



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

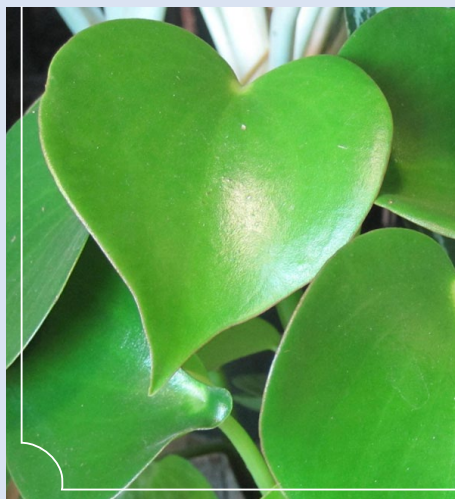
San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

FEBRUARY 2017

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## Shop Now For Your Valentine!



Peperomia

Valentine's Day has been on our mind and at press time we are ordering plants suitable for your honey.

We'll have orchids from Hawaii and these other great finds. How about

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## Callistemons Deliver Winter Blooms

By Melanie Potter



*Callistemon viminalis* 'Macarthur'

Since it is winter, the nursery isn't the riot of color that it will shortly be, but there are some colorful blooms on these Callistemons.

Also known as Bottlebrush, we have several varieties and they are laden with bright blooms.

### Callistemon viminalis 'Macarthur'

A compact shrub with brilliant red bottlebrush flowers. It has fresh green foliage, and naturally grows into a tidy and dense shape. It also responds well to pruning, which is best done after flowering. Birds and butterflies love

[continued p2](#)

## Welcome Window Boxes

By Monrovia Nursery & Melanie Potter

There are loads of things I like about Christmas; one of them being twinkly lights. At my house, every last remnant of Christmas has been loaded into boxes and relegated to the rafters so it is unfortunate that I just came across this thought provoking article from Monrovia Nursery. Fortunately, strands of twinkly lights in assorted colors are easy to find year round which makes accenting a theme-oriented window box a cinch! Now that you are armed with that information, when was the last time you thought about window boxes?



Modern forest themed window box

[continued p3](#)



## Callistemons continued from p1



*Callistemon 'Little John'*

the honey rich flowers. It grows well in most soils, from sandy to clay, and in sun to part shade.

### Callistemon 'Little John'

In 1986, this was the 'Shrub of the Year' in Australia. This is a great evergreen, small shrub that typically grows 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. It has narrow three inch long bluish gray-green leaves and flowers of blood-red bristle-like stamens that appear throughout the year. Plant in full sun to light shade. It is drought tolerant in coastal gardens, but tolerates and performs best with some irrigation. It's hardy to 20-25 degrees F and can rebound after defoliation in temperatures down into the teens. Tolerates seaside conditions.

### Callistemon jeffersii

What a forgiving shrub; tolerates heat, cold, and poor soil. This variety bears reddish-purple flowers that fade to lavender. Its growth habit is compact, growing to about 6 feet tall by 4 feet wide. Older plants can get to around 10 feet and can be trained into a small tree. The foliage is also smaller and narrower. It blooms year-round, but the bloom peak is in the early summer through fall. The flowers attract bees and hummingbirds.

### Callistemon 'Slim'

This is a narrow, upright form of the Weeping Bottlebrush that is well branched and can grow as tall as 8 to



*Callistemon jeffersii*



*Callistemon 'Slim'*

10 feet and as wide as 3 to 4 feet. It can be trimmed and kept at 5 feet tall and as narrow as 2 feet wide. Foliage can be kept all the way to the ground with a prolific display of red bottlebrush flowers in spring through fall. Plant in full sun to part shade in nearly any soil and give occasional irrigation. It's drought-tolerant once established. ●



*Trim back Hibiscus in February*

## TO DO LIST: February

### PRUNING

**Now Is The Time.** Finish pruning roses and deciduous fruits and ornamentals before new growth starts.

**Trim.** In late February, trim back tropicals like Hibiscus and Bougainvillea after danger of frost passes to clean up any damage received during the winter.

### PEST CONTROL

**Dormant Spray.** 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, kale, broccoli, and cauliflower.**

### LOOK FOR

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

### IRRIGATION

**Check Sprinklers.** Keep them 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. ●



## Window Boxes continued from p1



*A warm welcome from this window box*

These eye-catching window accessories are perfect for adding pops of color or interest to your house. Keep reading for inspiration!

### Modern Forest (Photo on page 1)

There are no rules that require you to use red in a winter window box! These juniper spirals with golden-leaved cypress sheared balls in terra cotta pots are contemporary and perfectly scaled for a smaller space. The pots are wrapped in sheets of birch bark for a winter look, and a touch of clipped greens and shiny ornaments around make it seasonal. How about hearts for Valentine's Day or colored eggs and a bunny statue for Easter?

### Warm Welcome

Despite our warmer temperatures and drier conditions that make planting evergreens problematic, you can create a winter window box that's planted with lots of greenery in shades from emerald to lime and add a few seasonal touches. Here a bed of ivy (looks great year round) is tricked-out with white cyclamens, potted-up yellow peppers, and a few winter pansies. Can't find peppers? Swap in fresh citrus such as kumquats. We think this one's made for twinkle lights!

Planting a window box follows the same logic as if you were planting a container with mixed plants. Make sure they like the same amount of sun or shade, and require a similar water schedule and maintenance. Remember, you can always blind pot the whole thing or just the annuals that you will be changing regularly. If you need help substituting some of the above recommendations or need planting suggestions, ask us! •

## Nobody Told This Tree That Christmas Is Over

By Melanie Potter

The bright lights of Christmas are scarce, as are all signs of the holiday. My neighborhood is back to being dark and front doors are bare instead of being bathed in wreaths and garland. So, what a treat when I took a stroll outside our Poway store and came across the few Tecate Cypress we have still decorated with bows and pinecones.

These southern California natives are a fast-growing and hardy cypress that does well with little water. It has rich, light green foliage and seems to tolerate coastal planting in spite of being an inland species. It makes an ideal hedge or screen, or can be used as a specimen tree in a large garden.

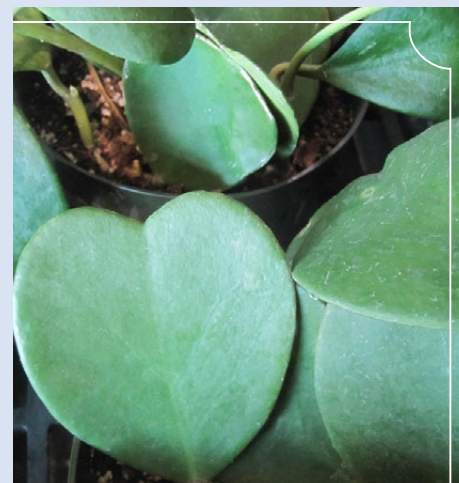
The tree grows quickly to 12-15 feet, then very slow to 20-30 feet or higher. It can easily be kept to 15 feet. (After it reaches 12 feet or so, it slows down to 2-3 inches/year).

Just a reminder that even though the best time for planting natives is in the fall when the selection is large and the plants look their best, they are not to be missed now. They are flourishing from the rain we've had and are still looking tip top! •



## Valentine!

continued from p1



*Hoya 'Heart'*



*Anthurium*

**Hoya 'Heart' with its heart-shaped leaves? There is also Peperomia with heart-shaped leaves, but these leaves are greener and shinier. Beautiful, and fragrant Stephanotis will be here as well as lovely Anthuriums.**

**Best of all, the roses are already leafing out and there's a great selection of old favorites and new varieties, including a few from the Downton Abbey Garden Rose Collection grown by Weeks Roses. •**



## Old Ben: Facts About Burrowing Owls

By Old Ben



Burrowing owls are so named because they live underground in burrows that have been dug out by small mammals, such as ground squirrels. They are covered in brown spotted feathers and have long legs. They also sport distinctive white eyebrows above bright yellow eyes. They are one of the smallest owls in North America.

### Diet

Burrowing owls eat small mammals such as moles and mice during late spring and early summer. Later they switch to insects, especially grasshoppers and beetles. Burrowing owls are also known to eat birds, amphibians and reptiles.

### Population

A current estimate of the burrowing owl population is not well known, but trend data suggests significant declines across their range. It is believed there are less than 10,000 breeding pairs left.

### Range

Burrowing owls are found from the Mississippi to the Pacific and from the Canadian prairie provinces into South America. They are also found in Florida and the Caribbean islands. Burrowing owls have disappeared from much of their known range.

### Behavior

Unlike other owls, burrowing owls are active during the day, especially in the spring when they gather food for their large broods. This species of owl prefers open areas with low ground cover. They can often be found perching near their burrow on fence posts.

Burrowing owls make a tremulous chuckling or chattering call. They also bob their heads to express excitement or distress.

Burrowing owls often nest in loose colonies about 100 yards apart.

During the nesting season, burrowing owls will collect a wide variety of nesting materials to line their nest, some of which are left around the entrance to the burrow. The most common material is mammal dung. At one time, it was incorrectly thought that the dung helped to mask the scent of juvenile owls. Researchers now believe the dung helps to control the microclimate inside the burrow and attracts insects, which the owls eat.

### Known Populations in San Diego County

In San Diego County, the burrowing owl lives in the following locations. San Marcos, Camp Pendleton, Palomar Airport, central and southwest Carlsbad, Batiquitos and San Elijo lagoons, Mission Bay, Lower Otay Lake, North Island Naval Air Station, Otay Mesa, and the Tijuana River Valley. There are currently no known major populations of burrowing owls in the county.

### Kool Facts

Unlike most owls in which the female is larger than the male, both sexes of the burrowing owl are the same size.

Burrowing owls have a higher tolerance for carbon dioxide than other birds. This is an adaptation found in other burrowing animals, which spend long periods underground where the gas

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid February 1-28, 2017

### 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 Economy Wild Bird Seed

This mix will attract a wide variety of wild birds including doves, sparrows, and house finches.

**20lb. bag. \$14.99** A Great Value!

### 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 Hummingbird Cage with Kapok Nesting Material

This is a must if you feed hummingbirds. They can't resist using Kapok to line their nest.

**Sale \$9.99** Reg. \$11.99

*All specials limited to stock on hand.*

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

can accumulate to higher levels than found above ground.

The oldest known burrowing owl was nearly 10 years old when it was sighted in California in 2014. •

## 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/](http://www.walterandersen.com/calendar/).

## SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

2/4

Cymbidium Care &amp; Culture

2/11

Spring Color

2/18

Bare Root Berries &amp; Grapes

2/25

The Spring Veggie Garden

## POWAY | 9:30AM

2/4

Staghorn Ferns: Remounting,  
Care, & Varieties

2/11

Mason Bees with Richard Wright

2/18

Fertilizers/Feeding for the Garden  
with Richard Wright

2/25

Organic Spring Gardening  
with Matt from Malibu CompostOrganic Gardening  
For Spring

February 25 | Poway

Spring is the best time for gardeners who yearn to be organic, or who are already growing organically to focus on true organic gardening. Join Matt from Malibu Compost on Feb. 25 (at our Poway store) to learn how soil health and organic gardening are tied together! This class aims to help take the confusion out of organics. How can we best transition our gardens organic, sustain them organically? Discover what "organic" products work well together, are safe, truly organic. This class is a must for all natural and organic gardeners!

## 2017 Poway Rose Show Is Set!

Rose Show To Coincide With  
Mother's Day Weekend

May 13-14, 2017

Mark your calendars on May 13-14 to not only celebrate the mothers in your life, but to make time to exhibit or visit our 18th Annual Rose Show. Held at the Poway store (12755 Danielson Ct.), we usually have more than 100 entries. The rose show gets underway May 13 with entries being taken from 8-10:30am, followed by judging from 11am-1pm. Roses will remain on display until 4pm on May 14. The public is invited to enter and attend the show. There is no cost to enter. •

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## 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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