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Watermelon Varieties To Try!

By Botanical Interests

Can you imagine summer without watermelons? If you plant now, you'll be harvesting for summer. Ideally, plant when soil is 60-85 degrees F, for early summer crop.

It can be tricky to know exactly when a watermelon is ripe and ready

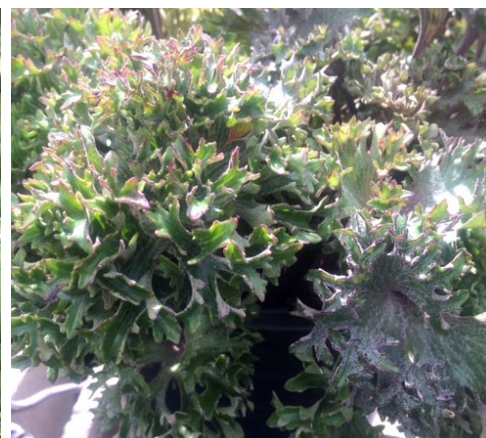
[continued p2](#)

Ligularia Are Very Likeable

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Ligularia giganteum



Ligularia tussilaginea 'Shishi Botan'

Ligularia are shade loving plants that are easy to grow, and they thrive in our area. They are grown mostly for their foliage, but they also send up large spikes with yellow daisy-like flowers. The bloom stalks can reach 3' tall with many blooms on each spike. The glossy bright green foliage almost looks like it has been polished. Leaves often reach

10" in diameter. They like rich, humus-like soils which should be kept moist. If the soil gets a little dry, the leaf stalks will wilt and make it easy to see when they need water. They make wonderful container plants. If you live within a couple miles of the coast, half day sun should be fine although morning sun, afternoon shade would be best.

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History Of WAN: City Directory Would Be A Privacy Nightmare!

By Ken Andersen

Fifth in the series. Read all the articles starting with the December, 2017 newsletter at www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters.

As part of our ongoing articles about the history of the company, here is one that would be a privacy advocate's nightmare!

R. L. Polk Publishing used to print the City Directory every year for the city of San Diego. This massive volume is four inches thick and is much, much more than a phone book. Up until the

mid 1980s these directories were used extensively at the nursery. In addition to an advertising section, the book contained three different directories arranged alphabetically by name, street address, and phone number. Our delivery drivers used the street directory to pin down addresses on hard to find streets. For example, in Point Loma, Clove Street is broken into sections by canyons. Knowing which section an address was located in saved time by allowing the drivers to make a direct

[continued p3](#)

Ligularia continued from p1

Look For These Varieties:

Ligularia tussilaginea 'Shishi Botan'

is kind of an unusual variety of the family. It is dwarf sized, reaching 12" tall, and 16" to 18" wide. The leaves are very cut and frilly; it resembles a giant form of parsley if you can imagine that. Thick and compact, it should be planted in an area that gets shade most of the day. It can make a very interesting container plant, or mix it in with some low growing ferns or bedding begonias. Fertilize with a general purpose plant food like E.B. Stone General Purpose Plant Food once a month from spring to fall. This variety will send up bloom spikes in late summer to fall with bright yellow daisy-like blooms. Protect them from heavy frost in winter.

Ligularia tussilaginea 'Argentea' is a showy variegated form. The plant has round leaves to perhaps 7" to 9" in diameter with almost pure white variegation in the foliage. The foliage pattern sets it apart from most other Ligularia. This variety is super easy to grow. Amend the soil when planting because they like a rich soil. Like the above mentioned plant, you'll have daisy-like blooms from summer to fall. This variety would prefer growing in



Ligularia tussilaginea 'Argentea'

full shade, and once again, keep the soil moist.

Ligularia giganteum is sometimes sold as **Farfugium japonicum**. It's a wonderful plant for shaded areas. This variety has HUGE leaves that can reach 10" or more in diameter. The plant itself tops out at about 2' tall. Plant in soil that is rich in humus or organic material such as Sunshine Planter mix (mixed 50/50 with your soil). This variety is the more common of the ligularias and prefers mostly shaded areas. If you live within a mile of the coast they do well in sun. Ideally, provide morning sun and afternoon shade. In spring and summer they send up very showy yellow daisy-like bloom spikes to almost 3' tall. •

Watermelon

continued from p1

to pick. First, know the number of days to harvest and begin checking fruits as the harvest date draws closer. Signs to look for are: (1) the bottom of the melon (where it lies on the soil) turns from light green to a yellowish color; (2) the surface color of the fruit turns dull; (3) the skin becomes resistant to penetration by the thumbnail and is less smooth to the touch; and (4) the light green, curly tendril on the stem near the point of attachment of the melon is brown and dry. All of these indicators may not necessarily occur at the same time.

There are some wonderful varieties to choose from such as **Crimson Sweet** (an heirloom), **Sugar Baby**, **Mickylee** (grows 8-10" to fit in your icebox) and **Mountain Sweet Yellow** (colorful, very sweet yellow fruit) from Botanical Interests. Available from Renee's Garden Seeds is Heirloom 'Icebox' Doll Babies which will grow to be a pinky-red or yellow fruit. •



Recipe

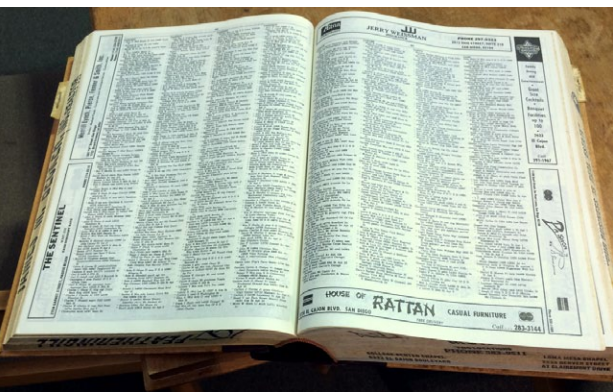
Apricot Amaretto Cookies

Apricot Amaretto Cookies
 Preheat oven to 375°
 1 Cup Flour
 1 tsp Baking Soda
 2 1/2 Cups Oats
 1 1/4 Cups Snipped dried apricots
 3/4 Cup finely chopped almonds
 1 Cup butter, room temp.
 3/4 Cup brown sugar
 1/2 Cup Sugar
 1 egg
 1 TBSP Amaretto
 (I forgot to say I chill the dough for 30 min to an hour)
 Stir flour & baking soda together in a small bowl.
 In a large bowl beat butter till softened.
 Add sugars, beat till fluffy. Add egg & Amaretto. beat well. Add flour mixture, beat till well mixed.
 Stir in oats, apricots & almonds. Drop by rounded TBSP onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° 8-10 min. Cool on cookie sheet for 15 min.



It was a happy day at the nursery when a family favorite recipe for a granola-like cookie came our way. First, the cookies came from one of our plant vendors, Dan Mojonnier. The treats were so delicious that we begged for the recipe and they graciously shared it. The recipe was from Mrs. Mojonnier's mother (Carolyn Zandler) and they photocopied the one written in her hand. Our thanks to the family for allowing us to share it with you. •

History of WAN: City Directory continued from p1



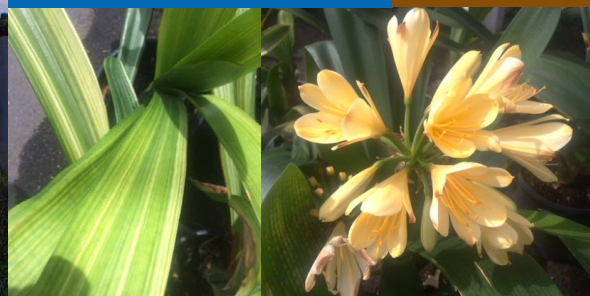
These directories listed almost every person, business, address, and phone number of everyone residing in the city limits. The retail value of these directories is listed at \$100 which in today's dollars is over \$1300! The nursery received a new one each year. This must have been a monumental project to produce each year. Production of these directories ended in the 1980s. The last one we have is dated 1984. The one in the photo

route without having to check each of the segments. The office staff (where the directories resided) often used the alphabetical listing to find customers' phone numbers or home addresses. More rarely used, the phone number directory could be used to look up a customer's name or address via their phone number.

is dated 1972 and I have one from 1927 in my personal collection. Looking through the advertisers is a who's who of San Diego businesses. Many long standing companies that are no longer in business are on the pages throughout the book. It certainly was a different time and era and the way personal information was handled has changed dramatically. •



Words From Walter



Clivia By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Clivia miniata are wonderful plants from South Africa. They are very showy when in bloom with trumpet-shaped yellow or deep orange colored flowers. There are some new hybrids with stunning apricot shades, however, they are harder to find. The first true yellow variety I saw was about 30 years ago and they were super expensive. Some catalogs with collector plants were charging several hundred dollars for a small division.

The large strap-like foliage is pretty just on its own and is evergreen. Leaves are long and semi-glossy. There are some variegated varieties with foliage

striped yellow to almost white.

Clivia are easy to grow and should be planted in mostly shade to look their best. They tolerate temperatures down into the low 30s. If temperatures in your area are expected to dip lower than that, just cover them with a frost blanket. Clivia prefer soil with lots of organic matter and the soil should not get dry. Fertilize with Azalea and Camellia plant food about every two months to keep them looking their best. They don't attract many pests, but keep an eye out for snails. They make great container plants. •

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 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. •



19th Annual Poway **ROSE SHOW**

APRIL 28-29, 2018

Entry Registration:

April 28 > 8am-10:30am

Judging:

April 28 > 11am-1pm

Hours:

April 28 > 1pm-5pm

April 29 > 9am-4pm

Poway Location:

12755 Danielson Court



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY

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





Old Ben: Fun Facts About Hummingbirds

By Old Ben



A hummingbird's brilliant throat color is not caused by feather pigmentation, but by iridescence in the arrangement of the feathers

Hummingbirds cannot walk or hop, though their feet can be used to scoot sideways while they are perched.

Hummingbirds have 1,000 to 1500 feathers, the fewest number of feathers of any bird species in the world.

The average ruby throated hummingbird weighs three grams. In comparison a nickel weighs 4.5 grams. It would take more than 150 ruby throated hummingbirds to weigh one pound.

Approximately 25 to 30 percent of a hummingbird's weight is in its pectoral muscles. These are the broad chest muscles responsible for flight.

Maximum forward flight speed is 30 miles per hour for hummingbirds. Hummingbirds can reach up to 60 miles per hour in a dive.

Of all birds, hummingbirds lay the smallest eggs. Their eggs measure about one-half inch long. A hummingbird egg is smaller than a jelly bean.

Hummingbirds must consume about one-half of their weight in sugar daily. The average hummingbird feeds five to eight times per hour. They also eat many small insects and spiders, and sip tree sap or juice from broken fruit.

Hummingbird wings beat between 50 and 200 flaps per second depending on the direction of flight, the purpose of their flight and surrounding air conditions.

Average heart rate for hummingbirds is 1,200 beats per minute.

A resting hummingbird takes 250 breaths per minute. Their breathing

pace will increase when they are flying.

Hummingbirds have no sense of smell but have very keen eyesight.

The average life span of a wild hummingbird is three to 12 years.

Hummingbirds digest natural sucrose, the sugar found in floral nectar, in 20 minutes with 97 percent efficiency.

Despite their size, hummingbirds are one of the most aggressive bird species. They will regularly attack jays, crows and hawks that infringe on their territory.

Peak migration time for hummingbirds is from mid July through August or early September. Species that nest further north will begin migration earlier.

Hummingbirds are native species of the new world and are not naturally found outside of the western hemisphere. Hummingbirds are not found in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia or Antarctica.

There are more than 325 hummingbird species in the world. Only eight species regularly breed in the United States. Up to two dozen species may visit our country or be reported as regular vagrants. The rest of the hummingbirds are tropical species and do not regularly migrate. Hummingbirds are found in Central and South America as well as throughout the Caribbean. •



Ask Old Ben!

Ask Old Ben questions about birds, show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences emailing him at: askoldben@aol.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 Specials

Valid April 2-30, 2018

Old Ben's Spring Wild Bird Seed Sale!

Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

A very popular blend in a 25lb. bag. Many other wild birds love this blend.

25lb. bag
Sale \$19.99 Reg. \$24.99

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 pests.

20lb. bag
Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

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 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

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

Wistful For Wisteria

By Kate Karam, Monrovia



Drenched in fragrance and draped languorously over a fence or pergola, wisteria is a beguiling charmer with the power to hypnotize. It's long-lived, too. It's not unusual to see a specimen that's at least 50 years old. All of that said, wisteria is easily controlled (and flowering is encouraged) by regular pruning.

Keeping Wisteria Happy: If you have plenty of sun, lots of room, sharp pruners, and a very sturdy support, wisteria is not a difficult plant to grow.

- Grafted plants are more likely to ensure blooms within the first three years.
- Provide heavy-duty support such as a sturdy trellis or arbor.
- Six hours of full, direct sun will yield best bloom.
- Provide good drainage and a slightly alkaline soil.
- Protect from strong winds which can damage flower buds.
- Give it plenty of water when in bloom.
- Avoid feeding with high-nitrogen fertilizer as this is likely to produce plenty of leaves, but fewer flowers.
- Wisteria can live a long, healthy life with no pruning at all, happily twining, climbing, and sprawling. To control size, prune in winter, and if desired, again in summer. •



Do You Have An Easter Lily?



Did you purchase an Easter lily, one of the most recognized symbols of Easter?

Native to Japan's Ryukyu Islands, it was discovered by British plant expert, Carl Peter Thunberg. Sent to England in 1819, the lilies made their way to Bermuda in the mid 1800s as a commercial crop, where it was known as "Bermuda Lily." When the entire lily crop was destroyed by a virus Japan became the only location where the lily was grown.

Louis Houghton, an American WWI soldier allegedly smuggled a suitcase of lily bulbs to Oregon in 1919. As a result of the war, Japan wasn't able to supply the lily bulbs to the US anymore and prices increased. Today, the California-Oregon border is known as the "Easter Lily Capital of the World," growing more than 95% of all the Easter Lilies in the world.

The flower symbolizes purity, virtue, hope and life. Christians believe that the lilies emerged where Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of life. The flower bulbs, which should be buried, were said to represent the tomb of Jesus and the showy trumpet-shaped flowers symbolize the resurrection. •

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/.

SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

4/7

Spring is for Tomatoes

4/14

Made in the Shade:
Ferns & Shade Plants

4/21

Peppers, Chilies & Salsa:
Marco's Back!!!

4/28

How to Host Hummers
& Butterflies**POWAY | 9:30AM**

4/7

Bonsai Workshop
(\$20 Must RSVP to 858-513-4900.
Limited to 15 attendees!)

4/14

Vegetables, Flowers, & Herbs:
Production for the Home Gardener
with Brijette from San Diego Seed

4/21

So Much Beauty, So Little Water!
with Wendy Proud from Mountain
States Wholesale Nursery

4/28

19th Annual Rose Show!!!

Date To Remember!

Both stores will be closed
April 1 for Easter.



Bonsai Workshop Class



Join our **Bonsai Workshop** at our Poway location on Saturday, April 7th. Fee is \$20 which includes a Mini Ragu Bay tree, soil, and instruction. Bring your own pot, or purchase one prior to class. Must RSVP to 858-513-4900 and prepay. Limited to 15 attendees. •



April Specials *Valid April 2-30, 2018*

90th Anniversary Specials!



Your Choice

Stainless Steel Herb & Floral Snips

or

Bond 2-Piece Shear Set

\$9.00 each

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



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Visit Our 2 Locations

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