SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

FEBRUARY 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

| | Easy To Grow Houseplants | 1 |
|---|-------------------------------|----|
| | Meet The Bougainvillea Looper | _1 |
| | Think Of Wine Grapes | _1 |
| | Valentine's Made Easy | 5 |
| | To Do List: February | 5 |
| | Old Ben: Merlins | 6 |
| | Old Ben Specials | 6 |
| | DIG Irrigation Class | 7 |
| | Malibu Compost Class | 7 |
| | February Specials | 8 |
| | February Garden Classes | 9 |
| h | | |

Meet The Hungry

Bougainvillea Looper

By Chuck McClung



The Bougainvillea Looper is one of the newer pests to find its way to San Diego gardens and though it won't kill your Bougainvillea, it can leave it looking haggard.

Arriving about 10 years ago, this now common pest is a one inch long, tan/ brown to green caterpillar. "Looper" is another name for an inchworm

continued p3

Houseplants That Are Easy To Grow

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Spider Plant

If you had trouble growing plants indoors, perhaps you chose a plant that is more difficult to grow. Here are a few thoughts about the easy-togrow indoor plants you should have success with.

Spider or Airplane Plant— Chlorophytum comosum

The most common variety of this plant has long variegated green leaves with white edges. The leaves grow about 12 to 14 inches long from a central clump, and droop over the edge of the container with a very bushy habit. As the plant matures, it sends out runners that are about 24 inches long, with a small plantlet on the end which causes the runner to droop. They are very easy to grow and propagate from the plantlet when tiny roots appear. Because it droops, it makes a great

continued p2

February May Make You Think Of Wine Grapes

Bv Melanie Potter

Taking a look at a February calendar may leave you surprised by how many holidays occur in the month. There's Groundhog Day, Chinese New Year, Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, Washington's Birthday and my new favorite day, National Drink Wine Day!

February 18 is the big day, which gives you a good 10 days to recover from celebrating Mardi Gras with Hurricanes, Sazeracs, Pimm's Cup, Milk Punch, and



continued p4

02.16 Walter Andersen Nursery Garden, Ola

Houseplants continued from p1

hanging plant. However, it can be placed on a larger table as well. The soil should be moist most of the time for the plant to look its best. However, if it accidently dries out a little, it will revive quickly. Fertilize monthly with a good liquid plant food and follow label directions.



Parlor Palm

Neantabella Parlor Palm-Chamaedorea elegans

This is a variety of Palm that almost anyone can grow. It has deep green lacy fronds. It can grow in very low light or bright indirect light (just not hot sunshine). These Palms have been popular since Victorian Days. They eventually grow to about 3 to 4 feet tall in containers. They like a soil mix high in peat moss, which helps hold the moisture. The soil should not dry out, but be moist all of the time, though not soggy wet. Check the soil twice a week and water as needed. Fertilize monthly with a good house plant fertilizer or Gro-Power tablets about every three months. Trim off older leaves as they turn yellow or brown.

Peace Lily— Spathiphyllum wallisii

This showy plant has dark green foliage contrasted with pure white blooms that form above the foliage. They grow between 2 to 4 feet tall depending on the variety. Soil should not dry out but be moist at all times. Check moisture content with your finger or a meter twice a week. If you see the leaves drooping, the plant probably needs water. Bright indirect light is best. full sun through a window may burn the foliage. Fertilize monthly with a good liquid plant food or Gro-Power tablets every six months. Wipe the large leaves with a damp cloth to clean off dust every two weeks.



Bird Nest Fern

Bird Nest Fern— Asplenium nidus

This is an excellent fern to grow indoors and one of the easiest. Broad, deep green leaves swirl out from the center of the plant in an almost bowl shape. They can become quite spreading with attentive care, to three feet or more across. They are best grown in a 6"-8" pot because of the size they can reach (smaller pots dry out quickly). Place in areas where the leaves will not be bumped as they can tear easily. Soil should be moist all of the time. Check it at least twice a week to be sure it is not drying out. Feed monthly with a good liquid indoor plant food or Gro-Power tablets every three months. When grown properly, these become very impressive plants. Remove dust with a damp tissue or soft cloth.



Money Tree—Pachira aquatic

These are fun and very easy to grow. They are usually planted with three or more plants to a pot and the stems are braided to create an interesting look. Money Trees can grow guite tall, to six feet fairly quickly if in a larger container. You can dwarf the growth by keeping it in a smaller container, but they can tip over more easily in a smaller pot. If they are growing too high, you can cut the tip off which will cause it to branch and become bushier. These plants like bright, indirect light with good air circulation. Keep away from heat sources and air conditioner vents. Ideally the soil should dry out slightly between watering (not too dry though). Keeping it too wet all of the time can cause the plant to rot. Feed with Gro-Power tablets every three months. You can also feed with a good liquid fertilizer once a month, if you prefer.

Dragon Tree or Red Edge Dracaena—Dracaena marginata

This is not the more common 'Dragon Tree' we see outdoors in our area. This is the popular interior plant, Dracaena marginata (as they are most commonly called at our stores), with their long, thin, pointed foliage that grows to about 12 inches long. They can become very impressive plants indoors or positioned on a patio. They are often planted with 3 to 4 plants in a container, or rooted from a heavy stump. Don't worry about them getting

Houseplants continued from p2



Snake Plant or Mother-In-Law's Tongue



Dragon Tree

too tall, because if you cut the growing tip out, it will cause the plant to branch, often with two or three new shoots from where it was cut. The stems have an interesting, almost scarred look that eventually form a tree-like trunk. I would suggest if the plant is more than three feet tall, that you move it to a container at least 8 inches in diameter to keep it from tipping over. As the leaves age, they fall off so the plant looks clean. Use a good indoor potting soil, like E.B. Stone Indoor Potting Soil. Fertilize with Gro-Power tablets every three months. Keep soil moist, but not soggy.

Snake Plant or Mother-In-Law's Tongue—Sansevieria trifasciata

This has to be one of the easiest plants

to keep indoors. It has been around almost forever as a houseplant. It has long, stiff, strap-like leaves that shoot up from the soil. There are many different varieties that vary from 4 or 5 inches tall to more than three feet tall. They form a clump that offers an interesting and different look. Don't keep the soil moist all of the time; it should dry out just a little between waterings. It grows best in filtered bright light (too dark and it will get floppy and start to rot). Fertilze with Gro-Power tablets every three months, or a good liquid plant food monthly.

Why Gro-Power tablets? This is a great fertilizer formed into a large tablet or pill a little over a half inch in diameter and about as thick. What makes it so good is that it is a slow release plant food that you only apply to your potted plants about every three to six months. Most often we recommend using them at three month intervals. They work for larger bonsai plants as well, but probably six month intervals on these (you don't want them to grow too fast). Gro-Power tablets adequately feed water lilies too, (apply twice in the growing season). For potted plants, a 6" pot or one gallon size, use one tablet. In an 8" pot or two gallon size, two tablets. Just drop the tablet in the container, water a few times and it falls apart for long term feeding. To feed water lilies, just poke it down into the soil. •

Bougainvillea Looper

continued from p1

type caterpillar. Loopers are so named for the inchworm-like movement where the front and rear parts of the caterpillar body are brought together to form a "loop". Bougain-villea Loopers mature into a type of carpet moth that does not feed on the plant.

Loopers (larvae) however, can devastate an entire plant. They eat from the edge of the leaf leaving that characteristic jagged, scalloped leaf margin. Young and newly hatched larvae eat young leaves while older larvae can eat older leaves too. Bougainvillea Loopers feed at night and are most active during the warmer months.

Walter Andersen Nursery offers two organic solutions to combat Bougain-villea Loopers. Spinosad (Captain Jack's Dead Bug) works well for controlling young and old larvae. B.t. (Bacillus thüringiensis) seems to work best on younger larvae.

You likely won't see active damage during winter. As temperatures warm and new growth emerges, treat plants in the evening when loopers are more likely to be active.

So, if you see evidence of leaves being nibbled on your Bougainvillea, you likely have (or had) Bougainvillea Loopers. Stems with leaves missing from the branch are likely an entirely different issue, usually resulting from too much water.

Because we want to ensure your gardening success, you are encouraged to bring samples or pictures of damaged plants to the nursery so that we can best help you find a remedy. •



02.16 WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY Garden Talk

Wine Grapes continued from p1

Bywater Cocktails before embracing the greatness of the grape.

National Drink Wine Day is a day dedicated to spreading the fondness of drinking wine, celebrating its benefits, and saluting its value in history, relationships, and religion. Given that, it's not only respectful to drink wine, but why not grow wine grapes?

Both stores have a nice selection of wine grapes. Plant a few, or start a small home vineyard if you have the space.

We pay homage to National Drink Wine Day by sharing the grapes we have with you.

Cabernet Sauvignon

Maybe the world's most recognizable red wine grape. The classic profile of Cabernet Sauvignon tends to be fullbodied wines with high tannins and noticeable acidity that contribute to the wine's aging potential. In cooler climates, Cabernet Sauvignon tends to produce wines with blackcurrant notes that can be accompanied by green bell pepper notes, mint and cedar which will all become more pronounced as the wine ages. In more moderate climates, the blackcurrant notes are often seen with black cherry and black olives notes while in very hot climates the current flavors can veer towards the over-ripe and "jammy" side.

Chardonnay

This is the most widely planted grape in California. Chardonnay's rather subdued primary fruit characteristics lean toward the flavors of apples, pears, and lemon, but the variety's full body is capable of supporting a host of complementary characteristics, such as oak, butter, and vanilla.

Golden Muscat

Named one of the finest American grapes, it's a vineyard standard thanks to its vigorous and productive vines. This slip-skin grape is more hearty and luscious than many famous 'old country grapes'. These grapes are sweet, juicy

and highly flavored. They are a good table grape, but shine in wine.

Merlot

Merlot grapes are mostly used by themselves to make merlot wine, but they are also used in association with other grapes to make wine blends. Some of the many flavors associated with wine made from Merlot grapes include raisins, blackberries, chocolate and cherries. A wine made with Merlot grapes can also be spicy and peppery or can even have a licorice taste and aroma.

Muscat of Alexandria

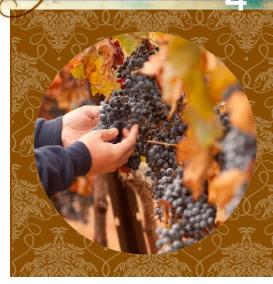
An ancient grape variety used for table and wine grapes. The vine is cultivated in fairly hot climates because it is sensitive to cool weather during flowering and needs heat for the grapes to ripen. A quick look at Wikipedia explained what wines this grape makes. These grapes are commonly used in the production of French vin doux naturel, but are also found in Spain, where they are used to make many of the fortified Spanish Moscatels. Elsewhere, these grapes are used to make off-dry to sweet white wines, often labeled as Moscato in Australia, California and South Africa. In Alsace and parts of Central Europe, Muscat Ottonel is used to produce dry and highly perfumed wines.

Pinot Noir

A dark-skinned grape that is used to make medium to full bodied red wine, as well as sparkling wines and Champagne such as the famed Blanc de Noirs. Pinot Noir is a very popular and widely planted grape variety that is notoriously difficult to grow, requiring warm days and cool nights to mature properly.

Syrah

A dark-skinned red wine grape. Syrah can be quite floral in its youth, developing more peppery and herbaceous notes as it ages. Some examples show tanned



leather and smoky scents, while the fruit in these wines tends towards the very dark flavors of blackcurrant and licorice. Syrah is also an extremely useful blending grape due to its deep color and typically high tannins.

Zinfandel

A red-skinned variety of wine grape very popular in California. The wines produced from Zinfandel grapes have an intense fruitiness and a luscious texture. Zinfandel grapes can produce a wide range of wine styles including sweet White Zinfandel, light-bodied red wines, full-bodied dry red wines and sweet late harvest wines. Zinfandel grapes have been grown in California for more than 100 years and Zinfandel wines are one of California's most popular and successful varieties of wine. The best Zinfandel grapes are grown from old vines, which is loosely defined as vines that have been active for a minimum of 40 years. Although old Zinfandel vines tend to produce smaller crops, the berries have greater intensity and depth of flavor. Zinfandel grapes produce wines with an intrinsic cherry, blackberry, zesty and spicypepper character which combined with its earthy tar and leather aromas means that this grapes can truly produce a wide range of wine styles.

Now, pour yourself a glass of wine, better yet, pour two and share one with a friend or loved one and make National Drink Wine Day an annual ritual. •

Valentine's Made Easy: A Practical Guide To Gift Giving

By Melanie Potter



My husband is well-trained when it comes to gift giving on Feb. 14, but I've made it easy for him. For the past few years, we have thrown a celebratory dinner party with friends. We no longer venture out for a **romantic dinner** at our favorite restaurant even when booking months in advance, we still have to decide whether to take the already crowded 4:30pm or 9pm reservation.

For his part, he swings by the grocery store and picks up flowers and **champagne**, a magnum because it is a special occasion. I even remind him when Valentine's Day is a couple of days away, so he has time to dash into Von's.

Now that we have a foolproof plan, I've been wondering if there are ways to enhance our tradition and what tips I could provide for him (or other men who are stumped as to how not to blow the day).

One of my favorite plants we grew successfully for a few years is **Sweet Peas**. They curled their way up a trellis and we were rewarded with fragrant, beautifully colored flowers that were a joy to cut and add to bouquets. Somehow, we got out of the habit and I miss it (if you are reading this, hint, hint). On Feb. 13, plant some Sweet Peas to surprise me.

I don't have a sweet tooth so I am never the recipient of a heart shaped

box of chocolates. For those who do, chocolate usually has a starring role on this day. Did you know that in ancient times, cocoa beans were used for currency? In fact, 10 beans would buy a rabbit or a prostitute. Chocolate's history begins in Latin America where the Theobroma cacao trees grow wild (sometimes available at the nursery as a houseplant; they are very cold sensitive). The first people to use chocolate were probably the Olmec of what is today southeast Mexico. They lived in the area around 1000 BC, and their word, "kakawa," gave us our word "cacao." The Maya, who inhabited the same general area a thousand years later, did use chocolate in rituals, for medicinal purposes, and as a beverage.

Now that the Christmas tree is out of its usual corner, I am left thinking that something needs to take its place. A houseplant on a stand would be ideal as it could be relocated next holiday season. If you feel the same way, how about a **Spider Plant, Swiss Cheese Philodendron, Cissus, Creeping Charlie** or **Pothos**? Don't leave the houseplant area until you've taken a look at the new powder coated containers—all in deep, bold, rich colors.

Other plants that speak volumes with their traditional Valentine colors are **Cyclamen, Azaleas, Orchids, Pink**

TO DO LIST: February



PRUNING

Prune roses and deciduous fruits and ornamentals before new growth starts. Trim back tropicals like Hibiscus and Bougainvillea after danger of frost passes to clean up any damage received during the winter.

PEST CONTROL

Give last applications of dormant sprays such as Liqui-Cop or Oil Spray before buds start to break on deciduous fruits and ornamentals.

PLANT

Last of the bare-root Roses, Fruits, and Ornamentals should be planted. Citrus can also be planted now. Protect from frost if needed. Plant another crop of leaf lettuce.

LOOK FOR

Camellias and Azaleas, cool season vegetables, bulbs, potatoes, and garlic.

IRRIGATION

Check sprinklers as you will be turning them on and off during rainy times. If you haven't already done so, sprinkle fertilizer (we like Gro-Power) around before the rain so it can get watered in. Don't fertilize areas that are likely to flood when it rains. Don't forget to take a look at your drains and remove debris from around them. A clogged drain can cause flooding.

Jasmine, and Stephanotis. I don't think you could go wrong with an herb bowl, either.

If you know your Valentine likes to garden, how about **gloves**, or plant some **bare root strawberries** or **roses** together? When in doubt, there is always a **gift card**. •

Old Ben: Merlins

Bv Old Ben





Merlins are small, fierce falcons that use surprise attacks to bring down small songbirds and shorebirds. They are powerful fliers. You can tell them from larger falcons by their rapid wing beats and overall dark tones. Medieval falconers called them "Lady Hawks," and noblewomen used them to hunt skylarks.

Color Pattern

Merlins are generally dark and streaky. Their coloration varies geographically and by gender. Adult males are slate gray to dark gray. Females are browner. The chest is heavily streaked and the under wings are dark. The dark tail has narrow white bands.

Size & Shape

Merlins are small falcons with a powerful build that is broader and stockier than the slightly smaller American Kestrel. Merlins have sharply pointed wings, a broad chest, and a medium length tail.

Behavior

Merlins are fierce predators that patrol shorelines and open areas looking for their prey. They fly powerfully, with quick wing beats, pausing to glide rarely. They also spend long periods perched in open areas, scanning for prey.

Habitat

Merlins nest in forested openings and along rivers across northern North America. They have begun nesting in towns and cities. During migration and winter, be on the lookout for Merlins in open forest, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds.

Food

Merlins primarily eat birds, usually catching them in midair during high speed attacks. Other prey include bats, nesting birds, and small animals, as well as large insects such as dragonflies.

Nesting

Merlins do not build their own nests. They reuse old crow, raven, magpie, or hawk nests, making few, if any, changes to the original nest. They rarely reuse a nest in coming years.

Kool Facts

Merlin pairs have been seen teaming up to hunt large flocks of waxwings. One Merlin flushes the flock by attacking from below; the other comes in moments later to take advantage of the confusion.

The name Merlin comes from esmerillon, the old French name for the species. Merlins used to be called Pigeon Hawks because in flight they look somewhat pigeon-like. Their species name, columbarius, is also a reference to pigeons.

Medieval European noblewomen, including Catherine the Great and Mary, Queen of Scots, used Merlins for sport to hunt skylarks. European and North America falconers continue to work with Merlins, hunting quarry that ranges from sparrow-sized to dovesized birds.

The oldest know Merlin was at least 12 years old. It was banded as an adult in New York in 1982 and recovered in New Brunswick Canada in 1993. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid February 1-29, 2016

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 Nyger Seed

The best seed to attract gold finches and other small birds.

25lb. \$39.97 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's Fine Hulled Sunflower Chips

The absolute favorite of most wild birds. Will not germinate.

25lb. \$29.97 Reg. \$46.99

Old Ben's Raw In-Shell Whole Peanuts

No salt added. Great for large birds like blue jays.

2lb. 2 for \$10 Reg. \$8.99 Must purchase 2 bags to get sale price.

Old Ben's Hummingbird & Oriole Kits

Everything you need in one package: Feeder, food, ant barrier & cleaning brush.

\$19.97 Reg. \$29.99

Old Ben's Hummingbird Cage with Kapok Nesting Material

Hummingbirds can't resist using Kapok to line their nest.

\$7.97 Reg. \$11.99

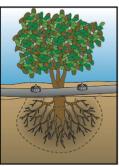
All specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

DIG Irrigation Class Scheduled March 5, 2016 | Attendees Must RSVP

Mark your calendar for March 5 and join the folks from DIG Corporation for an irrigation class at our Poway store. The two-hour class will begin at 9:30 a.m. Attendance is limited; attendees will receive \$27 worth of irrigation products. You may RSVP by calling the Poway store at 858-513-4900. •



WHY USE DRIP IRRIGATION?



Drip Irrigation

is the slow application of water directly to the root zone of your plant, resulting in less water lost to the sun and wind. None is wasted on non-growth areas, and the root zone is maintained at its ideal moisture level, combining the proper balance of water and air. All of these factors will result in deeper roots and more abundant foliage.

Water Efficiency

By applying water only where and when it is needed a low volume irrigation system can achieve water savings of up to 60%! Can also be set up to automatically water your plants while you're away!

Ease of Installation

Comprised entirely of high quality plastic, DIG low volume irrigation systems install easily above or below ground with no special tools or glue. Very simple to use and easy to assemble.

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

















FREE DRIP IRRIGATION CLASS given by DIG Corporation factory expert.

- Hands-on assembly and instruction.
- Over \$27 of drip products will be given to each attendee.
- We'll go from start to finish assembling a small drip irrigation system together.
- Learn how and why drip and micro sprinkler products are used.
- 2 hour class.

Saturday March 5th 9:30am PLEASE R.S.V.P. by March 3rd

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY 12755 DANIELSON COURT, POWAY, 858-513-4900



Malibu Compost To Hold Organic Gardening Class

March 12, 2016 | Poway, CA

Want to grow strong, healthy, organic plants? It all starts with the soil! Come to our Poway store on March 12 at 9:30am for a one-hour class on Organic Gardening. Topics covered will include: How to mimic nature with compost, how to grow beneficial microbes in your soil, what compost tea is and how to use it, how to mitigate pests and diseases without synthetics or chemicals, and how to grow healthy food gardens to feed your family! Matt from Malibu Compost will be here for a fun and interactive class. •



FEBRUARY In-Store Specials No Coupons Needed!

Valid February 1-29, 2016



Buy 2 **Get 1 Free! E.B. Stone Fertilizer 4 lb. Box**

Rose & Flower
Tomato & Vegetable
Citrus & Fruit Tree
Mix or Match



\$2 OFF Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew

Ready To Use



\$2 OFF Safer Organic Tomato & Vegetable Spray Ready To Use



\$5 OFF Proven Winners Trend Geraniums Assorted Colors

Regular Price \$7.99
Limited to stock on hand
No special orders
Limit 6

Free Nectar Concentrate

(a \$2.99 value)

with purchase of More
Birds Hummingbird Feeder

Free 8 oz. packet of Perky Pet Clear Hummingbird Nectar concentrate with purchase of More Birds Hummingbird Feeder priced \$16.99 or more.



\$3 OFFGarden Max Soil Conditioner

\$4 OFF
Turf Max
Soil Conditioner

Garden Classes

FEBRUARY

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

2/6

Last Chance Bare Root Selections

2/13

Refresh Your Winter Vegetable Garden

2/20

Bare Root: Berries and Grapes

2/27

Winter Color Fades Into Spring

POWAY | 9:30AM

2/6

Bare Root Fruit Trees & Orchard Planning

2/13

Sustainable Gardening: Joshua from Down the Road Farm in Julian

2/20

Strawberry Baskets, Poles & Planters

2/27

Xeriscape with Carol Fuller

Bare Root Season

Shop Now!





Don't Forget! Bare root season doesn't last forever. In fact, the bare root season is already waning! February is the last month for bare root pricing on roses, as their price increases March 1. Bare root fruit trees are beginning to disappear as we will pot them as they begin to grow. Shop early for best selection!

FEBRUARY In-Store Specials!

Valid February 1-29, 2016

Buy 2 Get 1 Free E.B. Stone Fertilizer

\$2 OFF Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew

\$2 OFF Safer Organic Tomato & Vegetable Spray

\$5 OFF Proven Winners Trend Geraniums

Free Nectar Concentrate with purchase of More Birds Hummingbird Feeder

\$3 OFF Garden Max Soil Conditioner

\$4 OFF Turf Max Soil Conditioner

See Details on Page 8

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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