



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

NOVEMBER 2016

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Boozing With Your Bulbs

By Melanie Potter



As bulb season is in full swing, I was reviewing the different bulbs we have and how to grow them. It occurred to me that bulbs sure seem to take some abuse as we force them, chill them, and we can even booze them to stunt their growth.

We see this every year. At the nursery, the Paperwhites get too tall and their stalks flop over. That's why you'll sometimes see them tied with raffia around their mid section to lend support. It turns out, you can keep the stems shorter and stunt their growth by boozing them!

[continued p2](#)

When & How To Harvest

By Botanical Interests

After tending to the garden all spring and summer, it's just about time to enjoy the fruits of your labor! But when is that exactly? Here are some tips to help you know when and how to harvest your vegetables.



Corn

Corn is ready about three weeks after the silks appear. Harvest when the silks are brown, but not dried and the husks are dark green. Gently pull back the husk and pop a kernel with your fingernail; the liquid should be whitish.

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Poinsettias—Keep 'Em Blooming

By Paul Ecke Ranch

The poinsettias you buy in November or December will provide bright color through the holidays, but when the new year rolls around, you may be pondering what to do with these festive beauties that are still lush and blooming.

It's possible, but not easy, to keep your poinsettia blooming by following these suggested tips.

- Cut the plant back to four or six buds by early April or when the bracts begin to fall, whichever occurs first.
- Place the pot near a sunny window and water and fertilize regularly. New growth should sprout by the end of May. Continue watering and fertilizing.

[continued p3](#)



Boozing With Your Bulbs continued from p1

Researchers at Cornell University, in the Flowerbulb Research Program, discovered that alcohol, whether it is the good stuff you drink, or rubbing alcohol, will shorten the stems of bulbs that grow tall and become too weak to hold up their top heavy heads. Beware, though, your math skills will be called into action. So pour yourself a drink and prepare to booze your bulbs. Here's how:

Once the roots begin growing and the green shoot on top reaches 1" to 2", pour off the existing water. Replace the water with a solution of 4-6% alcohol, and then continue to use the alcohol solution for future watering.

To obtain the necessary percentage of alcohol, which is less than 10% to avoid a hangover your plants won't bounce back from, you'll need to look at the proof label on the bottle. Start with any hard liquor such as vodka, tequila, or whiskey, or save that for drinking and use rubbing alcohol. Don't use beer or wine because of the high sugar content. To determine the percentage of alcohol your booze has, divide the proof in half. Eighty-six proof bourbon is 43% alcohol. To convert your booze to the acceptable level of alcohol, divide the percentage alcohol by 5

and then subtract 1. This will tell you how many parts water to mix with your 1 part alcohol. For example if you have 80 proof liquor, divide by half to get 40, then divide that by 5 and you have 8. Subtract 1 to reach 7. Mix 7 parts water to 1 part liquor to get the desired dilution.

If you need a refresher on how to grow Paperwhites, here it is:

Fill a container with pebbles to within an inch of the rim. You can use a glass bowl, clay pot, or even a tall vase, which will help support the paper white's tall stems. Add water until it is just below the top of the pebbles. Set the bulbs on the surface of the pebbles, crowding them together so they almost touch. Add more pebbles, covering the bottom third of the bulbs. Make sure the bulbs themselves are not touching the water, or they may grow mold and rot. Maintain the water level described above and leave the bulbs in a cool location with little or no light. This cool darkness encourages root growth. After a week or two, tug gently on the bulbs from time to time to test for root development. Once they feel rooted, move them to a bright spot without direct sunlight. They should flower in three to five weeks. ●



Harvest

continued from p1

Tomatoes

Check your variety to see what color your tomato should be when ripe. When fully ripe, tomatoes will have a little give when squeezed. Tomatoes may also be picked at 'first blush' stage and ripened at room temperature. Picking often and early increases yield.

Swiss Chard

Harvest up to 1/3 of the outer leaves as needed and let more leaves grow from the center of the plant; or if desired, harvest the whole plant 2" above the ground, and it will grow back. Pick very young leaves, at 2"-3" for using fresh in salads.



Cucumbers

Pick regularly before fruits are bigger than optimal size. Cut the stem rather than pulling at the fruit to break off. Once picked, immediately immerse in cold water to disperse 'field heat' which increases the quality and life of picked fruit.

continued p3



WAN To Partner With NCL At Holiday Time

We are pleased to work again with the Poway chapter of the National Charity League in conjunction with their annual holiday home tour. The event, to be held Dec. 3, allows ticket holders to view three Poway homes beautifully decorated for the holidays. Tickets are \$25 and available for sale at our store in Poway. Tickets will include a coupon for that evening's holiday open house at the Poway store. [See flyer on page 6](#) for information regarding both store's holiday open houses. ●

Poinsettias continued from p1



• Beginning on Oct. 1, keep the plants in total darkness for 18 hours a day and bright sunlight the other six. To achieve the needed darkness, place a cardboard box over the plant each day. After eight to 10 weeks of the light and dark routine, plants should develop a new display of holiday blooms.

One thing to remember, these poinsettias have been hybridized to perform best in greenhouse and indoor situations, so they generally do not thrive when transplanted to the garden.

Once the holidays are in sight and your poinsettias are ready for display, place them in indirect sunlight for at least six hours a day. Keep the room temperature between 68 and 70 degrees and don't expose plants to temperatures below 50 degrees or chilly winds.

Water the plants thoroughly when the soil feels dry to the touch, but be careful not to let them sit in standing water. Don't fertilize poinsettias in bloom but nourish them with an all-purpose fertilizer after the blooming season. •



Harvest

continued from p2

Watermelons

Signs to look for are: (1) the bottom of the melon turns from light green to a yellowish color; (2) the surface of the fruit turns dull and rough; (3) the skin cannot be penetrated by a thumbnail; and (4) curly tendril near the point of stem attachment of the melon is brown and dry.



Winter Squash

Harvest when the squash's rind is hard enough that you can't dent it with your fingernail. Cut the stem, leaving 2" of stem attached. Treat them gently; bruising can spoil the squash. Be sure to harvest before frost.

Summer Squash

Harvest frequently to increase yield, and minimize seeds, as squash seems to get monstrous overnight. Using a knife or clippers, cut squash off the vine, include some of the stem. By including some of the stem, the fruit is sealed and less likely to mold or dry out.

Pumpkins

Harvest pumpkins before the first fall frost, and when foliage has begun to dry out. Cut stem, leaving a few inches of stem on the pumpkin. Brush off any dirt or leaves. Cure 1-2 weeks before eating or storing. •

Ken Andersen harvests one pumpkin a year; the family's Big Mac for Halloween.



Words From Walter

Quick & Fun Veggies

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Winter is a great time to grow carrots, beets, and radishes from seed. Actually, you can plant them all year-round in Southern California. They grow very quickly; in fact some radish varieties are ready in three weeks! When you get a packet of seed, don't plant them all at once, save some seed (3/4 or more) for another planting in two or three weeks, then another. If you plant the whole packet at one time you may have too many maturing at the same time. •

Stop In To See Our Barrel



Time is running out if you want to take a look at the barrel our Poway store is hosting for the Ramona Art and Wine Festival's annual fundraiser. Its next stop is the Nov. 5 event held from 11am to 5pm. Tickets are available at www.ramonaartandwinefest.net.

In addition to Walter Andersen Nursery (barrel painted by Lynette Bredow), barrels can be seen at the following businesses.

Barrel sponsored by Chris Anderson REALTOR® will be displayed at Star-

bucks, 1315 Main St, Ramona, CA; artist Jackie Neal.

D'Carlos Restaurant, 1347 Main St., Ramona, CA; artist Tracy Weinzapfel Studios.

Hatfield Creek Vineyards and Winery, 1625 Highway 78, Ramona, CA; artist Casey Buonaugurio.

Ramona Boll Weevil; 2548 Main St.; Ramona, CA; artist Lyn Feudner.

San Vicente Resort; 24157 San Vicente Road; Ramona CA; artist Pamela Wilder.

The 18 participating wineries include: Altipiano Vineyard and Winery, Eagles Nest Winery & Cottage, Hacienda de las Rosas Winery, Hatfield Creek Vineyards & Winery, Hellanback Ranch & Vineyard, Highland Hills Vineyard & Winery, La Finquita Winery & Vineyard, Mahogany Mountain Vineyard & Winery, Milagro Farm Vineyards & Winery, Pamo Valley Winery, Poppaea Vineyard, Principe di Tricase Winery, Ramona Ranch Vineyard & Winery, Salerno Winery, Schwaesdall Winery, Turtle Rock Ridge Vineyard Winery, Vineyard Grant James, and Woolf'n Rose Winery. •

TO DO LIST: November

FERTILIZE

Lawns

Use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue.

Ornamentals

Feed with Gro-Power.

Vegetables, Citrus & Fruit

Feed 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.

Palms and Tropicals

Feed with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food.

Wait To Feed Camellias!

Feed Camellias when they finish blooming.

PLANT

Fall Bulbs, California Natives and Drought-Tolerant Plants.

Fall Color Selections

Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, fragrant Stocks, Poppies, and more.

Look For...

Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Camellias, Azaleas, and holiday plants.

Edibles

You'll find vegetables as well as potatoes, garlic and onions. How about caneberries, strawberries, kiwi, asparagus, and olives?

Bare Root Trees

Look for potted bare root trees to arrive—Pomegranates and Figs. We expect them mid-month so call the store of your choice to check.

PEST CONTROL

Dormant Spraying

This month start dormant spraying with Liqui-Cop and Oil Spray. The wetter the winter, the more crucial dormant spraying becomes!

Fruit Trees & Roses

Clean up all foliage from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses.

BERMUDA LAWN CARE

De-thatch and over seed Bermuda lawns with annual Rye. •

Old Ben: Bugs In The Bird Food?

By Old Ben



Before I get started on this month's topic, I would like to share Old Ben's commitment to wild bird seed. I use ingredients from natural sources in my entire line. NO Artificial Anything!

Old Ben's Promise:

- I believe ingredients should come from nature, not a lab.
- I believe wild bird food should be made only with ingredients I am proud to share.
- I believe wild bird food should be simply prepared with as little processing as possible.
- I believe wild bird food should be made with a commitment to quality.
- Nature has nothing to hide; neither should your wild bird food!

Ever found bugs in your bird food?

Don't panic because it doesn't mean the food is bad, or spoiled, or can't be given to the birds. Put the seed in your freezer for a day or two. Freezing the seed will kill any living protein and everything should be just fine. Sometimes, no matter what you do, those pesky pests invade our homes and bird feeders. Manufacturers cannot use seeds and grains that have been sprayed with large doses of pesticides, nor for the safety of our birds would we want them to. It is just a fact of life that you will one day come face to face with a bug problem. Finding a few moths in wild bird food does not mean the food is bad, expired, spoiled, or that the store you purchased from is a bad place.

There are some natural remedies that can be utilized to control your bug problem. Intruders like ants, roaches, and many other pests just plain don't like catnip. So placing some small bags of catnip throughout areas of your home might be a help. However, if you own a cat, this might backfire!

Moths: There are two types of moths. There are the ones that invade your closet and chew holes in your clothing and the ones that come from grain foods such as bird seed and foods from the grocery store. Walter Andersen Nursery has natural pheromone moth traps that are very effective at catching these moths. Some people have had success with homemade moth repelling sachets made up of some of the following: Bay leaves, cinnamon sticks, cloves, eucalyptus, lavender, pepper corns, or dried lemon peels. I find these remedies seem to work better for the closet moths.

The bottom line, all bird food contains insect eggs. It does not matter who the manufacturer is. The eggs are there when the seed is harvested, and many make it through cleaning and processing. Heat and humidity cause the eggs to hatch.

Here are more tips to keep bird seed bug free. Store seed in a cool place in a tightly covered container. Buy only enough seed to last a month. Freeze your bird seed for 24 to 48 hours. ●

Old Ben's Specials

Valid November 1-30, 2016

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

A classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in Old Ben's.

20lb. **\$24.99** Reg. \$29.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food for gold finches and many other small birds.

25lb. **\$49.99** Reg. \$59.99

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. **\$34.99** Reg. \$39.99

Old Ben's Jumbo Finch Socks

NEW paracord closures, expanded colors, double stitched seams. Hand washable.

\$6.97 Reg. \$9.99

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

Urban Plantations Changes Hands



In 2008, Karen Contreras founded Urban Plantations after leaving a high paying corporate job to literally work in the dirt. Now, she has sold the business and is returning to Oregon to start another venture. Her professional future includes a small farm where she will grow heritage lamb and turkey for Portland-area markets. Urban Plantation is a company that designs, installs, and maintains edible gardens and orchards for homeowners. Its new owners are Mat Roman and Paige Hailey. ●



Join us at our
Holiday
 Open Houses

AT WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY
 POWAY AND SAN DIEGO LOCATIONS

<i>Poway</i>	<i>San Diego</i>
December 3 5:30-7pm	December 11 11am-1pm

(Poway store closes at 5pm and reopens at 5:30pm)

Get your **FREE** photo with Santa and enjoy food and beverages. Shop for your tree, holiday plants, ornaments and décor, as well as gifts for friends and family. As always, we are family and pet-friendly!

.....
 FREE Photo
 with
Santa!

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

• www.walterandersen.com •

Coupon Valid Day of Events Only
Enjoy Special Savings!
 Use Coupon During Our Open Houses
 on **December 3, 2016** in Poway
 or **December 11, 2016** in San Diego

\$25 OFF
 a Purchase of \$75 or More


 WALTER ANDERSEN
 NURSERY™

#133365
 This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other discounts, consultation services and sod or gift certificate purchases.

Garden Classes

NOVEMBER

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

11/5

Dormant Fruit Tree Maintenance with Tyler Trimble of Backyard Fruit San Diego

11/12

Winter Tomatoes

11/19

Azalea Care & Culture

11/26

No Class

The San Diego store will not hold classes in December.

Classes will resume Jan. 7. Poway will have December classes.

POWAY | 9:30AM

11/2

Special Class: Citrus with David Ross at 7-Oaks Garden Club, Rancho Bernardo at 1pm

11/5

Fall Rose Care with David Ross

11/12

Composting with Joshua from Down the Road Farms in Julian

11/19

Fruit Tree Pruning and Spraying with Richard Wright

11/26

No Class

Lake Hodges Native Plant Club

Seeks Members



The Lake Hodges Native Plant Club is making it easy to join their club. Just buy \$50 or more of Moosa Creek plants at our POWAY STORE and we'll give you a membership application. The best part, your membership is complimentary for the 2016-2017 year.

The Lake Hodges Native Plant Club was founded by Dorris Baur in 1982. The goal of the club is to increase appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of native and drought-resistant plants, encourage their propagation and preservation, protect indigenous wild life, support water conservation and promote the establishment of a native plant preserve.

For more information about the club, visit www.lhnpc.org/LHNPC/LHNPC.html. This offer good only at the Poway store. •

November Special!

Valid November 1-30, 2016



**Buy One,
Get One Free!**
**5 lb. Boxes of Ada
Perry's Magic Formula**
Limit 3 Free Boxes

Limited to stock on hand. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. While supplies last. No coupon needed. Hedge Fund\$ certificates do apply. Valid Nov. 1-30, 2016.



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Visit Our 2 Locations

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