, it has little, fleshy, shiny green leaves and orange or bright coral flowers that look like gold fish. This plant likes very warm conditions and it enjoys humidity. Plant it where it gets filtered sun or early morning sun only.

Nematanthus blooms successfully when it is pot bound so don't feel you have to give it a large container until it matures and calls for one. Keep the soil moist at all times but not soggy.

Look for the varieties 'Black Gold' and 'Emma' throughout the year in the nurseries. 'Emma' is a new hybrid that is



**Nematanthus**



**Hoya wayettii**

named for the wife of David Roberts, a plant hobbyist and Walter Andersen Nursery vendor who hybridized it. It blooms from late summer through early winter.

Codonanthe gracilis is a plant for you if you enjoy growing violets, because it requires much of the same care.

It is a compact, trailing plant with waxy flowers, orange berries and small,

attractive foliage that looks succulent-like. When in bloom, there will be loads of white flowers with dark throats. Like the Nematanthus, it likes lots of light and humidity. Use a well-draining soil mix, plant in small pots and provide constant light fertilizing for good growth.

From the Philippines comes Hoya wayettii, a Hoya best suited for growing in a hanging basket. It has a thin, light green stalk. The string bean-like leaves are very narrow, dark green and almost "bent" along the leaf. The flowers are downy balls with reddish lilac petals and darker corona. Plant in rich, loose, well-drained soil that is kept slightly wet during its growth time. ●

# Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER



Water, water everywhere but not enough here in San Diego County. The restrictions on water are definitely a consideration in the garden, but don't lose heart. There are many varieties of plants that will thrive in the heat and with little to no water.



**Anisodonte** is a type of Cape Mallow and even with the heat and little water this hardy, drought tolerant plant boasts a continuous display of small Hibiscus-like flowers. It is in the Malvaceae family and comes from South Africa. There are about 20 species

in this genus and generally come with flowers in shades of pink. In fact, one of our favorite cultivars is 'Tara's Pink'. These plants freely hybridize creating some great new cultivars; one such new beauty is an Anisodonte hybrid 'Barely Boysenberry.' It has all the same wonderful qualities of low water, low maintenance, and full sun and grows about 3'-4' tall. The beauty is in the lovely lavender blue flowers hence the name 'Barely Boysenberry.'



**Anisodonte cyanea 'Peachy Keen'** is a cultivar of an old favorite. Anisodonte is a medium-sized shrub, about 4'-6' high and wide, that is a very attractive member of the nightshade family. Unfortunately, this does make it a toxic plant. All

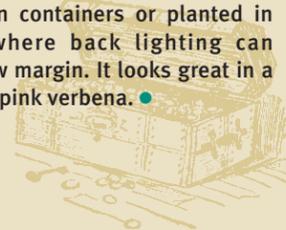
parts of the plant are poisonous if eaten and some people will have an allergic reaction to handling the plant. If you have small children or 'fur people' that like to chew on plants, or you easily respond to skin irritation, this would not be a nice plant for your garden. It blooms on new growth and thus responds to frequent pruning. It is considered a tropical so it will require a consistently moist soil so don't let it dry out the first year. You will find by the third year it does not need as much water and will do just fine with only a weekly spritz. It is hardy to USDA Zone 9 - 11, and will take full sun to partial shade. It blooms repeatedly. This new cultivar 'Peachy Keen' has large clusters of deep peach hued flowers dangling above deep green foliage. It is a nice addition to that tropical garden.

I have come to have a great appreciation for Agaves, cactus and succulents. Although I have only a few cacti



because I don't like the spines, I do have several Agaves. One of my favorites is a cultivar called 'Blue Glow'. It is an agave hybrid with red-tinged margins on the

leaves which are edged with yellow. The rosettes of smooth, spineless foliage have a distinctly blue cast. It is a smaller agave slowly 18 inches tall and 2 feet across with 1 foot long by 1-1 1/2 inch wide blue green leaves. Like most agaves, plant in full sun and little irrigation is required. It looks great in containers or planted in groups, especially nice where back lighting can accentuate the red and yellow margin. It looks great in a container under planted with pink verbena. ●



# Seasonal Recipe

## Zucchini & Feta Casserole

- 3 small zucchini, grated
- 3 eggs
- 6 scallions, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mint and/or dill weed
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup grated feta cheese
- 1/2 cup grated mild cheese
- 1/2 cup flour
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 4 tablespoons butter



**Directions:** Mix zucchini, eggs, scallions, mint, dill, parsley and cheeses. Add flour slowly, mixing well. Season with salt and cayenne pepper. Grease a 9-inch baking pan with 1 tablespoon of the butter. Pour in the zucchini mixture. Dot with remaining butter. Bake 45 minutes at 450 degrees, or until well browned. Cut into squares. Serve hot or cold. Makes 6-8 servings.

\*I don't always have success baking at such a high temperature, so I set the oven to 400 degrees and check regularly.

# What's New in the Stores



How is this for a space saving, double duty garden tool? It's the Rake n' Hoe and sells for \$22.99. It's a rake with a hoe attachment on top of the rake. It allows you to rake and then turn the rake over to hoe out the weeds that have a strong firm hold in the soil. The tines of the rake are spaced further apart than a normal rake to allow less dirt being pulled up.

Gardening can be back-breaking work and if you have limited mobility those yard tasks become more challenging. The Reach Weeder from Garden Works has a solution that weighs less than 2 pounds, and is tough on weeds. You'll see this tool hanging up, all 42" of it, but it can extend up to 65" which means less leaning down and it's easy to store. It has a rust proof construction and the tool part offers a curved neck to reach around plants. One side of the neck has a slicing edge, the other side has a serrated edge to snag weeds, and the tip is pointed to loosen weeds. This product comes with some limitations and is recommended only for established gardens and not for vigorous work in compact or rocky soil.



# Plants Scary Enough For Halloween

Continued from p1

like a werewolf? Imagine touching hairy sandpaper, and this is what you'll feel when you rub your fingers on the leaf, downward toward the stem.

Caring for this plant is easy. It is intolerant of dry soils so keep it consistently moist, in organically rich soils in shady areas. It freely self-seeds in the garden in optimum growing conditions. Clumps of Brunnera slowly spread by both creeping rhizomes and self-seeding to form thick ground covers.

And, about that common name, Bugloss comes from the Greek language and means ox tongue; probably in reference to the roughness and shape of the leaves.

That's just a quick look at some plants with unusual features. Come to the stores and see what else you find that will add interest, humor, and a squeamish presentation to your Halloween. ●

# Sharing The Holiday Spotlight

by Home &amp; Garden Showplace

The Holiday Cacti and Cyclamen are great alternatives to the traditional poinsettia. These plants offer colorful holiday blooms, plus you can enjoy them all year 'round.

The Holiday Cactus, also known as the Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) or the Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*), can be bought during the holiday season already in bloom. It should sit in indirect sunlight, in regular indoor temperatures. Keep the soil moist and fertilize weekly.

To get last year's cactus to bloom, leave it at night at temperatures around 55 degrees while the plant is beginning to flower. If you can't store them at that temperature, don't worry. They will flower with 12 to 13 hours of darkness each night. One trick is to lay black plastic over the plant when the lights are on.

Cyclamen, available in white, red, and deep pink, generally lay dormant during summer months and bloom indoors during winter. Be sure to smell the blooms if you are looking for fragrance as some have a light, sweet scent. It's possible to have Cyclamen bloom from late fall to early spring by following these tips:

- 1 When you first purchase the plant, use a houseplant fertilizer once a week; taper off to once a month after a few weeks.
- 2 Keep inside temperatures relatively cool. If that's impossible, at night, keep temps in the mid 40-50s.
- 3 Provide non-direct bright light and be sure to keep the plants away from heat ducts and vents.
- 4 When mature blooms begin to fade, try pulling off the flowers rather than cutting.

Slow and cool heaps can take several months to decompose. These are the fun and experimental types of heaps because the green/brown ratio doesn't need to be so precise, and you can do whatever you want, whenever you want! The greens compose less than 1/5 of the pile. The greater the variety of material in your compost, the greater the variation of microorganisms there will be in the end. Fine pieces of material decompose fastest, but big chunks allow air to flow around more easily, so use both! Cool heaps can be processed in containers, underground (good for smelly stuff that attracts animals!), in trenches, and above-ground heaps. You turn and aerate every few weeks as you like, keep the material damp, and about 6 months later you will start seeing that it's crumbly and earthy-smelling, which completes the composting process. So now for the curing....

Once your heap is done decomposing (this state is called "stable"), it can be used, technically. But in an ideal world, everyone would cure their compost first. A heap can finish curing in a month to 12 weeks, depending on the material put in. Earthworms are your first indication that it has cooled down and is almost done. Uncured compost still has the ability to burn roots and steal a bit of nitrogen from new plants when used in great quantity. Curing allows the organic acids to decrease, the pH stabilizes, the texture improves, and the microorganisms begin to release nitrogen back into the soil. All you have to do is keep it slightly damp, maybe cover it with a tarp, and wait it out!

There is no "best" way to compost. Each individual pile depends on the materials nearby, and what you decide to experiment with as you fine-tune your methods. I do mean methods, plural, as you will find that there is a great and different recipe for every area you plan to amend with your compost. Come on in to the nursery to talk to us, check out some of our great composting books, and see all the fun ingredients we have for you to play with! ●



## Words From Walter

With Walter Andersen, Jr.

### From the Fall "Medicine Cabinet"

We hope that all of your fruiting trees grew well this past season. Things will be slowing down now as the weather cools. October and November will still be warm, but as the evening and night time temperatures cool, your trees will slow or stop growing all together. All of your stone fruits will drop their leaves starting in December. At this time of the year we recommend the first application to your trees with a dormant spray. This usually starts in the middle of December for the first spraying. Two more sprayings are recommended, the next one about January 1, and then again January 15.

When you apply dormant sprays, it kills diseases that are hiding in and around your trees. We recommend a product called Liqui-Cop. It is safe to use on all of your dormant trees, including Apricots, Apples, Almonds, Cherries, Peaches, Nectarines, Plums and Pears. Be sure to read all of the directions on the label and mix properly. The spray can be applied with a hose end sprayer or a pressurized tank type sprayer. When you spray, be sure to apply it so the entire tree is dripping wet.

A thorough application will eliminate or greatly reduce the problems of Brown Rot, Shot Hole, Anthracnose, Bacterial Spot, Leaf Curl and other diseases for the next growing season. To help prevent these problems from occurring next year, be sure to clean up the foliage that has dropped from your trees.

Again, be sure to make three applications: December 15, January 1, and January 15 for optimum results. You can use this same spray on your roses as a dormant spray in winter months to help control powdery mildew and black spot.

Just so you know, your Citrus, Avocado and other tropical fruit trees should not be sprayed with dormant sprays. ●



## FALL A Good Time To Control Weeds

October is when the days get shorter and our weather usually begins to cool, especially at night. This is one of the best times to try and get the Annual Bluegrass under control, which in cooler weather seems to flourish. For those who do not know about this pesky



weed, it comes up everywhere about this time of the year. It is a short little clumping grass that only grows to about 5" or 6" tall, and puts out lots of small 'seed heads'. The seed

heads are a very light green color, could almost look whitish, next to the parent plant. Each one produces hundreds if not thousands of tiny seeds. Left untreated, this small clumping grass will multiply like crazy. You can use a 'pre-emergent' product that kills the seed as it germinates by applying it on the soil surface when they germinate. Once the small plant starts growing, the pre-emergent will not stop it. There are several products that will prevent the seeds from growing, and they do a great job, if applied correctly. Amaze is a product from 'Green Light' that does a great job. It not only kills the Annual Bluegrass seed, but many other weed seeds that may be hiding in your soil. This is a granular product that you scatter as evenly as possible with a rotary spreader or by hand (if you can get good, even coverage). Amaze does not harm most already growing plants, only the seeds. You can also use 'Green Light' "Crabgrass Preventer", which is sold mostly to control Crabgrass in lawns. If applied this time of the year it also controls the pesky Annual Bluegrass in and around ornamental trees and shrubs. This is also best if you use some sort of spreader device for more even applications.

There are two more products that are very effective also. Pre-Seeder Weeder is a granular product that comes in a round shaker container. There are holes in the top and you shake the orange granules in the area to prevent the weed seed from germinating. After you scatter this product a light sprinkling of the area is recommended. Another product that uses the same chemical is Weed Stopper II. This comes as a liquid that you mix with water and apply with a tank type sprayer over the area. This product covers a much larger area than the Pre-Seeder Weeder, but you do need to use a tank type sprayer to be effective.

None of the above products kill already growing weeds; they all kill the seeds as they germinate. So if you have weeds in the area, you need to pull, hoe, or cultivate those weeds out before you apply any of these products. Generally they can all be used around established plantings, be sure to read the labels for specific instructions. What I find works for me is to pull out or hoe the weeds, rake the area clean, and then apply. Your planting beds will look clean and groomed when you are finished, and these products will keep them looking that way for months to come. If the soil is disturbed by planting new plants or removing something, you should re-apply to those areas as the chemical barrier has been broken.

Down the road when you see small weeds starting to grow again, remove those and re-apply because the chemical has run its course and is no longer effective. ●

## So You Think You Know Compost

by Jennifer Merzigan



We could all use some improvement in our soil; every gardener struggles with finding the balance between proper moisture retention and aeration. Compost is an all-encompassing solution to your drainage woes. Compost holds enough moisture, yet creates enough space between

soil particles to allow the right amount of water and oxygen to move around the roots.

In addition, the introduction of compost increases the population of beneficial microorganisms in the soil. These microorganisms metabolize nutrients in the soil and make them easier for plants to "digest". Essentially, properly feeding the soil with composted material leads to more self-sustaining plants. I repeat: more self-sustaining plants! This is going to mean less bug problems, less disease problems, less of the un-fun work for you! Therefore it's something you want to do between each planting, and especially after heavy-feeding plants have used up the nutrients in an area.

So how, you ask, do you create your own supply of this wonderful stuff? There are a few ways to go about it, and each method has its own purpose, as well as its own recipe. Composts are created using differing quantities of nitrogen and carbon (known respectively as greens and browns). The key is balancing the two. Too much of one element creates a chemical overload. Therefore, when adding a super-nitrogen-powered material like manure, add plenty of carbon material too. These "browns" consist of things like dead leaves, corn cobs, cotton, wool, non-glossy pages of newspaper, cardboard, coffee filters, napkins, sticks, and wood. Be careful with paper products- anything with ink on it is questionable, except for that of newspapers.

Hot and fast heaps are the most commonly known composting method, and can be done in a composting bin, in a trench, or an above-ground heap. They take lots of time and diligence, so many people are scared away from what they think composting is all about. However it's only absolutely necessary if you know you have pathogens and seeds to kill. Even so, you can't kill absolutely every seed- some types of plants can survive the harsh conditions. The heat can be achieved by adding a lot of greens, such as leaves and stems (including grass and weeds), USED coffee grounds, kitchen waste (wash those eggshells before you add them, though!), and boxed "meals" like Alfalfa, Canola, Corn, Cottonseed, and Soybean. Greens should make up less than 1/4 of the material in the heap. Meals are a great way to get a pile to heat up fast, but heat cannot be sustained without something "bioactive" like grass clippings or kitchen scraps. Add water occasionally and turn every couple of days (for a couple weeks) to keep the heat from completely escaping, and keep the temperature uniform as well. This is where a Compost Thermometer would be very useful. An ideal temperature is between 130° and 150°. Above 170° you will kill all microorganisms, and that's BAD. The heat will peak in about a week, and you may see steam. Continue to aerate your heap, moisten it, and let it cool or a few more weeks. Once it looks crumbly and earthy, think about curing it, which we'll talk about in a minute.

By Jen Merzigian

# the wee corner



## Earthworms

Aristotle said "Worms are the intestines of the earth". It's not the prettiest image, but it describes so well the work that earthworms do. They labor tirelessly throughout their entire lives, all the while invaluable improving the soil.

You probably already know that the tunnels that earthworms dig help aerate and loosen soil. That alone is worth mentioning if you are one of the many southern Californians with heavy, compacted, clay soil. But what does aeration mean? Air can travel through the roots, keep Mycorrhizae (beneficial bacteria) from suffocating, and roots can spread out more easily. Water will be absorbed as well as drain more efficiently; instead of just running off the hard, compacted soil surface, it will reach all the way down to the lower roots. And by soaking deeper, it will minimize surface erosion.

Earthworms' most valuable roll is as little composters. They break up organic material from the top layers of the soil (like your kitchen scraps, dead leaves, etc.) and incorporate them into deeper layers. Smaller bits of material left over are just the right size for small organisms to eat up as well. Worms' very presence increases beneficial microbial activity in this way. Also, on their way up to the surface, worms carry soil from the lower strata containing potassium and phosphorous. Worms' own metabolic systems add nitrogen. These are the three macronutrients you find measurements of on your bags of fertilizer. This isn't to say that you shouldn't fertilize plants; but it goes to show you that these little guys have great long-term benefits for your soil, decreasing the supplementary care necessary for your plants.

The Ramona Red Earthworms are one of the most popular type of worms to use in composting and can be bought at Walter Andersen Nursery. They tolerate a wide range of temperatures and conditions, and they are some of the most prolific. In ideal conditions, they will double their population in 60-90 days. They are available for sale in various quantities- enough to improve a small patch of ground, or start your own worm composting bin-at both of our stores.

Once you've added worms to your soil, you don't want to roto-till your ground. You won't need to! Your worms are mixing and aerating your soil for you, so don't disturb them while they work! Not to mention you could obviously damage them. The worms like an area that is consistently slightly damp, and has some organic material for them to eat. Bury some of your non-acidic kitchen and garden waste in the soil and they will be pleased! But don't add dairy products, or material that is too oily or aromatic (pine, eucalyptus) that will clog up their systems. Topping with a bit of manure now and then could help a bit too. As time goes on, and your garden naturally sheds leaves, or annual flowers and vegetables die off, worms will find their own food in the decaying matter. But if you have some kitchen scraps you want to reuse to help your garden that much more, add them to the natural, no care, underground vermi-compost bin that is your garden! ●

## 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

- 10/3 Ferns: Tall, Short & In Between
- 10/10 Fall & Winter Veggies
- 10/17 Fall Lawns – Get Ready for Winter
- 10/24 Holiday Decorating
- 10/31 Camellias – Varieties & Care

### November

- 11/7 Poinsettias
- 11/14 Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying
- 11/21 Winter Color for Your Yard
- 11/28 No Class

### December

- 12/5 Rose Pruning
- 12/12 Bare Root Roses – New & Old
- 12/19 Pruning Peaches, Nectarines & New Varieties
- 12/26 No Class

## POWAY 9:30am

### October

- 10/3 Fall/Winter Flowers
- 10/10 Fall/Winter Rose Care
- 10/17 California Natives with Carol Fuller
- 10/24 Low water, Substitute Lawn Grasses Fall Event: 5:30-7:30pm
- 10/31 2009 Herbs with Carol Fuller

### November

- 11/7 Holiday Planters
- 11/14 Xeriscaping with Carol Fuller
- 11/21 Fruit Tree Spraying with Richard Wright
- 11/28 No Class

### December

- 12/5 Decorating for the Holidays
- 12/12 Rose Pruning
- 12/19 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright
- 12/26 No Class



## INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE!

Save up to **30%** On Selected Plants & Merchandise  
Selection Varies By Store  
See Store For Details

October 1-17, 2009 Only!

### WINTER LAWN SAVINGS

#### COUPON

Valid October 1 – 31, 2009

**Save \$1 OFF**  
**Scott's Super Turf Builder**  
**with Winter Guard**

Limit 4

Limit four (4) per customer. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.  
Valid October 1-31, 2009.

#105440

## TOOL SHED

Products Getting Rave Reviews!



Here are some products that are getting rave reviews and have been sought after by many experienced gardeners, so we're delighted to make them available.

We have added a selection of Fox Farm Fertilizers and Soils to our shelves that include Ocean Forest and Happy Frog Potting Soils along with Light Warrior growing medium.

On the fertilizer side we stock Grow Big, Big Bloom, and Tiger Bloom liquid fertilizers. For high phosphorus loving plants like Plumeria there are water soluble fertilizers including Beastie Blooms 0-50-30, Cha Ching 9-50-10, and Open Sesame 5-45-19. Ken Andersen has used Cha Ching on his Plumerias and Gardenias with excellent results! Want to give them a test run? Check the coupon section for special savings on Fox Farm Products!

Fox Farm is known as the microbrewery of premium plant foods and soil mixes. Fox Farm has been a "hands-on" Bioneer for over 17 years in developing and producing superior organic plant foods and extra-strength soil mixes. ●

## poinsettia '09 choices



Another fast and furious poinsettia season is just around the corner and as always, Walter Andersen Nursery will have the brightest and best selection available. Again this year, we will be offering a full selection of Poinsettias from Florabunda Nursery grown by Dana Groot, a former grower from the Paul Ecke Ranch. Dana has honed his skills in his own nursery bringing you poinsettias from tiny to enormous. The way he grows his poinsettias helps them last longer both inside and out. His pinched poinsettias are grown in such a way the branches hold together all season long. Also look for the stunning new variety, Ice Punch. This red poinsettia has an irregular blend of cream and white down the center of each bract that is sure to be a hit in your home. A smattering of poinsettias will arrive in stores the week before Thanksgiving, with a full array of colors and sizes available the following week.

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



www.walterandersen.com

### FOX FARM SAVINGS

#### COUPON

Valid October 1 – 31, 2009

**Save \$2 OFF**  
**On Any Fox Farm Fertilizer**  
**or Soil Product**

Limit 3

Limit three (3) per customer. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.  
Valid October 1-31, 2009.

#105439

### MAJOR FALL SAVINGS

#### COUPON

Valid October 23, 24 & 25, 2009

**40% OFF**  
**A Single Item!**

Limit 1

Limit one (1) per customer. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively. Some exclusions apply. See store for details. Valid October 23, 24 & 25, 2009 only.

#105491

### FALL BEDDING SALE

#### COUPON

Valid October 1 – November 30, 2009

**\$2.49 Bedding**  
**4" and Color Packs**  
**Reg. Price \$2.99**

Limit 12 Color Packs & 16 4"

Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively. Valid October 1 – November 30, 2009.

#105438

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



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