



WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

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Short Shelf Life For These Starts



Onion and leek starts are plants that are best bought quickly and planted immediately. That means now because the starts will be here shortly, and have a very short shelf life. To plant, amend the soil well with compost and organic matter. Onions and leeks enjoy fertile soil with very good drainage to avoid rot and mold. Gently remove the onion starts from the bundle and

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Bare Root Fruit Trees And Roses

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Photo: Dave Wilson Nursery

I've got some great reasons to buy bare root fruit trees. For starters, you get the best selection as far as varieties go, and best of all, they cost less than when you purchase them in a container! If you need more persuasion, bare roots are easier to plant as you don't have to remove them from containers. Even though your new plants 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!

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/2016fruittreelist.pdf).

If you have limited space for fruit trees, here is a great idea. You can plant more than one tree in a hole! It takes a little

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New Pest: The Ficus Eye Spot Midge

By Chuck McClung

Happy New Year! To help ring in the New Year we have a new pest visiting San Diego gardens, the Ficus Eye Spot Midge.

Thus far, in San Diego gall-forming midge only attacks leaves of the Indian Laurel Ficus (*Ficus microphylla* or *F. micro-phylla* 'Nitida'). However, in other parts of the world, this gall midge has been found on other species of Ficus as well. Locally, the eye spot midge was first noticed in 2014 and has been especially prevalent in La Jolla and Rancho Santa Fe. I have seen



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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. Mix a handful of your Dr. Earth organic or Gro-Power fertilizer in the bottom of the hole. Mix some planting compost with the soil that you dug from the hole to fill in around the roots of the 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. Sprinkle another handful of fertilizer around the base of your newly planted tree as well. Use plastic tie tape and tie your trees to the 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 which will encourage a 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.

Fertilize your new trees again lightly in March, and repeat the fertilizing about every month until September using Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado or Dr. Earth Organic Fruit Tree Food.

Now On To Roses

Bare root roses are available mid-December through February. They arrive in large boxes which are

lined with plastic to prevent the sleeping roses from drying out. These dormant roses will begin growing immediately and start blooming sometime in March or April! You can find a list of roses we have at: www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016roselist.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 past few decades we have tried many mixes for the roses, but this has been the best performer by far! Even though they are now potted and will bloom right in their pots, they still can be treated 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 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 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

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Leeks

Short Shelf Life

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lay them out on top of the garden bed in the location where they will be planted. Onions and leeks do not need much spacing and can be planted about six inches apart. Make a 1" deep channel and poke the starts in every 6". If you are using the sets that are just bulbs make sure the pointy tip is facing up when planting. Fill the hole and tamp down the soil around it. Give them a good soaking every few days (depending on how much rainfall you receive). For the final, but optional step, spread mulch around the starts to discourage weeds, help retain moisture, and help keep the soil a desirable temperature during temperature changes. •

Dates To Remember

January 1

New Year's Day

Both stores closed for the holiday.

January 7

Poway Closes Early

Poway store closes at 4:30pm due to computer upgrades being made.

New San Diego Pest continued from p1

damage on Indian Laurels in North Park too.

The young larvae of the eye spot midge make a gall inside leaf tissue that provides a home and food for the developing larva. When mature, the adults fly out an exit hole in the gall. The abandoned galls end up looking like sunken black spots that can resemble a bacterial or fungal disease.

Right now, the “jury is still out” so to speak about the best way to control the eye spot midge. So far, we have been suggesting Spinosad

(packaged as Captain Jack’s Dead Bug), an organic control for chewing insects like citrus leaf miner. We have had positive reports from some of our customers using Spinosad. Unfortunately galls make leaf tissue tougher and more resistant to spray controls like Spinosad. Furthermore, you see the “black spot” damage after the adult midge has flown away and may no longer be present. Fortunately, damaged leaves will likely fall off within a year or so. Watch the new growth after applications to be sure controls are working. •

Hundreds Hosted At Annual Open House Events



If you joined us at our holiday open houses, chances are you saw Santa and snow and ate, drank and were merry. If you couldn't make it, here's a look at the fun we had.

TO DO LIST: January



PLANT

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).

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.

LAWN CARE

Apply High Yield Weed & Feed 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. Don’t miss Pansies, Violas, Stocks and Snapdragons. •



2016 Pantone Colors Of The Year

By Melanie Potter



Felicia Daisy



Pansies

The 2015 color of the year was an exotic and rich tone dubbed 'marsala'. This year, for the first time ever, Pantone named two hues the color of the year: **Rose Quartz** and **Serenity**. The hues, which are pastel shades of pale pink and light blue, are somewhat reminiscent of baby announcements, but the color authorities at Pantone say that's not what they intend for you to call to mind.

Rose Quartz was chosen for its rosy warmth, and Serenity was chosen for its tranquility. According to the Pantone report, the colors are meant to be worn together. "Joined together, Rose Quartz and Serenity demonstrate an inherent balance between a warmer embracing rose tone and the cooler tranquil blue, reflecting connection and wellness as well as a soothing sense of order and peace."

The announcement is one the fashion and design industries watch closely, as the colors are guaranteed to rule our homes and wardrobes for the next year.

If you want to introduce these colors in the garden, look for these plants



Stocks



Phlox

that we think are within a rose quartz spectrum: **Light pink cyclamen**, **'Balboa' Globe Amaranthe Gomphrena hybrid**, **Nemesia**, **light pink pansies** and **stocks**, and some **ornamental kale** which you will find edged in light pink.

Capturing the blue tone of Serenity can easily be done. The first plant I saw that fit the bill was **Felicia Daisy**. There is also **Nemesia 'Dazzle-Me Lilac'**. Fitting the bill are also **plumbago** and **delphiniums**. •



Viola Sorbet Orchid Rose Beacon

Plants Of The Year Yield A Surprise

By Melanie Potter



Delphinium by Proven Winners



Allium by Monrovia



Begonia Tuberous

The National Garden Bureau has not only selected the plant classes that will be featured in the 2016 “Year of the” program, but surprised us by adding a fourth category. Indeed, this is the first year the bureau has included a bulb in the program.

Founded in 1920, the National Garden Bureau is a nonprofit with the mission to improve the quality of life and the environment through increased use of seeds and plants.

For 2016, the perennial of the year is **Delphinium**; the bulb of the year is **Allium**; the edible of the year is the **Carrot**; and the annual of the year is **Begonia**.

Delphinium is a perennial favorite with its tall flower spikes that is a must in any stately English, cottage, or cutting garden. The modern delphinium flower may be a single or double rosette in popular blue or red, pink, white, violet and yellow. Many of the flowers have white or black centers known as “bees.”

Alliums are members of the onion family, which is a big family and has more than the usual number of taxonomy problems. Formerly classified as alliaceae, they are now amaryllidaceae,

subfamily allioideae. Experts are unable to agree on the number of species, with estimates ranging between 500 and 750. Like their culinary relatives, garlic and shallots, most ornamental onions grow from bulbs. Planted in fall, they bloom from late spring to early summer. Deer hate alliums so plant a row if you want to repel them. The plants are odorless, but step on them or chew on them and the cell walls break, releasing volatile, sulfur-based chemical compounds that have a pungent odor and bitter taste.

Carrots (*Daucus carota*) are members of the Apiaceae family, which also includes culinary plants such as anise, celery, cilantro, dill, and parsnips. They are biennials, meaning that they will flower in the second year of growth, but are typically grown as annuals. There are several different carrot types and they are primarily divided up by shape.

Did you know this about **begonias**? Many types of begonias are produced from cuttings because seed production can be challenging. Begonia seed is barely larger than dust particles, so it is incredibly difficult to work with. •



Carrots

Bare Root continued from p2



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. There are several different products which will help control these issues. Serenade, Daconil, and Immunox will help control fungus problems. Bonide Neem Oil, will help control fungus, insects, and spider mites. Bayer Advanced has many different products to control insects and diseases.

Editor's Note: Celeste Wheeler from E. B. Stone Soils will present rose care, culture and winter pruning classes. In our Poway store, look for Rose Pruning, Planting, and Disease Control class on Jan. 16th. In San Diego, THE Rose Class on Jan. 30th. •

Old Ben: Guide To Backyard Bird Feeding

By Old Ben



When to Feed

In spring and throughout the summer, birds have an easier time finding natural food from plants and insects. However, birds will make use of feeders year round and especially during winter.

Types of Feeders:

- People who are new to backyard or balcony bird feeding wonder about what kind of bird feeder to get, where to put it and what seeds to provide. Most of them hold seeds, but others are designed to hold suet or fat and still others hold sugar water or nectar, which is a favorite of hummingbirds.
 - House or Hopper feeders are a common feeder type comprised of a platform with walls and a small roof surrounding the seed.
 - Tube feeders are another commonly used type of feeder. They hold seed in a central tube and either have holes with perches along their length or deposit the seeds on a lower tray. Tube feeders are usually hung to keep them out of reach of squirrels. A smaller version of a tube feeder is a favorite of finches because it holds Nyger Seed.
 - Platform feeders are flat feeders usually elevated on a pole that provides a platform on which the birds can gather and pick through the seed. This is an Old Ben's favorite.
 - Window feeders are often smaller feeders that can be secured to the outside of a window by suction cups. They provide a close-up look at the birds while they feed.
 - Suet feeders are most often cage-like containers that hold suet cakes.
- Hummingbird or nectar feeders hold sweet liquid for these tiny birds that feed on the nectar of flowers and tiny insects.

Bird Food Basics

- Black Oil Sunflower is one of the most popular bird seeds and attracts a variety of birds to your feeder such as blue jays, sparrows, house finches and many other birds.
- Nyger seed is a small, high quality seed that goldfinches love. These birds are a beautiful gold color and are a pleasure to watch.
- Seed mixes are popular because they attract many different types of birds. They can be messy, because birds pick over unwanted seeds and toss them away.
- No Mess seed mixes have been dehulled and will reduce the mess below your feeder. The birds will eat almost all of the seed and this fallen seed won't germinate.
- Suet is basically a cake of animal fat and is a healthy source of protein for birds, especially in the winter months.
- Nectar is sugar water and requires a hummingbird feeder. Hummingbirds are the most notable of nectar loving birds. They are a pleasure to watch in your backyard. The oriole is a fruit eating bird that also enjoys nectar.

Cleaning Bird Feeders:

Your feeders will get grimy over time. Because natural food sources are scarcer in the winter, more birds may be attracted to backyard feeders and those feeders will need to be cleaned

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Old Ben's Specials

Valid January 1-31, 2016

Introducing

Old Ben's Economy Wild Bird Seed Mix

This mix will attract a variety of wild birds including, doves, sparrows, and house finches.

20lb. \$9.97 Reg. \$17.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix.

20lb. \$15.97 Reg. \$31.99

No Mess Wild Bird Seed

Seed is hulled & chopped, will not germinate, attracts the widest variety of wild birds.

20lb. \$24.97 Reg. \$42.99

Nyger Seed

The staple food for Goldfinches and many other small birds.

10lb. \$19.97 Reg. \$29.99

New & Improved Platform Feeder

Stainless steel mesh and improved finish. The best way to offer all kinds of seeds and treats.

\$29.97 Reg. \$42.99

New & Improved Nyger Mesh Feeder

Stainless mesh and improved finish.

\$29.97 Reg. \$42.99

All Finch Socks On Sale

7 colors from which to choose.

Small \$3.97 Reg. \$5.99

Large \$4.97 Reg. \$8.99

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

Growing Strawberries

By Chuck McClung



People often to come into the nursery and ask, “So what’s the best strawberry variety?” I always respond, somewhat humorously, but truthfully, “Any strawberry you grow yourself will be better than anything you buy in the store.”

General Care

Strawberries are pretty easy to grow. They do not require tons of water, they are not deep rooted, and they grow well in pots. Before planting, amend your soil with the Big Harvest Bale or Harvest Supreme. In pots, use Edna’s Best Potting Soil. Plant crowns right at the soil level. If planted too shallow, plants dry out quickly; if planted too deep, the crowns stay too wet and rot.

Heavy feeding results in lots of vegetative growth with less fruit and more runners. Use an organic, slow-release fertilizer like the Dr. Earth Tomato, Herb, Vegetable Food.

Snails, slugs and pill or sow bugs are your biggest concern once your plants start fruiting. Sluggo Plus will control all of them. Birds will occasionally peck at ripe strawberries too, so be ready to pick once plants start producing. There is also a white fruiting variety that birds won’t see!

Strawberry Pots

The classic strawberry pots remain as popular as ever. The challenge is to

keep the strawberry pot adequately watered because water can flow out the pockets in the side. One trick I learned years ago, is to get a piece of 1” PVC pipe that will reach the bottom of the pot. Cap one end, and drill 1/4” holes all over the pipe. As you plant your strawberry pot, position the pipe in the center of the pot. Once planted, fill the pipe with water the pipe, and the pot gets watered from the inside out! Neat and no waste!

Varieties: June-Bearing vs. Ever-Bearing

‘June-Bearing’ varieties produce a mass of fruit over a short period during spring, some earlier, and some later. ‘Ever-Bearing’ varieties produce less fruit at one time, but much more over a longer period, often into fall. June-Bearing varieties typically grow more vigorously with more runners; Ever-Bearing varieties spread less vigorously with fewer runners.

Strawberry Varieties

‘**Albion**’ — Ever-bearing; robust grower; more disease resistant; large, deep red fruit and excellent flavor.

‘**Allstar**’ — June-bearing large, sweet, juicy fruit on disease resistant plants

‘**Camarosa**’ — June-bearing; large, very firm, flat-shaped fruit.

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with hot water and dried a few times during the year.

A Few Other Pointers:

- If you put out more than one feeder in different parts of the yard, more birds will come. Some species are comfortable in crowds but others like their space.
- Try to position your feeders a few feet from a bush or tree. This gives the birds a staging area from which they can wait and then swoop in, pick a few seeds and retreat to safety. Hawks are very crafty in their ability to catch birds hanging around feeders too long.
- Once you start feeding birds, it is best to stick with it. Birds need the most calories during colder months and they will appreciate your kindness. •

‘**Chandler**’ — Vigorous, June-bearing variety; medium to large-sized fruit; very popular with commercial growers.

‘**Quinault**’ — The best ever-bearing variety for containers and hanging baskets; fruits on un-rooted runners; very large fruit with excellent, sweet flavor.

‘**Seascape**’ — Ever-bearing; sweet, very red, medium to large sized fruit; heat and salt tolerant.

‘**Sequoia**’ — June-bearing; large dark red fruit; can act ever-bearing in our mild climate.

‘**Temptation**’ — Ever-bearing, an early, large fruited variety. Great tasting strawberries with deep red fruit. Vigorous, compact growth, excellent for hanging baskets or containers.

Editor’s Note: Look for a strawberry class Feb. 20th at our Poway store. •

Garden Classes

JANUARY

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

1/2

No Class

1/9

Pruning Pears & Figs

1/16

Introduction to Gardening 101:
From the Ground Up

1/23

Which, What, Why Spring Bulbs

1/30

THE Rose Class with Celeste
Wheeler from E. B. Stone Soils

POWAY | 9:30AM

1/2

No Class

1/9

Fruit Tree Pruning
with Richard Wright

1/16

Total Rose Care with Celeste
Wheeler from E. B. Stone Soils

1/23

Spring Bulbs

1/30

Winter Veggies

Recipe: **Hopping John**

1 1/2 cups dried black-eyed peas
6 strips bacon, diced
1 medium onion, chopped
1/2 tsp. salt
3/4 cup long-grain white rice
2 tbs olive oil (optional)
Salt & pepper
Dash of Louisiana style hot sauce
1/2 cup minced green onions,
including tops
3 tbs. minced parsley

Pick over peas and rinse well; cover with 3 cups of cold water; let stand overnight. Drain peas, discarding water, and place in a large pot. In a separate pan, sauté bacon until crisp, add it to peas, reserving rendered drippings. Add onion, 1/2 tsp. salt and 2 cups of water. Bring to a boil, lower heat, and simmer until peas are tender, about 30 minutes. A small amount of cooking liquid should remain; if liquid is absorbed too quickly, during cooking, add fresh water 1/4 cup at a time. Cook rice. When peas are tender, add cooked rice to pot. Stir in 2 tbs reserved bacon drippings (or olive oil), salt, pepper and hot sauce to taste. Cover and simmer about 15 minutes longer so flavors mingle and rice absorbs some of the remaining cooking liquid. Garnish with green onions and parsley. •

JANUARY In-Store Specials!

Valid January 1-31, 2016

\$3 OFFGro Power or Gro
Power Plus 20# Bags**\$6 OFF**Gro Power or Gro
Power Plus 40# Bags**50% OFF**"How To Prune Fruit
Trees" Book**\$3 OFF**

2.5# Sluggo

\$5 OFF

2.5# Sluggo Plus

\$2 OFFE.B. Stone Rose
Planting Mix with any rose
purchase \$24.99 or more

Gro Power Liquid 1 gal

\$19.99

No Limits. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points are redeemable.

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