



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

SEPTEMBER 2016

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This Is **Cute!**
Maybe Not Baby Animal
Cute, But Cute As A Caper
By Melanie Potter



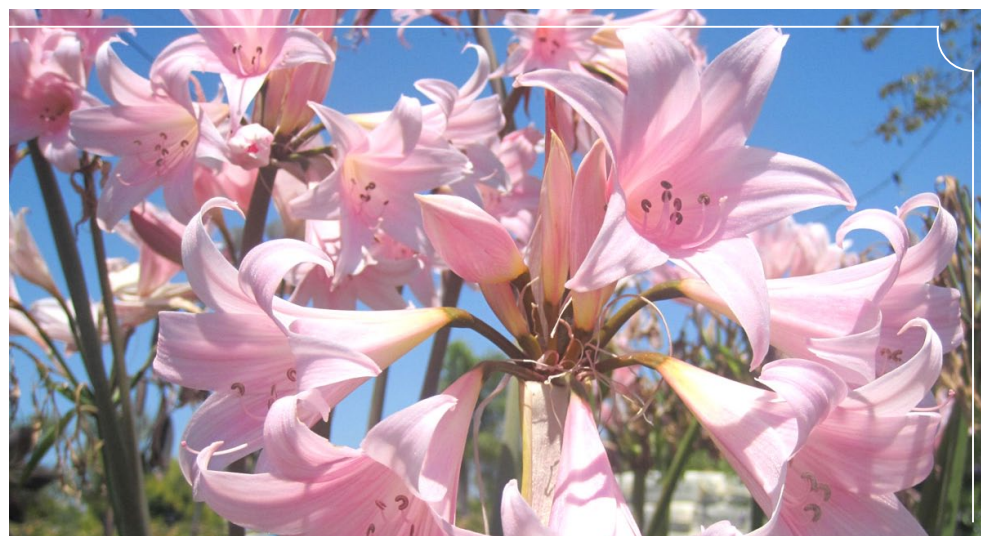
“Cute as a button” is a well known expression, but I think “cute as a caper” could catch on.

We're all suckers for clicking on the cute photos of baby animals that flood the internet and for plant lovers, now there is something to ooh and aah over.

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Bust Out Those Bulbs!

By David Ross



'Amar Crinum' Bulbs

Bulb season is upon us, and while they don't look like much now, they may be just the bullet proof bloomers you have been waiting for.

Bulb, the catch-all word we use for rhizomes, corms, and true bulbs, are dry, ugly looking things that require a little faith, and a belief that if you

plant them they will grow. And grow they will. Stored inside is all the energy and information needed to produce beautiful blooms within just a few months! That's right, with little help from you these ugly bulbs will be growing and blooming in no time.

A favorite is the **Sea Squill, Urginea**

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Staghorns 'R' Us

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Staghorn Ferns are considered fairly easy-to-grow, but some customers shy away from them because they think they are difficult. This is not the case. Although a few like it warmer than our winter temperatures, most Platycerium (botanical name) varieties do exceptionally well in San Diego.

Probably the most impressive is Platycerium superbum, or Moose Horn Fern. This is from Australia and some call it

Platycerium grande, but P. grande does not do well here during winter so you seldom see it. They look very similar, but there are subtle differences.

What most of these magnificent plants need is bright light, but not full sun for very long. Bright, shaded light is best for most of them. A north or east facing wall is generally good; a patio that is bright, perhaps partly shaded by lath or shade cloth, especially

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Bulbs! continued from p1



David Ross holds *Albuca Spiralis*

maritima. This durable Mediterranean native has upright flower spikes covered with hundreds of small white flowers which start blooming from the bottom and continue blooming for many weeks. The lush foliage comes out during winter, and then dies down in spring, followed by summer flowers. The enormous bulbs store enough energy that these bulbs will thrive with rainwater only.

If fragrance is a must, look for these specialty bulbs. We will have a variety of **freesias** which make beautiful cut flowers and are nicely scented. We will have the fragrant **Amaryllis belladonna**, or naked lady. These South African bulbs are usually pink, occasionally white or almost red pink. We will have special **Amarcrinums** that bloom with fragrant pink blossoms all summer long and will grow in dry areas, but look better with summer water. Re-blooming **Bearded Iris** will arrive as well. These bulletproof plants will take the hottest area in your yard and reward you year after year with more plants and more blooms. They are fragrant, make outstanding cut flowers, and are easily divided for friends, or to plant elsewhere in your yard.

Arriving shortly will be **Paperwhites** and many other varieties of **Narcissus**. Not only will they be up and blooming

in just a few months, but they will multiply and you will get more and more blooms year after year. **Leucojum**, or **Summer Snowflake**, will remind you of Lily of the Valley with two important differences. First, *Leucojum* grows quite well here (*Lily of the Valley* doesn't) and second, it is not fragrant.

A new 'must have' bulb this season is **Albuca spiralis**, or **Sizzle Frizzle!** We first came across this bulb earlier this year and we immediately sold out of the plants we had. Everyone who saw the plant raved about how neat it looks. Since it is a South African bulb, it will grow well in our climate as long as it has good drainage. The blooms are held high above the plant on a sturdy spike. The grasslike leaves of this bulb come out very curly, like a segment of ribbon after running scissors along the strand.

We will have a limited number of large bulbs available at both locations arriving mid-September. We will also have **Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus, Anemones, Tulips, Hyacinths**, and many, many more.

In addition to all the flowers, we will also have **onions, garlic** and **shallots** this month, and **potatoes** next month.

Many of the above will be limited in supply, so be sure to shop early for best selection. •



Tulips. Photo by Melissa Schulze



Violas

TO DO LIST: September



FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Hi-Yield Weed & Feed to feed grass 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. Last feeding for Camellias, Azaleas, and roses for the year.

PLANT

Sweet Peas, Winter Annuals like Calendulas, Stocks, Pansies, Violas, Mums, and Snapdragons. Plant winter vegetables.

LOOK FOR

Fall bulbs (*Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus and Freesia*), *Crape Myrtle, Arbutus, Bougainvillea, and Agapanthus*. Be sure to chill Tulips, Hyacinths, and spring blooming Crocus before planting. •

Staghorns continued from p1



during the hottest part of the day is fine. Many customers have them on trunks of large trees, shaded by the canopy of the tree.

What they need to thrive is occasional water, perhaps a good sprinkling once a week. Some gardeners who have many in their collections run a drip system to their plants. These systems are easy to install and you can add to the system if your collection grows. In summer, watering twice a week should be fine. In winter months probably once a week, unless it rains a lot, then just stop watering until they dry out a little. Keeping them constantly wet is not good for them and will cause them to rot.

To help them grow larger with greener

foliage, use Gro-Power Planting tablets every three months. This is probably the easiest way to fertilize your Staghorn. You just drop these tablets onto the top of the plant, behind the shield frond (the flat upright leaves they form). As you water, the tablet slowly dissolves and fertilizes the plant. If you don't fertilize, they will continue to grow but they will have smaller leaves and have a light green to yellowish color.

Not too many pests bother them, but you might want to be aware of scale insects. There is a tiny white one that resembles ash. The other is larger, perhaps to 1/8" or so in diameter. These are dark brown and form a bump on the spore fronds. You can spray them with Bayer Rose and Flower Spray, which comes with a convenient ready-to-use trigger sprayer attached. Make a second application two weeks later. The dead scale insects will remain on the leaves, but won't reproduce. You can scrape them off or just remove the older fronds as they start to show age.

Walter Andersen Nursery divides and remounts customer's ferns when they get too large or fall off their mounting boards. If you need help with yours, just give us a call. We also sell the pre-made boards if you want to do it yourself. ●

A Coloring Tree

By Melanie Potter



While we aren't a proponent of defacing flora, this recent find gave us a chuckle and made us think back to when we read *The Giving Tree*. A huge Eucalyptus tree was spotted in the courtyard of a restaurant in Laguna Beach. The trunk was beautiful but a closer inspection revealed the multi-colored trunk was the work of children who put their crayons to creative use. Sure enough, just minutes later a trio of wee ones left their colorful marks on the tree. Overall, we liked this idea as young children were entranced with the tree and well behaved as they quietly colored. I can't recall the last time I saw young children appreciate a tree. ●

Cute Capers

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How cute are these caper plants (*Capparis spinosa*)? The plant is best known as the producer of capers. The edible flower buds are capers and the fruit they produce are caper berries. The flowers are sweetly fragrant, and oh so showy, with white to pinkish-white petals, and many long violet-colored stamens, and a single stigma usually rising well above the stamens.

The caper bush grows as a low mounding shrub 2-3 feet tall with arching red stems and dark green, semi-succulent round leaves. It thrives when planted in well-drained soil in a hot sunny location with little or no water. Although appreciative of occasional water in summer, a sure way to kill a caper bush is to over water it.

Did you ever think you would find such a cute drought-tolerant plant? ●

Tool Shed: Stick It To Pests

We can't tell you how many times we reach for Bayer Advanced 2-in-1 Insect Control plus Fertilizer Plant Spikes as a solution to what ails customer's plants. These spikes are for use on indoor and outdoor



will feed and protect against common pests such as aphids, whiteflies, scale, and thrips for up to eight weeks. There's no spraying, no mess, just push the spikes into the soil. This product can be applied to potted roses, palms, ficus, houseplants, hibiscus, flowers, vines, and containerized shrubs and trees. These are great for whatever pests ail your staghorn ferns as well. ●



Words From Walter

Fun & Easy Vegetables Almost Anyone Can Grow

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Our seed racks have just been restocked with new seeds for the 2017 planting season. Root crops can be planted almost year-round in San Diego. You can grow them in the ground or in planter boxes or larger tubs or pots. Start out with a great potting soil such as Edna's Best or Sunshine potting soil. The soil should be at least 10"-12" deep in the container. If you are planting in the ground, you should try to loosen the soil to a depth of about 12". Mix in some Soil Building Conditioner and add some Stone Organic Vegetable fertilizer for best results, 50-50 with your existing soil. With your finger or trowel handle, make a line in the soil about 1/2" deep the length you want to plant, no deeper. Then sew part of the packet of seed, not the whole thing, spacing the seeds about 1" to 3" apart. Then gently move the surrounding soil over your seeds so they are about 1/2" deep. If you plant the entire packet at one time you will have too many vegetables to eat in a short time. Lightly water after planting.

Here are my thoughts on what to plant:

Radish, most popular are the round ball-shaped ones such as "Cherry Belle", "Crimson Giant" and "French Breakfast". "Rainbow Blend" and "Easter Egg Blend" have varying colors. Divide your seeds into four or five plantings, and plant more every 10 to 14 days. This will spread out your harvest. Most Radish varieties are ready for harvest within four weeks!

Beets are planted similarly, 1/2" deep but about 3" to 4" apart. Beets take longer to mature, plan on about 45 to 60 days. "Chioggia" has a red and white 'candy-stripe' root, "Detroit Dark Red" is deep maroon-red, and "Early Wonder"

are quite popular. For a continual harvest, schedule successive plantings about two weeks apart. If they are growing too close together thin out the smaller ones to give the others more room. Use the greens in a salad after checking the packets to see if your variety has edible leaves and stems.

Carrots have so many delicious varieties. You may narrow it down to two or three different ones. Some are short and fat, others long and thin. "Danvers 126", "Red Cored Chantenay" and "Atomic Red" are popular. Carrots are ready in about 65 to 75 days. Plant more seeds in two to three weeks for continual harvest.

We have the regular vegetable seeds we have had forever and also a great section of organically grown seed as well. We carry no GMO seeds, if you were wondering.

To keep your root crops thriving, fertilize once a month. For me, I have found feeding the first of every month works well, otherwise I forget from month to month. I like E.B. Stone Organics Tomato & Vegetable Fertilizer which advises applying two cups for every 50 sq. ft. of area, once a month. Scatter some Sluggo on the soil if you see signs of snails or slugs. If left uncontrolled they can do a lot of damage. Sluggo Plus works on snails and slugs and also the Sow Bug population. Both are labeled organic. •

Why You Should Try Gro-Power Planting Tablets

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



If you don't know about them, this is a quick and easy way to get your new plants off to a great start. When you are planting ornamentals, veggies, color plants

or ground covers, place a tablet just to one side of the root ball of your new plant. Bedding, veggies and groundcover use one tablet per plant, placed to the side of the root ball. For 6" and 1 gallon plants, use two tablets. After you have planted your new plants, be sure to give them a good watering.

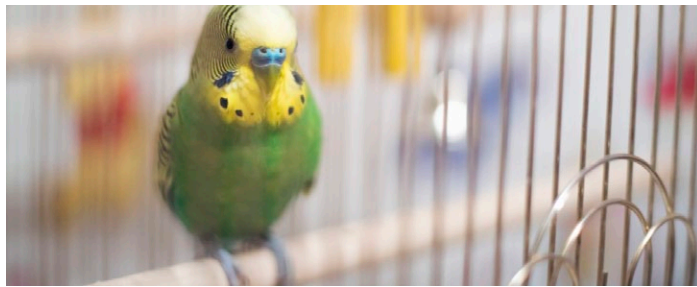
This is a simple and easy way to fertilize your indoor and patio containers also. Simple formula: For 6" pots, place one tablet on top of the soil, for 8" pots, use two tablets. For two or three gallon sizes use four, and so on. As you water, the tablet will dissolve and nutrients are carried down to the roots. Keep a schedule and repeat the application about every three months.

Every three months, this is how I fertilize our staghorn ferns. It not only encourages larger leaves, but darker green leaves as well. When we remount ferns, we always put one or two tablets behind the plant, tucked into the moss. This system is excellent for potted bromeliads too. Many people think these plants will live without much extra care and the truth is, they probably will. Plants thrive on the contents of these tablets: nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, sulphur, iron, magnesium, zinc, and humic acids and other trace elements.

Gro-Power Planting tablets come in jars of 45 tablets, and 250 tablets. If you find you will need a lot of them, they come in a box of 1,200 too. They are easy to use, clean, and safe for almost any plants. Some orchid growers are pleased with them as well; it is much easier than feeding with a liquid once a week. Tip: Cymbidium orchids thrive on them, and bloom very well. •

Old Ben: Care Guide For Pet Birds

By Old Ben



I have been raising birds for more than 40 years. At one time, I had four large aviaries, the largest one was more than 40 feet long. I raised varieties of finches, cockatiels, doves, quail, and my favorite, parakeets or budgies. I now have one aviary with white doves. I love the sound they make in the morning and enjoy watching them. Below are a few tips for keeping birds as pets.

Parakeets, finches and cockatiels are among the most common pet birds and have the same general requirements. In addition to a clean place to live, they need fresh water and the proper food provided daily. Below are the basics for keeping any pet bird safe and happy in your home.

Cage

Different breeds of birds need differently sized cages. Make sure the cage is large enough to accommodate your birds, as well as the number of birds you wish to keep. A cage that is the perfect size for one parakeet may not be big enough for two. Most birds need to be able to stretch their wings with room in the cage for short flights. The cage should have bars that are less than 3/8" wide so that the bird won't get its head stuck in between them, as well as some bars that are horizontal for easy climbing.

Food and Water

All pets need access to clean food and water. Follow the recommendations for your particular type of bird and make sure you are feeding them the recommended diet.

Birds must have clean water every day. Food and water containers should never be placed under perches. Any waste that gets into the feed containers should be cleaned as soon as possible. Many birds enjoy a bath a few times a week which is as easy as placing a shallow bowl of water in the cage for them to enjoy.

Bedding

All cages should have liners or shredded paper on the bottom. Don't use colored newspaper, as it can be harmful to their health. Clean the bottom of the cage at least once a week and wash the entire cage every month.

Time to Adjust

Although your new pet should adjust to its surroundings fairly quickly, try to keep the noise level down at first to minimize any stress. If your bird is one that is easily handled, move slowly and let it get used to you. Cover your bird cage at night with a sheet or towel.

Parakeets

Parakeets have specific requirements so they will stay happy and healthy. These birds crave human interaction, and you should look for one that has been hand raised and handled from a young age. Allow time for your parakeet to be out of the cage every day and make sure that it has human attention.

Feed them a diet of parakeet seed as well as snacks of fruit and vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, grapes, apples, as well as cuttlebone. Although it isn't necessary to have more than one

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Old Ben's Specials

Valid September 1-31, 2016

INTRODUCING

Old Ben's NEW Jumbo Finch Socks

NEW paracord closures, expanded colors. Hand washable.

\$6.97 Reg. \$9.99

Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The no mess advantage. Seed is hulled, will not sprout, birds can eat all the seed which attracts fewer pests.

20lb. \$24.97 Reg. \$42.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food of goldfinches and other small birds.

25lb. \$39.97 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

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

20lb. \$15.97 Reg. \$31.99

Old Ben's Spray Millet

Grown on the Sacramento Delta. Seven sprays per bag. A super treat for wild and domestic birds.

\$7.97 Reg. \$10.99

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

Indoor/Outdoor Pond

Complete kit includes waterfall, pump, and submersible light. Assembly required.

\$199.99



Garden Classes

SEPTEMBER

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

9/3

No Class

9/10

Planning Your
Backyard Orchard

9/17

Lets Plant Bulbs

9/24

Cutting & Drying Herbs

POWAY | 9:30AM

9/3

No Class

9/7 (6pm)

Special Class: Backyard Orchard Culture
with Tom Spellman. David will grill
hot dogs starting at 5:15.

9/10

Planting Natives with Teresa
from Moosa Creek

9/17

Tillandsias & Bromeliads w/Richard Wright

9/24

Biomimicry & Patterns in Nature

9/17 (10:30am) **Special Offsite Class**

Common Sense Gardening in a Changing Environment with David
Ross at Sunshine Care Facility (12695 Monte Vista Rd., Poway)

Old Ben: Care Guide

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parakeet, you can put several in a cage, but these parakeets will likely respond less to human contact. Parakeets will often hide an illness. By the time you notice that something is wrong, the problem may be quite advanced and it will be best to consult a vet who specializes in birds. Healthy parakeets are vibrantly colored and will often learn to whistle. If you are patient, some parakeets can learn a rather large vocabulary, although they may be hard to understand. Because they are so tame and gentle, they are the perfect pet bird to start with. If given proper care, a parakeet will live between 10 and 15 years. •

Starting September 5th

Poway Store Hours Change

Our Poway store will be open daily
from 9am-5pm.

September Close-Out Specials!

Valid September 1-31, 2016

Your Choice **\$4.99!**



**Ironite Liquid
Fertilizer** 7-6-6

1 qt. Bottle. For
Indoor or Outdoor
Plants. Reg. \$16.99



**Alaska Pure
Dry Fish
Fertilizer** 8-5-0

3 lb. Bag. General
Purpose Fertilizer.
Reg. \$14.99

Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
While supplies last. Final sale. No coupon needed. Hedge Fund\$ certificates 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



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