



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

OCTOBER 2014

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Asian Citrus Psyllid Is An Alarming Concern

By David Ross

Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is here to stay. It was first detected in San Diego County in 2008, and for the first few years after detection, attempts were made to eradicate this potentially devastating pest completely. Those attempts have failed, and now California has citrus quarantines in effect from the Mexican border to Fresno County, encompassing more than 46,000 square miles.

What makes the ACP so dangerous? On its own, ACP saliva carries a toxin that damages citrus foliage when pierced. While an annoyance, this is not a major problem. However, ACP also spreads Huanglongbing (HLB), citrus greening disease, which is fatal for the tree. There is currently no cure and the disease causes the fruit to be bitter, hard, and misshapen. HLB has devastated the Florida citrus crop and is headed

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The Horror Found In Some Plants

By Melanie Potter



Stipelia gigantea | Photo: Ty Webb

With Halloween upon us, did you think we'd miss a chance to scare and horrify you? It's fortuitous that Mother Nature enjoys Halloween too, and provides us with plants perfect for the season.

When you see a beautiful flower, what do you think most people do? Sure, they smell it. Do you think they think they've been punk'd, or are on Candid Camera, when they move in for a whiff of it and get slapped in the face with the odor of rotten flesh? It's a fact of nature

that some plants need to lure insects to them in order to pollinate. Stipelias are just one example. **Stipelia gigantea**, or the **starfish cactus (aka Carrion Flower)** blooms every September or October and flies are a big fan of the scent. The plant is a spineless, succulent cactus that blooms with flesh-colored, hairy, starfish-shaped flowers, which measure up to 10 inches across. By the way, maggots are a fan, too!

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Visiting The Gourds

Walter Andersen, Jr. gets called several different names, but to seven of his biggest fans, he's Grandpa. He's got three granddaughters and four grandsons and he's never short on excursions or adventures to share with them. It could have been a dull summer for the two youngest grandsons, aged 12 but Grandpa took them to the fair, to Lake Cuyamaca to fish, and to the bamboo forest. Store manager David Ross is still smarting from being excluded from a trip with Walter to **Welburn Gourd Farm** as he is frequently Walter's adventure companion.

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The Horror continued from p1

Every year, it seems that the bloom of the **Corpse Flower** makes the news. When the blooms are imminent, people line up to photograph and smell this 10' wonder. The **Amorphophallus titanum** is native to Sumatra and a relative of the non-frightening Calla Lily. News stations flock to cover an emerging bloom because it's not an everyday occurrence. In cultivation, the plant generally requires 7-10



Dahlias 'Pulp Fiction'

years of vegetative growth before blooming for the first time. After its initial blooming, there can be considerable variation in blooming frequency. Some plants may not bloom again for another 7-10 years while others may bloom every two to three years.

We sell a lot of food that plants love, but we don't sell what makes a carnivorous plant feel full. That's because nature provides them with the bugs, like ants, that they crave. **Carnivorous plants**, of which there is believed to be more than 600 species are found in areas where the soil is poor. Charles Darwin first wrote about such plants in 1875. There are five basic trapping mechanisms found in all these plants: Pitfall traps, fly paper traps, snap traps, bladder traps (the traps have small trigger hairs attached to a trapdoor. When the trigger hairs are tripped, the trap door opens up, sucks in the insect and surrounding water, and closes

the door again, all in a matter of 10 thousandths of a second) and lobster pot traps (traps that are easy to enter but impossible to exit). Some of these plants you are familiar with such as the **Venus Fly Trap**, **Nepenthes**, **North American Pitcher Plant**, **Corkscrew plant**, and **Sundews**. You can find several of these plants in the bog garden at our Poway location.

If you can't scare folks with bad smells or by eating bugs, some plants can just look spooky.

The **Toothache Plant**, **Spilanthes Acmella**, is a member of the Asteraceae family, as are sunflowers. Chewing on the leaves or flower heads of the Toothache Plant numbs the inside of the mouth and can relieve the pain of a toothache, which is how this plant got this name. It is also commonly known as the **Eyeball Plant** because its flowers look like eyeballs. **Capsicum annum 'Black Pearl'**, an ornamental Pepper plant with black-purple leaves and shiny black berries all but screams its need to be part of Halloween. **Juncus spiralis** is an interesting plant that has spiraled corkscrew-like stems and no foliage. It can look like crazy hair and looks pretty terrific when planted in a head shaped container with open top. Corn stalks, just like you'd find in a corn maze, would look even more sinister if they were black. Resembling such a notion is **Pennisetum 'Vertigo'** and **Pennisetum 'Black Stockings'**. Both have red/black sword-like foliage.

Remember the old television show, The Addams Family and how Gomez would present Morticia with a rose? If he frequented nurseries, he might have been tempted to bring her a pot of **Dahlias** from the Dark Angels series called **'Pulp Fiction'**. Blood red flowers spring out from deep purple, nearly black foliage and are so bewitching that they will be part of my Halloween tablescape this year.

So there you have it—some scary smelling, bug eating, spooky plants of All Hallows' Eve! •



Pennisetum 'Vertigo' & 'Black Stockings'

TO DO LIST: October

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. Overseed Bermuda lawns with Annual Rye. It's a great time to plant Fescue from seed or sod.

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 Halts Crabgrass & Grassy Weed Preventer to feed and control broad-leaf 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 finished flowering in spring. •

Words From Walter

Citrus Leaf Miner By Walter Andersen, Jr.



By this time of the year, most of the damage has been done.

They actually do minimal damage to the plant. Rather than killing it, these pests just make the foliage look bad.

Next year, before you see any damage, (April - May) is the best time to start a preventative program. There are Citrus Leaf Miner traps you hang out and check regularly to see if any of the tiny moths have been caught. This signals the time to start your defense. Or, just start spraying when you see a flush of new soft growth. Spinosad (listed as an organic spray) can be used to try and stop most of the moths and also kill the eggs. Oil sprays can also be used as long as it is not over 80 degrees. Apply every two weeks during the spring flush of new growth. You can also try Imidacloprid (Bayer Fruit, Citrus and Vegetable), that is applied as a soil drench and taken up into the plant. This is a short lived version of the systemic, so application as close to Leaf Miner arrival as possible is best (usually around May), but give it enough time to be absorbed. This product can only be USED ONCE A YEAR, so timing is important for best results. ●

A big question this time of the year is from folks wondering what is wrong with their citrus trees. We see customers bringing in curled up leaves as a result of Citrus Leaf Miner. The term miner comes from the insect doing the damage inside the leaf, between the top and bottom surfaces as it eats or mines its food.

This pest gets it start when a tiny moth lays eggs on the new soft foliage of citrus trees. The moths are most active dusk to early morning. Eggs hatch and the larvae enter the leaf, tunneling or mining its way around, leaving trails and often a silvery look to the leaf. When they pupate, the pupae roll the leaf, in a cycle of two to seven weeks. These turn into moths and the whole thing starts over again.

Visiting The Gourds continued from p1



Walter elected to take grandson, Blake, despite it being an outing David looks forward to. So, where is this gourd farm? It's in Fallbrook and is the largest supplier of quality, organic, hard-shell gourds in the US, producing over 375,000 gourds each year. Gourds cross-pollinate, which means gourd

shapes can get pretty interesting. At Welburn, you'll find birdhouse, canteen, kettle, bottle, people, pear, zucca, apple gourds, and more.

Welburn Gourd Farm is open Mon.-Sat. from 10-4. For more information, go to: www.welburngourdfarm.com. ●

Asian Citrus Psyllid

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our way. Fortunately, HLB was only found on a couple of trees in the Los Angeles area. Those trees have been destroyed, and no other trees, or HLB infected Asian Citrus Psyllids have been found.

Because ACP is now so entrenched within California and adjacent areas of Mexico, if a tree with HLB were discovered or illegally imported to California, this crop destroying disease would rapidly spread throughout California's citrus trees.

Fortunately, a beneficial wasp from Pakistan has been discovered and the USDA is currently releasing them in San Diego County. Even though this new wasp is not a complete control, it is much more efficient at controlling ACP if it is not hindered by ants. Therefore, keeping your citrus trees ant free is very important. Other ways to help control ACP is to treat your citrus trees with approved contact sprays, especially during flushes of tender new growth during spring and fall.

Another potential control, Benzobromarone, (used to treat gout in humans, though not in the U.S.), in a study at the University of Florida, was effective at stopping the HLB bacteria in 80% of the treated trees. Much more testing will be needed before any new chemical would be ready for general use.

Unless these methods prove successful or new, effective controls are found, California's citrus trees may go the way of the Florida crop, leading to shortages and much higher prices.

For more information, check the California Department of Food and Agriculture website at www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/acp/. ●



Extensive Choice Of Fruit Trees Available To Order

By David Ross

Even though the days are still quite warm, there is no better time to start thinking about which fruit trees to add to your orchard this January.

While it may seem early, our fruit tree orders for next year have been placed. Walter Andersen Nurseries will have a tremendous selection of deciduous fruit trees chosen for their productivity in our mild Southern California climate.

We will have almost two hundred different varieties of fruit trees, grapes, blueberries, cane berries, and more. There will be standard trees, semi dwarf trees, and true dwarf trees from which to choose. We will have the right size and variety tree for any situation your landscape may require.

With proper planning and planting, you can harvest fresh fruit from your own tree from March until October! Starting with cherries and ending with persimmons, pomegranates, and nuts, also apricots, peaches, plums, nectarines in between.

Even though we probably have the best selection you will find, we have an

even more extensive list from which you can choose. 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. You may view the list at: www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/SoftExcel2015wk1wprices.pdf.

If there is a tree you want but it is not on our list, you will probably find it on the SOFT list. The trees will be arriving in January, but the SOFT orders must be placed by Nov. 10. 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, call or come in to either Walter Andersen Nursery location for assistance. •

Spacing Doesn't Have To Be Daunting

By Ken Andersen

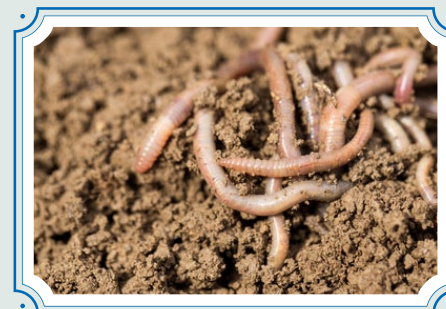
Determining how many bedding plants you need to fill in a particular area can be a bit daunting. Sometimes eyeballing it doesn't work out so well. Here is a handy little conversion chart to help you. Measure the area you want to plant in square feet, look up the planting distance apart on the chart and multiply by plants per square foot to get the total number of plants (or bulbs for that matter) you will need to cover that specific area. For bedding plants you can then divide that number by 16 to get the number of full flats of 4" bedding

plants or by 36 to get the number of full flats of Color Paks you will need for the job! •

Distance Apart	Plants Per Square Foot
4"	9.1
6"	4.0
8"	2.25
10"	1.77
12"	1.44

Worming Your Way Into Going Green

By Melanie Potter



Are you using worms in your composting efforts? If so, you are vermicomposting. Essentially you are taking household kitchen scraps and converting them into humus-like planting material with the help of worms.

Both stores carry worms for your garden. Approximately 200 redworms of all sizes, including egg capsules which will have four-10 baby worms each when they hatch in 5-12 days, are packaged in 10-lb bags of worm bed. This number of worms stocks about 20 square feet of soil.

Redworms are one of the best things you can do for your soil. With their tunnels they naturally aerate the soil while leaving richly fertile castings behind to enhance the soil for up to five years.

Introduce redworms to your compost pile to accelerate the process and your compost will be ready in half the time. To successfully vermicompost, you'll have to do some math as you need to keep a maximum worm density at all times. You need a slightly lower population density so that reproductive rates are the highest.

Worms are easy to add to your soil and each bag of worms comes with complete and easy instructions. Cared for properly, your worm population should double every 60-90 days! Some worms will need to be moved to new beds as their density doubles. •

Garden Spiders: The Good Guys

By Old Ben



Garden spiders are found on many continents throughout the world. Garden spiders are NOT aggressive and are more likely to retreat from you than attack. In cases of extreme provocation, garden spiders may bite. Their bites are not a medical threat to us.

Garden spiders are also known as orb weavers because of their orb-shaped, delicate webs. Garden spiderlings, baby spiders, are capable of spinning these intricate webs without the help of mature spiders.

The garden spider uses its web to capture food. Although their eyesight is poor, garden spiders are extremely sensitive to vibrations along the strands of their webs.

Habitat

The most important factor in the dwelling place of the garden spider is the presence of twigs, trees, branches, or plant leaves to construct webs. Garden spider's webs are very strong and may reach more than 50 inches in diameter.

Spider Web

Garden spiders spin their webs using silk from their spinnerets. The support lines of the web are first attached to surfaces such as branches, plant stalks, or walls. This provides the web with a solid base. When completed, garden spiders hang upside down from the center of their web to wait for prey.

In addition to capturing and supporting prey, the web is also used to

house egg sacs, each of which may contain hundreds of eggs. In terms of tension, it requires more strength to break a strand of spider web than it does to break steel.

Egg Sacs

In autumn months, garden spiders lay their eggs in silken sacs that contain between 50 and several hundred eggs. Covered in brown colored silk, they are strong enough to withstand winds and attacks from most predators.

Young spiderlings over winter within their eggs. In spring, they hatch and disperse. Garden spiders egg sacs are nearly the size of adult garden spiders. When spiderlings hatch, they are in close proximity to their prey and will not go hungry. Female garden spiders die soon after laying their eggs and are not able to protect or assist their spiderlings.

Interesting Spider Facts

Did you know there are over 38,000 named species worldwide? This includes about 3,000 in North America.

Did you know there is always a spider within three feet of you, including right now!

Did you know spiders of the world consume 1,870,000,000 pounds of insects daily? Good thing we have spiders.

Did you know dust mites and eyelash mites are living on you right now? Guess what? You can't get rid of them! •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid October 1-31, 2014

Introducing Fine Cut Hulled Sunflower Chips

This one seed alone will attract more species of birds than most top seed mixes. No germination and no mess as the birds will just about eat every chip!

Introductory Price

5lb. Sunflower Chips

\$9.99 Reg. \$14.99

25lb. Sunflower Chips

\$29.99 Reg. \$46.99

20lb. Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

\$16.99 Reg. \$31.99

5lb. Nyger Seed

\$8.99 Reg. \$12.99

Birdhouse Platform Feeder

\$21.99 Reg. \$31.99

Beet Red Hummingbird Food

\$4.99 Reg. \$6.99

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



What's Up Doc?

By Melanie Potter



Rat Damage

Since we spend much of our day troubleshooting problems with plants, we thought we'd share our experiences on a regular basis. After all, where else can you take your planting mistakes and embarrassments, gross bags of bugs, and proof of green thumb failures and lay them before someone, declare you're stumped, and not be judged? That's why we're here, in fact, it's job security!

So here are some problems we've seen, how we diagnosed them, and the course of action that is recommended.

These ears of corn would have looked so much better on the bbq but something was eating them. The gardener reported they were being eaten at night. After opening the husks and spotting the telltale signs of rat dookie, we were able to deduce that the culprit was rats. There are many controls for rats like traps, and bait, and soon we'll be able to give you some feedback from customers on a Ratinator.

Keep those leaves, bags, bugs, and other samples coming as we never tire of seeing them, but sometimes we are brought something bigger and more challenging. This stump belonged to a rose bush which began to decline. The photo shows the damage a gopher can do to plants. The roots are chewed off and even part of the stump was dined upon. You can try to deter gophers with Gopher Scram and other non-lethal sources if that fits your tolerance for pest eradication. If you want to go for the kill, try Macabee traps. ●



Gopher Damage

Garden Success Report

From The Field



Thanks to gardener A.P. for the feedback she provided on Renee's Seeds. A.P., who is a resident of Poway and shops in our Poway store, reported that she planted Heirloom Icebox Watermelon 'Doll Babies' on May 3 and was harvesting by the third week of July. She grew 9-10 watermelons and one topped the scale at 12 lbs. Just like the picture on the seed packet, A.P. reported that some watermelons were yellow, and some were pink.

Share your success stories on our facebook page, www.facebook.com/walterandersens. ●

No Fall Rose Show



There will not be a fall rose show this year at Walter Andersen Nursery. It was decided to forego the fall event to focus on the more popular Spring Rose Show. However, look for fall rose care classes as both stores will continue presenting that topic. After all, we want you to do everything you can in the fall to promote the best blooms for spring. ●

Garden Classes

OCTOBER

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/.

SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

10/4

Dormant Fruit Tree Spraying

10/11

Staghorn Remounting

10/18

Fall Bulbs

10/25

Adding Veggies & Herbs to
Established Landscapes

POWAY | 9:30AM

10/4

Fall Rose Care with David Ross

10/11

Backyard Chickens
with Old Ben

10/18

Citrus with Richard Wright

10/25

Natives! with
Moosa Creek Nursery

Special Sale!

Valid October 1-31, 2014

October Fruit Tree Blowout!
Save 50%

**Apples, Peaches, Nectarines, Plums, Pluots
Grapes, Caneberries, and more!** Save on some
of your favorite fruit trees! Add to your garden
or start your backyard orchard now and save!

Limited to stock on hand, no special orders.

Citrus, Avocados, Tropicals, and other exclusions may apply.

See stores for details.

Visit Our 2 Locations

SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, California 92110
{619} 224-8271

POWAY

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

October
In-Store Specials!

Both stores will have specially priced merchandise on sale for the month of October. Shop around when you are in to find additional savings. And be sure to check the clearance areas of both stores for even greater savings! •



Shop from our selection of Fall Pumpkins!



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