

Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



Christmas Trees: A Family Tradition At WAN

BY KEN ANDERSEN



Christmas is always a special time of the year at Walter Andersen Nursery, but my, how things have changed in our 84 years in business!

Gone are the days when we would go to the railroad yards downtown to sort through Christmas trees in boxcars for our store. Now, all of our trees are cut and delivered fresh from the growing grounds in Washington State to our stores. Sometimes they are so

fresh they still have snow in them from their home in the Cascades.

Over the years, we have found that the best trees come from Washington and that is what we stock. Whether you like Noble, Douglas, Grand, or Fraser Fir, all of our trees are top quality. Once they arrive, they are put onto individual stands with water bowls so you can see exactly what the tree looks like. The water bowls also insure that the trees stay fresh before you take them home.

If you don't want to tie a tree to the roof of your car, WAN offers free delivery with minimum purchase. Flocking and fire retardant services are also available. Remember, any cut trees or garland in a public building need to have fire retardant or fire retardant flock applied by a licensed applicator (which we are) by mandate of the State Fire Marshal.

This year, make it your family tradition to get your Christmas tree from Walter Andersen Nursery. You will be glad that you did! ■

Seed Bomber On The Loose!

BY MELANIE POTTER

They say that confession is good for the soul so when Tom Dougherty, one of our customer service representatives, recently confessed to building bombs, I let him talk. Sure enough, he's been busy making bombs in his spare time as well as giving his arm a work out with practice tosses in his back yard.

Despite this admission, we're ok with our guerrilla gardener as he is actually making seed bombs and has been throwing them in his yard to see what comes up.

The term, 'guerrilla gardening' was first used in the 1970s to describe a radical form of gardening undertaken by activists to draw attention to issues such as land use rights and urban blight. Guerrilla gardeners garden on land that doesn't belong to them, typically a vacant lot, street median or neglected planter in a public area, without

the permission of the owner. It's sort of a covert beautification effort.

The bombs, a mixture of clay, compost, and seeds, can be tossed wherever you want plants to grow, and will break up as the seeds begin to germinate. Tom has tried several methods of making these bombs and he likes using modeling clay which is less messy than powdered red clay that many online recipes call for. The clay keeps the bombs intact and prevents birds from eating the seed.

This hobby is not without controversy. Yes, throwing seed bombs into areas that are neglected and have become eyesores can be a good thing, but it's the seeds in the bomb that must be carefully selected so as to not introduce non native or invasive species.

Gail Saito, owner of Seeds In A Ball, provided us with a list of seeds she uses in the seed balls she makes. There is a wildflower blend specially



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Dates To Remember

NOV 6 – Election Day. Make your vote count!

NOV 21 – Poway store closes at 3pm.

NOV 22 – Both stores closed for Thanksgiving.

NOV 24 – Small Business Saturday. Shop with your American Express credit card and get rewards from AmEx.

DEC 1 – Poway store closes at 4:30pm.

DEC 1 – Holiday Open House at the Poway store from 5–7pm.

DEC 8 – Holiday Open House at the San Diego store from 11am–1pm.



Walter Andersen, Jr. and Santa invite you to holiday celebrations at both stores in December.

November

Garden Tasks

FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue or Scott's Turf Builder with Winterguard. Feed ornamentals with Gro Power. Feed Vegetables with Gro Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or Dr. Earth Organic Tomato and Vegetable Food. Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruit Trees with Gro Power Citrus and Avocado Food. Feed Palms and Tropicals with Gro Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food. Do not feed Camellias.

WATER

If rainy, cut back on watering by reducing duration and frequency on sprinkler timers.

PEST CONTROL

Late in the month start dormant spraying with Liqui Cop and Oil Spray. Clean up all foliage from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses.

PLANT

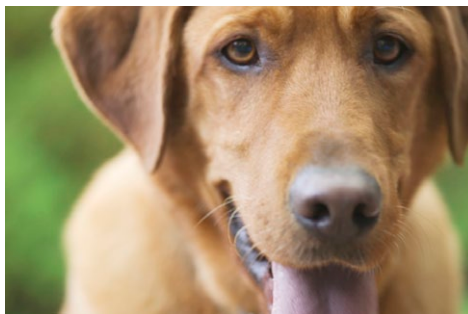
Fall Bulbs, California Natives and drought tolerant plants, winter bedding and vegetables. Look for Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Sasanqua Camellias, and Holiday Plants.

MISCELLANEOUS

De-thatch and over seed Bermuda lawns with annual Rye.

The Andersen Garden Goes To The Dogs

BY JOLENE ANDERSEN



My family lives life in the "lab lane", the Labrador retriever lane that is. We have two, our daughter has four, and, yes, we live in the city and both families garden or make every attempt to do so! Any dog owner who enjoys gardening will have learned early on that there is little that can be truly done to dissuade a garden-loving pup from working the soil and the plants in it. We have suffered some real disappointments, some relative victories and some draws.

Here are a few things you might try if you are working out compromises with your family's "best friend":

- 1] Don't work in the soil with Fido present; if it looks like you're having fun, he may be tempted to come back later and try it for himself (according to my veterinarian).
- 2] Try sprays and granules that are made to repel animals.
- 3] Use a physical barrier around new plantings.
- 4] Don't add enticements to the soil like bone meal or blood meal that scream "treats in the soil!"
- 5] Patient reprimands when necessary (this has been the least effective deterrent in my house).
- 6] Sleep away training camp for Fido as a costly (but effective) last resort. We sent our first dog thinking she could demonstrate her training for the new dog. She did just that, however the new puppy must have a visual defect as she has failed to absorb the lovely manners of Dog #1.

Now, with that said, here are a few of the crazier things you will observe in my garden if you visit my (attempted) dog-proofed garden. I lay two tomato cages horizontally and tine-ends together over my soft herbs (basil, thyme, tarragon etc) and allow the plants to weave up through them. The herbs are easily managed

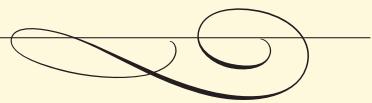
through the large spaces and the dogs find no joy in attempting to dig or molest plants within a wire barrier. The tomato cages work well because they are fully formed and readily available and need nothing but a gentle push into the soil. When planting bulbs or bedding starts, I use a trellis and lay it on the soil and plant over the framework. The trellis is not unattractive and it provides a bit of a grid work for the planting and later, it totally frustrates any attempt the dogs make to have a good dig in the newly planted flower beds.

We continue to have an issue with the lizard population and our Labrador hunting dogs have not found an answer to that age-old genetic call of the wild when one of them sees a lizard and chases it in a frenetic race to the end. They will mow over everything in their path.

I haven't even gotten to the part of my gardening story about the dogs picking the low hanging fruit from the trees when it ripens. Keeping the trees pruned low so the fruit is accessible is a great idea, unless you have 100 lb. Labs with the height of a pro basketball player when they stretch out. I will say that they enjoy the fruit and unlike my grandchildren, they never leave half of it uneaten.

We have suffered some major blows in our ongoing and relentless gardening journey with our dogs. My husband lost a beautiful passion vine to a lizard run-down, we replanted tomatoes twice last spring, I can't count the cymbidiums that have wound up as a teething toy for the newest Lab, a few of my husband's cherished cycads have come to a slobbery end in the shade of the pine tree and, the list goes on.

We are hopeless garden optimists and wouldn't trade our labs for the most polite dog you might offer us; they are unconditionally loyal, giving love and affection for little more than our daily return to them. I hope you have taken some solace from this article if you are on your own journey with family pets in the garden. It really isn't about making your garden safe *from* your pets, it is truly about making your garden safe *for* your pets, since enjoying the outdoors is often the largest part of their world. Well, that's my life is the Lab Lane, wouldn't change it for all the garden show awards in town! ■



Words

From Walter

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.



Tasmanian Tree Fern from San Marcos Growers

Plant Ideas For Shady Areas

Do you have an area that is mostly shade and you don't know what to plant to make it look nicer?

Here are some plant ideas that will add interest to a 'ho hum' space. Most Ferns do well in cooler shady areas, and are very rewarding. Brazilian Dwarf Tree Fern (*Blechnum brasiliense*) does not get much larger than 4' tall and it's pretty and lacy, with the new fronds having a bronzy color, turning to dark green at maturity. Don't place it too close to a wall as the fronds need to spread. To one side, you might consider Mother Fern (*Asplenium bulbiferum*) which is a beautiful lighter green fern with finely cut fronds. The fronds billow out from the center to about 4' tall and wide. It is very easy to grow and is fairly fast growing. Cliff Break Fern (*Pellaea falcata*) has deep green lacy foliage

and is smaller, growing to about 12"-14" tall. Japanese Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) is an interesting clumping fern with Holly-like leaves. The foliage is medium green and almost glossy. Tasmanian Tree Fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) is a wonderful slow growing tree fern. It has a stout trunk and grows 8' to 10' tall. The fronds are 4' to 5' long with a very thick growth at the top. Meyers Fern or Meyers Asparagus (*Asparagus myersii*) is a great fern-like plant that is very eye-catching. It's easy to grow and forms 2' long stems that grow up and arch over with tiny needle-like leaves (not sharp at all). It's a very tough plant, but looks delicate.

To add some color in shady areas, check out Cineraria, which love cool weather. These have lots of small Daisy-like blooms that are very colorful and bright, available in blue, pink, red, purple, and white. Another plant that thrives in cool weather in shade is Primrose. Three different ones are sold locally for winter color, *Primula malacoides* (Fairy Primrose), which has small dainty blooms of pink, rose, red and white and *Primula obconica* (German Primrose) which are small clumping plants with larger blooms colored white, pink, lavender, or blue and growing 6" to 8" tall. The most popular primrose, *Primula polyanthus*, or English Primrose, has brightly colored flower clusters with contrasting centers. Blues, pinks, reds, yellows, all are very bright and floriferous. Also check out the bedding Begonias which are smallish tight clumping plants with white, red or pink blooms and beautiful foliage of bronze or green. Finally, Impatiens seem to never stop blooming. They are easy to grow, are fast growers and come in six-packs or 4" pots. ■

Eating The Young

BY MELANIE POTTER

It's rewarding to plant and eat your home-grown vegetables but the waiting to harvest part can be months away. Donovan Lewis from our Poway store didn't want to wait for his broccoli and kohlrabi to mature so he began eating the leaves, and liked what he ate. His advice is to eat as much from your plants as possible.

"I have a long, skinny garden, there's not much room so I don't have a lot of space to plant. If I can eat some of the plants before they are ready to harvest, I can get more from them", said Donovan.

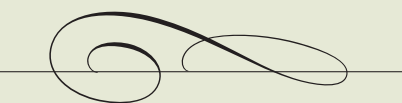
Where to start, what leaves to eat? Anything in the Brassicaceae family which includes broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, and cauliflower.



Broccoli & Kohlrabi

You can eat beet greens, rutabaga greens, and radish leaves.

Saute the leaves or toss in salads. I admit, I have become partial to adding beet leaves to salads and make a point of buying whole beets now for their dual purpose. ■



Plant Seed Potatoes vs. Store Potatoes

BY IRISH EYES GARDEN SEEDS

In case you are thinking about planting potatoes and plan to use those left over from the sack you buy from the grocery store, stop, read this, and learn why it might not be as productive as planting seed potatoes.

Eating potatoes are almost always treated with a sprouting inhibitor so they keep longer in storage. When these potatoes finally sprout, the chemical inhibitor continues to retard shoot growth. The consequence will be a lower yield.

Organically-grown table potatoes are produced in areas where potato diseases are present. Plant these and you risk infecting your other potatoes or those of your neighbors. Virus-infected potatoes do not yield a bumper crop.

So, take advantage of the time of year when garden centers sell seed potatoes. There are lots of varieties to choose from.

Seed potatoes are due early to mid November. ■



Seed Bomber

continued from p1

created for all regions in the United States that is a mix of perennials, annuals and biennials. It contains: White Yarrow, Blue Pimpernel, Calendula, Siberian Wallflower, Lance-Leaf Coreopsis, Plains Coreopsis, Cosmos, Chinese Forget Me Not, Foxglove, California Poppy, Perennial Gaillardia, Scarlet Flax, Sweet Alyssum, Golden Lupine, Hartweg's Lupine, Perennial Lupine, Arroyo Lupine, Evening Primrose, Red Poppy, Gloriosa Daisy, Scarlet Sage, Blue Sage, Nasturtium, and Zinnia. Another blend covers areas with low growing wildflower seeds, made up of: Baby Snapdragon, California Bluebell, California Poppy, Chinese Forget Me Not, Dwarf Lupine, Five Spot, Godetia, None so Pretty, and Zinnia Lilliput.

Watch the calendar on our website as a seed ball class will be held in early spring at the Poway location. ■



The Return of White-Crowned Sparrows

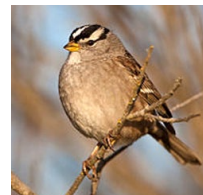


BY OLD BEN OF OLD BEN'S WORKSHOP

White-crowned Sparrows appear each winter over much of Southern California to grace our gardens and favorite trails. The

smart black and white head, pale beak, and crisp gray breast combine for a dashing look.

White-crowned Sparrows are birds of the chaparral, bushy river bottoms, brush piles and weed fields. They migrate south to California in October and stay until April. White-crowned Sparrows eat seeds plus large numbers of caterpillars, wasps, beetles and other insects.



California



Glamour

Male White-crowned Sparrows do most of the singing, but sometimes females also sing. They usually do this while contesting breeding territories or a winter food source. Their songs are quieter than males' songs.

The oldest recorded White-crowned Sparrow was 13 years and 4 months. ■

SOFT Program Deadline Looms November 12 Is Last Day To Order!

BY DAVID ROSS

Fruit tree orders for next year have been placed and the list is available in store and online at <http://www.walterandersen.com/pdf/Softpdf2013priced.pdf>.

Walter Andersen Nursery participates in the Dave Wilson Nursery Special Order Fruit Tree program or SOFT for short.

Heavy clay wet soil, deep, well draining soil, big tree, medium tree, small tree, this SOFT program makes available to you hundreds of additional combinations of fruit trees with assorted rootstocks that will accommodate almost every possible growing situation.

If there is a tree you want, you will probably find it on the SOFT list. The trees will be

arriving in January, but the SOFT orders must be placed by November 12. SOFT trees must be prepaid to complete your order, and the list is available in both stores and online.

If you have any questions or want more information, come in to either Walter Andersen Nursery location for assistance.

Don't leave the store with your bare root fruit tree without a copy of "How to Prune Fruit Trees", a concise book to pruning all kinds of fruit trees, berries, grapes, and roses. Books are available in the store or at our online store, <http://shop.walterandersen.com/browse.cfm/how-to-prune-fruit-trees-revised-edition/4,2648.html>. ■



Holiday Open Houses In December

You're invited to our annual holiday open house event at our Poway store December 1 from 5-7pm and as always, it's family and pet friendly. Shop with special holiday savings, get your photo with Santa, and enjoy holiday food and beverages. Also, stop by our San Diego store's Holiday Open House on December 8 from 11am-1pm. ■

Walter Andersen, Jr. and Santa invite you to holiday celebrations at both stores in December.

Long Time Nursery Employee Retires

BY JOLENE ANDERSEN

It is with sadness that we announce the retirement of legendary nurseryman Phil Johnson. Phil was an icon in the industry, in a league with Ada Perry, Byron Geer and Walter Andersen himself, all giants in the early nursery industry in San Diego. Phil was an institution at WAN for over 40 years, coming aboard under the leadership of Walter and Byrdie Andersen in 1972.

Phil began life on a family farm in upstate New York and left home to join the Navy. He went on to marry his wife, Carla, a school teacher, during his service years. Continuing his education throughout these years, he mustered out of the service and he and Carla, by then a family of four with two sons, created a new post-military life right here in America's finest city. Phil was a company customer long before he applied for a job, and when he was sent in for a job interview by a placement service, Walter Andersen's comment to Phil was, "why didn't you just ask me"? Phil was hired on the spot!

Phil continually learned and improved his knowledge of plants, fertilizers and pesticides; he held many certifications throughout the years such as California

Certified Nurseryman and State Certified Pesticide Applicator. Phil was an orchid culturist and knew orchids from A to Z, so he taught many of the Orchid care and culture garden classes. Among Phil's other special areas of interest are fruit tree and orchard care and culture. He ordered the seed inventory and since he was considered a turf grass wizard, he ordered all the seed products for turf grass and all the associated products for management of lawns and grasses. Phil also ordered and managed the redwood products for many years.

Phil and Carla enjoy opera, ballet and fine wine and food as well as travel. Phil is active with his church and enjoyed Optimist and other service organizations. San Diego is a richer community for having a transplant like Phil Johnson in its midst.

We at Walter Andersen Nursery are going to miss him! The Andersen Family, who enjoyed the friendship and loyalty of this fine man, will miss Phil standing shoulder to shoulder with us through good times and bad, births, deaths and everything in between. Phil, you are a good man who earned your way every day! Thank you! ■



November

In-Store Specials!

50% OFF Select Fruit Trees in stock

Apple, Peach, Pear, Nectarine, & Plum to name a few! Trees are in 5, 7, and 15 gallon cans.

Excludes Citrus, Avocado, Mango, Pomegranate, Fig and Macadamia Nut. Sale Price Valid Nov. 1-21, 2012.

Suet Coconut Feeders 3 for \$9.99

Reg. Price \$9.99. Thanks to Old Ben, get a great deal on cute suet feeders, easy to handle, versatile and healthy for all wild birds.

Great gift idea for the bird lover.

Sale Price Valid Nov. 23 – Dec. 9, 2012.

50% OFF Dried Mealworms

2-Jar Package Reg. Price \$24.99.

Now 2 for \$24.99. That's approximately 12,000 dried Mealworms. Attracts a large variety of insect eating birds including Blue Birds.

Sale Price Valid Nov. 23 – Dec. 9, 2012.

Save \$3 on Old Ben's 25# Wild Bird Seed

Reg. Price \$17.99. Sale \$14.99.

A great mixture of seed including NYJER to attract a wide variety of wild birds.

Sale Price Valid Nov. 23 – Dec. 9, 2012.

All specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

November Garden Class Schedule

All Saturday classes are FREE and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee is served. During inclement weather, classes are held indoors in San Diego and on the covered, heated patio in Poway. Class topics are subject to change with no notification. You may call for confirmation.

9:00AM SAN DIEGO NURSERY	9:30AM POWAY NURSERY
11/3 Ferns for Shady Areas	11/3 Selecting a Shade Tree for Your Yard
11/10 Camellia Selection & Care	11/10 Bonsai for Beginners with Richard Wright
11/17 Dormant Spraying Roses & Fruit Trees	11/17 Wreath Making with Carol Fuller
11/24 No Class Scheduled	11/24 No Class Scheduled

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Visit Our 2 Locations:

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