



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

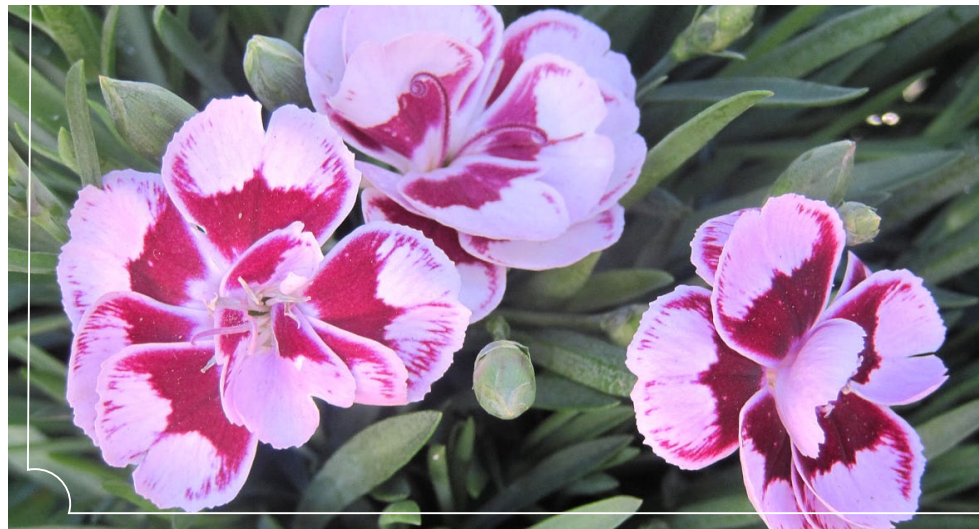
APRIL 2015

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## New Selections Of Dianthus Will Leave You Dizzy

By Melanie Potter



'Charmy'

There is a brand new range of carnations perfect for landscape and container gardening. We are pleased to introduce Sunflor Carnations and we've got three nifty bi-color varieties to share.

These plants feature neat compact mounds of grey-green foliage that is smothered with fragrant double blooms from spring throughout summer.

'Charmy' Burgundy and lilac-pink with rounded edges.

[continued p2](#)

## Essential Edibles You Shouldn't Miss Planting

By Chuck McClung



Here are a few of my favorite essential veggies and herbs. Some are common, some are new, but all are easy to grow. Give one a try this year!

'African Blue' Basil is a perennial, shrubby basil. It does not make seed, so let it flower away, and you'll attract bees from miles around. I enjoy eating the flowers even more than the leaves!

'Green Columnar' Basil is another perennial basil with wonderfully spicy leaves. Growing 5-6 ft tall with

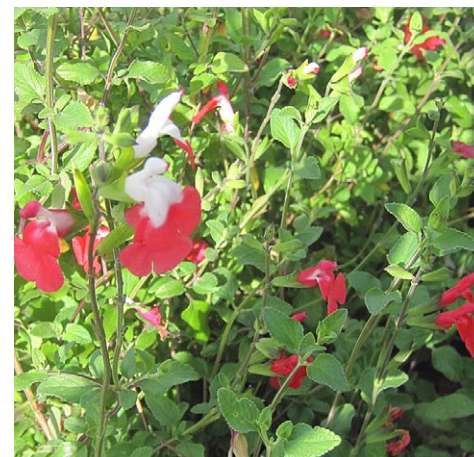
[continued p4](#)

## Plants Bunnies Avoid (Usually)

By Melanie Potter

I'm guessing the only bunny you want in your garden this month is the one that leaves eggs for the kids to find. That's because bunnies can eat their way through your yard, wreaking all sorts of havoc. Over the years, we've found that a hungry bunny will eat most anything, even the plants they were known to shy away from.

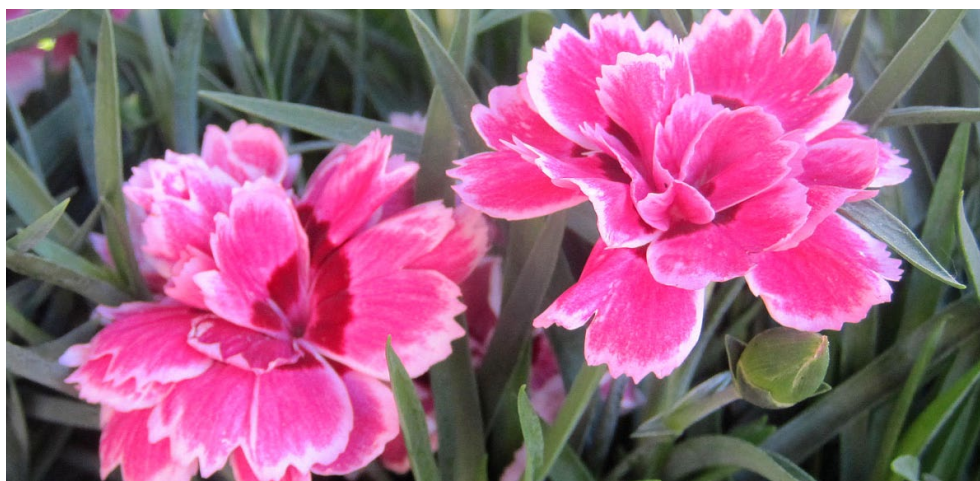
Plants that are odoriferous are good at repelling bunnies so look for Salvias, Geraniums, Lantana, Lavender, and herbs (especially thyme). Other plants they shy away from include Bacopa,



Salvia 'Hotlips'

[continued p2](#)

## New Selections Of Dianthus continued from p1



**'Esta'**

**'Esta'** Dark pink flowers edged in light pink with a burgundy eye and a ragged edge.

**'Finesse'** Dark pink and burgundy with ruffled edge.

Just in time for summer, these are drought-tolerant and low maintenance, and prefer well-drained soil. Plant in full sun to part shade. •



**'Finesse'**

### TO DO LIST:

April



#### FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue or Scott's Turf Builder. Feed ornamentals with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Plus. 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.

#### PEST CONTROL

Keep insects under control by hitting them early. On edibles, use Dr. Earth Final Stop Fruit Tree Spray, Monterey Garden Insect Spray, Safer Yard and Garden Spray. For ornamentals, use a systemic control like Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Spray.

#### PLANT

Warm-season bedding plants, Dahlias, annuals, and perennials. Warm-season vegetables and vegetable seeds. Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes, and the specialty hot peppers are here.

#### LOOK FOR

Flowering deciduous trees and shrubs, blooming roses, blooming bulbs, Ceanothus and tropicals. •

## Plants Bunnies Avoid continued from p1



**Lantana**

Foxglove, Alyssum, Primrose, Impatiens, Begonias, Calendula, Day-lilies, Yarrow, Lamb's Ears, Allium, and Baby Tears. You can safely grow daffodils and fritillaria as these are bulbs the bunnies pass up. Bearded Iris also are a bunny turn off.

If you find yourself hosting bunnies with voracious appetites, we have some thoughts as to how you make your garden less appealing. Plant in containers so plants are off the ground

and out of reach of bunnies. Small spaces can be secured with a screening material or fencing that keeps them out. Raised planters can be a life saver for vegetable gardens as they provide a barrier against bunnies. You can also try liquid deterrents such as Liquid Fence (egg, garlic, sulfur scented repellent), Shake Away (fox urine granules), Rabbit Scram (dried blood granules) or hot pepper sprays such as Go Away Rabbit & Deer or Shot Gun. •

## A Day On The Farm

By Melanie Potter

Recently, this city girl spent a day in the country on a farm. Let me tell you, it looked a lot different than what was pictured in children's books I'd read years ago. I met farmers, but they weren't garbed in overalls and straw hats. There was a tractor ride, but we traveled in a clean, comfortable wagon while sipping cocktails made from muddled fruit and herbs from the farm.

My day on the farm, **Stehly Farms Organics in Valley Center** was a chi chi experience. If you aren't familiar with Stehly Farms, or you've only ventured to the produce markets that dot the county, visit the farm. I was there for its first farm-to-table dinner, a four-hour event that included a tour of the farm and lots of drinking and eating.



The afternoon meal starts with roasted squash soup, a cheese tray with preserves and rustic breads, crudités, grilled pickled quail eggs, humus, and yakitori chicken hearts with pork belly (I did not know these contained chicken hearts; surprise, they were crazy good). Beverages included alcoholic and non-alcoholic offerings that featured crushed berries, basil, jalapeno, chipotle peppers, and fruit juices. The brewers of Rough Start Brewery did a fine job



of roasting pummelos gathered from the farm to create a citrusy spiked IPA.

The 300 acre farm was brimming with rows of asparagus, kale, strawberries (Chandler), onions and countless other things I couldn't identify from afar whilst riding on the wagon. As far as the eye can see there are avocado trees, lemon trees, and both Valencia and Navel oranges. Timing was everything this late winter and it was impossible to escape the buzzing of bees and the sweet smell of orange blossoms perfuming the air.

What's a farm without animals? You can visit a small pen with sheep and goats and a lazy pig. There are also llamas and miniature horses. You'll spot chickens and there is a herd of sheep which roam freely to provide natural weed control.

But, back to the produce. The late afternoon is devoted to more eating which is done family style at long picnic tables where you pass dishes back and forth with your new friends. There were farm greens tossed with faro spezzato and red quinoa (I seriously need this recipe), roasted romanesco broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi cabbage kraut and wunderbar cabbage, oyster mushrooms, peas, green garlic, leeks, carrots and asparagus.

Stehly Farms is a family business that began in the 1920s and is now run by third generation family members. It has multiple wells, and lets nothing go to waste. Solar panels provide energy

for the operation and biodiesel fuel is used whenever possible. Operated by brothers, Noel and Jerome Stehly, the farm sells produce to local retailers as well as in its own markets. The calendar is full of events including more farm-to-table dinners and picking days set aside for strawberries, oranges, and blackberries. In October, the farm is all about pumpkins and visitors leave with a medium-sized pumpkin or can choose a giant one. Learn more about the farm at [stehlyfarmsorganics.com](http://stehlyfarmsorganics.com). •

## An Easter Tradition

By Melanie Potter

**I wish I could take credit for this brilliant idea, but too many people know its origin and would call me out if I did anything other than share it with you.**

**I suspect many of you will be tucking colored eggs into hiding spaces on Easter morning that will later be found by kids of all ages. One Poway family won't because their tradition is to plant potatoes and on Easter morning; they have a potato dig!**

**If you haven't experienced planting potatoes, when the time is right look for these colorful choices that include Purple Majesty, Russet and Red Bliss, not to mention the fun shaped, fingerling varieties. •**

## Still Waiting For A Furever Home

Last month, our company became an Animal Admirer with the **San Diego Humane Society** and agreed to help promote pets that are having difficulty finding new homes. Shortly afterward, we received a photo of our first fellow, **Simba**, a 7-year old Boxer mix who needs medication to treat his hyperthyroidism. Then, he came up to spend some time at the nursery and have his photo taken and we were charmed. He was described to us as a gentle giant, and that he is. He's a big fellow, but mellow, companionable, friendly, and so well behaved. We are rooting



for him to find the perfect family. You can see this photogenic pup at [www.flickr.com/photos/sdhumane/sets/72157651302468122](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sdhumane/sets/72157651302468122). •

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY'S OWN



**Choose Locally-Grown Flowers and Vegetables for Your Garden. Look for 1st Prize Plants at WAN!**

## Garden To Table Dining Starts With Seeds

By Melanie Potter



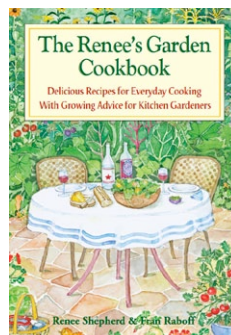
Renee Shepherd from Renee's Garden

Do you enjoy cooking meals that use the harvest from your garden?

**Renee Shepherd**, seed developer, gardener, entrepreneur, author, and founder of **Renee's Garden** will be at our Poway store on April 11 to lead a class on this topic.

In *Garden to Table from Seed*, Shepherd will share how to plan, plant and enjoy a bountiful, colorful and delicious kitchen garden throughout the seasons. She will feature vegetables and herbs chosen for flavor, easy growing, productivity, and nutrition.

She will suggest specific varieties, information on how and where Renee's Garden finds seeds, and preparation and cooking ideas for using your harvests.



Shepherd is a pioneering innovator in introducing international specialty vegetables and herbs for home gardeners and gourmet restaurants. After receiving her PhD from UC Santa Cruz and teaching in the Environmental Studies department there, she founded Shepherd's Garden Seed, which she ran until 1996. In 1997, she founded her current company, Renee's Garden, offering her selected choices of seeds for exciting new and time-tested heirloom gourmet vegetables, culinary herbs and a wide range of fragrant and cutting flowers, sourced from seed growers both large and small, around the world. Renee's Garden seed packets are sold at both Walter Andersen Nursery locations.

Available for sale at the class will be copies of Shepherd's book, *The Renee's Garden Cookbook*. •

## Essential Edibles

continued from p1

a columnar-shape, it too survives many winters when traditional basil does not.

**Longevity Greens** (*Gynura procumbens*), is one of the many new 'miracle plants'. The edible leaves on this sprawling perennial make it an excellent warm season salad green. Be sure to check out the fragrance of the bright orange, button-like flowers!

Probably the most popular mildly-spicy peppers after Jalapenos are the 'Padron' Peppers. This old variety, brought to Spain in the 1700s, is highly prized for its flavor and mild spice that still sell for top dollar at markets. Watch out for the occasional fiery hot one!

**Persian Cucumbers** have been one of the most popular cucumbers at our nursery for the last couple of years. They mature rapidly and should be picked small (roughly 5-7" long) to take advantage of the thin skin, no seeds, and sweet flavor.

**Red Celery** is an old heirloom crop going by names like 'Peppermint Stick' or 'Giant Red'. Dark red markings on thin stalks make this unique among celery varieties.

'Shishito' Peppers are one of the highly-prized Japanese sweet peppers. Thin walled, with a wrinkled, tapered shape, shishitos are often grilled or sautéed until skins begin to blister. •

## What Are Fungus Gnats?

By Chuck McClung

Fungus gnats (*Bradysia* spp.) are little, black, mosquito-like flies that commonly inhabit old potting soil in containers, especially houseplants. Often mistaken for fruit flies (fruit flies are only present when fruit is present), adult fungus gnats fly around the pot and prefer to lay their eggs in old, overly moist, potting soil.

Cooler weather and shorter days means plants generally use less water than other times of the year. Overly wet soil begins to decompose and soil fungi thrive, thus attracting fungus gnats.

While adult fungus gnats are more of a nuisance than a threat, it's the larvae that can cause your plants to suffer. After hatching, larvae feed on the naturally occurring fungi found in the top inch or two of decomposing soil; they also feed on root tips. Later

in development, larvae may feed on the inside of roots, so that even well watered plants will droop if the soil is heavily infested.

Sticky traps aid in catching adult fungus gnats. For larvae, parasitic nematodes, soil drenches with insecticidal soap, as well as strains of microbial insecticides, like *Bacillus thuringiensis*, have been shown to control populations.

But often, the best remedy is simply just to repot your plant. If the soil has reached such a state that the fungus gnats like it, your plant would likely benefit from a fresh repotting. Use Edna's Best Potting Soil for most of your container plants. It's a versatile, well-draining potting soil that is great for houseplants, flowers, hanging baskets, veggies, herbs, and more. ●

## Tool Shed: Espoma Soil Perfector

By Ken Andersen

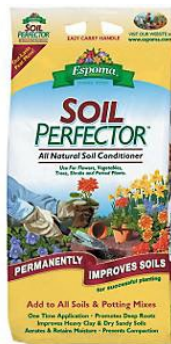
Chances are your house wasn't built on perfect soil.

Many homeowners have heavy clay soils which lack adequate pore space for air and can lead to poor drainage, reduced root growth, and greater susceptibility to environmental stress. Others have dry sandy soils, which lack adequate pore space for water which can lead to excessive drainage, as well as a loss of nutrients from the root zone.

To correct that, we have Espoma Soil Perfector, made from a naturally derived, ceramic mineral that is kiln-fired at temperatures in excess of 2000 degrees F. This process creates a durable, lightweight granule containing

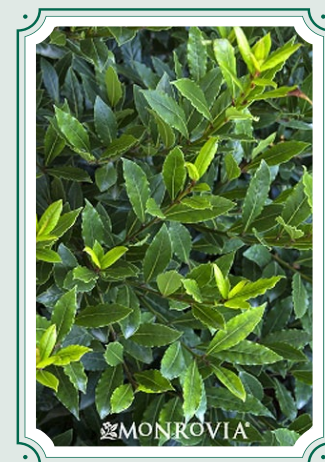
thousands of tiny storage spaces that hold the perfect balance of water, air and nutrients for an improved soil structure. Soil Perfector works like perlite to open up the soil. Better than perlite though, the product is dark-colored and doesn't float. Therefore the heavier material won't leave white litter. Best of all, even one application will permanently improve your soil.

Does it get any better? Why, yes it does. Both stores have this product and it's available for the special price of \$16.99. [See coupon on page 8.](#) ●



## A Little Bay Laurel Brings Great Happiness

By Melanie Potter



I work with someone who is so excited about a new dwarf bay laurel that if she could, she would do somersaults, handsprings, and back flips. As it is, she just gushes about this sweet bay laurel, 'Little Ragu'.

It is a true dwarf and for anyone who wanted a bay laurel tree but couldn't commit to the space it would need; your dreams have come true. This is a handsome, rugged little plant. It's loaded with bright green wavy leaves (evergreen) and has a fabulous fragrance. It works well in containers and is handy to have for cooking with. Plant it as a clipped hedge or formal topiary.

Little Ragu is slow growing to 6-8 feet tall and wide in 10 years if left unpruned. Follow a regular watering schedule the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Established plants require less frequent watering. Apply a general purpose fertilizer in spring. Prune in winter as needed to keep its shape.

*Editor's Note: Both stores will have these, supply is limited and expected 4/15. Pre-order by calling the Poway store at 858-513-4900 or San Diego at 619-224-8271.* ●

## Save The Date: Poway Rose Show

Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway will host its sixteenth annual Rose Show May 16-17. The show is free for exhibitors and attendees. Entries will be taken May 16 from 8-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are May 16 from 1-5pm and May 17 from 9am-4pm. For details on entries, see the schedule at [www.walterandersen.com/events/rose-show-is-around-the-corner](http://www.walterandersen.com/events/rose-show-is-around-the-corner). ●

## Appreciating The Salton Sea From A Bird's Perspective

By Old Ben



One of the best areas for bird watching in Southern California is the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge was established in 1930 by Presidential Proclamation. Originally, the refuge consisted of 35,000 acres. Because of flooding by the Salton Sea, only about 2,200 manageable acres remain.

The Salton Sea is located in the Sonoran Desert of Imperial and Riverside counties just north of El Centro. The habitat contains 35,484 acres of salt marsh and open water and 2,000 acres of pastures and freshwater marsh. The sea is 35 miles long and is one of the lowest places in the United States, about 228 feet below sea level.

The Salton Sea has one of the most diverse bird species of any national wildlife refuge in the west. More than 375 bird species have been recorded in the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley regions. Heavy migrations of waterfowl, marsh, and shorebirds appear during the spring and fall. During the winter and spring, a variety of smaller birds and raptors occupy the refuge. The best months for bird watching at the Salton Sea are November to May.

The primary purpose of the refuge is to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl and endangered species. The refuge is also important in providing feeding, resting, and nesting habitat for a large number of shorebirds, and in supporting a diversity of wildlife species throughout the year.

Other animals introduced into the Salton Sea, accidentally or intentionally,

include barnacles, pile worms and copepods. Copepods are a group of small crustaceans found in the sea and nearly every freshwater habitat. These animals play an important role in providing food for the fishery.

Thousands of waterfowl and other birds spend the winter here. Canada Geese, Snow Geese, American Avocets, Black-Necked Stilts, Pintails, Green-Winged Teal, Eared Grebes and a wide variety of other species are commonly seen during the winter.

Before the Salton Sea was formed, waterfowl were only found along marshes and deltas of the Colorado River (mostly in Mexico). During the 1920s, as more water was diverted from the Colorado River for agriculture, marshes were inadvertently created.

As farming intensified in the 1940s and the Salton Sea expanded, marshland once again shrunk and waterfowl turned to farmers crops for food. Today, crops are grown on the refuge to feed wintering waterfowl and to keep the birds from eating agricultural crops.

### Some Interesting Facts About Birds

There are about 8,850 different species of birds in the world.

Birds walk on their toes with their heels in the air.

Using energy at the rate of a hummingbird, a human would have to eat 340 pounds of potatoes every day.

As many as 2-5 billion birds fly south from the temperate zone each winter. •

## Old Ben's Specials



Valid April 1-30, 2015

### Nyjer Seed

Nyjer seed is the staple food of Goldfinches and many other small finches. Stock up at this great price.

**25lb. \$29.97** Reg. \$46.99

### No Mess Wild Bird Seed

*The No Mess Advantage:* All seed is hulled, seed will not sprout, birds are able to eat all the seeds, thus attracting fewer feeder pests.

**20lb. \$24.97** Reg. \$42.99

### Introducing Old Ben's Duck and Waterfowl Food

**5lb. \$4.97** Reg. \$6.99

### Birdhouse Platform Feeder

A great way to offer all kinds of bird food in one feeder. You can offer seed, fruit mealworms, suet, and much more.

**\$19.97** Reg. \$31.99

### Finch Socks

Great and inexpensive way to feed Goldfinches. Seven colors to choose from.

**Small \$3.97** Reg. \$5.99

**Large \$5.97** Reg. \$8.99

### Crystal Clear Hummingbird Food

**3 For \$9.99** Reg. \$6.99 ea.

### Tropical Milkweed Seed Packet

Monarch Butterfly fave!  
**\$2.47** Reg. \$3.99

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



**MAY 16th & MAY 17th**  
1pm–5pm      9am–4pm  
**2015**

16TH ANNUAL POWAY

**ROSE**

**SHOW**

HOSTED BY   
**WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY**

**PREP CLASS May 9: 9:30am**  
**REGISTRATION May 16: 8am–10:30am**  
**JUDGING May 16: 11am–1pm**  
**LOCATION 12755 Danielson Court**  
**Poway | 858-513-4900**

ACCREDITED JUDGE SUPPORT/SERVICES  
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## Garden Classes

APRIL

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/](http://www.walterandersen.com/calendar/).

## SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

4/4

Yummy! Kitchen Herbs

4/11

Why Garden with Worms &amp; Beneficial Insects?

4/18

Soaking Up the Sun, Not Water

4/25

Fairy Gardening:  
Plants & Tiny Treasures

## POWAY | 9:30AM

4/4

Spring Flowers

4/11

From Garden to Table w/Renee Shepherd from Renee's Garden

4/18

Citrus & Avocados  
w/Richard Wright

4/25

Organic Veggies w/Roy Wilburn  
from Sunshine Garden

## Good-Looking Chicks

Come To WAN!

Don't let your mind go there because we aren't referring to women, but four real, live, chickens. Our Poway store acquired juvenile chickens in March and they quickly made themselves at home in their enclosure, near the azaleas. Come see our new and feathered friends. •



Stop by the Poway store to see our new chickens, Byrdie, Princess Consuela, Hyacinth, and Daisy.

## In-Store Coupon

Print or show coupon on your phone at check out!

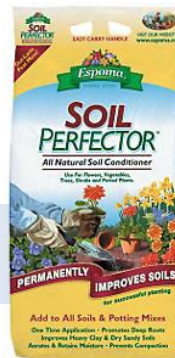
Valid April 1-30, 2015

**Espoma Soil Perfector**  
**Buy 1**  
**Get 1 FREE!**

**30lb. Bag | Limit 2 Free Bags**

**#126308**

Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount.  
Hedge Fund\$ certificates do apply.



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San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™



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## 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