

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

# GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



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## NURSERY NEWSBITES



### Ceramic Pot Sale in Time for Spring

Both stores will have a greater number of ceramic pots in stock the beginning of April just in time to go on sale! For the month of April, selected glazed and terra cotta pots will be marked 20% off.

We'll have an assortment of sizes and shapes in spring colors, the always favorite 'Oxblood', and multi-colored drip style pots. As always, Walter Andersen Nursery will be happy to drill holes in your pot if they aren't already there to ensure adequate drainage.

See our pre-made container gardens that may serve as inspiration for you. You'll see how plants are selected to showcase a container and how color combinations can work for amazing final results. Not sure what container will suit your needs? Just bring a photo of where you'd like to put the container and we can offer advice for choosing the right size, shape and color and help you with plant selections.



### Now in Poway for 2008

This is so new not even all of the details are available to print! The Poway store has opened an outdoor living department in the spring and summer months! A great selection of barbecues, patio furnishings and other items to make outdoor living and entertaining fun will be on hand. In addition to the products on hand, many more items will be available by special order. Stop by the store to see what we have! You won't find our selection in the big box stores and if your purchase meets our minimums, we will deliver it for free! Try to get that from a box store. A wide range of items and prices will be available so stop in and check it out!



## Walter Andersen Nursery Recognizes Its 80th Anniversary

by Walter Andersen, Jr.



Walter Andersen Nursery was started Jan. 2, 1928 by Walter Andersen Sr.

Walter Sr. was born outside the small Nebraska town of Boelus, in 1900 and was the second of eight children. He worked on the family farm and later on other farms in

the area where the pay on these mostly 80 acre, individual family, farms was low, often room and board, and the work was hard.

1920 • In 1922, a cousin of Walter Sr.'s from San Diego came to visit the family and told him if he wanted to come to San Diego he would put him to work in a nursery he had in the Mission Hills area. Walter decided to give it a try as the winters were terribly cold and the summers terribly hot in Boelus. He and a friend packed up a 1920 Model T Ford and headed to San Diego. He said the trip took almost two weeks as there were few paved roads in 1922. The best stretch of road was the 20 miles on each side of Denver, all paved; most of the rest of the trip was on dirt and gravel roads, some primitively graded, some not at all.

Walter went to work for Rose Court Floral two days after arriving in San Diego, where they mostly grew "interior plants" for the large homes in the area and office buildings downtown.

After several years with Rose Court Floral, Walter wanted to do landscaping and general maintenance, so in 1928 he rented a small space near the bottom of Juan Street in Old Town. This allowed him a place of his own to have his landscape supplies and he could also "retail" some nursery products to his customers. This was the beginning of Walter Andersen Nursery; the exact spot is behind what is now Guadalajara Grill on Juan Street, the date: January 2, 1928.

1930 • Several years after the Juan Street opening, the business was growing and the space was getting too small, so Walter Sr. moved the nursery to a piece of land between the railroad tracks and Pacific Highway that is now part of the Old Town Transit Parking Lot. The landscaping business continued and the retail operation grew as well. In 1936 Walter married Byrdie Sorensen, who was working in Point Loma as an au pair, having relocated from her family's farmstead, also in the same small area in Nebraska. They lived in a small house on the nursery property on Pacific Highway.

In 1939 Walter was able to buy about one acre of land on Rosecrans and Moore Streets, only two blocks away and moved the nursery to that location. A small building was moved onto the property to use as an office and small store and Walter and

Continued P2

## 9th Annual



## Rose Show is Set May 10-11, 2008

The ninth annual Walter Andersen Nursery Rose Show is scheduled for May 10-11 at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway store. This popular event continues to grow with last year seeing more than 100 entries.

### Rose Show Preparation Class

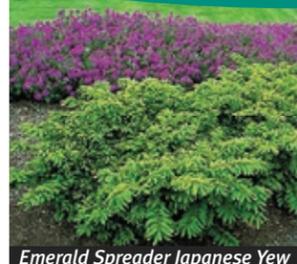
A rose show prep class will be held April 26 to help participants learn how to prepare roses for the show. The rose preparation class begins at 9:30am, at the Poway location (12755 Danielson Ct.) and will feature Jack Shultz who will provide tips as to what the judges look for in entries, and share some secrets to success.

### Entries

Entries will be taken May 10 from 8am-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are May 10 from 1pm-5pm and May 11 from 9am-4pm.

## Plants That Suit Mountain Climates

by Melanie Potter



Emerald Spreader Japanese Yew

Every now and then, the nursery provides information that raises the eyebrows of some. Usually it is when we note care instructions for plants that include protecting them from frost and snow. In Southern California, we forget that that not all the county enjoys the mild winters

most of us do and that gardeners in Pine Valley, Julian and other areas in the mountains are subject to having to clear a walkway of snow most winters.

Living in these areas means you experience one of many micro climates found in San Diego County and have the added challenge of finding plants to suit your hot summers, and cold winters.

Here are some suggestions that like what your garden has to offer:

**Emerald Spreader Japanese Yew**—A good looking alternative to spreading juniper. It's an ideal low maintenance choice for large scale ground cover and embankment plantings or low hedges. Use it on cut slopes, banks and naturally sloping ground subject to problem run-off and erosion. It's well suited to expansive borders and islands for low maintenance, weed-blocking coverage between more high profile upright shrubs. Foliage can ground larger rock outcroppings and will drape off curbs and retaining walls. It retains dark green foliage color in the coldest of winters and has red berries in winter. This moderate to slow growing plant can take full to partial sun. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring. For a tidy, neat appearance, shear annually to shape. All species of this genus are poisonous.



**Incense Cedar**—This drought tolerant conifer has a wonderful scent and an appearance that makes it look at home in a mountain setting. The foliage is eye catching as it isn't brushy like many conifers, but occurs in flat sprays. Its cones are small, and yellowish brown to reddish brown. Plant this tree where you have ample room. It is slow growing at first, but once established will grow a couple of feet a year in a pyramid shape and can approach 75'-90'. Use this tree to make a green wall, windbreak or high screen. It doesn't require pruning and as it is a native, won't want any soil amendments or fertilizing.



**Toyon**—A California native also called Christmas Berry and California Holly, this is a good substitute for Holly. It's a shrub or small tree that grows to 10'. The leaves are thick and leathery and have sharp edges (deer like to eat them). You'll have months of interest from this plant as it blooms with large clusters of white flowers in June and July. Bright red berries that birds can eat will appear in November and December. The berries are actually tiny 'pomes', the fruit family which includes apples and pears.

Use Toyon as a screening hedge or on a bank to combat erosion. It is drought tolerant and can be fire retardant. One of Walter Andersen's design clients replaced the eucalyptus on her slope with Toyon. As with all natives, just plant and ignore. Natives will require regular watering to become established but after that they don't want additional water. Do not plant with soil amendments or use fertilizer on natives.

Toyon has been around for a long time and is a much appreciated plant. If you visit Hearst Castle, you'll see Toyons that are probably descendants of those planted in W. R. Hearst's time, who included them in the landscape for their red berries and drought resistance.



That was it, three great plants to share. I then saw one of our nursery's designers using an eye-catching plant that tolerates temperatures to 10 degrees and it was too beautiful a plant not to share. It has superb foliage color, will flower (white tubular flowers bloom summer through fall) and can even provide a tropical look if you so desire. It's an Abelia and you'll want to look for 'Kaleidoscope'. You'll be dazzled by the bright golden-yellow variegation on medium green leaves along with brilliant red stems that create, well, a striking kaleidoscope of color. It's a low, compact selection for patio containers or massing as a ground cover. It grows 2' to 2 1/2' tall, 3' to 3 1/2' wide. Best of all it's evergreen and can take full to partial sun. Another striking variation is 'Sunrise' with its bright golden margins that mature to creamy yellow on glossy foliage. •

Byrdie moved into a small house about two blocks from the new nursery. Byrdie worked in the nursery helping customers and keeping the books, while Walter continued the landscaping business as well as everything else.

1940 • The nursery and the family were both growing. In November of 1940, Walter Jr. was born. In 1944 Walter built a new, larger store; big by standards of the time, very small today, about 1500 sq. ft. As the business grew, a new, larger more modern store was built in 1948. The new store showcased indoor plants as well as a complete line of seed, fertilizers and pesticides. In 1948 a small warehouse was constructed to house more fertilizers out of the weather and a full time landscape foreman was hired to handle the landscape operation. Another store was built on the property for more indoor display area and new offices. This location, well known for its palm lined driveways, had paved walkways and you no longer had to walk through the dirt and mud puddles so often found in nurseries of the day. The main entrance featured two very large, ornate, silver iron gates that greeted customers. Garden classes began to be scheduled weekly and were taught by the well known employee, horticulturist-columnist Ada Perry. In the 1950s and 60s the landscape operation installed the plantings for many new commercial and industrial buildings as well as two of the finest hotels at the time in San Diego. The nursery ventured as far away as Long Beach and Riverside to install landscape projects. Walter was especially proud of the landscape work performed on the new "Westgate Park" complex, the new baseball park built for the San Diego Padres in Mission Valley. For many years he could be found trimming the palm trees by hand around the facility.

1960 • In 1962, Walter Jr., who had been working full time in the business for several years, married Jolene Christman. Together they continue to work in the family business. In 1963 Kenneth Andersen was born. In 1968 Karen Andersen came along to complete the family.

In 1968, a larger two acre parcel of land was purchased on Enterprise Street about two miles from the operating nursery site. This property had a 12,000 sq. ft. building and much more open space. The nursery would move one more time. This move more than doubled the size of the nursery and the landscape division had more room for its equipment. A small design department was also added to the operation. Jolene became more active in the business by helping customers and working in the accounting department.

1970 • About 1973, it became apparent that even more room and equipment would be needed to keep the landscape portion of the business competitive. However, neither Walter Sr. nor Jr. had the necessary time to devote to keeping it viable, so the decision was made to close the landscape division. Projects under construction were completed and new jobs were referred to others and in 1974 the landscape division of the company closed, making room for the retail portion of the business to grow.

Walter Sr. gradually began to reduce his time at the store, but remained active to some degree well into his late seventies when he became ill. He always enjoyed coming in to see his friends and customers and enjoyed the challenge of answering plant questions. Byrdie came to work well into her late 80s and remained sharp as a tack for the entire time. She supplied legions of customers and employees with her famous Danish cookies, before ultimately retiring in her early 90s.

During this period, Walter Jr. began overseeing the day-to-day operations of the company.

After attending San Diego State University and graduating from National University, Ken became involved full time in the nursery. Having worked in the store most of his life, it was a natural progression and his business degree propelled the company toward many new things including computerization. After several stumbling blocks and early problems, the company went on-line at a time when small-company programs were in their infancy.

1990 • In 1996, Karen Andersen, having graduated from college and worked for several years in the corporate environment, decided to return to the family business full time. Married and ready to settle in, Karen now manages the Point Loma store. She and Ken forged a partnership to take the company forward under the guidance of Walter and Jolene.

In 1996 the family began scouting for a suitable second store location. Ken found a site in the Poway Business Park consisting of five acres, which was purchased. A building was designed and constructed specially for the new nursery. The Poway Store grand opening was July 1998. Ken has been the manager of the Poway store since the opening, handpicking a staff of professionals from the area to work with him. He continues to serve as Operations Manager for both stores on the corporate level as well.

2000 • In 2002 the Poway location opened a Landscape Design Department on site. With a much larger physical space, the Poway store also decided to give "Outdoor Railroad" sales a try and sells G scale trains, train equipment and all the miniature plants that go with the layouts. The railroad layout on site is one of the largest outdoor railroad displays in Southern California, incorporating waterfalls, bridges, streams, ponds, fish, and miles of tracks and has been featured in national magazines and train publications. The Poway store was featured on the cover of "Nursery Retailer" Magazine in 2007.

Walter Andersen Nursery prides itself on being community oriented and we participate and sponsor events in our neighborhoods and also citywide. The Poway store hosts an annual Rose Show every spring and both stores are active with the San Diego and the East County Rose Societies. The San Diego store has long participated in the Coronado Flower Show, helping to decorate the bandstand for the annual event. We participate in December Nights with the San Diego Floral Association each year. Every year without fail, since the late 1930s, we have installed exhibits at the San Diego County Fair. We sponsor Little League baseball teams, youth football teams, soccer teams, and more. We try to be responsible citizens in the community because we were born and raised here and we continue to raise our families here. We want the best for this city and that is what we try to provide.

2) We appreciate the opportunity to continue to earn this communities business. ●



# Exotic Dragon Fruit

by Melanie Potter

## Rises to Fame

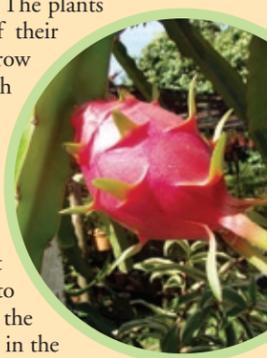
Plants are like celebrities. Some get all the attention and are wildly popular for a time, some are old classics that are sought after year after year and others barely get noticed. When a few *Hylocereus undatus* appeared in the Poway store, it was rumored that one of the employees was very excited. I thought that response made it worth a look and then I saw the plant and I wouldn't have given it a second glance, until a little research uncovered what makes it special and exciting.

Known as Dragon Fruit or Pitaya, this vine that can be trained into a tree, is an epiphyte that produces an exotic fruit that is currently popular in cuisine. Some bar tenders will even shake up a Dragontini for you.

The brightly colored fruit with a white or pink interior contains many small black, edible (but indigestible) seeds. It contains high amounts of vitamin C and dietary fiber. The flesh is sweet, quite refreshing and similar to melons or kiwi in flavor. Dragon Fruit is best eaten ripe and it is opined that it tastes better when chilled. To eat, cut fruit in half (chill and sprinkle with lemon or lime to enhance the flavor), and scoop out the flesh or cut in cubes, or strips.

Native to Mexico and Central and South America, these are also cultivated in Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia. The pitaya blooms only at night with large white fragrant flowers, typical of cactus, that are often called Moonflower or Queen of the Night. It grows best in dry, tropical or subtropical climates where annual rainfall ranges from 20"-50" per year. It will tolerate temperatures to 104°F, and short periods of frost, but prolonged cold will damage or kill the plant. The plants aren't picky as to soil type, but because of their epiphytic nature, it is recommended to grow them in soil that is supplemented with high amounts of organic material.

Most of the Pitaya found at Walter Andersen Nursery are from Walter's cuttings. The plant is easy to propagate and like other succulents and cacti, if you break or cut off a large enough piece of a mature plant it will attempt to put down roots and start growing itself to form a new plant. Try cutting a section of the mature pitaya vine (stem) and plant it directly in the ground or suitable soil medium.



## Low Water Use Gardens

by Carol Fuller



Water, water, everywhere but not here in San Diego. First, don't panic. You probably don't need as much water as you think you do. A well established garden, say at least three years old, does not

need as much water as a newly planted garden. It will depend on your soil and the weather as to what watering cycle you will need. You must also be a proactive gardener to make the switch. Do not rely on the sprinkler system. Use your eyes, and sense of touch on a daily or at least weekly basis.

Figure out what your soil is first. DG (decomposed granite) drains faster than clay which does not drain. Good draining soil is key to the success of any garden.

**Start researching** plant material that will grow in DG, clay, sand, loamy sand, silt, whatever you have. You should replace those plants that require the most water to keep them going in the soil type that you have. If you chose not to do so, that's fine, but just remember they will show the distress of not enough water first so they could be your indicator plant. You could also move them to a container to better control their environment.

Also, consider removing some of your plants and leave a little more open space to allow those that remain to fill in. You could also use the new open space to install statuary, a water feature, boulders, dry river bed or other non-plant material accents in your yard.

**Plant an indicator plant** in each bed. An indicator plant is the first plant that shows signs of distress (wilt) when under water stress. If the plant revives in the cool of the evening, wait one more day before you water. Unless, it's a Santa Ana condition, then water in the morning so the plant will have enough water for the heat of the day. Wilting is the way a plant protects itself from water loss. If it does not revive in the cool of the evening, then you will need to water.

Drought or water distress will appear several other ways. Observe any change in color (yellow leaves), tip burn and loss of luster. Unfortunately, these are also the same symptoms as over watering. In either event you have effectively shut down the vascular system of your plants.

In winter, during our cool times and rainy season, turn your system off. If your garden gets water every 10 days it's probably good enough. Remember too that your plants will send roots in all directions looking for water and nutrients. The roots proliferate in the areas where they find enough water. So, if you water every day or every other day and keep the top soil wet, that's where the roots will be and they will dry out faster than if you encourage the roots to "go deep." You do this by watering for a longer, slower time period over a longer time span. For example, instead of 10 minutes every other day, how about 15 minutes every 4 or 5 days?

**The rule of thumb**, or finger, is that if the top 3" of soil are dry (average finger length) then it is time to water. If the roots are 10" down, take your garden trowel, dig down between the plants and look at the soil, feel the soil, does it look wet, does it feel wet? If so, maybe one more day before you water. Remember, that indicator plant will tell you if you need to water.

This includes container plantings too. Check the bottom of the container by seeing how much water is weeping from the drain holes. A paint stick or other porous wood stick works very well to let you know how much is in the bottom of a container if it is too large or heavy for you to tip on its side to check.

**Mulch, mulch, mulch**, I cannot extol enough the virtues of mulch. Mulch can be an organic material or an inorganic material which ever you choose. It should be between 2" to 3" thick. Mulch keeps roots moist, deters erosion, keeps roots cool, deters weeds, adds nutrients back to the soil as it



decomposes, and can be an attractive accent to the garden. Organic mulches such as fir bark come in a variety of colors. Soil building compost and Xerimulch are my personal favorites. I also like using orchid bark. It's small and can be

worked in the soil when you plant new plants. There are a number of inorganic mulches available as well. In fact, there is one that is made from rubber tires that comes in a variety of colors.

Now let's hit the really hard change (or not)...your irrigation system.

**Efficient irrigation.** Consider where, when, and how to apply water and make the most of what you have. Turf should be on a separate zone from all other plants, overhead spray is fine. Trees and shrubs will best benefit from drip or soaker hoses as do flower beds and containers. Do not use drip on natives or drought tolerant species. Xeric natives want diffused moisture, similar to rainfall, so overhead spray works great.

If your system is an overhead spray, water in the early morning 5am or 6am, before any breeze or wind can affect the direction of the spray. Make sure you have the correct size spray heads on the system. Large drops do not evaporate as quickly as small ones so keep micro sprays under the foliage of shrubs so the leaves will direct the water down. Micro sprays are good for retrofitting an existing drip system and will work better with natives. Plantings next to a lawn may need no additional water.

Personally, I don't have an in ground system but prefer to use soaker hoses that are buried under the mulch. I can adjust how much water my plants get by determining how close the hoses will be to some plants and how many times they need to be wrapped around others.

How long do you water with a soaker hose? Since a soaker weeps water from the hose you could leave a soaker on for 30 minutes to an hour depending upon your soil and plants. During the heat of the summer, I also perform beer can watering in the evenings with a good watering wand spray head. Get a beer and start watering by hand. When the beer is done, you're done!

So there you have it. Changing your current garden to a low-water garden can be done with pro-active work on your part. Consider where to apply the water, how to apply the water, and when to apply the water. Learn to watch the plants and the soil for signs of when to water. Always keep irrigation in mind when you are designing. Above all, do not fear the change. It could be better and easier than you think.



Carol Fuller, of Carol Fuller Landscape Design, specializes in low-water use gardens. She is the author of this newsletter's 'Fuller Finds' and teaches many classes at our Poway store. ●



# Appreciating Bamboo

## for its Looks and Versatility by Walter Andersen, Jr.



Have you ever see a plant grow 8' in one month? How about a plant that can grow to 50' tall in about six months? Well, bamboo does and some varieties grow larger and faster than that.

Bamboo is one of the fastest growing plants in the world. There are several hundred different varieties; however we only get a small portion of those here. Some are just not well suited for our climate or are not very desirable plants.

We have a fairly good selection of this wonderful plant in the 'Grass Family' of plants. Sometimes we have over 50 different varieties of Bamboo.

There are two general growth habits for Bamboo. "Clumping" (C) and "Running" (R). Clumping Bamboos send up new shoots very close to the others, to form a clump, with the canes (culms) very close to each other. Running Bamboos send out underground 'runners' that can come up 2', 3' or even much farther from the original plant. With running Bamboo, you need to be more careful where you are using it, as the new shoots will appear randomly. They can be controlled with 'root barriers' to keep them from invading other areas. Running Bamboo can be very pretty if used in the right place. Most all of the shorter running Bamboos (10'-12' tall) do well as potted plants also.

Bamboos are very versatile plants and have many uses besides being planted in the landscape. Some are used for food as the Bamboo shoots are harvested as they come out of the soil. Fairly large buildings are built almost entirely from Bamboo. Large multi storied buildings are being built with the aid of Bamboo scaffolding. We use mostly steel here in the U.S., but in some countries the scaffolding of Bamboo hugs new buildings many stories tall.

Furniture made from Bamboo is beautiful. Some of the Bamboo varieties are cut into long strips and woven for mats or walls. Beautiful baskets and cutting boards for the kitchen are wonderful, as are many kitchen utensils. Bamboo flooring is becoming quite popular in new construction as well as

remodels. Baseball bats are turned from the wood that has been laminated together. Fabric is soft and very comfortable and is made from processed Bamboo. Interesting carvings used as art are becoming more available.

In some parts of the world, whole economies are based on the harvesting and use of this wonderful plant. There are huge forests in some areas and much of what is harvested is almost instantly renewed by new growth. Paper is another product that can be made from this 'giant grass', with a never ending supply of new culms to harvest at maturity which takes a year or two.

Most Bamboo needs a good amount of moisture to look its best. You don't have to 'flood' the area, but especially on new plantings, you do not want the soil in the immediate area to get dry. Once established this is not as critical.

Below is a sampling of some of the Bamboos we have at the nurseries. Come in and ask for our Bamboo List which describes most that we have. We will be adding more unusual Bamboos to our collection, hopefully later in 2008. We are also going to have some Black Bamboo with 3" culms. Some other varieties can get 8" to 9" in diameter and close to 100' tall. The supply on some of these is very limited at present.

**Bambusa oldhamii** (C) is one of the most popular varieties we sell. It reaches about 40' tall and pretty much grows straight up. The culms are between 3" and 4" in diameter, the stalks a rich deep green. Cut it back to 12' to 15' if you like. This is commonly called "Giant Timber Bamboo". New shoots are edible.

**Bambusa multiplex** (C) is called "Hedge Bamboo". It grows to about 20' to 25' tall but can easily be kept to around 8' tall to form a hedge. The culms are much smaller to about 1". This one grows very dense.

**Bambusa ventricosa** (C) can also get fairly tall, but here it is usually about 30' tall. The culms are a little more than 2" at maturity. This variety can form swelling between the 'nodes' (rings) that

bulge out, like Buddha's tummy. Common name "Buddha's Belly Bamboo". New shoots can be eaten.

**Bambusa vulgaris 'Vitata'** (C) has culms of about 3" perhaps a little more. These are very bright yellow with many green vertical stripes between the nodes (rings). It is commonly called "Painted Bamboo" and has become very popular. It can grow quite tall (45') but you can easily top it to about 15' if you wish.

**Oatea acuminata** (C) is considered one of the prettiest of the Bamboos we grow. "Mexican Weeping Bamboo" grows to about 16' to 20' tall with arching culms. It does arch 'out' quite a ways from the clump, forming a very soft looking plant. It could be the 'centerpiece' of an area, and the arching culms can spread to about 15' in diameter, while the original clump is only 4' or 5' in diameter. The foliage is very fine and narrow.

**Phyllostachys aurea** (R) is commonly called "Golden Bamboo" or "Fishpole Bamboo". This one can reach to 27' but easily kept to about 8' with trimming. The culms are usually around 1.5" in diameter, but some can get larger. As this matures the culms turn golden yellow.

**Phyllostachys bambusoides** "Castillon" (R) is very pretty to about 30' to 35' tall. Trimmed it can be kept to about 11' tall. This has very pretty culms of golden yellow; the groove in the cane is green.

**Phyllostachys dulcis** (R) "Sweetshoot Bamboo" can reach 40' feet in time. Often it is trimmed back to about 12' tall, if you don't want it that tall. The shoots when mature are close to 2.75" in diameter and harvested for food, supposed to be one of the best for 'bamboo shoots'.

**Phyllostachys nigra** (R) is a beautiful variety with jet black culms. It grows to 30'; trimming to 10' is no problem. Graceful habit and the contrast of the green foliage and black culms are very different. The culms can reach 2" in diameter. This makes a wonderful plant in a large pot. ●

## Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

How are your gardens coming along? Do you still have room for more plants? Well, make room because here are a few more you might like to try.

Here is one that I may give a try; Panicle hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata*). 'DVP Pinky' "Pinky Winky" from Proven Winners is a brand new introduction. Strong upright



red stems hold large two-toned flowers. The flowers, which are about 12"-16" long, emerge white then morph to pink. It will continue to grow and flower throughout the season, summer to fall, with the older flowers turning a dark pink. The size of this hydrangea is between 6'-8'. Like

most hydrangeas, moist, well-drained soil is best. Now here is the tricky part. They say it will take full sun, but, I don't know about the hot inland sun of my yard. It makes a lovely cutting flower for those of you who like a cutting garden, and will attract hummingbirds and butterflies for those of you, who like me, want to attract the critters. Also, because it flowers into late fall, it will provide some winter color.



I'm not fond of junipers. There, I'm out. So, when I suggest a juniper there must be something about it that I like enough to find a container, or a spot in my yard for. *Juniperus*

*horizontalis* 'Mother Lode' is a wonderful groundcover juniper. It doesn't burn to my knowledge, but does turn a slight orange/bronze in winter. It has feathery foliage in a rich gold color. It is a very good accent plant for other yellow flowers or foliage. It is a very slow grower, so it would work great as a border in a garden or flowing over the edge of a container. It likes full sun, and adapts very well to a range of soil types as long as they can be made to drain well. A dry, sandy soil is best. So it will work well for those of you who are working on a low water garden. It only grows 6" high and 2'-3' wide.

I'll be the first to say that coleus is nothing new as far as plants go. But, there are some new varieties that I thought were worth mentioning. For all you first time gardeners, there could not be an easier to plant to grow or practice your propagating skills on. In fact, I use this plant to show school children all about roots. Whatever you think of coleus, Victorian garden throwbacks, or just something to take up space, take a minute to re-think how you could use some outrageous color. These

hardworking garden plants have just as many or more design uses as many common landscape plants.

Another name for coleus is Flame Nettle and it was first found in Java. Cultivation is easy, shade to part shade, evenly moist but not wet soil, a little more organic matter but I have decomposed granite and they seem to do ok, and a general all purpose fertilizer once a month. Some additional care to keep the plant looking its best is to pinch back to promote compact, dense growth and if you have it in a container, turn regularly to keep the plant from getting lopsided. Also, remove any dead or dying leaves to keep up appearances. Here are some varieties to try: 'Careless Love' (yellow and red), 'Flirtin' Skirts' (Green, yellow and red with ruffled leaves), 'Schizophrenia' (orange, yellow edges and burgundy midrib). 'Alabama Sunset' is another show stopper. It has lime green leaves opposite of lime green and red.



I'm sure you have heard of the "sun coleus." OK, here's the scoop on the sun coleus. A sun coleus is a variety that has been observed to tolerate more sun

than its brethren. The level of sun tolerance will depend upon a few factors such as leaf coloration, leaf thickness and soil moisture. So it may say sun, but full hot sun will still surely kill your coleus. Dark-colored coleus will tolerate more sun than paler ones, thick leaves will tolerate more sun than thin and routine watering is still important.

Here is another "old" plant that I don't think is used enough in the garden, *Arctotis* aka *Venidium*. I love using this plant in my designs. Do not mistake this for a gazania. They look totally different, grow totally different and react to seasonal changes differently. That means they are never out of bloom! I have nearly every color growing in my yard somewhere.



They are a perennial in the asteraceae family. Originally from South Africa, they have enjoyed the transplant to California. Bloom time is normally from spring through the summer, but I have had some in my yard that are never out of bloom. They will grow about 1'-2' high (mostly flowers) and 3'-4' wide so that make a great ground cover. They prefer full sun and boy are they drought tolerant once they are established. A general all purpose fertilizer works great. The have hardiness to 20° but when it hit 16° in my back yard for four nights in a row they came through just fine. Cut back harshly in spring then stand back, they flourish with a vengeance.

Butterflies love this flower and it makes a great cut flower too. For those of you who have trouble with Gerberas, this is

## Seasonal Recipe

### Rosemary Pine Nut Cookies

- 1/4 cup pine nuts
- 1 stick of butter
- 1/4 confectioner's sugar
- 1 tablespoon chopped rosemary
- 1 cup flour

*Be warned as these are addictive and have a pungent rosemary flavor. You can add lemon zest or substitute another choice of nuts for the pine nuts.*

*Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Toast pine nuts until they are golden brown.*

*In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter; add sugar, pine nuts, and rosemary. Stir. Add flour and stir to make a dough. Press the dough into an ungreased 8" square pan. Bake until golden brown, about 20 mins. Cut into bars when hot and let cool in the pan.*



a great substitution. It comes in all colors, red, orange, yellow, white, and pink. There are some new cultivars that I have collected over the past month, so you better hurry up or I'll get them all. Pink Sugar, Pumpkin Pie, Peachy Mango, Flame, Silvery Lining, Lemon Drop, Zulu Prince, Flamingo, Torch Purple, I could go on and on and on.

All plants subject to availability.



# the wee corner

by Home & Garden Showplace

## Always Popular Lucky Bamboo Is A Nice Little Gift



Dracaena Sanderiana, commonly known as "Lucky Bamboo," is not related to the actual bamboo plants but gets its name from its appearance. It has slender stems and flexible strap-leaves and grows in low to medium light. It can survive in 1 to 2 inches of clean water for several years, as long as the water is changed twice a month. A yellowing leaf is usually caused by too much light and will eventually progress down the stalk. It can also be caused by chemicals in the water. Give your bamboo less light and clean water. If one of the stalks turns yellow it is beyond help. Remove it from the container or it may sicken the remaining stalks. After a couple of years we recommend you report in soil for best results and take new cuttings for your original container. Believed to bring luck to its new owner when given as a gift, the number of stems symbolizes different meanings.

### Yang odd numbers

- 1 Simplicity and meaningful life
- 3 Good for prosperity and fertility
- 5 Happiness, good and balanced luck in all aspects of life
- 7 Good luck and prosperity in relationships
- 9 Good health, prosperity and love life
- 11 Good all-around luck

### Yin even numbers

- 2 Double luck, happy relationships
- 6 Easy money, wealth, good flow of luck
- 8 Good luck and fertility
- 10 Completeness and fulfillment in life

## 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 9am

#### April

- 4/5 Water Gardens
- 4/12 Herbs: Care & Use
- 4/19 Azaleas
- 4/26 Epiphyllum (Orchid Cactus)

#### May

- 5/3 Cactus & Succulents
- 5/10 Tropical Gardening
- 5/17 Grafting & Budding Techniques
- 5/24 Cymbidium Orchid Dividing & Repotting
- 5/31 Attracting Butterflies

#### June

- 6/7 Fuchsia Varieties & Care
- 6/14 Bromeliads & Tillandsias (Air Plants)
- 6/21 Tropical Fruits
- 6/28 Children's Gardens

### POWAY 9:30am

#### April

- 4/5 Vegetables: Spring & Summer
- 4/12 Rose Care for Spring with David Ross
- 4/19 Flowers for Spring & Summer
- 4/26 Preparing Roses for a Show

#### May

- 5/3 Fertilizer, Soil, & Water the Wright Way with Richard Wright
- 5/10 Rose Show; No Class Scheduled
- 5/17 Propagation from Cuttings and Divisions
- 5/24 Growing Giant Pumpkins
- 5/31 Flower Arranging with Flowers from Your Yard

#### June

- 6/7 Water Gardening with Tom Dougherty
- 6/14 Butterflies and Hummingbirds; Attracting Them to your Garden with Carol Fuller
- 6/21 Edible Plants for the Garden You DON'T Know About with Richard Wright
- 6/28 Hanging & Moss Baskets with Carol Fuller

## Invest in Your Garden for Growing Returns

Walter Andersen Nursery is proud to roll out its HEDGE FUNDS program for our frequent shoppers! Come in now and pick up your FREE HEDGE FUNDS card at either store. If you have an account with us, your card number will be attached to it to make looking up your account faster. If you don't have an account sign up for one the next time you are in the stores! It's FREE!

Just to get you more motivated to pick up the card and to kick off our "Going Green" campaign, if you come in to get your card or sign up for an account before April 30th, you will receive a FREE Walter Andersen Nursery reusable shopping bag. Walter Andersen stores will be moving away from plastic bags in '08 to help preserve resources and our environment, so get yours now!

#### HEDGE FUNDS card holders will be entitled to:

- Discount Coupons
- Specially Priced Merchandise
- Sneak Previews of New Items and Sale Merchandise
- Free Newsletters
- \$15 Discount on Yard Doctor On-Site Visits (Regularly \$125 first hour; does not include landscape design services)

More things will be offered in the future so get on board today and make your gardening efforts pay!

\*Opening a HEDGE FUNDS account does not establish credit with Walter Andersen Nursery.

## Seasonal Savings!

### COUPON

Valid April 1 - June 30, 2008

**Save \$1.00**  
On Bayer Advanced 2 in 1  
Plant Spikes!  
Limit 2

#10027939

Limit Two (2) 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, 2008

**\$2.00 OFF**  
Ada Perry's Magic Formula  
Use it on the rest of your yard during the off season!  
Limit 3

#10029031

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.

### COUPON

Valid April 1 - June 30, 2008

**Save \$.50 ea.**  
On Full Flat Bedding!  
Buy a full flat of bedding plants  
in 4" (16) or Color Pack (6)  
Limit 1 flat of each.  
(\$.29 ea. sale price)

#10030084

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

## TOOL SHED

### Houseplant Insect Control



by Melanie Potter

Now that my thumb is turning the green color of an experienced gardener and my houseplants are flourishing, I'm plagued by another reminder that plants take a lot of patience to nurture. The latest nuisance I've encountered is of the flying kind, the little black gnats that flit around your face and send you into fits of clapping in an effort to smush them. I usually smack my hands together too hard, miss the gnat and then endure stares from anyone around who thinks I've taken leave of my senses.

Stop clapping and cursing your plants and arm yourself with Bonide Systemic Houseplant Insect Control. This granule product protects plants from damage caused by aphids, scale, mealy bugs, whiteflies and best of all those black fungus gnats.

The easy-to-use application just requires a sprinkling of the granules onto the soil. Work in lightly then water. Only water lightly for the next 10 days so the product can work itself down to the roots. Protection lasts up to eight weeks.

The product can also be used on roses, shrubs and flowers. It is a systemic so it is not for use on edibles or near ponds.

## They're Back!

Customers loved 'em, but Bayer stopped making the product so the nurseries stopped carrying them. Being reintroduced this spring is Bayer Advanced 2-in-1 Insect Control plus Fertilizer Plant Spikes. These spikes are for use on indoor and outdoor container plants and will feed and protect against common pests such as aphids, whiteflies, scale, and thrips for up to 8 weeks. There's no spraying, no mess, just push the spikes into the soil. They have been off the market for a few years now and nursery owner, Ken Andersen, said they have been missed. "We're excited to see the plant spikes return," he said. "They were a great product, we begged Bayer not to stop making them."

Look Special Savings

## SPECIAL

May 1 - May 31, 2008

**Save 15%**  
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Planters, Tubs,  
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Discount taken at register. Not valid with any other offer. Limited to stock on hand.

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