

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



SPRING

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Garden Railroad Event Scheduled

Mark your calendars for May 6 and join us at Walter Andersen Nursery Poway to help celebrate the joys of Garden Railroading. Our free garden class(es) that day will not only include a basic introduction to garden railroading, but special seminars on making trestles, weathering and aging your buildings and structures (making them look authentic and old), choosing the right plants for your railroad, how to wire a switch, and much more.



Most importantly, in an effort to make garden railroading more affordable for everyone, Walter Andersen Nursery will be introducing new lower pricing. Our trains, buildings, train parts and accessories will be at LEAST 20% off suggested retail prices (does not include live plants). David Ross will be barbecuing his world famous, free, Farmer John Beef Franks from 11am until 1pm. There will be free sodas as well. Classes begin at 9:30am.

Perennial Plant of the Year Good choice for Sunny Spots



Dianthus gratianopolitanus ('Fuerhexe' also known as Firewitch) has been selected The 2006 Perennial Plant of the Year by The Perennial Plant Association. Cheddar pink is the common name of this perennial for sun. It is an evergreen selection with bluish-gray, silvery foliage and purplish-pink fragrant flowers that bloom mid-spring. Rebloom can occur in the summer and into the fall. Fragrance will be slightly clove-like.

The plant is a low growing, mat-forming alpine plant. Place in full sun locations or in light shade in extremely hot climates. It looks best when used as a border edger, in a rock garden or planted in wall crevices, even as a ground cover on a sunny slope. It works well in an herb garden, as a formal border or in a cottage garden. The soil should be well draining and neutral to slightly alkaline. After flowering in late spring, the spent flowers should be cut back to encourage reblooming later in the season. Do not mulch with deep layers of organic matter.

Make A Note! Holiday Closing

Both Walter Andersen Nursery locations will be closed on **Easter, April 16th** and **July 4th, Independence Day.**



Don't Rely On Florists For Your Alstroemeria: Grow Them Yourself

PHOTO: PETER A. HOGG PHOTOGRAPHY



If you've received a bouquet of flowers recently, chances are it contained alstroemeria. Also called Peruvian lily or Inca lily, these perennials are a staple in the florist trade and prove to be a hardy, colorful and easy-to-grow addition to your yard.

Native to South America, the hybrids available now are better than ever with sturdier stems and the offer of a longer blooming season. We receive shipments from December through July because of their constant availability from growers. The blooming season begins in spring and continues through early fall.

Pick a color, any color. The selection is choice, and includes yellow, apricot, orange, salmon, pink, red, mauve, lavender, purple, cream, white and bi-colors. The plants are made more striking by their markings – contrasting blotches and flecks at the neck of their azalea-like flowers. Plants can grow to 3 feet high. The plants grow well in the differing micro climates of San Diego. Cooler temperatures are preferred and a rich, loamy soil that drains well is ideal. In coastal areas they need sun all day, but can take some filtered sun in the late afternoon. Inland areas will need morning sun with filtered light in the afternoon and good air circulation. Alstroemeria also do well in pots (start with a large container to accommodate their large root system).

Despite being thought of as drought tolerant, do provide regular and deep watering for best bloom.

Alstroemerias do not require heavy feeding. If you want to feed them, we recommend our all-time favorite, Gro Power.

Remove the stem when a flower has faded on the plant, preferably before seed pods develop, which slows down the blooming process. Remember to pull the stem (at the soil line) and flower rather than cutting it so the stem is separated cleanly from the rhizome.

Alstroemeria are easy to divide. They just need to be separated, or "pulled apart" to make more plants. Because they are slow to reestablish, Alstroemeria should be divided only when they have completely outgrown their place in the garden. Divide each plant in half in October to ensure growing a full, lush plant sooner. ●

Heuchera Is Fun To Say And Great To Use

PHOTO: PROVEN WINNERS



If I had a dollar for every time one of Walter Andersen Nursery's landscape designers extolled the benefits of Heuchera to me, well I'd be rich or at least benefiting financially from learning about this marvelous plant. First of all, the proper pronunciation was mastered. Don't say it like it looks because you'll be corrected. Say it like "who cura".

Also called coralbells, heuchera is a group of American plants that are found wild mostly on slopes and cliffs from Connecticut to western Canada and south into Mexico. In general, they grow as tufts of foliage, from which spikes of small flowers rise from spring to summer. They vary from forms only a few inches high (eg. H. nivalis of the Rocky Mountain alpine zone) to forms over three feet tall (H. maxima of California that is native to the Channel Islands).

Heuchera bloom at some point between early spring and late summer. Few of the larger wild species are considered garden plants, since the flowers of almost all are green or whitish and inconspicuous. But don't use Heuchera just for the flowers as the foliage color is truly splendid. Choices are even better these days because heuchera is being grown for its foliage display.

In the eastern species there are forms with handsomely colored foliage that have been recognized as good garden perennials in the last 20 years. Their roundish shaped leaves sport scalloped edges. There are two basic types of foliage coloration. The first is a general bronze-purple tint, similar to that found in the new growth of many plants, but lasting through the year. The purple pigment in young foliage protects rapidly growing cells from ultraviolet light damage; in purple-leaved forms the genetic means for breaking down the purple pigments as the foliage matures apparently does not work. A second foliage coloration is that of green leaves with white or silver patches between the veins.

Cultivation of Heuchera

Heuchera want well-drained, humus rich soil. Generally, they will do best in light shade during at least the hottest part of the day. In full sun the foliage may discolor or die back during very hot spells in the summer.

One of the great strengths of Heuchera is that they are evergreen and that the foliage remains very attractive through the winter. Heuchera attract few pests and diseases. Plants that are kept too moist and shady may get some fungus problems during the summer. Moving them to a different site should solve this. ●

7th Annual Rose Show Is Set April 22-23, 2006

Double Delight Rose



7th Annual

POWAY

ROSE SHOW

The seventh annual **Walter Andersen Nursery Rose Show** is scheduled for April 22-23 at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway store. A rose show prep class will be held April 8 to help participants prepare their entries.

This popular event continues to grow with last year seeing more than 100 entries.

New This Year

This year's rose show has undergone some changes as far as categories are concerned. Additions to the categories include **Best Mini Bouquet** and the **Andersen's Choice Award** for the best non-classified rose. The **Best Bouquet** category will require that all varieties in the container be named. The category for Best Non-Classified Rose has been eliminated.

Entries

Entries will be taken April 22 from 8am-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are April 22 from noon to 6pm and April 23 from 9am-4pm.

Rose Show Preparation Class to be Held April 8th

The Rose Show preparation class begins at 9:30am, at the Poway location (12755 Danielson Ct.) and will feature professionals from the East County Rose Society to show participants how to present roses, provide tips as to what the judges look for in entries, and assist in preparing participants for this show as well as the San Diego Rose Show to be held in May in San Diego.

Caladiums Brighten The Garden

by California Assn. of Nurseries & Garden Centers



One of nature's most varied and beautiful plants for the home landscape, planters or for cut arrangements is the caladium. Best of all, caladiums are hardy and require little care while adding color and excitement to your summer landscapes.

Caladiums are tropical plants originating from the Amazon basin in Brazil. Their colorful leaves are sometimes mistaken for colorful flowers. They are actually foliage plants that happen to have brilliantly colored, large heart shaped leaves. Color wise they can range from delicate to splashy pinks, deep to vibrant greens, vivid muted reds, the purest cool whites and rich creams.

Gardeners can purchase caladiums as tubers, or as full sized plants during the spring and summer months. You can plant them where other plants would soon wilt away because caladiums enjoy warm weather. They do enjoy some sunshine if they are in a filtered light or morning sunlight situation for three to four hours a day and watered regularly. Caladium tubers should be planted when the soil feels warm to the touch and there is no danger of frost. Plant them upright in furrows or in individual holes spaced 9-15 inches apart and cover with 2-3 inches of soil. If you plan to use them in hanging baskets or other type of containers, be certain to provide good drainage. A mixture of 3 parts peat moss, 1 part sand and 1 part bark chips is recommended for potted caladiums, or use Sunshine Soil.

As your caladiums grow, keep the soil moist at all times but do not over water. When they are four to six weeks old, fertilize with any house plant food designed for foliated plants. Reapply every few weeks or according to label instructions. Gardeners have little else to do except reap the beauty they have sown.

The caladiums colorful display of foliage will last until the fall weather brings cooler days. The leaves will begin to turn yellow and this is the clue that harvest time has come for the tubers. Allow the leaves to fall off by themselves. This way they continue to supply the tubers with needed nutrients. Air dry in a sunny location for a few days and then keep them stored in dry peat or sand at temperatures in the 70-75 degrees range. If new leaves show up during the winter, don't worry because the plant is exhibiting vigor and will be ready to plant next spring.

Not only will the caladium brighten up the outdoors but this plant is an exceptional house plant. Grow pots full of caladiums in bright windows, preferably those that receive morning sun. Mist the plants daily or grow them on pebble lined trays partially filled with water. Otherwise, care and storage is the same as for outdoor caladiums. •

Read Before Buying Wildflower Seed

by Clyde Robin Seeds

A quick glance at the display areas of most any nursery or garden center will reveal several choices of wildflower seed mixtures. They come in a wide variety of packages and prices. Why are the prices different? A good question with a simple answer! When you make a purchase of wildflower seed, don't let the physical size of the package fool you. Remember, you are buying seed, not packaging. Learn to read the labeling. By law, somewhere on the label, there must appear the ingredients of the container. When you find the actual ingredients, you might be quite surprised at the amount of "fluff" in the package. Fluff is expressed as "inert ingredients." If you look closely, you will find the actual seed content expressed in terms of weight, or as a percentage of the total weight of the container.

An example would be as follows: Seed Mixture: 22%, Inert Material: 88%. Using the above example, if the total net weight of the material was a pound, then you would have only 22% of that amount as actual seed. In other words, about 3.5 ounces. We have seen several of the mulch products, which at first glance, appear to be quite the bargain for your money. Actually, upon close inspection, you will find that they aren't the "deal" that they appear to be. We found one 5 pound bag in a major national chain store, retailing for \$8.99 which contained only 3% actual seed. The rest was inert "mulch." This would convert to only 2.4 ounces of actual seed (remember you're buying seed), and your cost would be \$3.74 per ounce!

No matter how large or unique the packaging, remember, it's the actual seed that you want, not all the fluff. The best purchase you can make is 100% pure seed. Because the market is so competitive, you will find very few products which contain 100% pure seed. Unfortunately there are no standards regarding the sale of wildflowers. So read before you buy, and know exactly what you are purchasing. •



Creating A Shade Garden

by Monrovia Nursery

A shade garden provides a cool, quiet and tranquil setting and can be the showiest part of your garden. Whether it's under spreading tree canopies or in the shaded slot between tall buildings, fill it with an exciting variety of vibrant foliage and flowering plants of every hue. Whether you love the romantic forest woodland, a casual country style, or a formal city layout, you may choose among dozens of gorgeous flowering shrubs, brilliant blooming vines, exotic perennial blossoms, and intensely fragrant plants that all need shelter to look their best.



Understanding Shade

Not all shade is the same; it can range from near darkness to beautiful dappled light. Shade is also mixed with patches of pure sun when there are gaps in building, trees and arbors. Determine what degree of shade envelopes your garden, and look for plants that will thrive in that unique environment.

Color and Texture

There are many different shades of green—from bright yellow-greens, cool blue shades, and red tinged emeralds to degrees of forest and mint green. The range is endless—the choices infinite. Plenty of shade-bearing perennials are also chosen for their handsome foliage. Seek out plants with leaves that are polished, marbled, velvety, and lacy. The key is contrast—thus ensuring that in every place is a carefully controlled arrangement. While much of the beauty and drama of a shade garden can come from the wonderful array of leaf shapes and colors, there is a great range of flowering plants to choose from. Create an enchanted garden that includes vividly flowering rhododendrons and azaleas, timeless favorites such as hydrangeas and camellias, or experiment with exotic fuchsias and fragrant gardenias.

Mowing Hints Keep Grass In Tip-Top Shape

by Southland Sod Farms



One of the keys to maintaining a beautiful lawn is in the mowing. Mower height, sharpness, cleanliness, and mowing schedule can make the difference between a lush green lawn and a brown, weed infested one. The following are mowing tips that will help keep your lawn looking its best:

Sharpness: Mower blades must be maintained in sharp condition to keep your lawn looking its best. Dull blades do not cut evenly, which results in damaged grass blades that will give the lawn a brown cast. A sharp mower will leave the grass blade with a straight tip and minimal damage or browning.

Height: Mowing height can vary significantly depending on the lawn variety and your site and seasonal conditions. For example, Tifgreen Bermuda, does very well at 1/2 inch while Bluegrass does better at 2 to 3 inches. If you have shade, increase the mowing height somewhat. During the warm growing months, you may find that you have to increase your mowing height gradually as the season progresses. If so, you can gradually reduce the height again during the cooler months starting in December.

Cleanliness: Make sure your mower is free of weeds and other contaminants prior to cutting your lawn. Weeds like common Bermuda, crabgrass, and kikuyugrass can be transferred from one lawn to another if they are cut with the same lawn mower.

Schedule: Most lawn varieties require weekly mowing during the growing season. Letting your lawn get too tall between mowings can cause damage. In general, it is not recommended to mow off more than 1/3 of the blade height. Warm season varieties do not require mowing during the winter months if they have gone dormant. Cool season varieties like Marathon will slow down significantly in the winter months. In some instances, you may be able to mow your lawn once every second or third week.

Marathon Varieties

Begin mowing sod weekly one week after installation. Using a rotary mower cut Marathon Sod at a height of 2 to 3 inches, Marathon IIe at a height of 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Marathon III and Marathon III Lite should be cut at a height of 1 1/2 to

Planning Your Garden

Provide paths and flagstone walkways, and consider a small fountain or water garden. Shut out the views from tall windows with an arbor overhead, dripping in luscious flowers and tresses of graceful tendrils.

Choose a very personal sculpture, a work of garden art or a unique specimen plant that becomes the focus of this private sanctuary. If you lack a shaded pocket for such a romantic hideaway, be patient and plant trees that will spread wide and provide filtered shade in the future, or create a sheltered enclosure beneath lath or beam where you will enjoy instant shade enhanced by vines. If you are already blessed with shade, revel in it; for only there will you find the nuances of the forest floor where a whole community of luscious plants and flowers greet you when the sun goes away.

Designing with Color

Designing with color can bring a unique and personal look to your garden. The color wheel below provides a simple way to experiment with different color combinations. Even though volume, shape, texture, and leaf and branch color are important visual elements when designing a shade garden, it is important to understand the basic principles of color and how to use it effectively to enhance your shade garden. Cool colors, blues, pinks and purples, convey calmness and tranquility, while warm colors like bright yellows and reds create drama and vibrancy. Plant warm colors in the foreground and cool colors behind to give an illusion of depth to a small garden. A harmonious color scheme is one using neighboring colors on the wheel, while contrasting, or complementary colors, those opposite one another on the wheel, create dramatic accents or focal points.

We asked Carol Fuller, the writer behind Fuller's Finds, for her Top 10 list of shade plants. When she's not busy snooping in the back of our vendors' trucks for a smashing salvia to add to her collection, she maintains the Poway store's shade area. Here's her list: Camellias, Azaleas, Clivias, Lemon Drop fern, Cast iron plant, all the Gingers, Ribbon bush, Anemones, and Begonias. •

1 3/4 inches. Do not mow off more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blades at one time. A sharp mower is essential—white or yellow grass blade tips are the result of a dull mower. Always remove the grass clippings or use a mulching mower.

Pureblue and Ryebull

Begin mowing weekly one week after installation. Using a rotary mower cut sod at a height of 2 to 3 inches. The shorter height is recommended for cooler seasons and the longer height for warmer times of the year. Do not mow off more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blades at one time. A sharp mower is essential—white or yellow grass blade tips are the result of a dull mower. Always remove the grass clippings or use a mulching mower.

St. Augustine

Mow St. Augustine weekly throughout its growing season. Mowing height may vary between 1 and 2 inches depending on preference. Never mow off more than 1/3 of the grass blade length at one time, since plant injury may result. Always remove grass clippings or use a mulching mower.

Tifgreen

Mow Tifgreen weekly during the warm season. A seven or more blade front throw reel type mower will give best results. Rotary mowers will not do a satisfactory job on hybrid Bermudas. Adjust your mower to between 1/4 and 1/2 inch cutting height. This low-cut will give a putting green appearance and slow that thatch build-up. Always remove the clippings. For an optimal appearance, mow twice weekly during the summer months.

El Toro Zoysia

Mow El Toro Zoysia weekly throughout its growing season. Mowing height may vary between 1 and 2 inches depending on preference. Never mow off more than 1/3 of the grass blade length at one time, since plant injury may result. Always remove grass clippings or use a mulching mower.

Dichondra

Mowing dichondra is optional and depends on your personal preference. If left unmowed, dichondra will develop an uneven rolling appearance.

When mowed it can be kept very even and uniform. Always be careful not to mow off more than 1/3 of the leaves at one time, since plant injury will result. Remove clippings to avoid creating an environment for diseases and insects. •



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Easy-To-Grow Spider Plant

A Household Favorite

by Essortment

PHOTO: MELANIE POTTER



Spider plants, or, Chlorophytum comosum, are one of the most common of houseplants. They are easy to grow and also very easy to propagate, or reproduce. If you take proper care of your plants, and propagate them, you will soon have a house full of spider plants and your friends and relatives will too. Spider plants reproduce like bunnies when they are given the

right conditions to grow in. When you know how to transfer the 'babies' from the mother plants, you will be able to get many individual new plants.

Native to Africa, Spider plants enjoy natural light, but not direct sunlight. You should place your plants near a window but not directly in them, this will cause browning of the leaves. The plants do well in cool rooms as long as there is enough light. You should keep your plants watered at least once a week and never soak the soil. If you find your spider plant's leaves turning brown at the tips, this could be from the water you are using. Chemicals in water cause damage to spider plant leaves and you can remedy this by using distilled water.

If you grow your plants properly, you will soon notice spider 'babies' forming on your spider plant. These babies look like little miniature spider plants suspended from a longer branch of the plant. In order to

separate the baby from its main plant, place the baby on a pot of loose soil, making sure to hold it in place with a lightly tied piece of string or stake. The baby will take root in the pot of soil and once its roots are established, you can clip the baby from the main plant. You can also clip the baby from the main plant and place the bottom of it in a glass of water until roots begin to form, then plant the baby in soil or put them straight into the soil. These methods take longer and are not as healthy for the plant as the direct transplant into the soil while the plant is still attached to its mother.

Treat your plants with a bit of house plant fertilizer from time to time, using half of the recommended strength. Spider plants are sensitive and need only a bit of fertilizer to stay healthy. You can even do without the fertilizer if your plants are looking good. If you don't want to grow separate plants from your main plant, you can leave the babies hanging, they will continue to grow and add beautiful lush branches to your plant. Put your spider plant in a hanging pot and you will have cascades of new plants in no time. Spider plants have been known to help improve air quality, so it is a great idea to have as many plants around as you can manage. Friends will appreciate your transplanted babies with which they can start their own spider plant farm.

Overall, spider plants are one of the easiest plants to grow and are excellent for beginning house plant enthusiasts. You can expect your plant to last forever with proper care and the new plants make wonderful gifts. ●

PHOTOS: MELANIE POTTER



Athanasia acerosa



Agonis flexuosa (After Dark)

Unusual Plants

Get Test Run In Poway

The Walter Andersen Nursery staff loves stumbling across hard-to-find plants or unusual varieties. When our buyer in the Poway store, Andy Shearer, saw an opportunity to purchase two recent finds, he jumped at the chance especially as one selection has been sought after by landscape designers.

We introduce you to Athanasia and Agonis flexuosa (After Dark). Both enjoy sun and offer interesting color. Athanasia acerosa 'Coulter Bush' is native to South Africa. It is a striking shrub of the daisy family, with stout, somewhat contorted trunks growing 3-5' tall. Closely lining the current shoots are pairs of grey green leaves, generally 3-5" long, with extremely narrow, forked lobes. Small bright yellow flower heads are borne in broad, yarrow-like clusters in spring and summer. The old clusters are beautiful in dried flower arrangements. It takes most soils and requires moderate to occasional watering when established. Hardiness is uncertain, possibly 20 degrees F or less. Agonis flexuosa 'After Dark' offers spectacular black-purple foliage that retains its color. It is the first time we've had it available in the nursery. Native to Australia, this evergreen boasts tiny white flowers in spring. It will grow anywhere except the tropics and cold frost areas. This plant likes good drainage; it tolerates salt winds and needs pruning back hard. 'After Dark' is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. Its flowers are fragrant, and it is drought-tolerant, making it suitable for xeriscaping.

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

Oh Boy! Oh Boy! It's finally time to safely plant new stuff. Of course, I found something great!

Salvia buchananii or Buchanan's Sage is a somewhat frost-tender perennial that can be grown as an annual in colder climates. I find covering it when frost is predicted has allowed it to perform in my garden (in Poway) successfully for about 3 years now. This salvia is a knockout in the summer and fall garden with its glossy green leaves, which smell a little like pine when broken or brushed, purple stems, and fuzzy, inch-long magenta flowers. The showy flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The plant grows about 18 inches tall and creeps, rather than being a stiff, upright grower. This makes it a great container plant. It also does fairly well in a drought tolerant garden once it is established. Until then though, regular water is needed.



Lobelia laxiflora or Mexican Lobelia is one of my favorite plants. A native to Mexico, it takes full sun, tolerates poor soil and heat, and is fast growing. It grows about 3 feet high and 4 feet wide with a spreading growth habit, so give this lobelia some room to grow. Hummingbirds love this plant's tubular red flowers with yellow throats. It is extremely drought tolerant.



I know this because I planted it in with my natives which I don't water unless I finally remember that I haven't watered them in awhile. It just keeps going, and going, and going like the little pink bunny.



If you are looking for something unusual, Salvia discolor or Andean Silver Sage should fit the bill quite nicely. It is native to Peru, is perennial and does very well in a native garden. The velvety gray undersides provide striking contrast to the darker gray-green upper leaves. The flowers are a very deep indigo-black, about 1 inch

long, surrounded by silver calyces. The contrast of the nearly black flower and the white calyxes is astounding. It is a little floppy and stems are very sticky so it should be planted back from a pathway or the sticky stuff will stick to you. But, if gnats are a problem near a patio, plant this salvia in a hanging basket. The height will show off the flowers a little more and trap those gnats where they live, then the finches can stop by for a snack on the fly...no pun intended. This salvia will grow rapidly and bloom from early summer until frost. In mild winters, it continues to bloom. I have not lost this plant to frost but have had some frost damage. It recovered quite nicely. The plant is great for its cut flowers too.

Gift Certificates

Make Great Mother's & Father's Day Gifts

Don't forget that Walter Andersen Nursery Gift Certificates make wonderful gifts throughout the year, for all occasions and especially for Mother's Day May 14 and Father's Day June 18.

Gift certificates for any denomination can be purchased in the store or by calling in your purchase and providing credit card information. We can send gift certificates directly to you or the recipient.

Call the Poway store at 858-513-4900 or Pt. Loma at 619-224-8271.

Sunset Book Enjoys Special, Limited Time Pricing

Walter Andersen Nursery staff just loves using Sunset's Western Gardening Book. So much so, that we suggest all gardeners have it in their home library. We promise it will be used frequently. When you come in with your leaf samples or garden problems, it's one of the first steps we use to diagnose what's stumping you in your garden. The book normally sells for \$32.95 but through the month of April you can purchase it for \$24.99. Don't miss this limited offer. ●



Seasonal Recipe

Butternut-Curry Squash Soup

This easy recipe is guaranteed to become a holiday favorite.

- 2-3# of squash (cut in halves and de-seed)
- 1/8 cup butter
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 tsp. curry powder
- 1/8 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 cup or so of half-and-half
- 2 cups chicken broth

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Put squash on a baking sheet, cut side down. Bake until soft, around 45-55 min. Allow to cool slightly, then scoop out the pulp and discard the skins. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, curry powder and allspice. Sauté until the onion is tender, about 6-8 min. In two or three batches, puree the onion mixture, squash and stock in a blender or processor. Put into a large saucepan. Add the half-and-half to the soup and bring to a boil, stir occasionally. Reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Add salt and cracked pepper to taste. Garnish with chopped chives, if you like.

We Carry Premium Sunshine Soil Products from Sun Gro



the wee corner

by Melanie Potter

Children In Our Garden



This quarter's Wee Corner will focus on the wee ones in our lives. The children in our gardens. We should absolutely involve them in this great outdoors activity. It's a time to reinforce the skills they learn at

school such as reading, arithmetic, problem solving, and decision making. It also forces them to use muscles that don't get as strenuous a workout in front of the television or at the computer. For those who invite their wee ones to share gardening fun, we are pleased to offer (in our Poway store only) a line of gardening apparel and tools designed especially for them. We'll carry shovels, garden gloves and hand tools from a company called Insect Lore. Choose from characters that include Manny Mantis, Buzzby Bee, or Dot Ladybug. Tools are wood and metal construction with Rubberine handles for easy gripping and safety. These are the most fun and functional kids' gardening implements on earth. Best of all for our wee ones, they are real working tools. •

Spring 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

April

4/1 Tomatoes with Steve Goto from Goto Nursery

4/8 Herbs

4/15 Grafting Techniques

4/22 Azaleas

4/29 Epiphyllum

May

5/6 Cactus & Succulents

5/13 All About Ferns Indoors & Outdoors

5/20 Tropical Shade Gardening

5/27 Attracting Butterflies & Birds

June

6/3 Fuchias

6/10 Children's Gardening

6/17 Fruit Tree Care / Summer Pruning & Dave Wilson Nursery Fruit Tasting 10am - 2pm

6/24 Tropical Fruits in San Diego

POWAY

April

4/1 Vegetable Gardening

4/8 Rose Showing Prep Class

4/15 Children's Vegetable Gardening - Kids Learn About Planting a Vegetable Garden & Get a FREE Vegetable Starter Plant

4/22 Rose Show - No Class Scheduled

4/29 Citrus: Care & Varieties

May

5/6 Garden Railway Event! Workshops, Hotdogs, Intro to Garden Railroad, Plants for the Garden Railroad, Buildings from Scratch...& More!

5/13 Spring Rose Care: Keeping Roses Looking Good All Season Long

5/20 Staghorn Ferns, Remounting & Care

5/27 Container Gardening

June

6/3 Xeriscape Gardening

6/10 Carnivorous Plants - Guest Speaker Al Hutchins, Carnivorous Plant Society

6/17 Summer Flowers!

6/24 Summer Fruit Tree Pruning - Learn How to Get the Most Fruit, in the Least Space!



Organic Gardening In Nicaragua Uses Popular SoilSoup

Walter Andersen Nursery was sold on the benefits of SoilSoup and were eager to add a SoilSoup Kitchen in our Poway store last year. Users of the product had success with it and now the company reports that it's finding customers in third world countries who are also sold on its benefits. With a SoilSoup™ Brewing System, SoilSoup is being made and supplied to the local farmers in the town of Santa Teresa, Nicaragua.

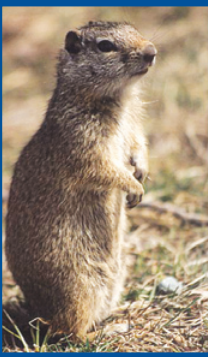
A Peace Corps volunteer who lives in Santa Teresa makes SoilSoup for herself and the local farmers. She also has a worm compost bin, as her source for compost and she is collecting bat guano from a nearby cave. She then mixes the guano with sugar cane, and makes her own nutrient solution.

She reports that her cucumbers are "really big" and the local farmers are very excited about what she is doing. She is able to help her neighbors set up worm bins and use SoilSoup.

A SoilSoup brewing system is also being used on an organic coffee plantation located on Ometepe Island on Lake Nicaragua. SoilSoup is available in our Poway store only. Use the coupon on the back of the newsletter for great savings on SoilSoup. •

TOOL SHED

by Richard Wright



"Gophers Here, Gophers There, Gophers, Gophers Everywhere!"

Almost every one of us has had to deal with these 'Little Demons' and wonder where did they come from.

Ho yes, the open land, or canyons adjacent to your home, or the open field across the street, and of course your neighbor's yard.

I have seen a gopher run (tunnel) at least 30 plus feet long, from outside the yard, to the base of a dying grapefruit tree. The gopher had stayed under ground all the way from the neighbor's yard.

Why do they come to your yard? Maybe, construction in the area is forcing them from their habitat, or a lack of rain. If you are watering your yard like a good gardener, they will come because they can smell the water, the soil is easier to dig in and all the roots are full of water and taste good. Let's not forget your neighbor, who drove them from his yard, to your yard, and didn't warn you.

Well, now... you... gotum... How do you ungotum? Here are some of the gizmos, gadgets and goodies I have run across, for you to try. Please understand there is no one Silver Bullet for Gophers. What works for one might not work for another.

Physical Types:

• An old time favorite is the Macabee Gopher trap. We have one customer that told me he has over 50 kills with the Mac-a-nater, as he calls it. Just remember to tie a string to a stake to secure it or you just might have to go looking for it down the hole.

• Along the same "run" is The Black Box by Victor. Looks good. I just hope it can keep up with the score?

• Now for the noise makers; the big berth is "GO'PHER-IT" by Exhart. It can cover 30' and works as long as the batteries do. I still like the old fashion Daisy Fan. Works off a breeze, so it keeps on going and going.

• Let's not forget the all important gopher cage for any of your new plantings; it will give them a fighting chance.

Consumable Types:

• Gopher bait: Wilco Gopher Getter is one of many and it can be used in the Lewis "Bait Applicator". You know, the one that you stick in the ground and turn the little crank to put the poison into the run.

• J. T. Eaton makes a kind of gopher killing bait bar. They work inside the run also.

• Repellex has a new approach to mole, vole and gopher problems, "ROOT-SAVER"

• Remember how you hated castor oil? So do gophers and their friends. Spray it around your lawn and off go the gophers.

• You have "The Super Gasser / Giant Destroyer" by Atlas Chemical Corp. It is sour and stinky, but it can take the little demons out if they breathe it in!

• And don't forget the "Ole Farmers" way, put some fruity chewing gum down the hole, chewed or not. I like it chewed, it helps take out some of the frustration. It gets inside the "Little Demon" and it never comes out. POP.

Please remember to hose out the run first, no matter which one, two or three methods you try as it will bring the gopher running.

COUPON

Valid April 1 - June 30, 2006

\$1 OFF
Gallon of Soil Soup
Poway Only / Limit 6

#10029356

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 April 1 - June 30, 2006

\$1 OFF
E B Stone Products
Point Loma Only
Mix or Match / No Limit

#10028012

No Limit. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

COUPON

Valid April 1 - June 30, 2006

FREE Green
Thumb Pulsating
Sprinkler Set
w/Purchase of Any Hose

#10025762

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

COUPON

Valid April 1 - June 30, 2006

\$1.99 Color Pack
Bedding
Regular Price \$2.99
Limit 6

#10028011

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 April 1 - June 30, 2006

\$2 OFF
Sunshine Soil
1.5 lb. or Larger / Limit 6

#1002355

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

COUPON

Valid April 1 - June 30, 2006

\$2 OFF
Gro Power
20# or Larger / Limit 6

#10027940

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 April 1 - June 30, 2006

\$2 OFF
Bayer Chemical
Limit 3

#10028015

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.

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