



WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

DECEMBER 2016

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Dichondra—A Thing Of The Past

By Ken Andersen

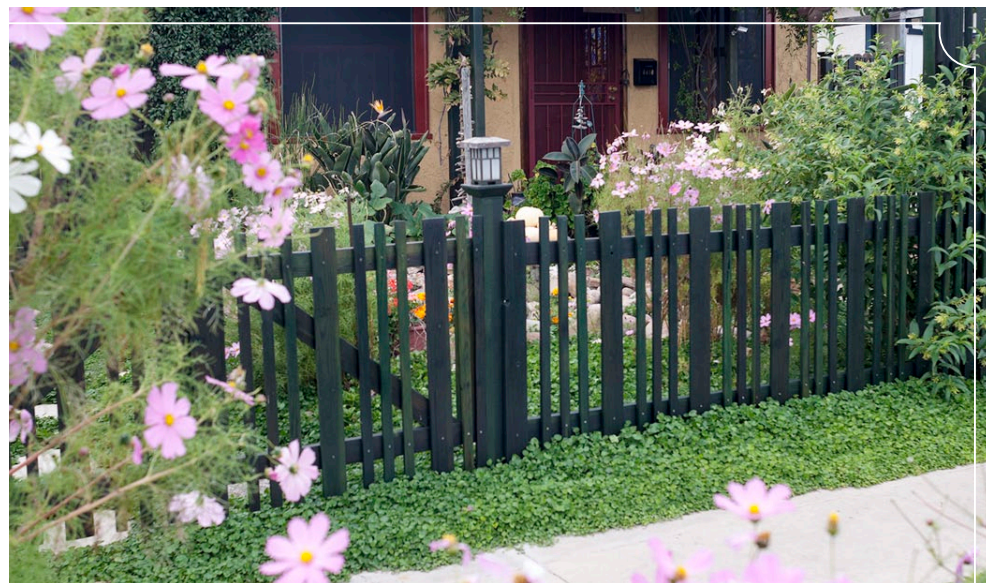


Photo: Dan Soderberg, architectural photographer, Legacy 106 Inc. Archeology, Historic Preservation Consultant

In the 1950s, and 60s, and even into the 70s and 80s, **Dichondra** was an extremely popular choice as an alternative to grass. This beautiful groundcover stayed low to the ground, needed infrequent mowing, and looked almost like a green Berber carpet with its dime to nickel sized

foliage that resembled small lily pads. My fascination and love for this plant began as a small child when I would spend time at my grandparent's home in Bay Park. They maintained a fairly good size Dichondra lawn in the back yard where I would play for hours.

[continued p2](#)

Caring For Camellias

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Spellbound

Camellias have an undeserved reputation for being hard to grow. They're acid-loving plants that do best when planted in well-drained soil amended with organic materials such as compost.

Probably the most common mistake people make is planting them too deep. The trunk base should be just above the soil line. Add several inches of mulch to keep the roots cool.

[continued p4](#)

Rose Preview For 2017

By Melanie Potter

Here is a peek at the new roses growers have to offer. This year, we'll still carry many of the old favorites and varieties that we haven't had for a while. Can't wait to see these brand new bloomers:

Tropical Lightning

A climbing rose that captures the dramatic beauty of a tropical storm at sunset, with intriguing smoky orange blossoms streaked with stripes of

[continued p3](#)



Tropical Lightning

Dichondra continued from p1



For years, the nursery would stock Dichondra sod in the store at all times. Walter Sr.'s brother, James, had a sod farm and grew it commercially for many years. His first farm was located on Mt Soledad near what is now Kate Sessions Park. He eventually moved the farm out to Rancho Santa Fe where he and his son, Bill, ran it. They grew Dichondra, Tif Dwarf Bermuda, and Korean Grass (*Zoysia tenuifolia*). Sadly, the popularity of these has waned over the years. I can still recall as a teenager standing in a field of beautiful Dichondra, thousands of square feet in size without a single weed or bare patch to be seen. It was stunning and further reinforced my love of this plant. For many years, James and Bill supplied all of the Dichondra sod used in the exhibits at the Del Mar Fair Flower Show; thousands of square feet every fair season. It was the preferred groundcover of exhibitors because it was easy to install, looked wonderful, and was easy to maintain for the run of the show with only regular water.

As a lawn, it fills in fast and does not require frequent mowing. It does require regular water and can be susceptible to brown patch and flea beetle, both easily controlled if caught early. One of the biggest draw backs was weed control. Since it is a broad leaf plant, most of the regular lawn herbicides that control Dandelion, Spurge, and

other broad leaf weeds will also kill the Dichondra. Back in the early days of Dichondra's popularity, there was an herbicide called Monuron that worked well on broad leaf weeds, but would not harm the underlying Dichondra. Scott's Fertilizer also made two specialty lawn foods specifically for Dichondra called Bonus and Super Bonus. The difference being that Bonus was purely a fertilizer and Super Bonus contained Monuron to control the weeds. Walter Jr. recalled that during the Dichondra lawn heyday we had a gardener who only maintained Dichondra lawns and just about the only thing he would use was Super Bonus!

The beginning of the end came when Monuron was pulled from nursery shelves. Super Bonus also disappeared and the task of controlling weeds made maintenance much more difficult. With no safe broad leaf weed killer available, Dichondra owners had to resort to hand pulling the weeds as they popped up. The last truly beautiful Dichondra lawn I remember seeing was in a customer's front yard in Point Loma and it was perfect; not a weed nor bare patch in sight. I mentioned it to Walter, Jr. who went to see it, more for nostalgia than anything else, and he asked the owner what the secret was. He told Walter that every morning he would pour a cup of coffee and walk the entire lawn looking for weeds and pull them as he came across them. EVERY morning! His dedication paid off as the lawn was perfect.

With the loss of Monuron and the introduction of tall fescues to the market, the popularity of Dichondra, the hybrid Bermudas, and other grasses began to fade until nearly the entire lawn market had switched over to tall fescue. As demand dwindled the cost of seed began to climb as did the cost of the sod. James passed away and the family decided to sell the farm in Rancho Santa Fe and retire. Walter Andersen Nursery changed sod suppliers and eventually worked with Southland Sod, who up until a few

[continued p8](#)

Recipe: Quinoa Salad



If leading a healthier lifestyle is your New Year's resolution, then this delicious recipe using quinoa is a great way to start January!! How healthy is it? Well, it was passed to us by Vicky Nickerson, the owner of Envision Personalized Health and after two heaping helpings, it has our stamp of approval.

Ingredients:

4 cups water
2/3 cup chopped dried fruit (such as apricots, raisins, cranberries, figs, currants)
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
1/4 cup chopped fresh mint
1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
Salt to taste
1 cup red quinoa or rainbow quinoa, rinsed
1/4 cup lightly toasted pistachios
1/4 cup lightly toasted almonds, chopped
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
2 teaspoons lemon zest

For the Dressing:

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
Salt to taste
1 small garlic clove, pureed (optional)
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon pomegranate molasses or maple syrup
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

Bring water to a boil in a 3-quart saucepan and add quinoa and salt to taste. Bring back to a rolling boil, then reduce heat slightly and boil gently for 20 minutes, or until you see a thread emerge from the blond and red quinoa. Drain and shake well in the strainer, then return to pot. Cover pot with a dishtowel and then place a lid over the dishtowel and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes undisturbed. Transfer to a large bowl. Meanwhile, whisk together lemon juice, salt, garlic, cinnamon, and pomegranate molasses (or maple syrup). Whisk in olive oil.

Toss together quinoa and dressing. Add remaining ingredients and toss together. Transfer to a platter, a wide bowl or individual plates and serve. ●

Rose Preview continued from p1



Fruity Petals



Gilded Sun



Princesse Charlene de Monaco



Edith's Darling



Cupid's Kisses



All My Loving



Canyon Road



Children's Hope



Violet's Pride

creamy yellow. Velvety petals are remarkably substantial, and have a distinctive coral blush and subtle hints of purple.

Fruity Petals Climber

A small, bushy climber with blooms that are coral with white edges and a yellow eye.

Gilded Sun

This floribunda is a deep yellow color resistant to fading.

Princesse Charlene De Monaco

A new introduction to the Romantica® Collection from Star Roses. It's a fully double, light apricot to shell pink bloomer with strong fragrance.

Edith's Darling

Downton Abbey fans will love this very fragrant old-fashioned soft apricot-gold blooming shrub rose named for the character, Edith's, daughter (Marigold).

Violet's Pride

Yet another addition to the Downton Abbey collection. Named for the Dowager Countess of Grantham, Violet Crawley, this lavender-blue rose has a sugary fruit with spice fragrance.

Cupids Kisses

A climber growing to 8', it sports pink blooms with a white eye that grow in clusters.

All My Loving

Fragrant deep pink blooming hybrid tea rose whose flowers last a long time.

Canyon Road

Interesting brick red color on this floribunda that is a short and bushy grower, late spring bloomer.

Children's Hope (Polyantha)

Red, old fashioned, very double blooms on a short and compact habit with even rounded growth. Excellent as a focal point or in containers. Portion of each sale is donated to the Children's Brain Tumor Foundation.

Easy To Please

Flower color on this floribunda is fuchsia pink with a lighter reverse. •



Easy To Please

Camellias continued from p1

Camellias need fertilizer, but not when they're in bud or bloom. Beginning a month after they finish blooming, apply an acid-based fertilizer every eight weeks until they set their next buds. Some camellias will drop buds. This can be the natural result of the shrub setting more buds than it can open or, more often, because it has not been planted with good soil drainage.

Camellias are excellent container plants if they're planted in appropriate containers, such as wooden tubs or half-barrels. They can add color to a northern or eastern deck or patio, or can be placed in the garden where there is filtered light from overhanging eaves or trees. •



Yuletide



Showa-No-Sakae



Apple Blossom

TO DO LIST: December

PLANT

Bulbs

Last chance for fall bulbs.

Trees & Shrubs

Plant Conifers, Junipers, Evergreens.

Drought-Tolerant

Plant California natives and drought-tolerant plants.

Flowers

Pansies, Violas, Stocks, and Calendulas. Roses, roses, and roses!

Vegetables

This is the time to plant potatoes, onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, and carrots.

Paperwhites

Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms.

LOOK FOR

Sasanqua and Japonica Camellias, Azaleas, Pyracantha, Holly, Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, and Photinia. Bare root roses & fruit trees!

Plants For The New Year

It's the time of year when some of the things you plant don't look like a plant. You'll have to root through damp shavings to find many of the edibles you want to grow and when you find them they will likely be a brown root that lacks stems or leaves. Don't worry, plant these ASAP and watch them leaf out in the new year.

Bare Root Veggies & Berries

You'll also find bare root asparagus, artichokes, strawberries, blackberries, boysenberries and youngberries.

CONTROL

Dormant Spray for Disease Control

For over wintering pests, use Year-Round Oil Spray or Volck. •

Old Ben: Myths About Migration

By Old Ben



Long before migration flyways were mapped and digital tags were used to track bird movements around the world, naturalist and researchers noticed that some birds disappeared seasonally, but they didn't know why or how.

Top Modern Myths About Migration

While scientific studies may have debunked the most outrageous, out-dated claims about migration, there are still plenty of misconceptions about birds' seasonal movements, such as these below.

Only Birds Migrate

Bird migration may be one of the most visible and well studied examples of animal migration. Different members of all major animal groups undergo some seasonal movements, including fish, sea turtles, amphibians, butterflies and mammals.

All Birds Migrate

While many birds shift locations throughout the year, there are many species that remain as year round residents within the same ranges and habitats. Many woodpeckers, owls, grouse, jays, and chickadees may never migrate at all. There are many other species that are only partially migratory.

Migration Is Always North-South

Birds migrate in every direction, depending on their final destinations, weather patterns and regional features. While birds in North and South America do have north to South migration patterns, many European birds have more of an east to west seasonal migration.

Birds Only Migrate in Spring and Fall

While spring and fall are the peak periods for bird migration, there are birds migrating every day of the year. Exactly when birds migrate depends on the individual bird species and their flight styles, the migration route, the distance to be covered, the starting and ending points of migration and other seasonal concerns.

Small Birds Hitchhike on Large Birds

This misconception is widespread based on the belief tiny birds such as hummingbirds would not have the stamina to complete migrations of hundreds or thousands of miles. Small birds often gain excess fat that will be used as migration fuel.

All Birds Migrate in Huge Flocks

Large staging flocks are a dramatic symbol of migration and it is often believed that only those birds are the ones that migrate. While some birds do migrate in flocks, many birds are solitary when they migrate. Their flight patterns can give the appearance of flocks, but since many birds will use the same narrow routes with good air current and other features that make their journey easier, the bird species can vary greatly.

While today's researchers and ornithologists know a lot about migration, there are still many questions surrounding these great journeys. Debunking the most common migration myths is the best way to begin understanding bird's seasonal movements better and helping them survive every trip. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid December 1-31, 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. bag.**

Sale \$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food for gold finches and many other small birds. **25lb. bag.**

Sale \$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 feeder pests. **20lb. bag.**

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

Old Ben's Jumbo Finch Socks

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

Sale \$6.97 Reg. \$9.99

Old Ben's Christmas Red Hummingbird Food

Must buy 2 to get sale price.

Sale 2 for \$10 Reg. \$6.99

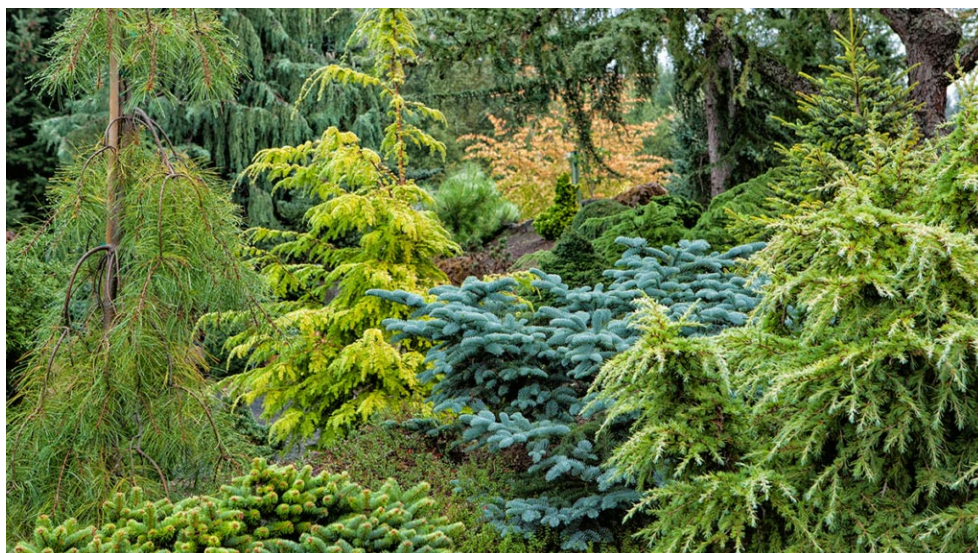
All specials limited to stock on hand.

No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.



Trump, Conifers In A Heat Wave Make For A Topsy Turvy Week

By Melanie Potter



Two days ago, Donald Trump was elected president. It is a 90 degree, perfect-for-the-beach day outside and an hour ago, our Monrovia sales rep told me how excited he was about the conifers the store will receive next week. It's been a topsy turvy sort of week.

So, let's get crazy for conifers and start with these enticing pines that are now available.

Two Needle Pinon Pine

Exceptionally drought-tolerant, this hardy, adaptable North American native is slow growing with a broad, rounded crown. New growth is bluish-green turning yellowish-green. Cones are produced in clusters on very mature trees. Female cones produce edible pine nuts.

Colorado Blue Spruce

This very popular conifer has a handsome pyramidal form with rigid tiered branches densely covered with stiff gray-blue needles. Use as an evergreen windbreak or tall screen, or as a specimen plant in large landscapes.

Fat Albert Colorado Spruce

Superb evergreen conifer with rich blue coloring. Dense-branching, pyra-

midal form makes a wonderful living Christmas tree. An excellent landscape specimen.

Oriental Spruce

Exceptionally dark green, shiny needles adorn this pyramidal form which is fully branched to the ground. One of the last spruces to break bud in spring.

Black Hills Colorado Spruce

Highly desirable, naturally symmetrical cone shape with dense bright-green needles that mature to an interesting blue-green. It's a fantastic conifer for a landscape accent, or plant in groups for use as a windbreak or evergreen screen.

'Majestic Beauty' Japanese Black Pine

With exceptionally dark green foliage that remains green even in cold weather, this superior selection has a dense habit and improved resistance to smog and salt damage. It grows somewhat quickly to an attractive pyramidal form, making it an ideal specimen plant. This conifer takes well to shaping and is an excellent choice for bonsai. •

Photos: Monrovia Nursery



Two Needle Pinon Pine



Colorado Blue Spruce



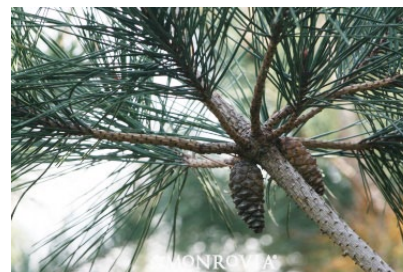
Fat Albert Colorado Spruce



Oriental Spruce



Black Hills Colorado Spruce



Japanese Black Pine



Join us at our

Holiday

Open Houses

AT WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY
POWAY AND SAN DIEGO LOCATIONS

Poway

December 3
5:30-7pm

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

San Diego

December 11
11am-1pm

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.

One offer per person.

Garden Classes

DECEMBER

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

No classes this month at the San Diego store.

Join us **12/11** from 11am-1pm for the holiday open house!

12/24 Christmas Eve
12/31 New Year's Eve

Both stores will close at 2pm.

12/25 Christmas
1/1 New Year's Day
Both stores will be closed.

POWAY | 9:30AM

12/3

Rose Pruning with David Ross.
Join us at 5:30pm for the holiday open house!

12/10

Fruit Tree Pruning
with Richard Wright

12/17

Beginning Bonsai
with Richard Wright

12/24

No Class scheduled

12/30

No Class scheduled

Dichondra

continued from p2



years ago, still grew Dichondra before abandoning that enterprise. We stock the seed but it is a slow turning item. Ironically, a couple of years ago, growers introduced a new species, Dichondra argentea. However, instead of being sold as a groundcover or sod, this silver foliated cousin is sold in pots for use in hanging baskets. It can also be used as groundcover but grows much deeper than its green relative Dichondra micrantha.

To this day, Dichondra remains my favorite lawn, groundcover, and one of my favorite plants. Unfortunately, it is not much more than a teenage memory of standing in a field of it thousands of square feet in size on a sunny, summer day admiring the beauty of such a simple yet elegant plant. •



This crop of poinsettias at Floribunda looks better than ever!



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