

Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

A Guide To Citrus

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

If you have room to plant citrus trees, but are overwhelmed by all the varieties, here's my cheat sheet. Citrus in my yard includes: Cara Cara Navel, Meyer Lemon that produces like crazy, and two years ago, I planted a Satsuma Mandarin and also a Tango Mandarin.

Oranges

Cara Cara Pink Navel: Very similar to, if not identical in flavor to the Washington Navel but the fruit has a pinkish cast, giving it a much richer color. Sweet and flavorful, good producer.

Lane Late Navel: The main crop of this Navel tends to ripen a little later than Washington. This variety has a heavier crop later than Washington, into late spring and summer.

Washington Navel: It is the most popular Orange in our area. The fruit is large and seedless, fairly easy to peel, juicy and sweet. Most ripen in cooler winter months, but there can be ripe fruit nearly all year. May soon be replaced by Cara Cara as most popular.

Moro Blood Orange: Blood oranges with a deep reddish flesh, very sweet. The rind may have some variable amounts of red showing. Flavor is excellent with raspberry overtones.

Valencia: This is considered the orange to juice. It is the second most popular orange.



These ripen from summer to late summer. The fruit is very juicy, there are some seeds, eat fresh or juice. More difficult to peel than Navel. The newer Midnight Valencia is a seedless variety.

Lemons

Eureka: This variety produces lots of larger lemons almost year-round when mature. When the tree is young, it may not produce as many fruit as Meyer. The tree grows larger than Meyer and more upright.

Meyer: Sometimes sold as Improved Meyer, it is the only Meyer available. The fruit is rounder, with thinner skin. Tangy aroma, less acid than Eureka. Very juicy and less tart. This variety starts bearing at a very early age. It is the most popular lemon we sell. The tree is a natural dwarf, making a 4'-6' mound; standard tree is larger.

Pink Lemonade: This is a sport of Eureka. The foliage is green and white and the fruit also has some stripes. Flesh is light pink, with good flavor. Handsome landscape tree.

continued p2

It's A Fine Vine Time With These Finds



BY MELANIE POTTER

Every now and then, David Ross and I disagree on some things; one of them is snail vines, or *Vigna caracalla*. He loathes them and I'm a fan of their unique flower and strong, sweet fragrance.

I'm not alone with this preference as we've been selling a lot this summer. At least one customer asked if the vine is a member of the pea family because of its similar form and foliage. This tropical American native is actually a member of the pole bean family. Blooms are cream to pale purple and the flowers are complicated petals with a spiral in the center that gives the appearance of a snail. This is a fast growing vine to 20' that blooms spring and summer

continued p3

In This Issue

A Guide To Citrus	1
A Fine Vine Time	1
Spoiler Alert: New Bulbs	1
September Garden Tasks	2
Words From Walter: Begonias	4
Old Ben: Nutmeg Mannikin	4
Poway Rose Show	4
Boozing With Your Bulbs	5
Specials & Garden Classes	5

Discover Us!



www.walterandersen.com



facebook.com/walterandersens



twitter.com/walterandersens



[Our Online Store](#)



[Watch Videos](#)

Spoiler Alert: Here's The Dirt On Some New Bulbs

BY DAVID ROSS



Last year, we tested some new bulbs and customers liked what they saw, so this year we will offer those, in addition to many of the old favorites.

Our bulb supplier has some advice for planting *Amaryllis* "These are not the same as *Lycoris squamigera*, which is the Naked Lady "Amaryllis" of the Midwest," said Bill the Bulb Baron. "They can be

continued p3

September

Garden Tasks

WATER

Watch for Santa Ana winds and make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns as needed, especially plants in containers.

FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue or Scott's Turf Builder. Use Scott's Turf Builder Plus 2 to feed and control broadleaf weeds. 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. Last feeding for camellias, azaleas, and roses for the year. See specials for savings on Gro-Power food.

PLANT

Sweet Peas, Winter Annuals like Calendulas, Stocks, Pansies, Violas, Mums, and Snapdragons. Plant winter vegetables.

LOOK FOR

Fall bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus and Freesia), Crape Myrtle, Arbutus, Bougainvillea, and Agapanthus. Be sure to chill Tulips, Hyacinths, and spring blooming Crocus before planting.



Guide To Citrus *cont. from p1*

Limes

Bearss: Sometimes sold as Tahiti but not often. The yellow skinned fruit is usually seedless and very juicy. It is the best selling lime in our nursery. Dependable and heavy producer. You can usually harvest fruit year-round.

Mexican: Same as Key Lime of Florida. Small, green to yellow fruit: the standard bartenders lime. Main harvest in fall and winter, but you should have some fruit all year long, in most areas. We sell more of the thornless variety, however, the thorny variety produces more than the thornless type over a longer season.

Sweet: Also sold as Palestine Sweet or Indian Lime. Often used in middle eastern, Indian, and Latin American cuisine. Ripens in fall and winter. Presently, this is a special order item.

Mandarin or Tangerines

Algerian: Sometimes sold as Clementine, medium sized fruit with a few seeds. Ripens fall to late winter and ripe fruit can remain on the tree for many months. A good variety for cooler areas (too cool for Dancy). Sweet and juicy. May have heavier crops if another variety of Mandarin is close by for pollination. May bear heavily in alternate years.

Dancy: This variety is a little smaller and seedier than some others. Standard tangerine in markets before Christmas. Ripens late fall to winter. Fruit holds well on the tree. May bear heavily in alternate years.

Gold Nugget: This is a newer medium to large size fruit that is mostly seedless. Skin is light yellow-orange, often with a rough rind. Easy to peel, rich sweet flavor, fruit holds on the tree well. It ripens February into July. A late bearer that is a nice compliment to Satsuma.

Honey: This is a smaller fruit, with seeds. Flavor is rich and sweet. Fruit ripens in late winter to early spring, typically bears heavier in alternate years.

Kishu Mini: Fruit ripens fall into winter. The fruit is small, very easy to peel. Sweet and mild flavor. May bear heavily in alternate years. A true 'Cutie'; similar to Satsuma, but later and smaller.

Page: This is a hybrid between Algerian (Clementine) and Minneola Tangelo. It produces many small, juicy, sweet fruits in autumn into winter months. Very few seeds and fantastic flavor! Excellent for juicing.



Satsuma Owari: Sweet delicate flavor, medium to larger fruit. Very easy to peel (the skin almost falls off). It is early ripening; from late fall to mid winter. Very juicy and usually no seeds. This is one of the earliest ripening Mandarins in the fall. You can harvest these in November even if the skin still shows some green as they are mature enough to be very flavorful. This is our best selling Mandarin. May bear heavily in alternate years.

Tango: Newer Tangerine from the University of California. Very attractive, easy to peel fruit. It is one of the fastest growing new citrus crops in California. Very popular and dependable production. Most fruit will begin to color up in March, but for best flavor, harvest March-June. The longer it hangs on the tree, the sweeter it will be, and fruit can hang on the tree until July. This variety is usually a very heavy producing tree. Seedless version of W. Murcott.

Yosemite Gold: Newer Mandarin from the University of California. Large fruit has an attractive smooth thin skin that is easy to peel. Flesh is seedless, bright orange, finely textured and juicy. Flavor is rich and sweet. It ripens from January to mid March. Fruit can hold on the tree until about April. It is growing in popularity for commercial plantings in California.

Grapefruit

Cocktail: Very sweet, seedy fruit. It is a cross between a Mandarin and a Grapefruit. This variety will produce good fruit in mild cooler areas.

Marsh: Sometimes sold as Marsh Seedless, this is the most commercially grown grapefruit in California. The fruit is whitish colored, great flavor if planted in warmer areas. Needs heat to get the best flavor, do not plant in coastal areas.

Oro Blanco: A variety introduced by the University of California. It is a Grapefruit-Pummelo hybrid with sweet, usually seedless flesh. Requires less heat than Marsh to produce good flavored fruit. Very thick skin.

Rio Red: A seedless variety with good rind blush and red flesh. Nearly as red as Star Ruby, but may be a little more dependable.

Guide To Citrus *continued from p2*

Star Ruby: Seedless variety with deep red colored flesh. One of the darkest grapefruit, with exceptional flavor. This is best in frost free areas but does not do well in colder areas.

Pummelo

Chandler: This is the most widely grown, flavorful, moderately juicy. Usually seedless. The fruit is extra large, almost twice the size of regular grapefruit. Other varieties occasionally available. All worth the extra effort to get to the flavorful flesh.

Tangelo

Minneola: This is a hybrid of Dancy Tangerine and a white-fleshed Grapefruit. The fruit is large and bright orange in color. Flavor is much like a Tangerine, with few seeds. Ripens mid to late winter. Fruit can store on the tree for two months.



Kumquat

Meiwa: The tree produces small, round, sweet, juicy fruit. It is usually less seedy than other varieties. Performs well in cooler summer areas, where other varieties might not do so well. It is generally considered the best tasting Kumquat. Slower growing than Nagami, limited availability.

Nagami: This is the main commercial variety. Oval fruit, slightly seedy. The quality of the fruit is better where it is warmer in summer months. The plant is thornless.

Miscellaneous

Calamondin: Calamondin, sometimes called Golden Lime, produce heavy crops of fruit, resembling miniature oranges. The fruit is easy to peel, quite juicy, sour, and acidic.

Citrus Hystrix: Kaffir Lime or Keiffer Lime is most often used for its aromatic foliage. It gives food a lemon flavor often used in Asian dishes. It probably will not set fruit. If it happens to, most folks don't use it. ■



Fine Vine Time *continued from p1*

and produces long, thin seed pods. Bees love the flowers and have to travel far into the flower to collect the nectar. When leaving the flower, they deposit pollen and the stigma and stamens retract into the keel keeping other insects from eating the pollen or from damaging the stigma. This system helps the bees cross pollinate.

Plant in full sun, in well draining soil, and make sure the vine has something that will offer support to grow on, like a fence, wall, or trellis. This vine doesn't tolerate frost and in some zones, it will remain evergreen. If it is exposed to and damaged by frost, you can cut it back after the fear of frost has gone.

David hesitates because this vine can be bothered by aphids, mites and whiteflies. If these pests are found, control with Bayer Insect Mite and Disease Control.

And now, for a completely different vine we'll look at Combretum fruticosum, or Orange Flame Vine. The flowers on this vine are dramatic and attention grabbing. Huge

pincushion-like flowers that are gold colored smother the vine eventually turning orange and sometimes red.

It's an evergreen vine that can grow supported to 12-20 feet tall and flowers from summer through fall. The flowers, in opposite 4-6 inch long horizontally held clusters, lack petals but have extremely long stamens that emerge from small tight buds into a flush of toothbrush-like flowers that resemble some Grevillea flowers. A succession of blooms occur so that the vine has a multi-colored appearance after which four-winged red fruit are sometimes produced.

Plant in full to part sun with regular to occasional water. It is hardy and evergreen to 26 degrees. Versatile, it can be grown in containers; or in the landscape, prune to maintain as a shrub. Flowers produce copious nectar and are frequented by hummingbirds, other small birds, and insects. If you have poor soil, this vine could be for you as it tolerates soils that are acidic, slightly alkaline, sandy, loam, or clay. ■

Spoiler Alert: Bulbs

continued from p1

grown wet or dry! When I first started selling these at farmers' markets 20 years ago I used to parrot the prevailing expert advice that they should be left completely dry in the summer. They can handle summer drought very, very well, but the happiest customers of all were those who completely ignored my advice and put them right in the garden amongst all the other plants. Put them anywhere unless it is full shade or close to it," Bill advises.

If you want something different, here's what to look for:

'Redshades' Amaryllis belladonna

New! Dark hot pink, a type of red with a shade of blue. It's closer to red than ever before!

Jumbo Amaryllis belladonna

Jumbo bulb with fragrant pink flowers.

Narcissus 'Golden Dawn'

Easily the heaviest producer of flowers of anything Bill the Bulb Baron grows, this variety puts up an entire second crop of stems as the first ones are fading. Flowering begins in mid-February, continuing until about the first of April. Flowers are larger than other varieties, and of a rich yellow with light orange cups, in clusters of 5 - 8 on tall strong stems. Each bulb produced multiple spikes first year for me, earlier this year.

Amarcrinium jumbos

This hybrid cross between amaryllis belladonna and crinum lilies brings the best of both into the garden and to large patio pots: stellar good looks, a sweet fruity and long lasting fragrance, outstanding resistance to rodent and deer predation, and the ability to thrive in the kind of heat that wilts other flowers. This blooms throughout summer! ■



Save The Date! Fall Rose Show



Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway will host its **Fourth Annual Fall Rose Show** October 12-13. The show is free for exhibitors and attendees. Entries will be taken October 26th from 8am-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are October 12th from 1pm-5pm and October 13th from 9am-4pm. For details on entries, see the schedule at <http://walterandersen.com/pdf/2013-fall-show.pdf>.



Old Ben's Special!

Sale Price Valid
September 1-31, 2013

\$2.00 OFF

All Small Packaged Bird Seed!

Sizes range from 3 lbs to 10 lbs and include: Parakeet, Parrot, Cockatiel, Dove & Quail, Peanuts, Black Oil Sunflower, Niger Seed, & Old Ben's Classic.

\$3.99 to \$19.99

Regular \$5.99 to \$21.99

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

Old Ben's Bird Class

In Poway Only!

Don't miss Old Ben's bird class, "What Seed for Which Birds" on Sept. 14, followed by a parking lot sale with special prices on 25-lb bags of Nyjer seed & 20-lb bags of Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed. Quantities will be limited. *Old Ben promises that these will be the best price of the season!*

Words



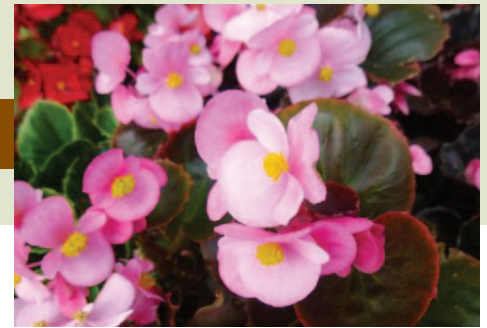
From Walter

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

Begonias For Fall Color

Bedding Begonias are difficult to beat for color and have the added benefit of being easy to grow. They bloom like crazy whether planted in containers, hanging baskets or in the ground. There are many varieties and have blooms of white, red and pink. Foliage is shiny, and is either green or bronze colored. Bedding Begonias come mostly in 6 packs or 4" pots. They can be planted in sunny areas near the coast, inland afford them a little shade. The bronze colored leaves will tolerate more sun, than the green ones.

Other Begonias are grown for their interesting and exotic foliage colors and shapes. These are



best in mostly shaded areas; they grow very well as potted plants or tucked in amongst your other shade plants. Some other varieties have interesting foliage and bright colored blooms. 'Sparks Will Fly' is covered with outstanding small orange blooms and the plant is covered in small blooms and fuzzy bronze foliage. It looks great in containers or hanging baskets.

Plant Begonias in a potting soil with lots of peat moss in the mix. Sunshine Potting soil (in the blue bag) would be an ideal mix. Begonias prefer moist soil; be sure to check the watering so they don't dry out. Fertilize with Gro-Power Flower and Bloom, once a month. ■

Meet The Nutmeg Mannikin

BY OLD BEN

The Nutmeg Mannikin

is also known as the Spice Finch or the Spotted Munia, and is a native of Asia. It was first introduced into the United States and established in Hawaii where it was imported as part of the pet trade. You might see this bird in local pet stores with other colorful finches. Beginning in the 1980s, small colonies were found in Orange County. Today they can be found in San Diego, south east Texas, Alabama, and southern Florida.

The Nutmeg Mannikin is a small finch, 4" body length, 7" wingspan. It is chestnut brown above and finely scaled with brown on its sides, flanks and breast. It has a heavy, stubby, dark bill, on a darker brown head. At the other end, it has a short, pointed tail, and a yellow tinged rump. Its wings are rounded and the legs and feet are gray. Males and females look alike. Juveniles have pale brown upper parts and buff colored under parts. They don't have the darker brown heads of adults, and their bills are gray.

Colonies of these birds in the U.S. started as escaped caged birds. The species was also



introduced into Australia during the 1930s. Its habitat includes grasslands, scrub brush, parks, orchards and urban areas.

The Nutmeg Mannikin feeds mostly on seeds and Lantana berries. It can be found feeding on the ground, at feeders or by hanging upside down on stems of plants. It is an active bird and constantly flicks its wings and tail. It is also a gregarious bird, often found in mixed flocks near reedy areas with weedy growth. The males make whistling sounds and their call sounds like, "ki-bee".

The nest is a large, domed, ball-like structure made of grass and found hanging from a tree or bush. The female lays 4-10 eggs. Both the male and female build the nest and share in incubation which lasts about 14 days. They both take care of the young. ■

Boozing With Your Bulbs BY MELANIE POTTER



As bulb season is upon us, I was reviewing the different bulbs that will arrive any time now, and how to start them. It occurred to me that bulbs sure seem to take some abuse as we force them, chill them, and now we can booze them to stunt their growth.

We see it every year at the nursery when the Paperwhites get too tall and their stalks flop over. That's why you'll sometimes see them tied with string around their mid section to lend support. It turns

out you can keep the stems shorter and stunt their growth by boozing them, so let's take a look at that.

Some folks at Cornell University, researchers in the Flowerbulb Research Program, discovered that alcohol, whether it is the good stuff you drink, or rubbing alcohol, will shorten the stems of bulbs that grow tall and become too weak to hold up their top heavy heads. Beware, though, your math skills will be called into action. So pour yourself a drink and prepare to booze your bulbs. Here's how:

Once the roots begin growing and the green shoot on top reaches 1" to 2", pour off the existing water. Replace the water with a solution of 4-6% alcohol, and then continue to use the alcohol solution for future watering.

To obtain the necessary percentage of alcohol, which is less than 10% to avoid a hangover your plants won't bounce back from, you'll need to look at the proof label on the bottle.

Start with any hard liquor such as vodka, tequila, or whiskey, or save that for drinking and use rubbing alcohol. Don't use beer or wine because of the high sugar content. To determine the percentage of alcohol your booze has, divide the proof in half. Eighty-six proof bourbon is 43% alcohol. To convert your booze to the acceptable level of alcohol, divide the percentage alcohol by 5 and then subtract 1. This will tell you how many parts water to mix with your 1 part alcohol. For example if you have 80 proof liquor divide by half to get 40 then divide that by 5 and you have 8. Subtract 1 to reach 7. Mix 7 parts water to 1 part liquor to get the desired dilution.

If you need a refresher on how to grow Paperwhites, here it is: Fill a container with pebbles to within an inch of the rim. You can use a glass bowl, clay pot, or even a tall vase, which will help support the paper white's tall stems. Add water until it is just below the top of the pebbles. Set the bulbs on the surface of the pebbles, crowding them together so they almost touch. Add more pebbles, covering the bottom third of the bulbs. Make sure the bulbs themselves are not touching the water, or they may grow mold and rot. Maintain the water level described above and leave the bulbs in a cool location with little or no light. This cool darkness encourages root growth. After a week or two, tug gently on the bulbs from time to time to test for root development. Once they feel rooted, move them to a bright spot without direct sunlight. They should flower in three to five weeks. ■

September Garden Class Schedule

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. Topics are subject to change. See the full schedule at www.walterandersen.com/calendar/.

9:00AM SAN DIEGO NURSERY	9:30AM POWAY NURSERY
9/7 Savory Fall Herbs	9/7 Bedding Color
9/14 Soil Prep for Fall Planting	9/14 What Seed for Which Birds with Old Ben & Parking Lot Sale
9/21 Fall Bulbs	9/21 Fall Vegetables with Richard Wright
9/28 Vegetables for Fall & Winter	9/28 Fall Bulbs

September

In-Store Specials!

Sale Prices Valid
September 1-30, 2013

Gro-Power Savings!

**20# Gro-Power
Rose & Flower or
Camellia & Azalea Food**
\$22.99 Reg. \$29.99

Fall Color Sale!

**4" Color Bedding
Plants**
\$2.49 Reg. \$2.99

Fall Lawn Feeding Savings

**Scott's Super Turf
Builder**
\$19.99 Reg. \$24.99

Clearance Sale

**Preen Pre-Emergent
Weed Control**
\$12.99 Reg. \$19.99

**Preen Pre-Emergent
Weed Control Plus
Fertilizer**
\$14.99 Reg. \$24.99

*Preen Clearance limited to stock on hand.
First come, first served.*

*Limited to stock on hand. No special orders.
Cannot be combined with any other discount or
offer. Hedge Fund\$ Certificates can apply.*

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™



www.walterandersen.com

Visit Our 2 Locations:

SAN DIEGO
3642 Enterprise Street, San Diego, CA 92110
{619} 224-8271

POWAY
12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA 92064
{858} 513-4900



www.walterandersen.com



facebook.com/walterandersens



twitter.com/walterandersens



[Our Online Store](#)



[Watch Videos](#)