



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

APRIL 2017

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## Agapanthus, Agapanthus, Agapanthus & More Agapanthus

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Agapanthus by Monrovia

**Agapanthus**, or 'Lily of the Nile', its most common name, is not a true lily.

What is true about them is that they are easy to grow and need minimal care. There are many varieties; most are hybrids to ensure that the best traits of the parent plants are passed on to the next generation.

[continued p2](#)

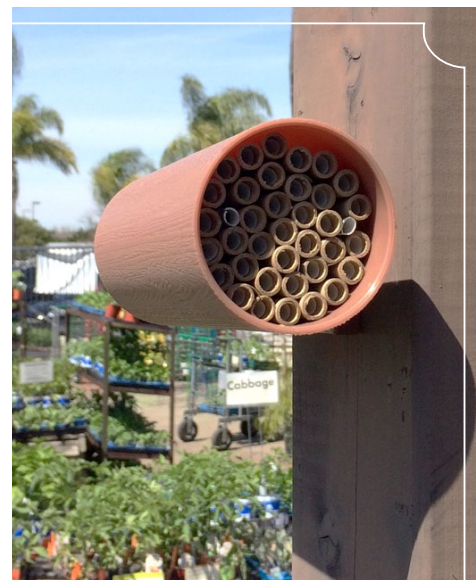
## Not All Pollinators Are Honey Bees

By Ken Andersen

European Honey Bees are what we usually think of when we think of pollinators in the garden. While they do a fair share of the pollinating, there are other bees at work like **Mason Bees**.

Mason Bees (*Osmia lignaria* if you want to get technical) are prodigious pollinators but they differ from Honey Bees in a few distinct ways. They are solitary bees in that they do not have a social order nor do they form hives or have queens. Once they mate they will lay eggs in small round holes they will find in nature. When they lay their eggs they will leave a supply of pollen for the larva to feed on until they mature and emerge.

Even though they do not live in hives, they are perfectly happy to make nests next to each other. Mason Bees do not produce honey so they don't create



Mason Bee habitat

combs to fill. One other difference that many will appreciate is they tend not to sting. Since they do not have a colony, honey, or queen to protect

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## No Gibberish Spoken Here

By Melanie Potter

**Brunia albiflora**, **Scholtzia' Spiked Darling'**, and **Chamelaucium Verticordia**. Say what? Sounds like gibberish but these are plants we hope you'll become acquainted with.

All are Australian natives that are very drought-tolerant, somewhat unusual and are not regularly available. In addition to looking pretty in a landscape, they are attractive cut flowers. We anticipate their arrival after April 10, and you are welcome to call and verify they are in stock. **So, how about a meet and greet?**



*Brunia albiflora*  
by Obra Verde Growers

### Brunia albiflora

Brunia is a small genus of flowering shrubs known for their unusual flowers. These evergreen shrubs can grow upright up to 6' tall and produce dark-green foliage that resembles the foliage of a pine tree. Tiny silvery-white flowers appear in tight and fluffy pompom-like flower heads. Brunia is usually a slow

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## Pollinators continued from p1

they are rarely defensive. It is said that about the only way to get stung by one is to squeeze it (and who would do that?) and even then, you may not suffer a sting.

Luring Mason Bees to your yard is fairly simple. Purchase the bee cocoons and place them in your yard. The bees will also need nesting areas in your yard to keep the population growing. It's a good idea to buy a Mason Bee habitat at the same time you purchase your cocoons. Place the habitat in an area where it will get morning or southern exposure. The habitat will be filled with small paper tubes when you purchase it. This is where they will nest. When you purchase the cocoons, buy a couple for back up. Pull out two of the empty tubes in the habitat and

replace the tubes with cocoons. As the weather warms, the bees will emerge and start pollinating, mating, and nesting back in the empty tubes.

Soon you will have them foraging in your yard. The females will go into the tubes and deposit an egg, pollen and nectar. She will then build a wall in the tube (hence term Mason Bee) and repeat the process until the tubes are full. Around June, the original bees will begin to die off but the eggs will start hatching. The larva completes its entire growth cycle in the tubes. Around August, they will spin a cocoon and begin developing into a mature bee over the fall and winter. In the spring time they will emerge to start the cycle all over again. •

## Agapanthus

continued from p1

The blooms are clusters of blue or white. The shades of blue vary from very light to deep, deep indigo. The plant forms a clump of deep green (or variegated) strap-like leaves that grow from the ground. The clumps are from 10" to 14" tall, with clumps reaching more than 2.5' in diameter when mature.

The bloom season begins in May and continues well into the summer months. The large bloom clusters are formed on the top of long stems, above the foliage. Some varieties can reach 4' to 5' tall. There are also dwarf varieties, 'Peter Pan', with its blue blooms is probably the best known. The dwarf varieties have more compact clumps, about 10" tall and bloom spikes of about 16" or so tall. There is a white blooming dwarf variety, sporting names like, 'Rancho' or 'Peter Pan Dwarf'.

Agapanthus are excellent container plants and equally good planted in the ground. They can be grown in some of the worst soils, but amending with a good planter mix will result in healthier and more rewarding plants. Cut off the old bloom stalks as the blooms fade to keep the plant looking neat. When the clumps are older, they are easy to divide to make more plants. To encourage new foliage and more bloom stalks, fertilize once a month with Gro-Power starting in March. Very few pests bother this plant but check for snail and slugs and bait as needed with Sluggo. •

**MAY 13-14, 2017**

ACCREDITED JUDGE SUPPORT/SERVICES  
PROVIDED BY THE E.C.R.S.

# Poway Rose 18th Annual Show



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY

**ENTRY REGISTRATION:** May 13 from 8am-10:30am

**JUDGING:** May 13 from 11am-1pm

**HOURS:** May 13 from 1pm-5pm

May 14 from 9am-4pm

**POWAY LOCATION:** 12755 Danielson Court







## Words From Walter

### Growing Plumeria From A Cutting

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Almost everyone loves blooming Plumeria plants. It reminds some of a tropical vacation or a luau. The flowers are gorgeous and the fragrance is heavenly.

It's easy to grow these beauties from cuttings. In late spring or early summer, cut a branch from a healthy plant. You should try to make your tip cutting about 10" to 14" long. If the cutting you are trying to make has two growth ends, that is preferred, but a single end will work.

With a sharp shear, make a clean cut across the stem. Quite a bit of white sap will ooze from the cut area and you'll want to be careful not to get this sap in your eyes!

Remove most of the leaves on the cutting, leaving some tiny ones that might be at the tip. It doesn't matter if it is in bloom or not. Lay the cutting in a shaded area for about a week or two to let the cut seal. Drying the cut area is important because attempting to root fresh cuttings causes them to rot. After it is calloused over (very dry at the cut part), dip the cutting in a rooting hormone so the whole end is covered in the powder. Plant the cutting in cactus mix because Plumeria do best in well-draining soil.

A two gallon plastic pot is a good size for your cutting. Fill the container to

about 1" from the top. Poke your finger into the center of the soil to about 3" deep and place your new cutting into the hole. Tamp down the soil around the bottom of the cutting. I would suggest inserting a small 1/2" x 1/2" redwood stake deep in the soil next to the cutting. Tie the cutting to the stake so it does not fall over. Place your new cutting in a sunny area, and water it. You'll need to water about every seven to 10 days. Don't keep the soil wet and let it dry well between waterings. Your new cutting should show signs of growth in three or so weeks. Within three months it should be well rooted. You can then replant it into the ground, in full sun, or into a larger pot. Start feeding with Gro-Power dry fertilizer when you see new leaves forming and continue feeding every two months. •



## Don't Get Caught In The Dark

If you are a morning person, you are probably starting your outdoor fitness routine or walking the dog in the dark. Those who walk on the sidewalk or in the street are hard to see. Both stores have solar lanterns that provide bright illumination. They are lightweight, solar or USB charged, and collapsible, making them easy to pack. That's not all; the lid unscrews and turns your lantern into a place for your empty dog bags, tissues, keys, or water. They are great to carry while walking or running, attach to your bike, or dog's leash. Take them fishing, boating, hiking and camping, too. •

## TO DO LIST: April



### FERTILIZE

#### Feed Lawns, Palms & More

Use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Hi-Yield Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broad-leaf weeds. Feed ornamentals with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Plus. Feed vegetables with Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or Dr. Earth Organic Tomato and Vegetable Food. Feed citrus, avocado, and fruit trees with Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado Food. Feed palms and tropicals with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food.

### PEST CONTROL

#### Edibles & Ornamentals

Keep insects under control by hitting them early. On edibles, use Monterey Garden Insect Spray, Safer Yard and Garden Spray. For ornamentals, use a systemic control like Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Spray.

### PLANT

Warm-season bedding plants, Dahlias, annuals, and perennials. Warm-season vegetables and vegetable seeds. Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes, and the specialty hot peppers are here.

### LOOK FOR

Flowering deciduous trees and shrubs, blooming roses, blooming bulbs, Ceanothus and tropicals. •

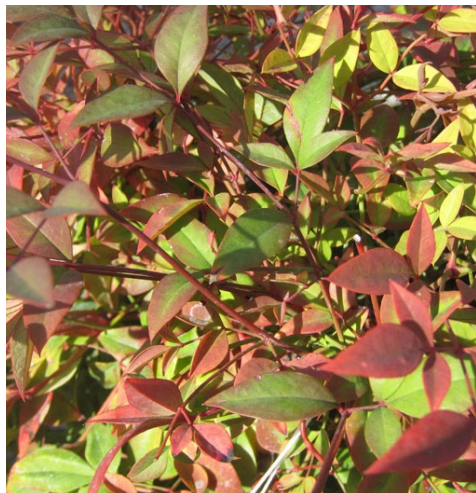
#### WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY'S OWN



**Choose Locally-Grown Flowers and Vegetables for Your Garden. Look for 1st Prize Plants at WAN!**

## Heavenly Bamboo—NOT Bamboo At All!

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



*Gulf Stream*

**Nandina domestica** is an ornamental plant that has been sold in San Diego for almost 100 years. The common name is Heavenly Bamboo. However, there is no relation to true Bamboo. Nandina comes from parts of China and Japan. The Heavenly Bamboo part relates to the plant forming many upright stalks, remotely similar to Bamboo. The common Nandina can get to 7' or 8' tall in time. They are quite easy to grow in sun or part shade. While they can also be grown in deeper shade areas, they are prone to mildew there. Once established, they are drought tolerant. They are often found on low-water use plant lists, but be sure to water them regularly at least during their first summer to help them get established. When first planted, they should be watered about two times a week. When planting, amend your soil with a good planting mix and add a little Dr. Earth organic fertilizer or Gro-Power, lightly mixed in, to help establish a strong root system. The planting hole should be about two times as wide as the original container, and not much deeper.

In recent years, new varieties have been introduced. In my opinion, they are all much better than the original Nandina domestica which tends to get tall and leggy. The newer varieties tend to be bushier and have more foliage at the bottom; they just don't



*Sienna Sunrise*

look spindly any more. Here are a few names to look for:

### Gulf Stream

A compact plant, growing to about 4' tall and may get to about 4' in diameter. New foliage is bronzy colored turning greener as it ages and red during winter.

### Moon Bay

Here is another attractive Nandina, a little shorter to perhaps only 3' tall. This makes a great container plant or low hedge that would need very little trimming. Very bushy, you probably will never see the stems. Coloration is similar to Gulf Stream.

### Plum Passion

Grown by Monrovia Growers, this variety will grow to 6' or 7' tall, stays bushy and the colors of the foliage are wonderful. Burgundy to red and it holds its color as the temperature warms. This variety will get to 3' to 4' in diameter in time, can be used for a taller hedge, or it looks great by itself. Plum Passion lives up to its name, foliage is truly purple to plum color. Older leaves do turn greenish as they mature. Trim it a little if you would like it shorter.

### Sienna Sunrise

This plant came out about 10 years ago as an improved variety. Wonderful

## Gibberish

continued from p1

growing shrub that requires bright sunlight and occasional watering in a well-drained soil. Most species of Brunia are sensitive to frost and require protection from long spells of frost and cold.

### Scholtzia involucrata

Small shrubs with tiny rounded leaves and small white or pink flowers with 5 petals. They tend to flower in late spring, and flowering branches can be found from June to October. Foliage is available all year. Pink Scholtzia flowers are found up each stem, except for the soft tips, although there are white forms that flower only at the tip of each branch.



*Chamelaucium verticordia*

### Chamelaucium verticordia

This little star-like flower is frequently seen in bouquets and arrangements and is quite pretty although its common name, Waxflower, doesn't do it justice. Blooms are medium pink, white or lavender. Plant in a sandy mix of soil in full or partial sun. These plants are frost hardy. •

colored new foliage is deep orange-red then turns deep green; compact to about 3' tall.

To keep them looking their best, be sure to fertilize about every two months with a general purpose plant food. Gro-Power would be my suggestion. If any of these gets too tall or wide for the location, don't be afraid to trim them back a little. •



## Choosing Tomato Varieties

### By Botanical Interests

We all know that tomatoes are fruits, correct? Did you know that tomatoes are grouped into types according to growth habit and production?

Determinate types grow in a compact, bush form and require little or no staking. Fruit is produced on the ends of the branches and most of the crop ripens at the same time. One or more successive plantings will ensure an extended harvest period. Determinate types are often the choice of those who want a large supply of ripe fruit at once for canning.

Indeterminate varieties continue to grow and produce fruit all season until first frost. Tomatoes in all stages of development may be on the plants at one time. The plants set fruit clusters along a vining stem, which grows vigorously and long. Under optimum conditions, some can grow over 15', but in most home gardens they generally reach about 6'. Some indeterminates have a bush form with stockier vines, which set fruit clusters closer together.

Semi-determinate are in-between these two types. The plants will grow larger than determinate varieties, but not as large as indeterminate. They produce a main crop that ripens at once, but also continue to produce up until frost.

Tomatoes are also grouped by use, shape, and size. Slicing tomatoes are large and juicy, while paste (sauce/roma/plum) tomatoes are drier (concentrated flavor), with fewer seeds, making them ideal for sauce but also excellent for slicing. Cherry tomatoes are bite-sized and come in several shapes like oblong, pear-shaped or round. Low acid tomatoes are a great tomato alternative for people with medical diets, cold sores, stomach problems, and acid reflux.

How do you choose what tomatoes to plant when there are thousands of varieties? This chart can help you get started. Many can be found as starts at our stores, and other varieties on the chart may be found in the seed sections. •

### Tomato Comparison Chart

Cultivar	Growth Habit	Shape/Use	Heirloom/ Hybrid	Low Acid	Disease Resistant	Cold Tolerant	Heat Tolerant
Ace 55	Determinate	Slicer	Heirloom	X	X		
Artisan Bumble Bee Blend	Indeterminate	Cherry					
Artisan Tiger Stripes Blend	Indeterminate	Elongated Cherry					
Aunt Ruby's German Green	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom				
Beefsteak	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom				
Better Bush	Indeterminate	Slicer	Hybrid		X		
Black Krim	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom	X			
Brandywine	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom	X			X
Brandywine Red & Yellow	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom	X			X
Cherokee Purple	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom				X
Chocolate Cherry	Indeterminate	Cherry					
Gardener's Delight	Indeterminate	Cherry	Heirloom	X			
Glacier	Semi-determinate	Slicer				X	
Green Zebra	Indeterminate	Slicer	Hybrid	X			X
Indigo Rose	Semi-determinate	Large Cherry/ Small Slicer			X		
Italian Roma	Determinate	Paste/ Slicer	Heirloom				
Jelly Bean Red & Yellow	Indeterminate	Grape	Hybrid		X		
Lizzano	Semi-determinate	Cherry	Hybrid				
Moneymaker	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom				
Oxheart	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom				
Pineapple	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom	X			
Principe Borghese	Indeterminate	Sun-dried	Heirloom				
Rainbow Blend	Indeterminate	Cherry					
Red & Yellow Pear Blend	Indeterminate	Pear-shaped cherry		X			
Red Pride	Determinate	Slicer	Hybrid		X		
Red Siberian	Indeterminate	Slicer	Heirloom			X	
San Marzano	Indeterminate	Paste/ Slicer	Heirloom	X			
Speckled Roman	Indeterminate	Paste/ Slicer					
Sun Gold	Indeterminate	Cherry	Hybrid	X			
Supersweet 100	Indeterminate	Cherry	Hybrid	X	X		
Supremo	Determinate	Paste/ Slicer	Hybrid		X		
Sweetie	Indeterminate	Cherry		X			

Botanical INTERESTS.



## Old Ben:

### Western Wood-Pewee

By Old Ben



Photo: Joseph V. Higbee

The Western Wood-Pewee is a medium sized, drab flycatcher. They are at home in open forest and riparian areas across the Western United States.

This flycatcher of western woodlands is best known by its voice. Its burry, descending whistle has a hazy sound, well suited to hot afternoons. This bird also sings at dawn and dusk, including late in the evening when most songbirds are quiet. This species and the Eastern Wood-Pewee look almost alike.

#### Migration

Strictly a summer resident in North America, arriving late April and May and departing before mid October. Migrates at night.

#### Feeding Behavior

Most foraging is done by watching from an exposed perch within the shady middle or lower branches of a tree, then flying out to catch an insect in the air. Also flies out and hovers while taking insects from foliage, twigs and tall grasses.

#### Diet

Feeds almost entirely on insects, mostly flying ones, only occasionally eating a few berries. Diet features various kinds of flies, wasps, bees, winged ants, moths, beetles and a few caterpillars.

#### Nesting

The male sings to defend a nesting territory and attract a mate. The female builds the nest on a horizontal branch; usually well away from the trunk. The nest is a compact cup of grass, plant fiber, feathers, and hair in a spider-web like frame, at varying heights from the ground. The outside of the nest is camouflaged with moss, bud scales, leaves, and lichen, and

often looks like a bump or knot on the branch. Typically, clutches are three eggs, but can be from two to four eggs. The female incubates the eggs for 14 to 15 days. Both parents help feed the young, which fledge at about 16 days, and leave the nest within three days of fledging.

#### Kool Facts

The Eastern and Western wood-pewees are very difficult to tell apart. Their breeding ranges overlap only in a very narrow zone in the Great Plains. Despite their similarity, no evidence has ever been found that the two species interbreed in that area.

Because of the difficulty of separating Eastern from Western wood-pewees, and because some records of wintering pewees, might include migrants, the exact wintering range of the Western Wood-Pewee is not precisely known. Best guess is mature tropical forest.

If called upon to defend its nest, the Western Wood-Pewee makes a clapping noise with its bill while chasing and attacking intruders.

The oldest recorded Western Wood-Pewee was a female, at least eight years, one month old when she was recaptured and released during a banding operation in California. •

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid April 1-30, 2017

### Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food for gold finches and many other small birds.

20lb. bag

**Sale \$44.99** Reg. \$49.99

### 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 Classic Wild Bird Seed

Attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix.

20lb. bag

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

### Old Ben's Oriole Food or Christmas Red Hummingbird Food

Blended to attract these beautiful birds. **Must buy 2 bags to get sale price, mix or match.**

16oz. package

**Sale 2 for \$10**

Reg. \$6.99 each

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

## New Varieties of Avocados Have Arrived

**Both stores have in a VERY limited supply of five new Avocados! Some we've never had before. These are on the small side but look very nice. Choose from Sharwil/Kona Sharwil, Queen, Nimlioh, Daily II, Hellen, and Ardhil. •**



## Garden Classes

## APRIL

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**

4/1

Hosting Garden Wildlife (Bees, Birds, Butterflies & More!)

4/8

Composting and Garden Soils

4/15

Fox Farms Amendments with our Friends from Fox Farms

4/22

The Benefits of Organic Gardening

4/29

THE Herb Class

**POWAY | 9:30AM**

4/1

Spring Rose Care

4/8

Children's Gardening: Little, Dirty Hands

4/15

No Class

4/22

Spring/Summer Veggies with Richard Wright

4/29

DIG Drip Workshop

Date to **Remember**

Both stores will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 16th.

**DIG Irrigation**  
Class Scheduled

Mark your calendar for April 29 and join the folks from DIG Corporation for an irrigation class at our Poway store. The two-hour class will begin at 9:30am. Attendance is limited; attendees will receive \$27 worth of irrigation products. You may RSVP by calling the Poway store at 858-513-4900. **Attendees Must RSVP.** •

## Don't Miss These New Arrivals



*Tulbaghia 'Himda'*  
by San Marcos Growers



*Tulbaghia 'Ashanti'*  
by San Marcos Growers

The Australian natives keep coming. We have a few more varieties of **Grevilleas** and **Osthams** than before. Both stores will also have some plants that we fell in love with and had grown especially for Walter Andersen Nursery. We hope you will enjoy these two varieties of Society Garlic, **Tulbaghia 'Ashanti'** (scentless and a larger variety) and **Tulbaghia 'Himda'** (a mild smelling Society Garlic). •

## 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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