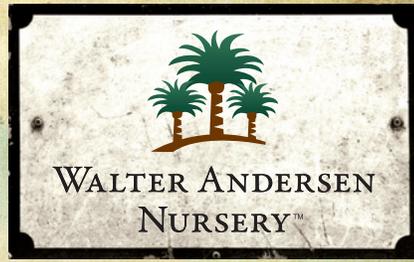


Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

What's In Store For Fall The Best Garlic Starts Now!

BY MELANIE POTTER

Fall planting is off to a great start with onions, artichoke garlic, and shallots in the store now and potatoes expected in November.

There are red, white, and yellow onion sets and yellow shallots.

Artichoke-type garlic refers to sativums or softnecks, the kinds of garlics seen most in the supermarkets in our part of the country. California Early and California Late are grown in and around Gilroy, but the majority of garlic is grown in China. Artichoke garlics are the easiest to grow and seem to be less fussy about growing conditions than the others, and do well in warm winter locations. They have lots of cloves, usually somewhere between 12 and 20, with lots of smaller internal cloves.

The garlic in stock is organic and includes these varieties:

Italian Late – A popular softneck variety. It's one of the best-tasting and most pungent cooking types. All of the best qualities of garlic are bred into this cultivar. Can be



Early Italian Garlic

stored for 6-9 months after harvest. Also a good braiding type.

Inchelium Red – An heirloom softneck or artichoke type garlic that is claimed to be the oldest strain of garlic grown in North America. This mild flavored garlic is great baked and blended with mashed potatoes.

Silver Rose – Softneck variety ideal for braiding and hanging. Rose-colored cloves have a warm flavor. Will grow to a large size bulb. It matures late and stores well. Keeps for up to ten months.

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Staghorn Fern or Platycerium

BY DAVID ROSS



David Ross with a Staghorn Fern

Staghorn Fern is the common name used for most varieties of this member of the fern family. They are well suited to the San Diego

environment, and are easy to grow. They prefer bright filtered light for most of the day. To give you an idea of what that means, think about them being in the full sun, under 50% shade cloth, all day long. Super bright light, very warm, but the edge is taken off the sun. Only a few of the rare varieties need protection from the cold in our area. Since they are usually grown under something (eaves of a house or trees for example), cold is usually not an issue. However, if you think it might get less than 30 degrees where your Staghorn is, you might want to offer some protection. Moving them under cover or covering them with a blanket will usually prevent enough heat from escaping to protect them from freezing.

The ferns should be watered about once a week or less during cooler months and two times a week during hot, dry weather. Take

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Pumpkin Time!



This year, both stores will have more pumpkins than ever before, and a wider assortment. Look for giant pumpkins and minis, the popular 'Fairytale' pumpkin, and some will be white, some blue, and lots of orange ones. Good for carving, eating, or decorative purposes through the fall! Speaking of carving pumpkins, share your jack-o-lantern photos on our Facebook page. How do you choose the perfect pumpkin? Well, according to the website, All About Pumpkins, the pumpkin chooses you! To learn more about pumpkins than you thought was possible, follow this link: www.allaboutpumpkins.com.

October

Garden Tasks

WATER

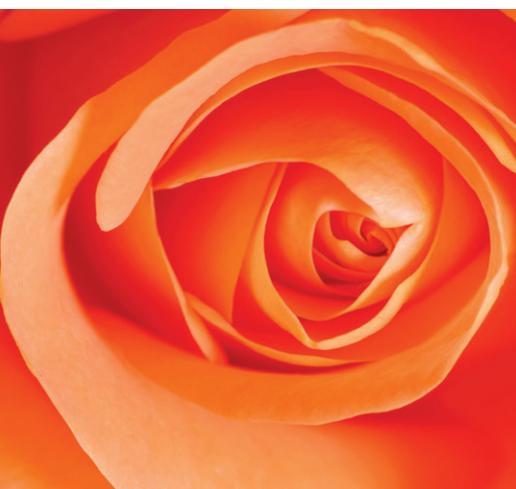
When Santa Anas arrive, make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns as needed, especially container plants.

FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue or Scott's Turf Builder or 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. Do **not** feed Camellias and Azaleas until after they are through flowering in spring.

PLANT

Bulbs like Daffodils, Ranunculus, Freesias, Anemones and more. Winter Annuals like Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, and Primrose in the shade. California Natives and drought tolerant plants are best planted this time of year to get root systems established. Don't miss winter bedding, cool season vegetables, early Camellias and Azaleas, Cotoneaster, Liquidambar, and Ginko.



What's In Store *continued from p1*

Nootka Rose – Cloves streaked red on mahogany background with solid red clove tips. Medium to large bulbs are very attractive braided. Strong flavor.

Early Italian Purple – Produces larger cloves than most softnecks. Better adapted to summer heat. This hefty garlic infuses entrees, soups and salads with sweet, mild flavor. These easy-growing, widely adapted garlics will keep 10 months. Garlic may begin growth late in fall or early in spring.

Potatoes – Now, for the bad news about potatoes. They will be late again this year and although we expect them in November, watch our facebook page for updates on their arrival time. Growers have to harvest later than usual due to Mother Nature. If it's too wet, they can't dig them, and where they are grown, it has been wet. Also, it's not until they start to be dug up that growers know what the quality and quantity of the harvest will be. We do expect a rainbow of colors this year so look for spuds that are white, purple, red, or yellow. ■

Staghorn Ferns *continued from p1*

care not to keep them wet all the time, especially during cooler months, because they might rot. Staghorn ferns will respond well to fertilizer. Walter Andersen Nursery recommends putting Gro-Power tablets up behind the base shields once or twice per year. This is the EASIEST way to feed your ferns. If you prefer to use a water soluble fertilizer, apply it once or twice per month from March until September. The foliage will be larger and darker green if they get regular feedings. However, it will encourage them to grow faster, meaning more frequent remounts!

As your ferns multiply, they may become too large for their space. If so, they can be easily divided by removing portions of the older clumps and mounting them on new boards or planting them in wire baskets. It is best if the divisions are not too small, about 10" to 12" diameter divisions are almost foolproof. Use an old saw or knife to cut into the base, about 3" deep and remove as much of the rooted area as possible. As a general rule, the mounting board should be about two times as large as the plant being mounted. Redwood or cedar boards last the longest. Place moistened (to reduce dust) green moss behind the division and more around the edge. This will help hold moisture and give it something to root into. In most cases, we recommend holding the plant in place with monofilament line (15# to 20# fish line) laced back and forth across the



Staghorn

shields. Small nails at the edge of the board are the easiest way to hold the crisscrossed line in place. Use ample amounts of line to keep the plant firmly in place. On a very large plant, it may be necessary to use extra long zip ties or a stainless steel strap to keep it attached to the board. Wire baskets are ideal if you want the plant to grow into a ball. Place a few divisions through the side of the basket and one on the top and in a few months it will be very presentable. Newly remounted plants will need more frequent watering than established plants. Thrip and scale are infrequent pests and are easily controlled with a systemic insecticide such as Bayer 2-in-1 Insect Control Plus Fertilizer. Placing these spikes in the moss behind your plant will control bugs for up to a month without you having to spray, and it will feed them too!

To see David Ross' care recommendations for staghorn ferns, follow this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyKayFAwg7M. ■

Save The Date: Fall Rose Show

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

Know Your Plants

BY CHUCK MCCLUNG

One of my gardening mantras is, “know your plant.” This idea began for me from one of my professors in graduate school. He used to say, “Before you begin any research project, know your plant.”

Anytime can be a great time to get to know your plants. Which perennials do I cut back for the fall? Which shrubs do I prune now? What do I do with my roses in fall? So here are some helpful ways to get to know your plants so you can start to answer your own questions.



Knowing your plants helps you determine when they are experiencing challenges performing, how to diagnose their malady, and how to care for them. For instance, this peach leaf is infected with Peach Leaf Curl and needs treating with dormant spray during fall and winter.

We can learn the “nuts and bolts” information like the mature size of a particular variety of Pittosporum, or if this perennial is for sun or shade. My two favorite reference books are The Sunset Western Garden Book and The A-to-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants by Brickell and Zuk. Both are great resources for information about a plant’s mature size, pruning, cold/heat tolerance, etc.

Local sources of information are always best. Try attending one of our free Saturday gardening classes, or just come into the nursery and ask our experts questions. And, of course, don’t forget to read your favorite nursery newsletter.

More and more gardeners are referencing the Internet. Beware that the Internet is worldwide and not geared toward San Diego

County, and you may be lead astray. You don’t want someone in Florida telling you how to take care of your roses.

There are two lesser appreciated notions that I have found incredibly useful for knowing your plants. In all of my gardening classes and seminars, I emphasize the importance of understanding (1) the native habitat of the plant – or where a plant grows or where we find it in nature, and (2) the growth habit of the plant – or how a plant grows or what it does over one year.

Putting the two notions together: the goal for any type of gardening is to reproduce the native habitat of your plant to get the desired growth habit, while having lots of fun!

The native habitat refers to where the plant is found in nature and suggests to us how to care for our plant. If a plant is native to the Midwest prairies, it will probably require lots of sun and moist but well-drained soil. If a plant is native to the understory of a tropical rainforest, it will likely perform best in the shade or as a houseplant with protection from cold winters.

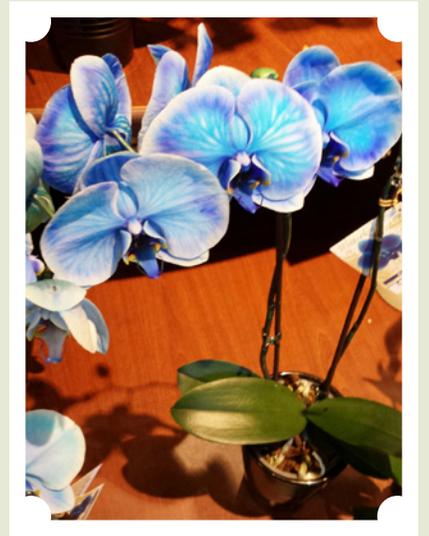
The growth habit refers to what that plant does over one entire growing season. When does the plant flower? Does the plant retain its leaves all winter? Some plants even experience dormancy during summer.

Probably the most important thing to know about your plant is where the new leaves originate? The ability to distinguish the youngest leaves from the oldest leaves gives you a powerful tool to assess the health of your plant.

For instance, many plants normally shed some of their oldest leaves during the driest part of summer. Plants often shed the oldest, least valuable leaves during times of “stress”, which should not cause immediate alarm.

However, if the youngest leaves on a plant look discolored or deformed, something is definitely wrong. The youngest leaves should never look sick on a plant, unless the plant is going dormant for the season.

Try out these ideas above, attend a gardening class, and know your plants! ■



Oh, The Horror!

BY MELANIE POTTER

There are some things, that when you see them, just look wrong. Like an over coiffed poodle, the haircut you get after showing the stylist a photograph, or blue orchids.

I made a quick trip to the grocery store, walked in the door, and the first display I saw smacked me in the face, as what greeted me was a mass of Phalaenopsis, all dyed blue! The deep blue colored dye looked like it had run, so some of the petals were streaked turquoise and purple. Orchids are naturally among the world’s most beautiful and alluring flowers. They look so delicate that some gardeners are too intimidated to even try to grow them. Nature promises colors that are varied and sculpted petals that have few rivals so it’s understandable that we fall under the orchids’ spell. So, orchids in their natural glory, are all you’ll find at Walter Andersen Nursery. No dyed blooms here. ☺

In the wild, you won’t find a true blue orchid. The closest is perhaps the purple-colored Phalaenopsis violacea, native to

continued p4



Know The Time Change



September 30th: Our Poway store begins closing daily at 5pm, in anticipation of the shorter days to come. Hours are 9am-5pm daily.

A Reminder: Daylight savings time ends November 3rd.

Oh, The Horror *continued from p3*

Malaysia and Indonesia that offers hybrids in different shades of purple, even a bluish violet.

Orchids dyed blue do have appeal and fans though. In 2011, 'Blue Mystique' was presented at the Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition. Months later, the Flora Holland Award 2011 in the Concepts Category was awarded to 'Royal Blue'.

Bringing the blues to orchids is a clinical process. During the growth process, the stalk of a white Phalaenopsis orchid is injected with a blue dye solution. The intervention is performed in an environment that keeps the infection risk for the plant at a minimum. The blue color is absorbed by the orchid and creates a blue flower. Subsequent blooms, however, will be white. ■

OCTOBER 12-13, 2013

FREE for
Exhibitors & Attendees!

4TH ANNUAL FALL POWAY ROSE SHOW

HOSTED BY



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Entries Registration

October 12
8am to 10:30am

Judging

October 12
11am to 1pm

Show Hours

October 12 & October 13
1pm to 5pm & 9am to 4pm

Location 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA | {858} 513-4900

ACCREDITED JUDGE/SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE E.C.R.S.



Try Our Ada Perry's Brand Premium Redwood Blend Compost

We were looking for a supplier of a redwood compost made from mostly redwood and everything we'd seen from our regular suppliers contained only a small amount of redwood along with other forest products. We found a supplier who had the old style of straight redwood compost and contracted with them to bag it under Walter Andersen Nursery's private label. Now you can buy Ada Perry's Premium Redwood Blend Compost, which contains mostly redwood along with some forest products. It is organic compost that provides long-lasting enrichment for your soil. ■

Turkey Vulture Is Halloween At Its Best



BY OLD BEN

The most widespread vulture in North America, the Turkey Vulture, is locally called “buzzard” in many areas. A Turkey Vulture standing on the ground can, at a

distance, resemble a wild turkey. It is unique among our vultures in that it finds carrion by smell as well as by sight. When threatened, it defends itself by vomiting powerful stomach acids and food.

Turkey Vultures are large, dark birds with long, broad wings. Bigger than other raptors except eagles and condors, they have long looking fingers at their wingtips and long tails that extend past their toe tips in flight. When soaring, Turkey Vultures hold their wings slightly raised, making a V when seen head on.

Turkey Vultures appear black from a distance but up close are dark brown with featherless red heads and a pale bill. While most of their body and forewing are dark, the undersides of the flight feathers, along the trailing edge and wingtips, are paler, giving a two toned appearance.

Look for Turkey Vultures as they cruise open areas including, farmland, forest, and rangeland. They are particularly noticeable along roadsides. At night they roost in trees, on rocks, and other high secluded spots.

Turkey Vultures eat carrion, which they find largely by their excellent sense of smell. They mostly eat mammals but are not above snacking on reptiles, other birds, amphibians, and fish. They prefer freshly dead animals, but often have to wait for their meal to soften in order to pierce the skin. They are deft foragers, targeting the softest bits first and even know to leave aside the sent glands of dead skunks. Vultures have an excellent immune system, happily feasting on carcasses without contracting botulism, anthrax, cholera, or salmonella.

Turkey Vultures don't build full nests. They may scrape out a spot in the soil or leaf litter, pulling aside obstacles, or arranging scraps of vegetation or rotting wood. Once found, many of these nest sites may be used repeatedly for a decade or more. Turkey Vultures nest in rock crevices, caves, ledges, mammal burrows, hollow logs, abandoned hawk or heron nests, and abandoned



buildings. These nest sites are much cooler than normal surroundings, and isolated from human traffic or disturbance. While they often feed near humans, Turkey Vultures prefer to nest far from civilization.

Turkey Vultures have been increasing in numbers across North America since the 1980s. Today they are among the most common large carnivorous birds in North America. However, because they live on rotting meat like California Condors, they can fall victim to poisons or lead in dead animals. The main concern is lead shot from hunters that ends up in carcasses or gut piles left by hunters. Other threats include trapping and killing due to erroneous fears that they spread disease. Far, far from it, vultures actually reduce the spread of disease.

Strange Facts:

Turkey Vultures often direct their urine right on to their legs. This process, known as urohydrolysis, serves two very important purposes. On warm days, wetting the legs cools the vulture as the urine evaporates. The urine also contains strong acids from the vulture's digestive system, which may kill bacteria that remains on the bird's legs from stepping in its meal.

The Turkey Vulture is one of the only birds in North America with a highly developed sense of smell. This vulture relies both on its keen eyesight and powerful nose to search out food.

Contrary to popular belief, circling vultures do not necessarily indicate the presence of a dead animal. Circling vultures may be gaining altitude for long flights, searching for food, or playing. These birds soar on thermals of warm, rising air. You will certainly see vultures in the air over a carcass, and they may remain in the air until they feel the situation is safe enough for them to land and begin feeding. ■

Old Ben's Specials!

Sale Prices Valid
October 1–31, 2013

Nyjer Mesh Finch Feeder

\$29.99 Regular \$42.99
Feeder holds approx 3lbs of Nyjer seed.

50% OFF Finch Socks

Small **\$2.99** Regular \$5.99
Large **\$4.49** Regular \$8.99

25lb. Nyjer Seed

\$32.99 Regular \$44.99

Live Nyjer Seed Packet *Closeout Price!*

\$1.00 Regular \$2.99
Grow your own Nyjer.

Platform Feeder

\$29.99 Regular \$42.99
The best way to feed most wild birds.

20lb. Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

\$19.99 Regular \$24.99
No MILO in this Mix.

Wild Bird Seed Bell

\$4.99 Regular \$6.99
Weights 2 lbs., comes with mesh hanger.

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

October

In-Store Specials!

Sale Prices Valid
October 1–31, 2013

50% OFF Deciduous Fruit Trees

Excludes Citrus, Avocado,
and Tropicals.

4" Bedding Mums

\$1.99 Regular \$2.99

\$5.00 OFF Any Gro-Power Fertilizer 20# Bag or Larger

{or} 1-Gallon Liquid Gro-Power

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

Clearance Sale!

Select inventory clearance priced
to move. Stop by both WAN
locations to find a deal today!

Halloween Recipe: Goblin Eyes!

BY MELANIE POTTER

Halloween is my favorite time of the year and at our house it is treated like a holiday and we extend it into November with a Day of the Dead celebration. I've already purchased a Halloween t-shirt and a new wine glass to celebrate the season. Any day now, I'll make more batches of these treats that are tasty any time of the year, but are especially appropriate after adding a ghoulish surprise via an olive eyeball!



The recipe is for sausage cheese balls, something my aunt told me how to make when I was a kid. I saw the same recipe online, but for Halloween, when you add a green olive, it makes each one look like an eye!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose baking mix, like Bisquick (Nearly all the recipes will tell you to add the mix, but I add water to make a biscuit-like batter, then add that to the other ingredients. When I tried a batch using just the dry Bisquick, they came out a bit dry and dense).
- 1 pound ground hot or mild pork sausage
- 16 oz. extra sharp or sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 17-ounce jar pimiento-stuffed Spanish olives

Combine the all-purpose baking mix or batter, sausage, and cheese in a large bowl and mix together until blended. Spray your hands with vegetable spray then shape sausage mixture into 1 1/4-inch balls, and place on lightly greased baking sheets. Press 1 pimiento-stuffed Spanish olive into the center of each ball. Bake at 375° for 15 to 18 minutes or until lightly browned.

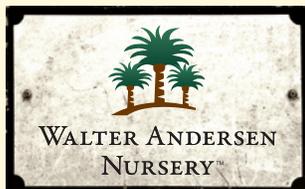
Note: These freeze beautifully so I make a big batch; put them on a cookie sheet and freeze. Once frozen, transfer them to a plastic bag and back into the freezer to use as needed. When I made a test batch with the olives, I sliced big martini olives into four circles so each piece had pimento showing and placed that onto the sausage ball, pressing it in lightly. Using big pieces of olives can overpower the other flavors. ■

October 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 |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 10/5 Winterizing Our Feathered Friends with Old Ben | 10/5 How to Prep for a Rose Show |
| 10/12 Camellia Care & Culture | 10/12 & 10/13 Fall Rose Show |
| 10/19 Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying | 10/19 Fall Rose Care with David Ross |
| 10/26 Winter Color | 10/26 Bonsai with Richard Wright |

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