



Walter Andersen
Nursery™

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

GardenTalk

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

STORE HOURS: San Diego 8am-5pm | Poway 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Trees For Beginner's Orchard	1
The Good, The Bug, The Ugly	1
Dog Days Of Summer	1
A (Super) Natural Orchid	3
Fertilizer Facts	4
Kentia Palms	4
Roll Out The Half Barrel	5
The Right Tools For The Job	5
To Do List: August	6
July Garden Classes	7
GardenTalk Radio Schedule	7

Fast-Growing Fruit Trees For A Beginner's Orchard

By Melanie Potter & Amanda MacArthur of Food Gardening Network



to your orchard, or if you are new to growing fruit trees, what would be a good choice for you. The best answer is to **grow what you like to eat** and the first consideration is to **grow what fits your climate**. Depending on what you grow, some fruit trees will bear fruit in no time. Since we're talking about outdoor trees, though, where you live is instrumental in determining what you can grow.

Here's a not so fun fact. **If you plant from seed, expect at least five years before you'll be eating your home-grown fruit.** It's much quicker and

[continued p2](#)

The Good, The Bug & The Ugly

By Amanda MacArthur,
Food Gardening Network
& WAN Staff



Preying Mantis is a stone-cold killer!

You can't talk about gardening without talking about things that creep, crawl or fly. Aphids, whiteflies and hornworms can be your nemesis. Let's talk about some of the common garden friends that are beneficial to our plants.

Bees, of course, are the super-stars. That's probably fair, given that they pollinate so many of the world's food crops.

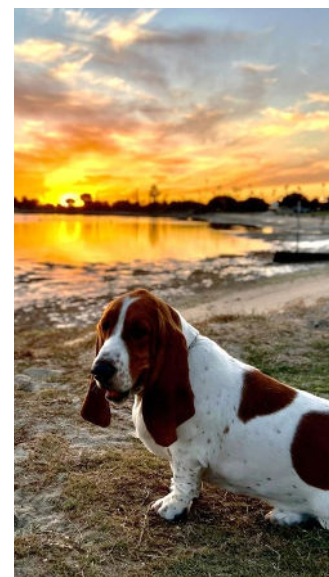
[continued p2](#)

Dive Into The Dog Days Of Summer

By The "Barketing" Manager

For the month of August, beat the heat and treat your pup to a tail-wagging good time at both store's **Dog Days of Summer In-Store Celebration**.

Swing by our exclusive pup cup station where your furry friend can indulge in a refreshing treat, topped with special dog-friendly goodies, compliments of the Barketing Manager. Explore a curated selection of premium dog treats, engaging toys, and other pet-friendly items designed to delight your four-legged companion. Don't miss this paw-some opportunity to celebrate the season with your beloved pet. We can't wait to see you! •



Wilbur Thatcher is enjoying the dog days of summer and numerous pup cups. We also have a sneak preview of what Wilbur looks like when the dog days of summer come to a close.

The Good Bug

continued from p1

But there are other bugs and such that should be superstars, too. Some of them are pollinators, others eat pests, or in one case, they lay their eggs on pests where they will hatch and eat the plant-destroying bugs.

Here's a look at some that are good for your garden.



Spiders love catching garden pests

Spiders

Technically these are arachnids and not insects, but darn if they don't do some serious work in keeping your garden free of pests.



Ladybugs are deadly to aphids

Ladybugs

The lady beetle, or ladybug, might be the most popular of common garden bugs. They're deadly to aphids. The ladybug larvae can eat dozens of aphids every hour.

[continued p3](#)

A Beginner's Orchard continued from p1

easier to buy young trees that are already on their way to maturity. In fact, you will see many of our fruit trees already bearing fruit, some ready to eat.

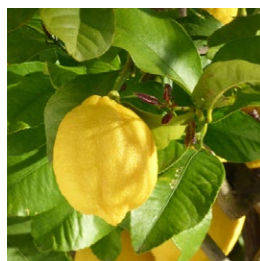
Suggestions!



Peach trees will grow in most of the U.S. and will begin bearing fruit in roughly two years. These

trees self-pollinate and can reach about 25-feet tall. Ken Andersen recommends 'Babcock'. His grandparents grew one and it produced white fleshed peaches like crazy. It only requires 250-300 chill hours. Remember, a chill hour is when the temperature drops to at least 45 degrees.

Did you know there are around 2,500 varieties of **apples** that grow in the U.S.? So how do you choose? Most varieties our stores stock require less than 400 chill hours, so grow what you like. Ken Andersen prefers Fuji and said that Anna apples produce a hearty bounty. I like a crisp, tart apple and choose Gala or Pink Lady. Dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties will produce fruit in two or three years.



Do **lemon trees** belong on a list of fast-growing fruit trees? There is a fair amount of conflicting

information out there, but most sources agree that the Meyer lemon tree will produce fruit in two to three years. One thing is for sure, unless you're in the south or southwest, you can forget about growing a lemon tree outdoors. Temperatures below 29 degrees will be the end of your

tree, although 'Meyer' lemons can take cold temperatures to the low 20s. 'Meyer' lemon is popular and we also stock 'Eureka'.

You can grow **apricot trees** in much of the U.S. In fact, they like a little chill now and then. Apricot trees can be self-pollinating, but cross-pollination will produce more fruit. They'll produce fruit in three to four years in most cases. 'Katy' is the most reliable of our recommendations.



Fig Trees

grow across the southern half of the continental U.S., as well as into some areas of the

northwest coast. A fig tree will produce fruit in one to two years. Look for 'Corky's Honey Delight'. It produces two crops a year but isn't available in bareroot.

Bonus! **Banana Trees**. Technically, bananas are not fast-growing fruit trees; they're actually fast-growing perennial herbs. Bananas grow like a tree, up to 25-feet tall with broad, abundant foliage. Some banana plants will produce fruit in about nine months. This tropical tree will only grow in the very southern portions of the U.S. 'Cavendish' (renowned for its creamy texture, sweet flavor, and vibrant yellow skin) is the backbone of the global banana industry, dominating supermarket shelves, offering a versatile fruit perfect for fresh eating, baking, and smoothies. Consider 'Ice Cream' which is also called 'Blue Java', a hardy, cold-tolerant variety known for its sweet aromatic fruit, which is said to have an ice cream-like consistency and flavor reminiscent of vanilla. ●

The Good Bug

continued from p2



Parasitic Wasp

Parasitic Wasps

There are a few species of these wasps, but the end result is the same. They lay their eggs in or on cutworms, caterpillars, tomato hornworms, cabbage worms, aphids, and more. The baby wasps then hatch and eat their host. Now for the downside, they are indiscriminate where they lay their eggs so butterfly caterpillars are fair game too.



Worms create nutrient-rich soil

Worms

They can do wonders for your soil, keeping it aerated and healthy. They break down organic material and turn it into nutrient-rich soil. A prolific worm population also means your compost pile is healthy.

Dragonflies

Dragonflies eat mosquitos. That might not be directly beneficial to the plants, but the more mosquitos a dragonfly eats, the better! They can also fly up to

A (Super) Natural Orchid

By Ken Andersen

I was going through some of the orchids we have at the nursery that are not currently available for sale and came across one of my all-time favorites. Years after I began working in the nursery business, I became interested in tropical and exotic plants. **Brassovola digbyana** was fairly common in the orchid market. Though the name had been changed around the turn of the last century to **Rhyncholaelia digbyana**, for reasons only taxonomists know, the old name of *Brassovola* stuck with the plant. These exotic beauties have heavily frilled lips and lime green coloration. What was really striking was the incredible and almost intoxicating nocturnal fragrance that these plants would release as the sun went down.

Today, you do not see these, nor many other species of orchids as so many striking hybrids have hit the market. While we keep our eyes open for these plants and will bring them in when we can get them, they just aren't as available as they used to be.



I found the following Google search that describes this genus better than I could and provides a couple other close relations to keep an eye out for.

Brassavola is a genus of about 20 orchid species known for their star-shaped, fragrant flowers, often with a citrus or gardenia-like scent, particularly at night. They are native to Central and South America and are epiphytes, meaning they grow on other plants. Popular species include *Brassavola nodosa*, the "lady of the night," and *Brassavola cucullata*, the "daddy long-legs orchid". •

35 mph! And the Smithsonian points out that dragonflies were among the first winged insects on earth, and some dragonfly fossils have two-foot wingspans!

Daddy Longlegs

These are found on every continent except Antarctica, so they definitely deserve a place on any list of common garden bugs. They like to eat aphids, caterpillars, mites, and small slugs. Unfortunately, they also will eat earthworms and beetles.

Praying Mantis

The fearsome praying mantis is a stone-cold killer. If it moves in your garden, the mantis will destroy it. The mantis can

slowly stalk prey or move fast enough to catch flies. While they do eat pests like moths, flies, mosquitos, and aphids, they also eat other beneficial insects like beetles. Fun fact: They've also been known to catch and eat hummingbirds. Not so fun fact, they bite people too! In fact, two of our Poway employees have endured bites that led to a stream of cussing followed by a surprised look at their munched-on finger. •

Kentia Palm: A Forgiving Houseplant

By Melanie Potter



The Kentia palm 'Howea forsteriana' gets its name from a tiny settlement on Lord Howe Island in the South Pacific. For a while, the island flourished during the whaling industry. As whaling declined, a new source of revenue was needed and it was the island's native palm the residents used to thatch their houses.

The mild and balmy climate of Lord Howe Island had evolved a palm which can tolerate low light, a dry atmosphere and which requires less maintenance than other indoor plants. All plants are propagated from seed and as this is a slow growing palm, you'll want to start with one a few feet tall for immediate gratification.

This is an easy palm to grow. It prefers filtered sunlight but will tolerate poor light with less desirable results. Water thoroughly in summer but allow the top of the soil to dry out between waterings. Feed every two weeks with liquid fertilizer in the growing season, making sure to flush the container to leech salts from the soil, spring to fall. When repotting, use porous soil. You may plant several in a large pot for a fuller look. They are usually sold 3-5 plants per pot. Clean leaves often as these palms can be prone to spider mites. •

Fertilizer Facts For Feeding Plants

By Amanda MacArthur, Food Gardening Network & WAN Staff



Most plants need food so it's important to know what type of fertilizer they need, how often they need it, and when they don't need it. Our favorite fertilizer is Gro-Power which can be used on everything but our best advice is to use what works for you, and just USE IT!

Fertilizer can have a long shelf life.

As long as it's stored properly, it does not go bad. Different forms of fertilizer will store well for different timeframes. Pure dry fertilizer, for instance, will keep indefinitely as long as it stays dry and protected from the elements. Fertilizer that is mixed with herbicide (sometimes known as "weed and feed"), will start to lose effectiveness within four years due to the additional herbicide. Liquid organic fertilizers will typically list their shelf life on the bottle, and each one seems to vary. Liquid mineral fertilizer, on the other hand, is usually good for up to 10 years. Be sure to shake the bottle well before using, since the minerals settle in the bottle.

Fertilizer and amendments are not the same thing! The main difference between fertilizer and soil

amendment is that fertilizer adds and improves soil nutrients. Soil amendments are materials added to change the physical texture, water retention, and overall structure of the soil. There are some fertilizers that are also considered to be soil amendments because they have additives that help contribute to better drainage, etc.

So many choices, are you confused?

If you've ever looked at a bag of fertilizer you may have noticed that most bags list three numbers. They represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium in each blend. A general rule of thumb for vegetable gardens is to keep those numbers balanced. However, some vegetables like leafy greens, only require nitrogen. If you are unsure, just ask your nursery professional.

Fertilizer can be flammable.

Some store-bought fertilizers contain ammonium nitrate, a highly flammable substance. When storing that kind of fertilizer, use a plastic storage container with a well-fitting lid. Keep the container away from moisture as well as heat.

The frequency with which you fertilize your garden depends on the type of soil you have and what you are growing.

For instance, roses are heavy feeders and should be fed every 4-6 weeks during their active growing season. Citrus can be fed every 1-2 months during its active growing season. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer as the type of fertilizer you choose (granular, liquid) and what you are feeding dictate a plant's needs.

When in doubt, read the packaging and ask gardening experts for recommendations. You may end up needing different types of fertilizer for different sections of your garden. •

Roll Out The Half Barrel

By Ken Andersen



For many years, 1/2 oak wine or whiskey barrels have been a popular planter (based on availability). Typically made out of either American or French white oak, they hold up well to weather and rot compared to planters made of other types of wood. Their size makes them a great planter for dwarf citrus and fruit trees. Being made of white oak does make them heavy and since barrels typically do not have handles, they can be a bit of a bear to wrestle around.

Recently, I did some renovations to parts of my yard and used 1/2 barrels. Some citrus that had long been planted in terracotta pots were transplanted, giving the plants much needed root space and better soil. To help make them more easily portable, I devised a simple and inexpensive way to add handles to the barrels.

[continued p6](#)



Tool Shed

The Right Tools For The Job



By WAN Staff & Amanda MacArthur, Food Gardening Network

The tool wall at our Poway store just got a makeover and was reorganized. It looks pretty terrific and full. There are a lot of tools and if you are a seasoned gardener, you probably know what you need. If you are new to gardening, the shapes of shovels or trowels are geared toward what you are digging. Here's a quick look at what may make your life in the garden easier.

First things first—determine what your needs are.

When it comes to gardening, a hole is not just a hole. And a tool is not just a tool. Are you planting bulbs? Replanting a shrub or tree? Starting seeds? Is your soil rocky or sandy? Here are some suggestions to buy for your own tool wall.

Shovel

This is the classic gardening tool. The squared-off edges and shorter width make it perfect for digging holes to a variety of depths. The shape also makes it a great tool for shaping clean borders or cutting through small roots.

Hoe

Another classic gardening tool is the hoe. The small, flat blade of the hoe makes it ideal for digging narrow trenches, weeding, and for shaping soil.

Trowel

A trowel is a handheld, miniature shovel. The smaller size makes it a perfect for digging holes for 6-pak or 4" plants, or if you're trying to dig around another plant.



Gardening Fork

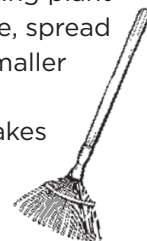
A gardening fork may be handheld or have a long handle. This tool isn't as much for digging holes as it is for loosening and aerating the soil. Of course, you can certainly dig a hole with it, but this isn't a precision tool. It is, however, very helpful in cleaning up rocky or dense soil.

Bulb Planter

This is the miniature version of a post hole digger. It's designed to create the perfect hole for planting bulbs. Some even have markers on them so you know exactly how deep the hole is.

Rake

Use the right rake for the job whether it's leaf removal, consolidating plant debris, soil prep, or to move, spread or level soil. Don't forget smaller sized shrub rakes for tight spaces or hand or thatch rakes for heavy duty chores. •



Half Barrel

continued from p5

While you can buy stamped steel handles in the hardware department of home improvement stores, I went a different route. Using 3/4 gray PVC irrigation nipples 6 inches long and some 1/2-inch three strand polyester rope I was able to quickly and easily add handles to the barrel halves.

First, purely for decorative purposes, I cut the threaded ends off the nipples. I then took a 1/2-inch drill bit and drilled two holes on each side of the barrel about 1 1/2 inches below the rim. I cut a length of the poly rope and burned the end to keep it from fraying, and tied an overhand knot close to the end. This was then threaded through one of the holes from the inside of the barrel, the section of pipe slipped over, and the opposite end of the rope, also burned, was threaded through the other hole and another overhand knot applied. Once tight this makes for a flexible, comfortable handle to pull and lift from making moving much easier and safer to boot! •



Make A Note!

Both stores will close at 2pm on August 20 for a company event. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience and we will reopen for our normal hours on August 21.

To Do List: August



Look for Avocados in store

Fertilize

> For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue. Use Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds.

> Feed ornamentals, vegetables, citrus, avocado, fruit trees, palms and tropicals with E.B. Stone or Dr. Earth.

> Add Ada Perry's Magic Formula to your regular rose feeding schedule this month.

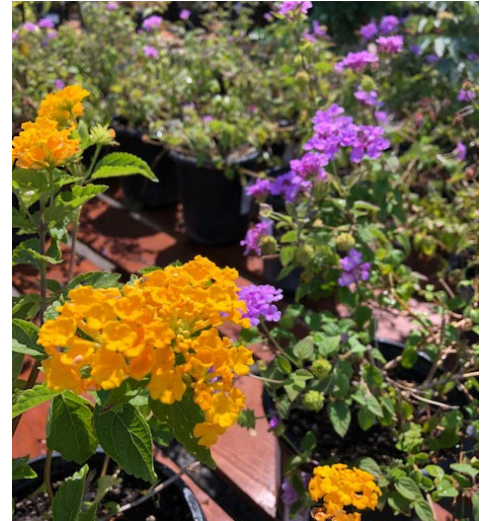
Water

> If you will be unavailable, arrange for a neighbor or your gardener to watch your yard to make sure everything gets appropriate water. Adjust sprinklers to make sure they operate properly. 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 first. 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, 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 drought-tolerant Lantana



Look for Plumeria

Plant

> Plant tropicals, ornamentals, trees, and shrubs.

> Plant late crops of warm-season vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, and beans.

> 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. •



Look for drought-tolerant Grevilleas



**Garden
Talk
RADIO**

Listen to the WAN Experts
Saturdays 6am-7am
AM 1170 & 1210 | FM 96.1 & 106.1

Or Listen Anytime on our Podcasts Page

Shows This Month:

8/2 – Ken, George & John
with Gregg Ogenorth of
Grub and Nadler Nurseries

8/9 – Ken, George & John

8/16 – Ken, George & John
with Richard Restuccia,
local author of “Waterwise
Gardening”

8/23 – Ken, George & John

8/30 – Ken, George & John
with Tom Spellman

*Guests subject to change
without notice*



walterandersen.com

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 <https://www.walterandersen.com/classes-events/>.

SAN DIEGO

9:00AM

8/2

Grow & Taste Organic Dragon
Fruit: Free Tasting with Ahron
from My Dragon Plug

8/9

Plumeria 101
with Mike Atkinson

8/16

Save Water:
Grow Dragon Fruit
with Alan Ridley

8/23

Growing Citrus
with John Clements

8/30

Labor Day Weekend
No Class

POWAY

9:30AM

8/2

Bees with Denise Bienas,
San Diego Beekeeping Society

8/9

Year Round Color
in San Diego Gardens
with Chuck McClung

8/16

Brassicas & Other
Winter Veggies
with Farmer Roy

8/23

Cactus & Succulent Basic Care
with Dean

8/30

Labor Day Weekend
No Class

Visit Our 2 Locations



**Walter Andersen
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

GardenTalk

SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, California 92110
619-224-8271

Open 8am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

POWAY

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, California 92064
858-513-4900

Open 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

Visit Us Online



walterandersen.com



[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/walterandersennursery)



[instagram](https://www.instagram.com/walterandersennursery)



[youtube](https://www.youtube.com/walterandersennursery)



[shop](https://www.walterandersen.com/shop)