



WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

AUGUST 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

Know Your Orchid	1
Surprise! We're Waterwise	1
Ades & Gish Closing	1
Avocado Mites Appear Again	2
Conserving Water in Garden	2
To Do List: August	3
Free Water, Better Than Tap	4
Summer Rose Guide	4
Walter Volunteer of the Year	5
Myths About Wild Birds	6
Old Ben's Specials	6
August Garden Classes	8
August Coupon & Special	8

## Ades & Gish (A&G) Closes Its Doors



Our nurseries are known for their quality plants, so it is with sadness that we report that one of those suppliers of superb plants, A&G Nurseries, is closing its doors.

[continued p7](#)

## Know Your Orchid

By Chuck McClung



Did you know that orchids as potted plants typically require much less water than houseplants or outdoor container plants? Orchids are one of the largest plant families with more than 22,000 different species and more than 100,000 different hybrids and cultivars. That being said, orchids are a very diverse group of organisms. Some like

lots of light; some like shade. Some like it cool; some like it warm. To have success growing these beauties, know your orchid!

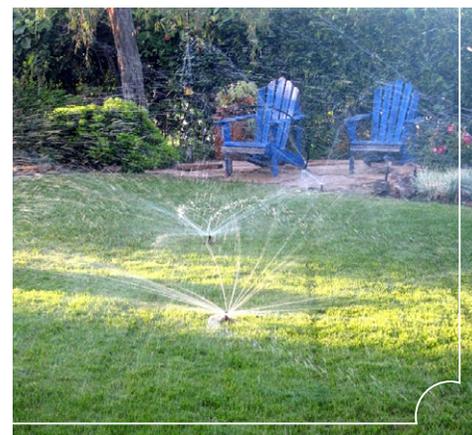
One way to know what your particular orchid likes is to understand your orchid's native habitat. Your orchid is guaranteed to thrive and re-bloom if you (1) know the

[continued p2](#)

## Surprise! We're Waterwise

By Melanie Potter

I don't mean to brag, but I have a bright green, lush lawn in my back yard. In the same breath, I should mention that we are following the water restrictions. A few years ago, my husband replaced our tall fescue with **Tiff Green Bermuda** grass and I griped about how much it looked like a golf course. Worse, in the winter when he didn't overseed it with Annual Rye Grass, it went dormant and the yard looked apocalypse bad. Sort of how yards look now due to the drought and water restrictions!



Bermuda Grass

[continued p3](#)

## Know Your Orchid continued from p1



*Cymbidium orchid*

environmental conditions found in its native habitat, and (2) reproduce those conditions for that particular orchid.

For instance, **Cymbidium orchids** are native to habitats with bright sun but cool temperatures. Coastal California is therefore one of the best places in the world to grow and re-bloom Cymbidium orchids outdoors.

**Phalaenopsis orchids** continue to be the most popular indoor orchid because their native habitat is environmentally very similar to the conditions found in most homes; e.g. warm temperatures, indirect light. In addition, each flower on a Phalaenopsis orchid may last several months (much longer than cut flowers), and they re-bloom on the same flower spike several times.

Most orchids that require lots of light (e.g. **Cattleya, Oncidium**) often do not re-bloom indoors, because there simply isn't enough light indoors. Know your plant!

For more information on orchids, I will lead two of our free Saturday morning seminars this month at our San Diego store. August 8: Orchids for Everyone & Every Place, and August 29: Cymbidium Orchid Repotting Demonstration. All classes are free and begin at 9am. No sign up necessary; just show up; all are welcome. And remember, know your orchid! •

## Avocado Mites Appear Again

By Ken Andersen

Avocado, or Persea Mites, appeared on local avocado trees in the early 1990s. They caused yellow or brown spots to appear on the upper surface of the foliage and brown or silver spots on the undersides of the foliage, where the pests were feeding.

Mites of all kinds can be notoriously difficult to control. When the infestation occurs on fruit bearing crops, it makes control more challenging. While mostly causing cosmetic damage to the foliage, large infestations of mites on trees can lead to foliage loss, sun burning of exposed branches and fruit, and stress on the trees which can have an impact on fruit production and overall tree health.

Mite populations are most active when the weather is in the mid 60s to high 70s, usually peaking in late spring. Effective control can be obtained with Horticultural Oil Spray or Insecticidal Soap. When making applications, it is

important to treat the undersides of the foliage where the mites are feeding. It is also important to remember to water the trees thoroughly a few hours before spraying and to not make applications if the weather is expected to be more than 85 degrees. Spray in the early morning or early evening hours to minimize contact with beneficial insects as well. Though they are called Avocado Mites, we have seen them attack Camphor trees as well. For more information click this link: [www.californiaagriculture.ucanr.edu/landingpage.cfm?article=ca.v044n02p31&fulltext=yes](http://www.californiaagriculture.ucanr.edu/landingpage.cfm?article=ca.v044n02p31&fulltext=yes). •



*Water vegetable gardens slowly*

## Conserving Water In The Vegetable Garden

By Chuck McClung



**Vegetables are definitely not low water use plants. You will need to water your veggies and herbs. Here are a few ways to conserve water in your vegetable garden.**

**Avoid any type of overhead watering. Much of the water is lost to the air, and we don't want water on the foliage anyway. Keep your watering wand low and close to the ground; water the soil, not the plant. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems keep water close to the ground.**

**Water slowly and thoroughly with each watering. We want the water to go deep into the soil so that roots grow deep, which results in stronger plants and less frequent watering.**

**Planting crops at optimal spacing ensures efficient ground coverage, reduces weeds, and results in less water use. Planting too close results in more competition for water.**

**Top off your raised beds as the soil level inevitably sinks. More soil volume results in more water retention and nutrition for your plants.**

**People often ask what kind of mulch to use in the vegetable garden. In**

**[continued p5](#)**

## Surprise! We're Waterwise continued from p1



*Arbutus marina*

### 20% OFF

— DIG Drip —  
Irrigation

[Details on page 8](#)



*Gold Coast by Monrovia*

However, now I'm not griping because it turns out that **Bermuda grass** is a drought-tolerant sort of lawn. It is sun-loving (does not do well in shady areas), and is naturally heat and drought resistant. It is a great type of grass for those living in hot, humid, or somewhat arid climates. It is a low growing, wiry grass that provides good ground cover and withstands constant use from being walked upon.

My wonderful, brilliant husband also converted the existing sprinklers by popping off the old heads and putting new stream rotor heads in their place. When we water the grass, we use less water, and the water is delivered more efficiently to where it needs to go. No overspray on our patio. Best of all, during the conversion effort, two broken irrigation pipes were found and fixed which resulted in even more water and money savings.

If you stroll around the nursery, some tags hanging from plants may catch your eye. The tag identifies them as being water wise and I have to admit that has me taking a second look at some plants and seeing them in a different light.

I have always liked **Arbutus trees** and the fact that they are drought-tolerant is good to know in these times. What's lovely about this tree (**Arbutus marina** or **Arbutus unedo**) is that it is lush looking and not spiky or sparsely foliated. In fact, this tree has loads of things to like about it. Arbutus marina can grow to 50' tall; Arbutus unedo

grows to about 25' tall. These trees are evergreen and will give you year round interest beginning with pendulous clusters of creamy, white to blush pink flowers in spring and fall. The flowers are followed by strawberry looking orange and red fruit, hence the nickname, **Strawberry Tree**. The fruit is edible and can be used to make jam. The tree has upright branches covered with a smooth mahogany colored bark which exfoliates in late summer to expose the next year's bark, which is a cinnamon color. This tree attracts birds, bees, and butterflies.

I don't associate **Junipers** as being drought-tolerant, but according to the nifty tag I described earlier for you, many of them are. **Gold Coast** from Monrovia takes the full sun and once established needs little water. It has lacy, golden-yellow foliage which makes this compact evergreen an excellent choice as a colorful accent. Color is retained and deepens in winter better than other gold-tipped varieties. It's an excellent choice for mass plantings, along foundations, fence lines, driveways and island plantings. If you aren't a fan of foliage that is green-yellow, take a look at **Ice Blue Juniper**. It exhibits the best silver blue winter color of the groundcover junipers. It has a full, dense crown of foliage creating a solid cover in a short time. The winter foliage becomes plum purple in coldest climates. To see more plants that are water wise, follow this link: [www.walterandersen.com/pdf/Firewise08.pdf](http://www.walterandersen.com/pdf/Firewise08.pdf). •

## TO DO LIST: August



### FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for fall fescue, and Hi-Yield Weed & Feed to feed grass 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.

### WATER

If you will be unavailable, arrange with a neighbor or your gardener to watch your yard to make sure everything gets appropriate water. Adjust sprinklers to make sure they operate properly. Heck, think about switching your existing sprinklers to more efficient types. If you are considering removing your lawn and plants, we suggest starting with an irrigation tune-up. Have someone look at your system. It might be worth investing in your irrigation system rather than incurring the expense of removing existing plantings and replacing them. Mulch, mulch, mulch. Topping the soil with a layer of mulch helps keep the moisture in. Mulch breaks down and enriches the soil, and it makes your plantings look manicured and finished.

### PLANT

Tropicals, ornamentals, trees, and shrubs. Late crops of warm season vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, beets, and carrots can be planted. Later this month, plant Sweet Peas for early crop of flowers. Add some drought-tolerant plants such as Cactus, Succulents, Lantana, Grevilleas, and Leucadendron.

### LOOK FOR

Bedding plants, Bougainvillea, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Agapanthus, Citrus, Plumeria, and Avocados. •

## Summer Rose Guide

By Ken Andersen

### Planting

Roses are still abundant this month at both stores. That means there is a nice selection if you still want to plant roses this summer. When you plant roses, dig a hole one and one half times as wide as the original container and a little deeper. You'll want to amend the soil at the bottom of the hole with two cups of Ada Perry's Magic Formula® for Roses and a cup or so of Gro-Power Rose and Flower Food along with the soil amendment you choose (Big Harvest Bale is an excellent rose soil amendment). To plant, remove the rose from the container, rough up the roots around the sides and place the rose into the planting hole. Back fill around your new rose with a 50-50 mixture of the dirt dug from the hole and your compost and tamp down; water well by hand or via drip irrigation. Try not to let the water restrictions scare you too much! Roses are a perfect plant for drip irrigation which delivers the water right where the plant needs it with no waste. Installing drip irrigation is an easy DIY project and both stores stock the parts you will need. Stop by either store and pick up a free DIG guide book.

### Maintenance

You will want to do a minor cleanup by pruning the plants back a bit. Cut off dead blooms and rose hips and open up the center of the plant by removing crossing canes. Once the cleanup is done, apply Ada Perry's® and Gro-Power to existing roses. Continue feeding with Gro-Power every eight weeks, giving them a last feeding during September or October. Save their heavy dormant season pruning for late December or January.

For dormant season care, you will want to thin the bushes out until there are only 5-6 strong canes. These should be pruned to about 12-14" tall and to an outward facing bud. Once the pruning is complete, clean up around the bushes by taking away all canes, foliage and any dead flowers, and



*This looks to be old foliage. If the rest of the rose is healthy, don't worry.*

compost or recycle them. This will help reduce the incidence of disease next season. With the pruning done, it is time to dormant spray the plants. Use a copper-based dormant spray like Liqui-Cop from Monterey and spray the plants at weekly intervals for three weeks. Now is also an excellent time to get your deciduous fruit trees pruned and sprayed with Liqui-Cop too. Once this is complete, apply Ada Perry's Magic Formula® around the base of each plant and gently scratch it into the soil. You can also apply Gro-Power to the dormant plants now, or wait until they have about 3-5 inches of new growth in the spring time.



*If the foliage looks as if it has been dusted with a silvery-white powder, you have Powdery Mildew.*

### What's Bugging Them?

Roses are fair game for pests and diseases, so we've chosen some of the most common ailments we see and will share with you how to control them.

[continued p5](#)

## Free Water, Better Than Tap

By Ted Schoenherr



**It started on a balmy summer day when I noticed the dripping water from the office air conditioner (AC) unit. AC water is condensed water. It is free of most contaminants which appear in tap water that can be harmful to some plants. It differs from distilled water, which lacks the nutrients that plants need.**

**At that point it dawned on me that this was free water being wasted. During the next many weeks, I collected it so I could use it to water the houseplants that I take care of in our San Diego store.**

**Over the next several months, I noticed that all the plants that were watered with AC water were much happier. I decided to do a watering test on a couple types of plants. I chose tropicals because they do not like salt. Some got tap water and some got AC water. What I found is that AC water allowed the new leaves to grow larger and have no salt damage to them. The plants that got AC water were the winners in all aspects. I have since discovered that many houseplants benefit from this new found water source.**

**Now, I tell my customers to collect their AC water and use it on their house plants or potted plants. It is especially easy to collect this water from a window mounted AC unit. All you need is a bucket to collect the free water. The only other free water that is better is rain and I do collect that too. So be smart and use what is free, your plants will love you for it. ●**



## Summer Rose Guide continued from p4



*Roses with rust will develop brown or yellowish spots on the topsides of the leaves and the undersides of the leaves will have blotches or spots, which contain a black, orange or red powdery material, which can easily be scraped off.*

**Fungus** – Fungal diseases are common when it comes to roses. Mildew, Rust, and Black Spot are the most common problems and also the easiest to control. Dormant spraying in winter can help to control these fungi in the spring, making it less work during the growing season. If you do end up with these problems, it is best to tend to them as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the more difficult they are to control. A couple easy solutions to most of these problems are Neem Oil or Bayer All-in-One Rose and Flower Care. It will take care of just about everything that will bother your roses, especially when caught early. The



*Tell tale holes in leaves are a clue that you should turn over a few leaves and try to spot these green, caterpillar-like larvae, rose slugs.*

hose end, ready-to-spray applicator makes it easy to apply, requires no mixing and leaves no waste. Prevent overspray on edibles when applying.

As with all chemicals in the garden including organic controls, follow the label directions and precautions at all times, “For It Is a Violation of Federal Law to use these Products in a Manner Inconsistent with Their Labeling”!

**Rose Slug** – The larvae of sawflies. If you spot holes on the leaves of your roses, look at the underside of the leaf. You are looking for a tiny, green caterpillar-like larva. For a mild infestation, you can pick the leaf off and squish the larvae. If you are feeling outnumbered, reach for the Bayer All-in-One Rose and Flower Care, Neem Oil, or any appropriate CONTACT spray. Because they cause so much damage so quickly, a contact spray is best.



*The aphids have come to eat the tender foliage and buds of the roses and the ants have come to eat the honeydew secreted by aphids.*

**Aphids/Ants** – Aphids are sucking insects that feast on juices of the tender new growth. This can cause curling, stunting or blackening of new foliage. Aphids excrete sticky liquid called honeydew that attracts ants. Honeydew can become moldy, smearing black fuzz across the rose leaves and buds. Aphids can usually be washed off with a strong spray of water or they become a fine dining experience for ladybugs.

[continued p7](#)

## Conserving Water Vegetable Garden

continued from p2

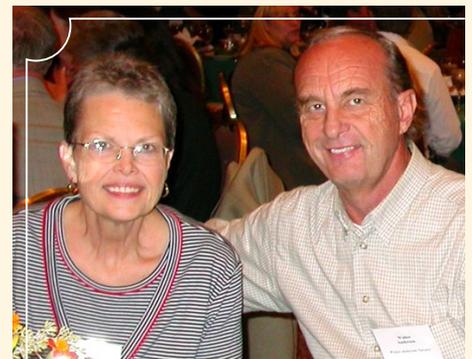
**the broadest sense, mulch means anything that covers the ground. Therefore, all mulches (e.g. bark, rocks, etc.) will conserve water to varying degrees.**

**We're constantly working our vegetable garden soil by harvesting and replanting. The best kind of mulch is therefore one that feeds the plants and can be turned into the ground, like compost, which is a type of fertile mulch.**

**I suggest the Big Harvest Bale organic compost for topping off raised beds and amending vegetable gardens. Just cut open the bag, spread it all around, and mix in all at once or as you plant. Or just leave it on top as mulch.**

**There are many ways to conserve water in your vegetable garden. Stop in and ask one of our experts how you can save water in your garden this summer. •**

## Floral Association Names Walter, Jr. Volunteer of the Year



*Jody and Walter Andersen*

**Walter Andersen, Jr. was named ‘Volunteer of the Year’ by the San Diego Floral Association. Walter was recognized for his support of the SDFA, which includes advertising in the association’s magazine, loaning plants, and being a regular exhibitor in the SDFA Flower Show as well as December Nights. •**

## 10 Myths About Wild Birds

By Old Ben



### 1. There is NO need to feed wild birds in summer.

**Answer:** Though there are abundant sources of natural food in summer, birds need to find food easily. This is because the parent birds also provide for hungry babies in their nest. This can over work the parents. Providing bird seed will help them to get food without much competition. No matter which season, leave food outside for our feathered friends. This will keep many species returning to your yard year after year.

### 2. If you feed birds, they will become dependent on your handouts, and will forget how to search for food on their own.

**Answer:** This is simply NOT true. Birds get only 25% of their food from bird feeders. The remaining 75% comes from natural sources like insects, bugs, sap, spiders, pine nuts, and grasses. If feeders are not present, birds will not starve. They will resort to natural resources to gain food. However, during drought and harsh winters, it is very difficult for them to find food. So, it is always better to provide supplementary food through bird feeders. Rest assured that birds will not become completely dependent on it.

### 3. It is okay to feed bread to ducks.

**Answer:** This is a false notion. Giving bread to ducks is as good as feeding them junk food. White bread offers NO nutritional value, and can be a source of excessive fats for the ducks. It may even pollute waterways and lead to diseases. Animals and pests like rats, mice, insects, and predators will also be attracted to

the bread. Feeding them cracked corn, vegetable trimmings, fresh pears or grape halves along with Old Ben's Duck and waterfowl food is recommended.

### 4. Bird feeders do NOT require cleaning.

**Answer:** The fact is, bird feeders should be cleaned from time to time. Without cleaning, there is a good chance you will make birds sick. Due to exposure, bird feeders can become breeding grounds for bacteria and diseases. It is recommended to scrape off the old bird seed and clean the feeder with soapy water and a 10% solution of bleach. Rinse thoroughly and dry the feeder before putting it out for the birds. Clean your feeders a minimum of four times a year.

### 5. Birdseed NEVER goes bad.

**Answer:** Like any type of food, birdseed can spoil over time, especially if it is stored improperly. Seed can attract pests and rodents or get mildew. Old seed dries out and is less likely to be eaten. If you store birdseed properly, it can last for weeks or months and still be suitable for your feeders. Choose a cool, dry area to store seed. Use airtight containers that will deter rodents and insects. Many seeds may be stored in your freezer for future use. All seed has insect eggs in it. Warm or hot conditions will allow the eggs to hatch. Freezing kills the insect eggs.

### 6. Uncooked rice will make birds' stomachs swell and explode.

**Answer:** ABSOLUTELY NOT! Most birds eat all kinds of grains, including rice, with no ill effects at all. It's part of their natural diet.

### 7. Don't feed peanut butter to birds, they will choke on it.

**Answer:** NOT! I have been using peanut butter for many years, I have observed that my birds take tiny amounts, fly to the nearest tree or shrub, place it under a leaf or piece of bark and eat it as though it were a bug they just found. If you are uncomfortable giving high energy

[continued p8](#)

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid August 1-31, 2015

### Nyger Seed

Staple food for Finches.

**10lb. \$19.97** Reg. \$29.99

### Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Attracts a wide variety of wild birds.

**20lb. \$15.97** Reg. \$31.99

### No Mess Wild Bird Seed

Seed attracts fewer feeder pests!

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

### Duck & Waterfowl Food

Will have the ducks looking for more!

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

### Old Ben's Goldfish & Koi Food

Floating pellets; fine ingredients.

**5lb. \$9.97** Reg. \$14.99

### Platform Feeder

Use suet, fruit, seed & more!

**\$24.97** Reg. \$42.99

### Multi-Purpose Hanging Bowl

For mealworms, water, seed & more.

**\$9.97** Reg. \$14.99

### Large Finch Sock

Available in 7 colors.

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

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



## Summer Rose Guide continued from p5

Treat with Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Control or Safer Insecticidal Soap.

**Thrips** - These may be the smartest of the insects that bug your roses because they live inside the tight buds of the plant which makes them hard to control. Thrips are larvae and they are rasps, causing their damage by abrasion. The damage may be most noticeable in light-colored roses. You'll see the buds become edged in brown or discolored and remain tightly closed or distorted looking. Sometimes the buds will only partially open. Treat with Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Control or naturally with the Pest Wizard Western Flower Thrips pheromone attractant sticky traps. •



*If the rose buds look like this, pry a few open and look for minute, slender insects with fringed wings known as Thrips.*

## Ades & Gish (A&G) Closes Its Doors

continued from p2



Founded in 1974 as Ades Floral Farm, it began with the partnership between Charles Ades and Bill Gish in Encinitas. At that time, the company was growing cut flowers and potted plants with the goal of converting the cut production to greenhouse potted plant production. In 1975, they changed the name to Ades & Gish Nurseries, Inc. and the corporation was born.

Over the years, the company grew in size and began adding more greenhouses in the Encinitas area. In 1993, Charles Ades purchased the remaining stock from Bill Gish but decided to keep the name Ades & Gish Nurseries.

In 1996, Charles' son, Darrell, joined the company full-time after graduating from Cal Poly Pomona with his bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture.

In 2000, it was decided that Ades & Gish Nurseries needed to consolidate its satellite greenhouses to one large greenhouse growing operation. In 2001, a property in San Marcos was purchased and the slow migration of closing the satellite greenhouses and moving the production to San Marcos was underway. That same year, Darrell began running the entire operation. By 2008, the operation was consolidated to the 17-acre facility in San Marcos. In 2010, Ades & Gish Nurseries changed the name to A&G Nurseries, Inc. •



## — Recipe —

### Hasselback Tomatoes with Sweet Basil Vinaigrette

Recipe from The Café Sucre Farine on Pinterest



**Is your summer garden laden with tomatoes and basil? Here's a brilliant recipe that is delicious and easy on the eyes. It's simple enough to make for the family or take to a potluck.**

Place tomatoes, core-end down and slice about 1/4-inch thick, but stop slicing about 1/2-inch from the bottom. You want the tomato to remain intact but have open space between each slice. Cut fresh mozzarella in half circles and stuff one into each space in the tomato. Drizzle Sweet Basil Vinaigrette and a sprinkle of pine nuts over each tomato.

#### Sweet Basil Vinaigrette

*2 cups fresh basil leaves, tightly packed*  
*1/3 cup rice vinegar*  
*1 tablespoon sugar*  
*2 tablespoons honey*  
*1 clove garlic*  
*2 teaspoons Dijon mustard*  
*3/4 cup canola oil (can substitute olive oil, but it will impart a strong flavor to the dressing)*  
*1/4 teaspoon sea salt*  
*1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper*

1. Combine vinegar, basil, garlic, mustard, sugar and honey in a food processor or blender. Puree mixture until smooth and bright green.
2. With motor running, slowly add the salad oil to form an emulsion.
3. Add sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. If not serving immediately, store in an airtight jar or container in the refrigerator. •

## Garden Classes

## AUGUST

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

8/1

Summer Fertilizing

8/8

Orchids for Everyone &  
Every Place!

8/15

Attracting Bees & Butterflies  
to Your Garden

8/22

Safe Pesticide Practices  
in the Garden

8/29

Cymbidium Orchid Remounting

## POWAY | 9:30AM

8/1

Plumerias

8/8

Natives: The Grass Isn't Always  
Greener with Moosa Creek

8/15

Fairy Gardening  
with Richard Wright

8/22

Remove Your Pond;  
Save Your Waterfall

8/29

Xeriscape with Carol Fuller

## In-Store Coupon

Valid August 1-31, 2015

**20% OFF**  
**One Regular**  
**Priced Item**

Print or Show on your Phone  
Limit 1 per Customer

CASHIER: Ring up coupon number then  
manually discount the single line item the  
customer wishes to discount.

#127877

Cannot be used on close out or sale merchandise.  
Cannot be used for purchases of Sod, Gift Cards, Special  
Orders, Labor, or Delivery. Cannot be combined with any  
other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points can be used if  
other merchandise is purchased at the same time.

## In-Store Special

Valid August 1-31, 2015

**20% OFF**  
**All DIG Drip**  
**Irrigation Products**  
No Limit

Convert your old spray sprinkler system  
into a new drip irrigation system to keep  
your existing landscape looking great  
during the drought.

With water wise landscaping, you can use  
water more efficiently. Pick up a **Free DIG**  
**Irrigation Product and Design Book** at  
either store to help you get started.

Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.  
Hedge Fund\$ points do apply.

## 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

## 10 Myths continued from p6

peanut butter to your birds, just mix it with some black oil sunflower seeds.

## 8. Hummingbirds hitch rides on the backs of geese.

**Answer:** No such thing has ever been documented!

## 9. This feeder is squirrel-proof!

**Answer:** While it is true that some bird feeder designs are more squirrel resistant than others, no feeder is 100% squirrel-proof. Squirrels are cunning and resourceful, and if the feeder has a seed or food they like, they will spend hours discovering a way to get it, causing significant damage.

## 10. Don't bother to clean the bird bath because birds like mud puddles, don't they?

**Answer:** Unclean bird baths are perfect breeding grounds for algae, mosquito larvae and mold. Keep those bird baths clean and filled with fresh water on a regular basis. •

Sept. 7: Labor Day

The Poway store will close at 5pm.



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

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