

Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

Get 'Em Now—Bare Root Roses Are Here!

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.



'Fired Up'

Bare root roses are generally available mid-December through February. This is the time of year when we will have the best selection of the best quality roses of the entire year. Our roses arrive in large boxes which are lined with plastic to prevent the sleeping roses from drying out. No little plastic bags, just large boxes filled with hundreds of roses. These dormant roses will begin growing immediately and be blooming sometime in March or April! You can find a complete list of roses we have at: www.walterandersen.com/pdf/2014-rose-list.pdf. See the new

roses for 2014 in November's newsletter at: www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/News1113_F1.pdf.

As soon as they arrive in our stores, they are individually pruned and potted in our premium, custom mixed, peat moss-based, rose potting soil from Sungro Horticulture. Over the last decades we have tried many mixes for the roses, but this has been far and away the best performer. Even though they are now potted and will bloom right in their pots, they still can be handled as bare root roses until they have pushed out more than 2" of new growth.

Roses prefer a warm, sunny location that gets at least six hours of direct sun. Dig a hole about 20" wide and 18" deep. Mix the soil you take out of the hole 50/50 with E.B. Stone Planting Compost, or Sunshine Rose and Flower Mix. In the very bottom of the hole mix 1-2 cups of Ada Perry's Magic Formula for roses, and a couple of hands-full of Gro-Power All Organic Soil Conditioner with the existing soil, and cover with about an inch of the soil/compost mix and tamp firmly. Then form a mound of the 50/50 mix in the center of your planting hole and distribute the roots evenly around it. The bud union or graft

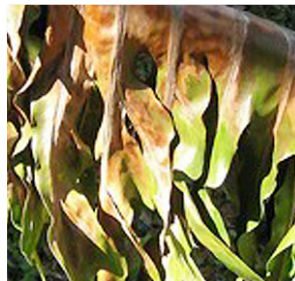
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Defense Against And Treatment Of Frost Damage Is Easy

BY KEN ANDERSEN

Although San Diego does not experience the extreme cold that other parts of the country deal with each winter, it can get cold. The closer you are to the coast, the less of an issue this can be but for those who live inland, down in a valley, or in the mountains, serious damage can result from a cold snap. One of the great features of San Diego is our varied topography. Mountains, hills and valleys give San Diego one of its unique characteristics. This same topography can even mean the difference between having frost damage and not having it. This aspect is very apparent in my neighborhood of Scripps Ranch. We live near the top of a hill and

have constant breezes flowing from the coast and suffer very little in the way of frost damage each winter. However, my neighbors who live down the street at the bottom of the hill, are subject to damage of some extent or another every year because the cold air flows down hill and settles in the lower areas and valleys. This is true wherever you live in San Diego. It will always be a bit warmer near the tops of hills and on the sides of valleys rather than at the bottom.



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Dates To Remember

DEC 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Poway store closes at 2pm.

JAN 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY

Both stores are closed.



January In-Store Special!

20% OFF

All Flower & Vegetable Seeds

Get a jump on spring
and start your spring plants
early from seed!

[See Our January Coupons
on Page 5!](#)

January

Garden Tasks

PRUNING

Now is the time to prune Roses, deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines including fruit trees, grapes and berry vines. Use well-maintained and sharp shears. Replace worn Felco pruner blades and springs with new ones for easier pruning.

PEST CONTROL

Dormant spray for diseases and overwintering insects. Use Liqui-Cop to control fungus on fruit trees and roses and Peach Leaf Curl and more on peaches and nectarines. Use oil spray to control overwintering insects and insect eggs.

PLANTING

This is the ideal time to plant bare root roses, fruit trees, and ornamentals. Shop early for the best selection. Plant these vegetables now: Artichoke, Asparagus, Beets (seed), Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots (seed), Celery, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi (seed), Lettuce, Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Radish (seed), Spinach, Swiss Chard, and Turnips (seed).

LAWN CARE

Apply Scott's Super Turf Builder Plus Halts to prevent Crabgrass and other weed seed from germinating as the weather warms up.

ROSES

Apply Ada Perry's Magic Formula to established roses and add with fertilizer when planting bare-root Roses.

LOOK FOR

Camellias, Azaleas, Holly, Pyracantha, roses and fruit trees.

Bare Root Roses *continued from p1*

should be about 2" above the surrounding soil. Fill the remaining portion of the planting hole with the 50/50 mix taking care not to leave any air pockets, and tamp lightly. Make a basin approx. 18" to 24" in diameter around your newly planted rose to concentrate the water around the existing roots and water thoroughly. Initially water approximately once per week unless we have regular rain, increasing to 2-3 times per week this summer. Container plants may need daily watering during the summer.

Fertilize your roses monthly from January until the end of September with either Gro-Power, or DR. Earth Rose and Flower Food. We also recommend two applications of Ada Perry's Magic Formula for Roses. Apply once in January, and a second application in June.

Insects and fungus can be a problem for roses.

If you see something on your roses which causes concern, please bring in a sample so we can properly diagnose the problem. There are several different products which will help control these issues. Serenade, Daconil, and Immunox will help control fungus problems. Green Light Rose Defense (Neem Oil), will help control fungus, insects, and spider mites. Bayer Advanced has many different products to control insects and diseases. Some are applied by spraying on the foliage, others just by mixing with water and pouring around the base of the plant. The Bayer systemic products will last longer than the others, requiring less frequent applications. Some contain fertilizer as well.

If you still have questions, come on in, and watch the class schedule as well for upcoming rose care classes. ■

Defense Against Frost Damage *continued from p1*

Protecting your plants from frost is pretty simple. The first step in protecting your plants from frost is knowing when it is going to be cold. Try to keep an eye out for weather alerts on the news, in the newspaper, or from an online news source. If frost is forecast, it's time to start planning. For potted plants, the easiest way to protect them is to move them under a covered patio, entryway or even the garage. Having a roof over their head will hold the frost at bay through the coldest night. If the plants are not only sensitive to frost, but sensitive to cold in general, drape a few old sheets over them during the cold nights. This same trick can be used in your landscape as well.

For the vegetable garden or larger areas, consider purchasing Row Cover to keep the frost from settling on your plants. This inexpensive fabric is water and light permeable but will protect your plants from damage. It is so light permeable that it can be left on for extended periods if it is impractical to remove it before the next frost cycle hits. Bed sheets, while they work very well for frost protection, block too much light to be left on for a long period of time. Hot hats are a favorite of hardcore winter vegetable gardeners. The ones that are available now are no longer the wax paper hats of old, but rather clear rigid plastic with room for more than one plant in each one. The ones we stock today even have adjustable vents. These will actually act as a greenhouse for your vegetable starts and give them a head start going into spring.

Should your plants suffer frost damage, which usually manifests itself as burned or blackened foliage, don't rush to prune it back too fast. For instance, Hibiscus can suffer from frost damage. You will see it typically hit the tops of the plants while the lower part of the plant is unaffected. This is because the upper exposed areas actually can shield the lower parts from the cold long enough to prevent them from being damaged. If you rush out and cut the damaged part off and another round of frost hits, another layer of the plant could get damaged, meaning you will have to trim it back even more. Wait until the cold season passes before you trim back frost damage if at all possible.

New soft growth will suffer more damage than older mature foliage, so try not to feed your plants during the colder parts of the season. If you do cut your damaged plants back while the weather is still cold, refrain from feeding them, which would encourage new growth, until the weather begins to warm. This will prevent new, softer growth forming during the colder seasons and risking more damage. Applications of Dyna Grow Pro Tek may help reduce frost damage by infusing the plant and its foliage with silicon, making the cell walls stronger and less susceptible to damage.

If you have questions about plants that may be susceptible to frost in your yard or in your area, come into either of our stores to speak to our experts who can give you specific advice for your garden. ■



Words

From Walter

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.



The Bare Facts On Bare Root Trees

I've got some great reasons to buy bare root fruit trees this time of the year. For starters, you get the best selection as far as varieties go. Another perk is that they are much easier to transport in your car. Best of all, they cost less than when you purchase them in a container. If you need more persuasion, they are easier to plant as you don't have to remove them from containers. Even though they are bare now, in a couple of months the trees will start to leaf out and you should have lots of new growth by summer. Some varieties may have 3 or 4 feet of new growth by then, and some will fruit as soon as next year. With proper planning, you can harvest fresh fruit almost all year long!



Apples

Right now we have a very good selection, over 200 varieties to choose from if you include blueberries, grapes, olives, and cane berries (you can download the list of fruit trees in stock by following this link: www.walterandersen.com/pdf/2014-fruit-tree-list.pdf). There are very few nurseries that carry this many varieties. We pick and choose the best for Southern California gardens. Many varieties of fruit trees need more winter chill than we get in our mild, sub-tropical climate. Just the other day we had someone looking for a certain type of Prune, and the variety needed about 900 hours of chill (below 45 degrees, generally) to produce good crops. They were happy to know the one they wanted might not produce in this climate, but there are other varieties that will. Some of the trees in our Poway location are a little different



Figs

than the San Diego store because inland and the foothills area get colder in winter. The San Diego store selects more varieties that produce with milder winter temperatures. If what you want is not in the location you are shopping, we make transfers two times per week, so in just a few days we can move the tree from one store to the other.

Here is a great idea if you have limited space for fruit trees. You can plant more than one tree in a hole! It takes a little planning, but it is not difficult. Your planting hole should be a little larger, say 2.5'-3' in diameter, and about 16" to 18" deep. Place all three trees in the hole, spacing them about 12" to 18" apart. It is probably a good idea to have three tree stakes ready, one for each tree. Be sure to mix some soil conditioner or planting compost with the soil that you dug from the hole to fill in around the roots of your new trees. While you are planting, be careful not to plant the trees too deep. A good rule of thumb when finished planting, the first roots growing horizontally from the root ball should not be any deeper than one inch. Usually you can check the stem of the tree near the roots and see different shades of brown/tan where the soil level was at the grower. Trees planted too deep may not survive because the bark stays too wet and starts to rot. This may not happen right away, but could show up in a year or two. Get some green plastic tie tape and tie your trees to the three stakes to keep them from blowing over. Be sure to trim back your new bare root trees, maybe as much as 1/3 off the top should be cut back. This will give you a nicer, lower branching tree. Who wants to go up on a ladder 10 or 12 feet high to pick fruit? You can do some growing season pruning to keep your tree to size if it is sending up too much top growth. You don't need to wait until the tree goes dormant to prune back the new growth.

Start fertilizing your new trees in March or April, and repeat the fertilizer about every three months until September. Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado or Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Food is ideal. ■

Winter Orchid Care



BY CHUCK MCCLUNG

A plant's winter needs differ from its needs during the rest of the year, and orchids are certainly no exception. Right now in the middle of winter, it's colder, the days are shorter, and most importantly, your heater is likely on. So here are some winter care tips for your orchids.

Know Your Plant!

Orchids are a huge, diverse group of plants with diverse requirements for light, temperature, and water. Some like it hot, and some like it cool; some like it bright and some like it shaded. They all love humidity. Know your orchid!

Humidity

Most of our orchids are native to tropical and sub-tropical regions and generally prefer higher humidity than found in most heated homes during winter. Use a humidity tray: a tray or saucer filled with wet pea gravel. Set the plant on top of the wet rocks, not in standing water. The water evaporates off the wet rocks creating a humid microclimate around the plant. Avoid misting your indoor orchids; water sitting in the folds of the leaves can promote rot.

Light

Providing enough light for your indoor orchids can be a big challenge during winter months. The days are shorter and the sun is at a lower angle. The

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Old Ben's Specials!

Sale Prices Valid
January 2–31, 2014

Old Ben's Clear Hummingbird Food

\$2.99 Reg. \$5.99

Old Ben's Hummingbird Nesting Material Holder

\$7.99 Reg. \$11.99

4pc Nylon Brush Set

\$9.99 Regular \$13.99

Ant Shield

\$6.99 Regular \$8.99

Protects Hummingbird Feeders From Ants.

FREE Small Finch Sock

With Purchase of 5lb or 10lb

Old Ben's Niger Seed

5lb \$9.99 Reg. \$11.99

10lb \$18.99 Reg. \$21.99

5lb Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

\$5.99 Reg. \$8.99

5lb No Mess Seed

\$9.99 Reg. \$12.99

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



Winter Bird Feeding



BY OLD BEN

If you feed birds, you're in good company. Feeding birds is one of North America's favorite pastimes. A 2010 report from the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service estimates that about 65 million Americans provide food for wild birds.

In much of North America, winter is a difficult time for birds. Days are often windy and cold; nights are long and even colder. Vegetation has withered or been consumed, and most insects have died or become dormant. Finding food can be especially challenging for birds on cold days. Setting up backyard feeders makes their lives easier and ours more enjoyable.

Types of Bird Food...

During the spring and summer, most songbirds eat insects and spiders, which are highly nutritious, abundant, and for the most part, easily found. During fall and winter, non migratory songbirds shift their diets to fruits and seeds to survive. This is the time of year when bird feeding enthusiasts roll out the welcome mat and set the table.

Which Seed Types Should I Provide?

Black oil sunflower seeds attract the greatest number of species. These seeds have a high meat to shell ratio, they are nutritious and high in fat. Their small size and thin shells make them easy for small birds to handle and crack. Although sunflower seeds are the overall favorite, some birds prefer other seeds. For example, blackbirds like corn, and doves prefer millet and safflower. Nijer is a delicacy for small finches such as goldfinches, and siskins. Nijer seeds are small. Offer them in special Nijer feeders. Most ground feeding birds prefer white millet to black oil sunflower seeds.

Place feeders close to natural shelters such as trees or shrubs. Evergreens are ideal,



Song Sparrow

providing maximum cover from winds and predators. A distance of 10 feet from trees and shrubs seems to be preferred by birds. You can provide resting and escape cover for ground dwelling birds, such as Song Sparrows, by placing a large, loosely stacked brush pile near those feeders.

Water, Water, Water

A dependable supply of fresh water will attract many birds to your yard, including species that don't normally visit feeders. A shallow easy to clean birdbath is best. Clean your birdbath often and keep it filled with fresh water.

Helpful Hints For Successful Bird Feeding

- Avoid overcrowding at feeders by placing numerous feeders several feet apart.
- Keep your feeding area and feeders clean.
- Keep food and food storage containers dry and free of mold and insects.
- Check your feeders for safety. Sharp edges can scratch birds and lead to infections.

If You Build it, Will They Come

It may take a while for birds to discover a new feeder. If you are not seeing birds within a few days of setting up your feeder, try sprinkling some seeds on the ground around the feeder to make the new feeding site more obvious. ■



Old Ben Shares the Love with Fish

By now you are probably familiar with Old Ben's products for birds, but now, the finned friends can feel the love. Both stores are carrying **Old Ben's Fish Food for Goldfish & Koi**. We have it in 5lb. bags. Come in and get some. ■

Winter Orchid Care *continued from p3*

simple, winter instruction here is to be sure to continue to provide lots of light for your orchids that need lots of light.

Water

Plants in general, including orchids, use less water during winter; it's cooler, the days are shorter, and they simply aren't growing (i.e. creating new leaves) as much.

When in bloom, orchids generally require less water. This is especially true for Cymbidium orchids that bloom from late fall to mid spring. If your Cymbidium is blooming, water it less often than you did earlier in the year. Over-watering an orchid in bud can cause "bud blast", i.e. buds fall off before they open.

Plants use the most water when they are creating new leaves. Some types of orchids, especially complex hybrids, may be creating new leaves during winter. Pay attention to what your plants are doing.

Temperature

Many orchids (e.g. Cymbidium, Cattleya, Paphiopedilum) can be left outdoors in San Diego all winter long as long as there is no frost forecast. If your orchid can tolerate being outside, it's best to leave it outside.

Your Cymbidium orchid will bloom for a much longer time when kept cool. Outdoors is fine (as long as there are no frosts). If you want to bring your Cymbidium indoors, provide bright light, keep it cool, and definitely keep it away from heater vents. Most home heaters and furnaces dry the air. Moving any budded orchid from the cool outdoors into a really warm, indoor environment may also cause "bud blast".

Many warm-growing orchids, like the very popular Phalaenopsis, or moth orchid, dislike temperatures under 55-60 degrees F. They should probably not be outside at all during winter months.

Furthermore, all orchids are adapted to accept the drop in nighttime temperatures that they all receive in their native habitat. If you keep the home temperature low during the day, and crank it up after you get home from work, your orchids may get a little confused.

Have Fun!

Have fun growing orchids this winter. If you ever have questions or concerns about your plant, feel free to bring your plant into the nursery so that one of our specialists can assist you. ■

January 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	
1/4	Last Chance Deciduous Fruit Tree Pruning	1/4	Rose Pruning
1/11	Selecting the Best Bare Root Fruit Tree For Your Area	1/11	Pruning Fruit Trees with Richard Wright
1/18	Pruning & Planting New Roses	1/18	Spring Bulbs with David Ross
1/25	Camellia & Azalea Culture & Care	1/25	Xeriscape with Carol Fuller

January In-Store Coupons!

Coupon Valid January 2-31, 2014
\$2.00 OFF Edna's Best Potting Soil 1.5 CF #10026907

Limited to stock on hand. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points apply. No Limit.

Coupon Valid January 2-31, 2014
\$1.00 OFF E.B. Stone Planting Mix 1.5 CF #120688

Limited to stock on hand. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points apply. No Limit.

Coupon Valid January 2-31, 2014
\$1.00 OFF E.B. Stone Rose Grow Planting Mix 1.5 CF #120686

Limited to stock on hand. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points apply. No Limit.

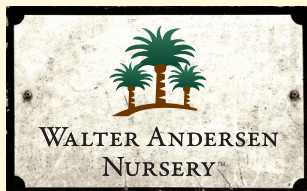
Coupon Valid January 2-31, 2014
\$1.00 OFF E.B. Stone Seed Starting Mix 12 QT #120689

Limited to stock on hand. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points apply. No Limit.

Coupon Valid January 2-31, 2014
\$2.00 OFF Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Planting Mix 1.5 CF #120701

Limited to stock on hand. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points apply. No Limit.

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