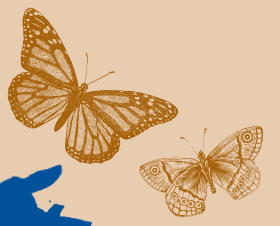




WALTER ANDERSEN'S

# GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



SUMMER

05

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## Here Leis Plumeria Information

Plumeria (Frangipani) also known as the Lei flower in the plant family, Apocynaceae, is native to warm, tropical areas of the Pacific Islands, Caribbean, South America and Mexico. They can grow to be large shrubs or even small trees in mild areas of the U.S. In tropical regions, Plumeria may reach a height of 30' to 40' and grow half as wide. Their widely spaced, thick succulent branches are round or pointed, with long leathery, fleshy leaves in clusters near the branch tips. Leaves tend to fall in early winter since they are deciduous and sensitive to cold.

In colder climates plumeria should be grown in containers. They make beautiful potted plants for the patio or greenhouse. However, in milder climates, plumeria can be grown outdoors in the ground, where they make small, beautiful landscape trees. When temperatures dip into the low 40s they may be stored in their containers or uprooted carefully, trying to take as much root as possible, and stored over winter in a heated basement or garage where temperatures are kept above freezing. As soon as temperatures rise outdoors they can be brought out and planted again. They will resume growth, leaf out and begin to flourish as if nothing happened.

The real payoff comes during the early summer through the early fall months, when very fragrant clusters of showy, waxy flowers appear. These flowers are treasured by the Polynesian Islanders for their durability, fragrances and colors of whites, yellows, pinks, reds, and multiple pastels. Plumeria flowers typically have five petals, although flowers with four, six, seven or more petals are not uncommon. Some types of flowers do not fully open and are referred to as shell, semi-shell, or tulip-like.

Flowering can last up to three months at a time producing new blooms every day. Once picked, a bloom can last for several days without wilting if kept in water.

For container planting use a coarse, well draining potting soil, such as cactus mix or potting mix with perlite and sand. Start with a 6" to 10" container. Insert the cut end down into the potting mix about 2 inches. Firm the soil around the cutting and water thoroughly.

Water Plumerias deeply, but infrequently. Let soil dry out somewhat before watering again. Begin to reduce the frequency of watering in mid-October, as the cool season approaches. Stop watering after all the leaves have fallen and the plant has gone dormant. Resume watering in the spring as new growth begins.

Plumerias should be fed with a high nitrogen fertilizer beginning in spring when growth begins. To encourage the most blooms, switch to a high phosphorous fertilizer in early May and fertilize every 2 to 3 weeks through the end of August. ●

## Delightful Daylilies Are Gardeners Favorites

by National Gardening Association Editors



PHOTO: DOREEN WYNIA

*Chicago Royale Daylily has rich royal plum purple colored flowers which tends to be a rare shade in daylilies. Mass plant daylilies as groundcover mixed with other complimentary daylily colors. They will require dividing every few years.*

of its best native plants. They grow in all U.S. regions, but thrive in USDA Hardiness Zones 4 through 9. Daylilies have arching, strap like foliage. Flowers are borne on tall stems, called scapes, which rise above the foliage. They are available in a range of sizes; some varieties grow just 12 inches tall; others reach 3 feet. (Note that the height given in plant descriptions usually refers to the height of the flowers; the foliage may be significantly shorter.)

### The Flowers

True to its name, each daylily flower remains open for only one day, but each flowering scape contains numerous buds. The color range of daylilies has expanded to include everything but blue and pure white. Many blossoms are bi- or tri-colored, and some have striking "eyes"—zones of different colors surrounding the throat. Single daylilies have six petals, while double varieties have a second set of petals, often ruffled. In the Far East, daylily flowers are used in recipes and can be eaten raw or cooked. They are often found as a dried food in stores.

### How to Use Daylilies

Daylilies are stalwarts of the perennial border, but they shine in other spots, too. Vigorous daylilies grow thickly enough to choke out most weeds, making them a low maintenance ground cover. They excel at holding the soil on steep slopes and other erosion-prone spots. Plant them on banks and roadsides or along waterways. Use dwarf daylilies in rock gardens, in containers, or as edging for flower beds. When planting several daylily varieties, arrange them in drifts of a single variety for a natural look.

### Planting and Care

Daylilies grow best in full sun, ideally 6 hours or more daily. However, in hot and dry climates, they benefit from some afternoon shade, as well as irrigation during bloom. Also, many of the deep reds and the paler shades hold their colors better in partial shade. In any zone, daylilies will perform reasonably well with half a day's shade—they just won't bloom as vigorously.

Daylilies grow well in a wide range of soils. You can plant them successfully almost any time the ground can be worked. To plant bare-root daylilies, work the soil to a depth of 12 inches. Dig a hole, and then make a mound of soil in the center. Set the plant on the mound with the crown at the soil surface or no more than an inch below. Firm the soil around the roots, and water well. Space plants 18 to 24 inches apart.

The ideal time to transplant or divide your planting is in spring as the shoots begin to emerge, or immediately after bloom. When replanting, set the plants at the same height they grew at previously or slightly higher to allow for settling. Firm the soil, then water. Some cultivars can grow for 20 years without requiring division, but others may need division every second or third season. You'll know it's time to divide when flower production begins to decline. ●

Gardeners can't get enough of daylilies, and it's easy to understand why. Other flowers may be as beautiful, but no other plants are as rugged, widely adapted, or versatile. Daylilies are gorgeous, and they are survivors—perfect plants for both the connoisseur and the weekend warrior.

### The Plant

Originally from Asia, daylilies have adapted to the challenging and varied climates of the United States with all the vigor

## Olive Trees Provide Mediterranean Accent

by Kevin C. Twobey, owner Whiting Nursery



PHOTO: PETER A. HOGG

*Little Ollie Dwarf Olive Olea europaea*

*A bushy, multi-stemmed evergreen shrub that makes a neat appearance. This dwarf non-fruiting olive displays attractive dark green leaves and is heat, drought, and salt tolerant. Excellent for hedges. Full sun. Moderate grower to 4 to 6 feet high and wide, larger with age. Cutting grown.*

The Olive tree, *Olea europaea*, is valued for both its beauty and its fruit. Olives have been cultivated and oil traded since as early as 3000 B.C. The Romans and the Arabs were responsible for thoroughly distributing Olives throughout the Mediterranean Basin. The Olive was brought to California in the late 1700s by Franciscan padres. The first trees were planted at the Mission San Diego de Alcalá. The first record of olive being produced in our state was at the mission.

Olives are well suited for our climate. They are a very long lived tree with some trees living for more than 1000 years. As they mature, their trunks become gnarled and picturesque. An olive has a shallow root system and is adapted to various soil types. Clay-like soil is best suited for olive oil production as the moisture content can be controlled during fruiting.

Fruiting olives can bear heavy one year followed by a light, smallish sized crop the next. Olives are produced on one year shoots in the presence of light, with production in the outer 2 to 3 foot periphery of the tree. Pruning a fruiting tree must be done with the objective of controlling and directing the trees growth for ease of harvesting. Pruning a non fruiting tree will be done with structure, aesthetics, and disease control as objectives. Pruning should be done in spring once winter rains have passed.

There are many olive tree varieties in production in Europe but only a limited number of them are available in California. More and more varieties are being imported yearly so things will improve. Below is a description of the varieties Walter Andersen Nursery stocks.

**Manzanillo** introduced to California in 1875. Manzanillo is the most popular canning variety. Not as cold hardy as Mission, it is still widely grown in California. A more rounded, spreading tree growing to 30-35 feet. The fruit matures in October and early November but is usually harvested in September. Fruit is processed as mostly black-ripe and green-ripe olives. They are also suitable for oil as oil content is good (20.3%).

**Itrana** A very vigorous plant of notable size and upward growth. The fruit is used for both table and oil. The fruit are roundish, asymmetrical and of medium size (3-5 grams). The oil is of good quality (average yield is 20%) pleasing in taste and very prized. The cured olives are very much in demand. Maturation is late (November, December-January). This tree is self sterile, very productive, with good resistance to the cold and to the most common olive pests.

**Frantoio** This is an oil variety particularly widespread and appreciated not only in Tuscany and the central zones of Italy, but throughout the world. Maturation is late and gradual. When mature, the fruit is purple-black, but at the preferred picking time green and purple. It is rich in oil (between 17 and 22%) which is very fruity, notably aromatic and of high quality. The tree is self-fertile with high, constant productivity. While the self-fertile character of the tree guarantees a high and constant fruit production, the presence of a pollinator further increases it.

**Luques** A tree of medium vigor with an erect growth habit and a dense canopy. Used primarily for green table olives. It yields top quality oil, but is hard to extract. It gives a medium oil yield and it is freestone. This variety is hardy and has the ability to adapt to different environments. It is the main French variety. It is resistant to olive leaf spot and moderately tolerant of verticillium wilt, cold and drought.

**Lucca** This is a "Native" Variety developed by Hartman at U.C. Davis. It is a good constant producer with high yields and also yields 27-28% oil of high quality. It also has good frost resistance and is probably closely related to Frantoio. A vigorous variety well suited to planting in California. ●

## Rose Show a Blooming Success!

**It seems that the Walter Andersen Annual Rose Show just keeps getting bigger and better. It was the nursery's sixth time presenting a rose show. Held earlier in the spring than usual, the April 9-10 show boasted more than 150 entries and they all looked glorious. Nursery staff worried about the early date of the show given our wet and cool winter; however, there were enough sunny and dry days to entice beautiful blooms from the roses. Many favorites such as Hot Cocoa, Scentimental and Betty Boop were on display. As for the winners, the following awards were given:**

**Queen of Show** Linda Clark  
**Most Fragrant** Jennifer Bold  
**Best Florabunda** Doug Kalal

**Best Bouquet** Doug Kalal  
**Andersen's Choice** Ira and Marie Fletcher



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

We Carry Premium Sunshine Soil Products from Sun Gro



## Plant Health—Preventive Pest & Disease Control

From Monrovia

### All About Plant Health

Plants have an immune system just like people do. The healthier the plant, the more powerful its immune system is to fight off pests and disease. When plants are stressed due to heat, drought, poor soil or the wrong exposure, they grow weaker, and problems set in. The two most important things you can do are to keep your plants healthy, and frequently inspect them for early warning signs.

### Don't Assume...Identify

No two years are ever the same in gardens. This is due to variation in the weather, with some years warmer or cooler, wetter or drier. When conditions are right for a particular pest or disease, it will flourish, but if things change the next year, you may never see it at all. However, there may be persistent problems due to susceptibility of a certain plant variety or something unique to your yard.

Plants contain special chemicals that make them distasteful to bugs. When they are weakened by stress, the chemical levels are reduced and the plant becomes vulnerable. Often bugs attack the smallest, spindly plant of a group and will never spread to the healthy ones because their chemicals are more concentrated. These chemicals are so effective they are extracted for botanical pesticides such as pyrethrum, which is derived from a species of chrysanthemum.

For every pest in nature there is a predator bug that will leave the plant alone while dining on the bad bugs. These are collectively called beneficials and include ladybugs, praying mantis and lacewings. Protecting beneficials takes advantage of nature's control mechanisms. Chemical pesticides kill both pests and beneficials, which leads to pest population explosions once the predators are gone. The new approach to pest control is through least toxic measures designed to protect beneficials while controlling pests.

### Assessing the Degree of Damage

Identification of pests is your key to control. It also tells you what kind of damage potential they represent. For example, a gang of aphids can distort leaves, but they are nothing compared to a gang of armyworms that can defoliate a shrub overnight! These three are the most common bugs found in gardens: **Aphids** are sucking insects that cluster on new growth. **Spider Mites** are microscopic and dwell on the back side of the leaf. **Caterpillars** are voracious larvae that are very dangerous to all plants.

It's far easier to wipe out a few bugs when they first appear than to control an infestation later. Frequent inspection of your plants means that you'll catch problems early. Once the pest is identified, then you can choose one of these least toxic controls:

1. Discourage small mites or aphids by knocking them off with a strong jet of water.
2. Buy and release beneficial bugs to feed on the pests.
3. Hand pick larger bugs and worms off your plants.
4. Spray the plants with insecticidal soap for insects.
5. Spray the plants with BT or other biological controls.

### A Fungus Among Us

Most plant diseases are fungi that thrive under certain weather conditions. They most often attack roses but other trees and shrubs can be afflicted as well. It may be a temporary weather related condition or due to plants receiving too much shade.

Mildew is actually a group of white or gray powdery fungi that attack plants where moisture lingers on the leaves until late in the day. It can cause the leaves to pucker and distorts new growth. Mildew is more prevalent in damp climates, but occurs in dry ones as well. Mildew is common on Crape Myrtle trees and Roses, but can afflict just about every other plant if conditions are right.

Black spot is the Rose grower's biggest nightmare. It appears as black patches on the leaves that can live through the winter and re-infect the plant the following year. Blackspot is difficult to control and afflicts some Rose varieties far more than it does others. Removing affected leaves and raking up fallen ones is essential to control.

A variety of fungicides are used to control mildew and blackspot but they can be tenacious problems. Often the best solution is to move the plant to a location where it receives drying morning sun early in the day. The other alternative is to replace the plant with another variety with greater resistance.

### Green Tip

Controlling damaging caterpillars is easy using nontoxic BT, or *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Simply apply it to plants in either powder or liquid form and once eaten by a caterpillar, the pest dies. BT is safe around both children and pets. ●

## A Guide to

By Yvonne Savio, Home & Garden Showplace Centers

# Summer Vegetables



Sow or transplant lima and snap beans, beets, carrots, celeriac, celery, chard, corn, cucumbers, eggplants, oakleaf and other heat-tolerant and bolt-resistant lettuces, melons, okra, peppers, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, New Zealand spinach, summer and winter squash, and tomatoes.

Some vegetables are more efficient than others, producing more food for the amount of garden space they use and the time they require from you. Carrots, cucumbers, onions, potatoes, summer squash, and tomatoes produce the most. Yields of cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes can be even greater when they are grown on trellises, saving soil space for growing more crops.

Plant the last batch of corn in June, as later plantings will probably have smut problems (those big, grey and black puffs of fungus in place of kernels) when harvested in September. Or you may choose to inoculate your corn with the fungus—it's a delicacy in Southwestern and Mexican cuisine.

Removing suckers that form at the base of cornstalks will not increase (and may even decrease) yields. The extra leaf surface of the suckers increases photosynthesis, which provides more food for the developing ears. However, remove any ears that form on the suckers, as these will take energy away from the main, full-sized ears.

### Succession Planting

When replanting areas where you've just grown vegetables, follow heavy-feeding leafy vegetables like spinach and cabbage with nitrogen-replenishing legumes, such as peas, beans, and

soybeans; or plant a less-demanding root crop. Don't fertilize the soil again before succession plantings of beans or carrots, since excess nitrogen results in forked and hairy carrots and lush bean plants with few beans. Do add some compost before setting out spinach, kale, and lettuce, since you do want lush foliage in these crops.

### Tips for a Better Harvest

For greater yields, feed eggplants, peppers, squash, and tomatoes when they blossom. Assure a plentiful set of peppers and tomatoes by increasing the magnesium available to the plants; dissolve 1 tablespoon of Epsom salts in 1 quart of warm water, and spray or sprinkle the solution on the leaves and blossoms. Pour the remainder in a ring around the plant at the dripline. Repeat this several times during the blossoming period.

Keep melon plants growing strongly throughout the season for best quality fruit. Almost half of a melon's final sugar content develops during the last week of maturation, so stop irrigating then to concentrate the sugars. Optimum plant spacing for maximum sweetness is 6 square feet per plant.

Keep vegetables picked often, even if you don't plan to use that day's harvest immediately. Vegetables that aren't harvested soon enough will produce a chemical that inhibits further blossoming. Check plants at least every other day during the summer. This is especially true for beans, cucumbers, eggplants, squash, and tomatoes.

The rich tomato flavor and aroma of raw tomatoes is the greatest when the tomatoes are left at room temperature and eaten just after being cut. Refrigeration kills the fragrance.

If you must store tomatoes in the refrigerator for several days before using them, harvest them early in the day, when they are still cool from overnight and are less sensitive to chilling injury—that disappointing, flavorless, mushiness. ●

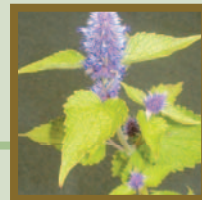
## Fuller's Finds

Every newsletter, Carol Fuller will be on the trail of unusual plants to share with customers and readers. While the stores stock lots of popular plants, Walter Andersen Nursery is noted for its ability to sniff out unusual or hard-to-find plants and to provide expertise about them. Here's a look at Fuller's Fabulous Finds for Summer!

Look what I found! Look what I found! Every now and then I come across a plant that I've never seen before or it's been around for awhile but a grower has tweaked it a bit and the plant has become bigger and better than before so I feel compelled to share.



I just found a new *Plectranthus* called "Lois Woodhull." It has light green (almost lime) colored leaves on stems with a rounded branching habit which seems simple enough but the flowers are what caught my attention. They are square but come to a point and appear to be in sections as the blooms start at the bottom and bloom individually all the way up to the top. They are a lovely lavender-blue color. They bloom repeatedly spring through fall and some have found it to bloom all year. It will take full sun, but, a little shade where it gets really hot would be great. It is not a large plant, 18" tall and 24" wide, and will look great in a pot or in that little area that you just don't know what to put there. Give it a try.



When growers come to the store to show us plants, the plants are all packed (literally) in the back of a pick-up truck and are sometimes hard to see. If something catches your eye in that melee it has to have something special. That's what I think of this *Agastache*. It's called Golden Jubilee or Golden Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*). It has green-gold leaves, one of the few that do, and upright branches that end in a great lavender, thistle-like flower. My research shows it should stay under 3 feet in an upright, compact clump, and bloom from Summer (June) until Fall (October or first frost). It is good for a xeriscape garden but light to moderate watering will give the best color. It also isn't picky about soil. It is loved by hummingbirds and butterflies. If you let the late flowers go to seed, the finches will love you for the tasty treat you provided. This *Agastache* is also edible. It can make a very aromatic tea or be used in salad. Chinese herbalists believe it is useful for heart conditions.



Tired of *Lobelia* and *Alyssum* as a border plant? Well, here is something new to try; *Scabiosa* or Pincushion Flower. That's not new you say. Well, this is one of those tweaked plants. It's called "Blue Diamond" and it only grows 6" to 8" tall and wide. The rosette of gray green leaves support masses of small pincushion flowers through the summer (June to September). The flowers are really on the lavender side of blue. Dead-heading is a breeze. It provides a source of nectar for bees and butterflies. It will tolerate some drought and will grow in dry to moist soils, full sun to light shade, although it doesn't like it really hot.

## Downy Mildew Attacks More Than Roses

Downy mildew (fungus - *Peronospora sparsa*) is a highly destructive disease caused by *Phytophthora phaseoli*. The disease was first reported in 1889 in Connecticut, and is now found worldwide. It primarily causes molding of leaves or fruit, especially those lying close to the soil. It may cause seedlings to drop off as well.

Although best known as a rose disease, downy mildew will attack vegetables, other ornamentals, and fruit plants. It can completely defoliate a plant in 4-7 days and can be fatal to the plant.

Downy mildew will first appear on upper surfaces of leaves as patches or spots. On the underside of the leaves directly below

each spot, a downy or furry growth is produced. The fungus is made up of numerous branched stalks with spores on the end. Downy mildew needs a film of water on the leaves for spores to germinate. Young branches, flower branches, and buds will be distorted and covered with white downy or cottony mold. Older leaves are usually not heavily covered with mold, but the leaf veins may be purplish and twisted. White downy or cottony mold appears in patches. The invaded areas may be bordered in reddish-purple. Infected areas shrivel, die, and turn black. Seeds may be invaded as the fungus grows through the fruit or vegetable.

In general, high humidity and moderate temperatures favor downy mildew. Moist air from puddles, rain, or overhead watering is enough to allow the pathogen to germinate. The optimum temperature for downy mildew to spread is 65 degrees, but the spores are killed at 81 degrees or higher.

Regular watering from overhead and thick growth from close spacing creates ideal conditions for this disease, which can spread very quickly under such conditions.

### To Control

Remove all infected leaves and dispose of carefully, in closed containers so the spores cannot spread.

Spray infected plants with Monterey Alette.

Avoid overhead irrigation at the end of the day. Try to leave enough time for the plants to dry off before nightfall.

Thin out undergrowth of plants if necessary. ●

## Seasonal Recipe

### Two Cheese Squash Casserole

- 4 lbs. of yellow squash, sliced
- 4 tbs. butter or margarine, divided
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 1/2 cups soft breadcrumbs, divided
- 1 1/4 cups shredded parmesan cheese, divided
- 4 oz. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh chives
- 1/2 cup minced fresh parsley
- 8 oz. container sour cream
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt

Cook squash in boiling water to cover in a large skillet 8-10 minutes or just until tender. Drain well and press between paper towels. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in skillet over medium-high heat; add onion and garlic, and sauté 5-6 minutes or until tender. Remove skillet from heat; stir in squash, 1 cup of breadcrumbs, 3/4 cup Parmesan, and next 7 ingredients. Spoon into a lightly greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish. Melt remaining butter. Stir together melted butter, remaining 1 1/2 cups soft breadcrumbs, 1/2 cup parmesan cheese and garlic salt. Sprinkle evenly over top of casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until set.

# Boxwood by Kevin C. Twohey, owner Whiting Nursery

## Beauty to Behold



PHOTO: PETER A. HOGG

The use of Boxwood traces back to 4000 B.C. in China and Egypt and to 1000 B.C. in Greece. The origin of Boxwood precedes that of humans. Boxwood has long been valued for its beautiful fine grained wood and for ornamental uses. The earliest records of Boxwood in America are in Long Island, New York. It appears that it was imported from Holland at that time.

Winter Gem Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*) is a densely branched evergreen shrub for small hedges. It's hardy and retains its color in winter.

Boxwoods grow in many natural shapes, sizes, and variations – dwarf to tree like, mounding, conical, weeping, spherical, columnar, and vase shaped. Leaf colors vary from deep, dark greens to variegated.

Boxwood is a vigorous, slow growing woody shrub and requires a minimum of care. They prefer a well drained soil; avoid 'wet feet' or extremely heavy clay soils. Boxwood tolerates shade but grow more rapidly in sunlight. *Buxus sempervirens* requires full sunlight. A good general rule to follow is morning sun with bright afternoon shade or full sun. Water Boxwood seldom and thoroughly. Newly planted boxwood requires slightly more water during the first year. Water thoroughly to develop a healthy, well branched root system.

Fertilize with an organic based fertilizer to encourage steady, moderate growth. High nitrogen fertilizers will produce rapid surges of growth. Fertilize in the spring and every three to four years thereafter. A good layer of mulch will conserve moisture, cool soil temperatures, reduce weed growth, and help promote healthy feeder roots. Apply no more than 1 to 1 1/2 inches of mulch for established plants.

Only two pests are considered potentially serious: leaf miner and mites. Mites can be a problem in shady areas with poor air movement. Both pests are controllable so don't fret. Diseases are practically non-existent and most problems with boxwood come from planting the crown of the plant too deep (crown rot).

Minor maintenance pruning is best done in late spring. Work from top to bottom, from the inside to the outside. When the plant grows unevenly, locate the center and prune for balance. If new growth is rank and floppy, take it off and cut lightly into previous year's growth to encourage more compact growth. ●

### Collectibles Class Highlights Peanuts

August 20th in Poway

In our home, it just doesn't seem like the holidays until we've viewed our favorite holiday cartoons, one of which is Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang. You can also bring those familiar faces and settings such as the pumpkin patch, or Charlie Brown's Christmas tree into your home by way of collectible statuary and trains. Heather LeBlanc from LGB and Lisa Johnson from Department 56 will be at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway August 20th from 10am – Noon for a presentation. They will preview the new Peanuts Collection from LGB and Dept 56. The presentation will also showcase additional releases for 2005 and they will answer your collectible questions. Both companies will be providing raffle items.



## A Nod to What's in the Bog by Tom Dougherty

American pitcher plants have oddly shaped and dramatically colored leaves that become tubular traps for unwary insects.

Venus fly traps are the most familiar. They lie in wait with their little nectar laden leaves open and inviting. When the unsuspecting bug touches the trigger hairs on the leaf surface, the trap quickly closes.

These plants need a humid environment. Their soil must be very damp and acidic. A mixture of half sand and half peat moss works very well. The water must be mineral free such as rain water or distilled water or even reverse osmosis filtered water can be used. Ordinary San Diego tap water with its high salts will probably kill these plants in a matter of weeks.

Come see our bog and look for the small lizard that has been seen there. This opportunistic rascal has been spotted stealing an occasional insect snack from one of the Sundews. But not to worry, most plants can get by with as little as one bug meal a week.

Tom Dougherty is a customer service representative at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway location. His areas of expertise include water plants and citrus.



PHOTOS: PAMELA TUCK



The venus fly trap (at right) looks foreboding with its steely jaws while the alluring flower of a pitcher plant (above) provides beauty that distracts prey from the plant's traplike leaves.

In the bog garden by the garden railway at the Poway store, there is a group of plants that never need fertilizing. That's because they get all the nutrients they need by (oh, sweet revenge) eating insects. The varieties you'll find in the bog are Sundews (*Drosera*), American pitcher plants (*Darlingtonia*, *Sarracenia*) and Venus fly trap (*Dionaea*).

These plants are truly carnivorous and meet the requirements of such a designation. They attract, capture and kill animal life forms as well as being able to digest and absorb the nutrients. There are more than 600 species and subspecies that exist.

How Our Bog Plants Attract Prey  
Sundews, with their sparkling, delicate beauty, work like flypaper to capture their prey with tiny drops of glistening sticky goo.

## Members Of The Geranium Family Give Fragrance & Flowers

California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers

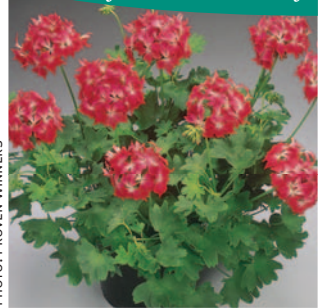


PHOTO: PROVEN WINNERS

This geranium, *Pelargonium zonale*, has a unique flower form and a strong upright habit. Its wonderful leaf shape accents the explosion of brightly colored petals and makes it a great container garden addition.

Geraniums, or pelargoniums, are synonymous with California. This is a perennial which grows so abundantly and with so little care that this state seems to be its natural home though most varieties of the Geranium are actually South African natives.

Most common of all the Geranium family is the garden Geranium. It grows to three feet, less in the dwarf forms and has many colorful varieties to choose from: white, salmon, coral, pink, red, bi-colors and more. Its velvety leaves are kidney shaped with scalloped edges and often with a bright colorful edging inside.

The Martha Washington Geranium or Lady Washington Pelargonium grows in a rangier manner than the garden variety. The leaves are heart and kidney-shaped with crinkled margins. The leaves surround and support large flower clusters of white, pink, red, lavender and purple. This variety blooms earlier than the common garden variety of geranium.

If you're looking for a member of the geranium family to fill a hanging basket or cover a slope then choose the Ivy geranium. Their smooth, glossy foliage is a bright green and has the same growth habits as trailing Ivy. Although the flowers are not as plentiful as the common geranium they are a spectacular nonetheless. The color spectrum range is similar to the Martha Washington Geranium.

A fourth type of Geranium includes all those varieties whose leaves give off pungent and spicy odors when crushed. They are the Peppermint, Finger Bowl, Lemon, Nutmeg, Oakleaf and Rose scented geraniums. These specialty geraniums are excellent companion plantings for containers.

Peppermint is a semi-trailing variety that will climb to six feet if given support. Its leaves are gray-green with silvery fuzz and the flowers are white with red centers.

Finger-bowl and Lemon geraniums both smell lemon-like. The Finger Bowl has pink or rose flowers with darker markings and the Lemon features shiny deep green lemon scented leaves and purple or lilac flowers. The scallop-edged leaves of the Nutmeg geraniums are delicately scented. A pungent, woody aroma is given off by the lobed leaves of the Oakleaf geranium. This plant grows sturdy and shrubby with blush, rose and violet flowers which are marked in darker shades of these colors.

The last variety of these scented Geraniums is the Rose geranium growing with abundant foliage and rose or pinkish flowers veined in purple. The leaves have a pleasant fragrance and were once used for flavoring apple jelly.

Planting conditions required by the Geranium include full sun, except in hot summer climates where light shade is recommended. The geranium family will grow anywhere there is well drained soil and does not require too much watering or feeding. (Too much water and fertilizer will make this plant produce more foliage and fewer flowers). Pinching, removing faded flowers and cutting back older plants to renew growth will keep your geraniums in fine form.

Geraniums can be planted in all sorts of situations—often depending on the variety. Good choices for flowerbeds are the common geranium and the fancy leaved varieties. The Martha Washington's are handsome in pots or flowerbeds. The scented geraniums are a good addition to a kitchen garden or in containers where they can be moved so the fragrance can be enjoyed. ●

## Tips from the PROS by Tom Perkins

### Controlling Critters

Tom is a sales consultant with Woodstream and has many suggestions to critter control.

The thought of a rodent having breached the security of your house is unsettling. Here's a quick guide to rebuffing critter invasions:

#### Mice

Mice diet includes a variety of foods, such as seeds, grains and nuts and they can live without access to fresh water as long as their solid food is fairly moist. Mice can carry a wide variety of diseases transmissible to humans such as Hantavirus. Another major concern is salmonellosis which threatens food storage and preparation areas (think your favorite restaurant!). Thorough examinations need to be made periodically to assure that all points of entry (foundations, utility pipes and wires passing into the house) are secure. Baby powder can be sprinkled along the inside perimeters of walls and thresholds to capture tracks where mice are active thus revealing where exclusion efforts are needed.

Use wire mesh or quick-drying cement can be used to plug cracks around drainpipes and other small areas of entry. Also, galvanized window screening can be balled and stuffed into larger openings that are then finished with caulking or cement. Expanding-foam insulation can also be used for filling small to medium size openings. If you are against killing a critter, live-catching devices such as the

Victor® M007, M313, the Tin Cat, and also the HAVAHART® model 1020 cage trap can be used. Control, in many cases, can only be attained by the use of killing devices such as the Victor® snap trap. Sticky traps are also another method of control and can be preferable in the presence of children or pets. Rodenticides are another effective form of lethal control. Rodent bait packs can be used for indoor and outdoor control and can be placed along walls, by gnawed openings, in or beside burrows, in corners or in locations where rodents and their signs have been seen. Ultrasonic devices can also be used to keep mice out of a designated area. These products produce sounds that are inaudible to humans or non-rodent animals. The Victor® brand Sonic Pest Chaser can be very effective.

#### Rats!

There are two basic types of rats – the black or roof rat and the Norway or brown rat. They will consume many types of plant and animal foods such as seed that has been spilled from bird feeders or pet food that has been left outdoors. Good sanitation is essential to keep rats away. Keep the grounds near your dwelling free of debris, and food stuffs need to be kept in sealed "rat proof" containers. Birdseed, lawn clippings and garbage are another attractant for rats. Use tightly closed garbage containers. Do not leave your pet's food outside, but, if your pet resides outside, feed him and collect the food after twenty minutes.

Live catch traps may be used as rat traps to humanely capture and release rats. I recommend HAVAHART® 0745 and 1025 traps. Ultrasonic devices such as Victor® Sonic Pest Chaser can be another solution. The Victor® M201 or M205 snap rat traps work well as humane killing devices when placed along walls or behind appliances. Rodenticides are a convenient and lethal method for

indoor and outdoor control and can be placed along walls, by gnawed openings, in or beside burrows, in corners or in locations where rodents and their signs have been seen. A good exterminator can also solve your rat and mice problems.

#### Rabbits

Havahart traps are a humane, safe way to remove rabbits from your garden. Good bait suggestions for wild rabbits would be Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, lettuce or apples. You may release them into the wild or call your local animal control agency. Often times a good garden defense strategy may call for fencing, trapping and finally, repellents to keep them from coming back. There are both granular and liquid forms. The better ones repel via taste and smell. Repellents can help train dogs and cat where not to do their business as well.

#### Try These Products for These Pests

**Rabbits:** Deer Off (Repels by Odor and Taste) and Deer Away (Repels by Odor)

**Squirrels:** Critter Ridder and Deer Off

**Skunks:** Critter Ridder

**Dogs & Cats:** Critter Ridder

**Deer:** Deer Off (Repels by Odor and Taste) and Deer Away (repels by Odor)

Deer Off Must be reapplied after heavy rainfall or every 2 to 3 months

**Raccoons:** Critter Ridder which lasts up to 30 days

Havahart Spray Away is a motion activated sprinkler that hooks up to the end of a hose and shoots out a 3 second burst of water to scare away animals without harming them. Just remember when you walk across the yard, you might get a bit wet too! ●

# the wee corner

by Richard Wright

## A Fairy Garden To Remember

For hundreds of years Fairies and where they live have been on the wee corner of many Gardner's minds. Well I am here to put an end to the "where" part. A Fairy garden can be any size and or shape to fit into your little backyard or front porch, or anywhere you have room for a container or pot for Fairies to play in.

We have all kinds of plants to put into your creation, from Alyssum, Armeria, Lodelia, Cat Mint, Sedum, and all kinds of Thyme. Plus, lots of miniature trees and bushes. Any or all will entice the fairies to come for a visit. But you can get them to stay with the proper accoutrements; you know that's French for stuff. Chairs, benches, a nice little picket fence, even a swing. We have lots and lots of fun "bits and pieces" to choose from to add to your Fairy playground.

And if you just can't wait for the Fairies to come, we even have some you can start with. Amy Brown has a nice collection of "Fairy Divas". These are ladies with some attitude. We also have world renowned Fairy collections from Cicely Mary Baker that are fit for your querieo or garden.



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

Fairies like lush glades of trees, flowers and herbs with little nooks to hide in. They like flowers which attract their friends, the butterflies. Here are some favorites:

**Cowslips** Loved and protected by the fairies, they help to find hidden fairy gold.

**Lily of the Valley, Rosemary** It is called the elf plant, and fairy lore states they are enchanted by the scent.

**Thyme** This is their favorite!

**Ferns** Grow them near the thyme beds with plenty of soft moss around and the fairies will make their beds in it!

**Forget-Me-Not** Hold the blue flowers and wish. If you are pure and true, the keys of fairyland will come to you.

**Foxgloves** Florets are worn by fairies as hats and gloves.

**St. John's Wort** Used as a healing herb.

**Ragwort** Used as makeshift horses by the fairies. ●

## Summer 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 any questions, please 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

July	
7/2	Summer Lawn Care
7/9	Water Gardens
7/16	Plumerias
7/23	Staghorn Ferns
7/30	Summer Rose Care
August	
8/6	Dirty Business – All About Soil
8/13	Gardenias Care & Culture
8/20	Summer Fruit Tree Care with Dave Wilson. Includes Deciduous Fruit Tasting.
8/27	Diagnosing & Treating Pests & Diseases in the Garden

September	
9/3	Hibiscus
9/10	General Orchid Care
9/17	Fall Bulbs
9/24	Shade Gardening

## POWAY

July	
7/2	Vegetable Garden Care: Pests, Diseases, Feeding & Water
7/9	Plumeria Care & Grafting
7/16	Specialty Begonias! Special Guest Speaker/Collector Chuck Ades from Ades & Gish Nurseries
7/23	Xeriscape Gardening
7/30	GOTO Tomato & Pepper Tasting. Starts at 11am.
August	
8/6	Designer Plant Palettes – Landscape Design
8/13	Reblooming Bearded Iris. Special Guest Speaker John Schoustra from Greenwood Daylily Farms
8/20	Summer Fruit Tree Care & Summer Pruning; Fruit Tasting with Dave Wilson; Collectibles with LGB & Department 56 at 10am.
8/27	Fall Rose Care

September	
9/3	Bonsai & Oriental Gardening for Beginners
9/10	Fall Vegetable Gardening
9/17	Fall Bulbs
9/24	Fall Flowers

## TOOL SHED

by Richard Wright

### Here a Pot, There a Pot, Everywhere a Pot Pot

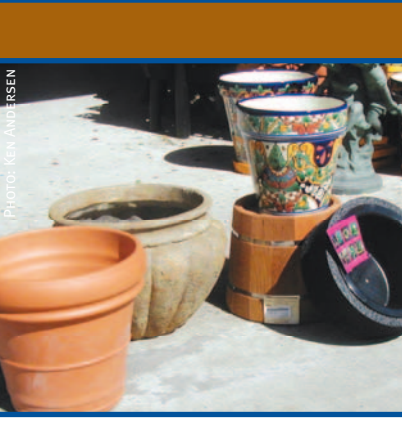
But which pot is the right pot for that potting job you have this weekend?

**Q. Why am I talking about pots?**

**A. Because a pot is a kind of a tool we use to solve problems. Pots solve space problems or even that yucky soil problem. Besides most of us keep them in the shed.**

**Big and tall, short or fat, round; maybe square. These ALL describe the kind of pot you're looking for. And don't forget the eternal question of wood, plastic, or ceramic? (I will leave the color up to you, there are just too many colors, even multi-colored).**

**Most of you have this need for a pot. We call it "Yucky Soil". You just can't grow anything in that one spot over in the corner. Or you need to put something on the patio, or by the front door.**



**Let's start with some basic rules of Pot Picking. Size is everything. Please make sure that there is plenty of room for the roots. If there is insufficient room, the beautiful plant you buy from Walter Andersen Nursery can not grow and thrive. It will get sick; even die, from lack of root room. There has to be space for extra soil to hold moisture for the plant, especially if the pot is in full sun.**

**Shape can play an important part in picking. You can sometimes fit that round pot into a square corner. Even that tall pot under that short window. Watch out for the "Monkey trap" syndrome. You know, the monkey reaches into the pot to get the goodies and can't pull his hand out! This means be careful about buying a pot that has a narrow opening. Most pots that are going to contain a tree will require deep soil. Make sure that you can get that root ball out of the pot or you will have to hurt the tree, and we don't want that. Now for the old "To be, or not to be" saucer under the pot, that's OK. Please, oh please, have the pot raised up out of its own waste water. The plant will reabsorb it and get sick. You can put rocks under the pot and the evaporating water will act like a humidifier. Plants like that whether they are indoors or outside.**

**Now we come to the plastic or wood or ceramic question.**

- ▶ **PLASTIC** is lighter and easier to move after you plant in it, will keep moisture in, not break if hit (not too hard), and can be painted.
- ▶ **WOOD** has that rustic look, can be painted or stained, can breathe and can absorb water for later. It also falls apart sooner than we want.
- ▶ **CERAMIC** is colorful, very colorful. It can last a long time. They can be quite heavy. That can be good or bad. Good in a breezy place or high traffic area. Bad if you ever have to move it. You'll need to have a hole drilled, maybe lots, depending on the drainage needs of your plant.

Richard Wright provides customer service in our Poway store as well as offering expertise in garden railroading, bonsai, and fruit trees.

## Sharp Tools Aid Garden Tasks

Sharp tools cut with less effort. What's more, the clean cuts from sharp tools promote faster healing in plants. The easiest way to maintain the correct cutting angle on the blades is to color in the sharpening area with a black felt tip pen before sharpening. Using a whetstone, sharpen evenly until no trace of the ink can be seen on the blades. Many manufacturers also offer replacement blades if the blades become dull. Walter Andersen Nursery also has a sharpening service. Ask about all your options.



## Read Your Newsletter Online!

If you live out of state or out of the county, you will be able to read our quarterly newsletter online at [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com). Effective the Winter 2005 newsletter, we will no longer be able to mail to the above locations. This will help manage the 22,000 plus person list which continues to grow at a rapid pace. You will also find archived newsletters on the website.

## Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

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

[www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com)

## COUPON

Valid July 1 – September 30, 2005

**\$2 OFF**  
Any Sunshine  
Soil Product  
1.5 cu or Larger  
Limit 6

#10029740

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.

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Valid July 1 – September 30, 2005

**REDUCED!**  
Color Packs  
**\$1.99**  
Regularly Priced \$2.99  
Limit 6

#10025758

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## COUPON

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**\$3 OFF**  
Any Monrovia Plant  
5 gallon or Larger  
Limit 3

#10028250

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