



# Garden Talk

## SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

FEBRUARY 2019



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## Spring Bulbs Have Arrived

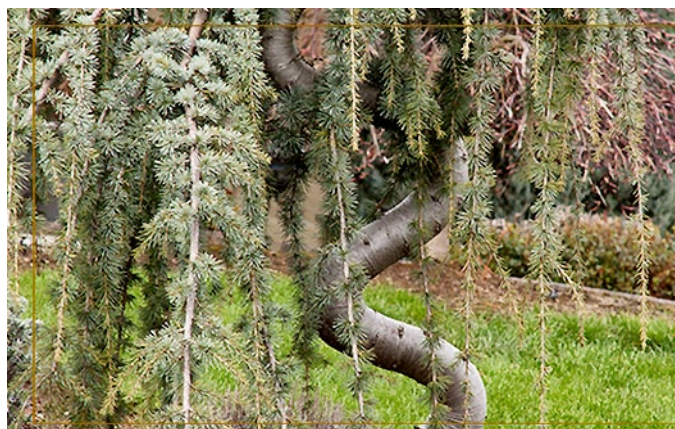


Sallie, Leslie, & Brijette celebrated their arrival

There is a nice selection of edibles: at least 9 varieties of potatoes! Garlic, onions, and shallots. For spring color choose from nearly a dozen different Dahlia varieties, Gladiolas, Ixia and Tigridia. •

## Monrovia Predicts Seven Garden Trends

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



*"Designers are using plants with intriguing, often formal, shapes, forms, textures, and branching habits in otherwise naturalistic gardens."*

In 2019, the biggest trend in the gardening world is letting nature nurture us. We're increasingly aware of how plants and gardening enhance our lives and connect us to something both ancient and modern—the rhythm of the natural world. This is only the

beginning of a change in how we view ourselves in relation to the natural world and as gardeners, do our part to protect it.

Other trends speak to the growing pressures of too little space to garden and too little time in which to do it. On the brighter side, we see lots of exciting things happening at garden centers, and growers producing

more and more plants that thrive even as the climate seems to be changing. Look for more interest in woodland gardens, bright colors, and the return of all-green gardens. According to the Pew Research Center, more of us (74% of all households) are taking up trowels

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## Saving The Monarchs

By Melanie Potter

In 1981, the Xerces Society, a non-profit environmental organization that focuses on the conservation of invertebrates, counted more than 1 million Western Monarchs wintering throughout California. The butterflies migrate annually from Mexico and other western United States to the eucalyptus trees along the Pacific Coast.

The group's most recent count during the Thanksgiving 2018 weekend estimated 20,500 Western Monarchs, an 86% decline from the nearly 148,000 spotted the previous year, according



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## Garden Trends continued from p1

even as 68 percent of Americans have either quit or taken a break from social media this year.

### The Considered Garden

This trend is part of the same “I care” sustainability, hand-crafted, experiential, and authenticity vibe that’s propelling brands across consumer categories from fashion to food. Materials, not “materialism” are the watchwords here as gardeners increasingly choose with great care what to introduce into their gardens based partly on the way plants are sourced and grown.

This is leading to gardens that care less about the uber-stylized “garden rooms” of the aughts, and more about personalized spaces that feel like a sanctuary in a busy and often difficult world. This garden style boasts lots of locally-sourced, global-travel-found, and custom made elements that have meaning.

### Architecture Rules

After decades of informal billowing meadows and cottage borders that studies find are considered to “have visual appeal and restorative potential”, we’re seeing designers use plants with plenty of intriguing, often formal, shapes, forms, textures, and branching habits in these otherwise naturalistic gardens. The result is a delightful yin-yang sort of effect.

This aesthetic appears to be one of the drivers of increased demand for swirling topiaries, weeping trees, cascading camellias, espaliered fruit trees, layered Japanese maples, and spikey perennials like lupines, salvia, and iris. With so many people gardening in smaller spaces or in containers, each and every plant needs ample oomph to make the cut.

### Desperately Seeking Season

With seasonal change now less distinct and predictable with longer summers and shorter winters, gardens that dramatically and graphically evolve over the seasons are becoming even more

prized. For example, plants displaying a stark winter beauty (form, bark, or color) with high contrast to leafy spring have become highly sought after.

The second is a demand curve that’s off the charts for plants that do more for the longer duration of our warm weather (such as hydrangeas, roses, lilacs, and other flowering shrubs that rebloom). These trends may seem contradictory, but both are reflections of a changing climate.

### Do It For Me!

While the top trend in gardening is, well, more gardening, consumer research has identified a growing segment of “Do It for Me” homeowners who want the beauty and seasonal rhythm of a landscaped space, but don’t have the time nor skills to make this happen. Forty percent of Americans turned to pros in 2017, and the findings of at least one important study of 6,000 participants by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that spending about \$100 to \$200 per month outsourcing tasks such as garden care increased life satisfaction by more than forty percent. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) forecasts a boom year in 2019.

Not everyone is a “gardener,” but apparently many are finding that a beautiful garden installed and managed by someone else is worth every dime.

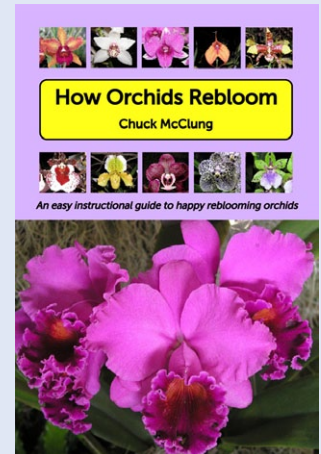
### Working Overtime

It used to be that a nice boxwood hedge would fit the bill, but now, with home lots getting smaller and with less time for gardening, consumers are snapping up “one and done” plants that do double or even triple duty in the landscape. Also in play here is mindfulness about plants for attracting wildlife, growing food, and creating more overall green space.

This translates to big demand for plants that flower, fruit, have great fall foliage, are water wise, feed birds, provide

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## How Orchids Rebloom Book Signing & Orchid Class



On February 16 in our San Diego store and March 9 in our Poway store, celebrate the release of **Chuck McClung's** new book, *How Orchids Rebloom*. On these dates, **McClung** will lead an orchid class and host a book signing for his newly published book. He is a former Walter Andersen Nursery employee (in our San Diego store) and a local botanist. He will discuss the key features of his book: the five main reasons orchids fail to rebloom, the top 10 groups of orchids, and of course, how to get your orchids to rebloom. He will also sign copies of his book after the seminar. **McClung** has a master's degree in botany and is a lifelong plant enthusiast, gardening educator, and consultant. His life mission is to solve others' gardening dilemmas. •

## Valentines For Your Valentine

Are you feeling the pressure to do Valentine's Day just right? We might be able to help with that. Choose from books, chimes, dangles, and spinners. There are always roses, houseplants and some special blooming plants we bring in just for the occasion. If you aren't sure what that special someone would like, we suggest a gift card. •

## Garden Trends continued from p2

privacy, are native, provide winter interest, and are fragrant, etc.

### One Stop Garden Shop

**Could garden centers become the new Starbucks?**

From coast-to-coast, we're seeing garden centers, large and small, upping their game to become destinations where you not only shop for plants, but also buy groceries, attend onsite yoga classes, get a beauty treatment, dine at a farm to table cafe, bring a laptop and do some work, get a staff-led tour, pick up some home-brewed compost tea, drop off the kids for a workshop, and absorb the entire sensory experience of being surrounded by the beauty of nature.

The immediate sense of community and of improving customers' quality of life through plants that's being created at these cutting edge garden centers is being rewarded by consumers.

### Into The Woods

Cool, mossy, and damp, small space woodland gardens bring a welcome sense of Zen and a respite from digital overload, especially in dense urban areas where they can help to mitigate

the effects of pollution. It's like bringing "forest bathing" to the city with mixes of ferns, mosses, coral bells, Hostas, and Anemones in high contrast, almost unnatural, places for a garden style that's gaining ground.

### Four Micro Trends We're Keeping An Eye On



**Colors are turning brighter**—polarizing even (case in point is Pantone's choice of the color coral for 2019).

Interest in online gardening videos has created a demand for the return of **televised gardening programming**.

A sneak peek into our crystal ball indicated all **green gardens will take root** over the next several years.

Even if it's three plants in a pot or the no-man's land in the sidewalk, an **urban garden** is as prized as any estate landscape. •

## Saving The Monarchs continued from p1

to an annual census conducted by the Xerces Society, the SFGate reported in early January 2019.

According to the New York Times, the volatile climate in California in the last decade has threatened the butterflies. Combined with last year's deadliest wildfire season on record that caused widespread smoke and poor air quality, it's no wonder the Monarchs are struggling. Deforestation, pesticide abuse, and poor land management practices also take a toll on the population.

Fortunately, due to different weather patterns, the 2019 crop of monarch

butterflies that roost in Mexico appears to be having its best year in a decade.

You can help by planting milkweed (asclepias species) and other nectar plants. Create a butterfly friendly area in your yard to include: few shallow divots in bare soil that stay wet so butterflies can sip water and get much-needed minerals from the soil, and plant trees and shrubs where butterflies can roost at night. Butterflies can't fly when they're cold, so place large, flat rocks in locations that receive morning sun to give them a place to warm up. Use pesticides carefully and appropriately. •

## TO DO LIST: February



### PRUNE

**Now Is The Time.** Finish pruning roses and deciduous fruits and ornamentals before new growth starts. **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, beets, carrots, radishes and cauliflower. **Look for** Camellias and Azaleas, cool-season vegetables, bulbs, potatoes, garlic, and Spring bulbs.

### IRRIGATE & FERTILIZE

**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. •







## Old Ben:

### Creating A Wildlife Habitat

By Old Ben



Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 30 acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat. Creating a wildlife habitat is as easy as providing food, water, shelter, and a place for wildlife to raise their young. Another benefit is that you will be incorporating sustainable gardening practices.

#### How to Create a Wildlife Friendly Garden

**Provide Food for Wildlife:** Everyone needs to eat! Planting perennials, shrubs and trees is the easiest way to provide the foliage, nectar, berries, seeds, and nuts that many species of wildlife need to survive and thrive. You should also add supplemental feeders and other food sources.

**Supply Water for Wildlife:** Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources can include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands. Man made features such as bird

baths, installed ponds, puddling areas for butterflies, or even a clay or plastic saucer work great.

**Create Shelter for Wildlife:** Wildlife require places to hide in order to feel safe from people, predators and bad weather. Use things like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles or even dead trees.

**Give Wildlife a Place to Raise Their Young:** Wildlife need a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Many places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise young. Locations include wildflower meadows and bushes where butterflies and moths lay their eggs and caves where bats roost and form colonies. Nest boxes and nesting material can go a long way to help the wild birds.

**Let Your Garden Go Green:** How you maintain your garden or landscape can have an important effect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife. Composting and mulching your yard are important steps to greener gardening! •

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid February 1-28, 2019

### Old Ben's Premium Finch Blend

Attracts Finches Like a Magnet.

20lb. bag

**Sale \$39.99** Reg. \$49.99

### Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix.

20lb. bag

**Sale \$24.99** Reg. \$29.99

### Hummingbird Nest Building Kit

Hummingbirds are now nesting in San Diego County. Help them out!

**Sale \$11.99** Reg. \$14.99

#### Ask Old Ben!

Old Ben doesn't always think about birds. Sometimes he thinks about his business and that's when he had a grand idea. How cool would it be if you could reach out and ask him all kinds of questions about birds, or show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences? Well, now you can by using this email.

[askoldben@aol.com](mailto:askoldben@aol.com)



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

### Old Ben's Anniversary Seed Blend

**Ingredients** 95% No Mess Blend | Packaged in the USA

Sunflower Chipse Medium, Millet (Hulled),  
Peanuts Hearts, Chopped Tree Nuts,  
Peanut Piek Outs, Nyger,  
Cranberries, Calcium, Mealworms

Guaranteed Analysis:	
Crude Protein	19.6
Crude Fat	41.4
Crude Fiber	2.8
Ash	4.6
Moisture	5.9

*Lesley and Old Ben*

**Wild Birds Just Love Old Ben's and You Will Too!**

OLD BEN'S WORKSHOP, P.O. Box 421505, San Diego, CA 92142    www.oldbensworkshop.com

**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  
I use ingredients from natural sources across my entire line - NO artificial anything

## Old Ben's Anniversary Seed Blend

- **Introductory Price**
- **Celebrating 10 years in Business**
- **Attracts Birds of All Sizes**
- **95% No Mess**
- **20lb. Bag**

**Sale \$34.99**  
Reg. \$44.99

## 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**

2/2

Raised Bed Gardening

2/9

Why Plant Bulbs

2/16

Re-Bloom Orchids Class  
& Book Signing  
with Chuck McClung

2/23

Spring Veggies

**POWAY | 9:30AM**

2/2

Staghorn Fern Remounting &  
Care with David Ross

2/9

Composting &amp; Compost Tea

2/16

Fertilizers as Tools

2/23

Seed Starting Workshop with  
Brijette from San Diego Seed  
Co. \$30, RSVP to 858-513-4900

3/1

Organic Insect Control

Special Seed Class  
At The Poway Store

Become a seed starting expert by attending our **seed starting workshop** on Feb. 23. You will get hands-on experience on how to start your vegetable, flower and herb seeds for your spring garden. Participants will take home a seed starting tray that they plant up during the workshop along with the confidence that they can produce high quality starts with local seeds from San Diego Seed Company. This workshop is limited to 30 people, and there is a \$30 materials fee per person that must be prepaid. You'll plant six different vegetable seed varieties from San Diego Seed Company and will have plastic tags to mark your cells. What a way to start the New Year—a 36 cell mini greenhouse to start your veggies with seed starting mix included! Call 858-513-4900 to rsvp and prepay. •

February Specials *Valid February 1-28, 2019*

**Buy 1 Get 1 FREE**  
**Bonide Grub Beater**  
6lb. Bag \$19.99

*Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. While supplies last. Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.*



**Buy 1 Get 1 FREE**  
**DuraTurf Crabgrass  
& Weed Preventer**  
4lb. Container \$14.99

*Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. While supplies last. Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.*

## 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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