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San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

MAY 2015

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WAN Exhibit At Coronado Flower Show



Once again, we were an exhibitor at the Coronado Flower Show. This year, NO roses were used in the display. Instead, we showcased drought-tolerant plants such as Kangaroo Paws and succulents.

Grow Strawberries

By Chuck McClung



SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

People often come into the nursery and ask, "So what's the best strawberry variety"? I always respond, somewhat humorously, but definitely truthfully, "Any strawberry variety you grow yourself will be better than anything you buy in the store."

General Care

Strawberries are pretty easy to grow. They do not require tons of water, they are not deep rooted, and they grow well in pots. Before planting, amend your soil with Soil Building Compost or the Big Harvest Bale. In pots, use

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Saving The Monarch By Botanical Interests

There has been a 90% drop in the population of the Monarch butterfly in the U.S. over the past 20 years, but there is something gardeners can do to counter their demise.

We all recognize the iconic Monarch butterfly with its majestic orange and black wings. Butterflies are more than just beautiful; they are beneficial to the environment and to your garden. Butterflies pollinate about one-third of the plants that produce the food that we eat. They flutter from plant to plant drinking nectar, and as they



continued p3



Grow Strawberries continued from p1

Edna's Best Potting Soil. Plant crowns right at the soil level. If planted shallow, plants dry out quickly; if planted deep, the crowns stay wet and rot.

Heavy feeding results in lots of vegetative growth with less fruit and more runners. Use organic, slow-release fertilizers like the Dr. Earth Tomato, Herb, Vegetable Food.

Snails and slugs are your biggest concern once plants start fruiting. Birds will occasionally peck at ripe strawberries too, so be ready to harvest once plants start producing.

Strawberry Pots

The classic strawberry pots remain as popular as ever. The challenge is keeping the strawberry pot adequately watered, because water can flow out the pockets in the side.

One trick I learned years ago is to get a piece of 1" PVC pipe as long as the height of the pot. Cap one end, and drill 1/4" holes all over the pipe. As you plant your strawberry pot, position the pipe in the center of the pot. Once planted, water the pipe, and the pot gets watered from the inside out! Neat!

Varieties: June-Bearing vs. Ever-Bearing

'June Bearing' varieties produce a mass of fruit over a short period during spring, some earlier, and some later. 'Ever-bearing' varieties produce less fruit at one time, but over a much longer period, often into fall. JuneBearing varieties typically grow more vigorously with more runners than ever-bearing varieties.

Strawberry Varieties

'Albion' Ever-bearing; robust grower; more disease resistant; large deep red fruit and excellent flavor.

'Camarosa' June-bearing; large, very firm, flat-shaped fruit.

'Chandler' Vigorous, June-bearing variety; medium to large-sized fruit; very popular with commercial growers.

'Quinault' The best ever-bearing variety for containers and hanging baskets; fruits on un-rooted runners; very large fruit with excellent, sweet flavor.

'San Andreas' More heat-tolerant than most varieties; large, narrow-shaped fruit.

'Seascape' Ever-bearing; sweet, very red, medium- to large-sized fruit; heat and salt tolerant.

'Sequoia' June-bearing; large dark red fruit; can act ever-bearing in our mild climate.

'Temptation' Runner-less, ever-bearing variety; large fruit; great for small spaces.

Alpine Strawberries have very small sweetly, exquisite, aromatic fruit. 'Pineapple Crush' and 'Yellow Wonder' have yellow fruits.

Don't miss the class on growing strawberries on May 9 at our San Diego store. Classs begins at 9am. •





Better Understanding GMOS By Ken Andersen

There is a tremendous amount of talk these days about genetically modified organisms (GMO) as it relates to fruits and vegetables. The fact is humans, plants, and animals themselves to some extent, have been genetically modifying organisms for thousands of years. Technically, every hybrid genetically modifies the organism's DNA thus creating the new organism. Today, it seems that the actual splicing of DNA is what concerns some people the most.

There are vehement believers in both sides of the subject and both sides make some good points. A while back, when we started getting more questions, I reached out to the San Diego County Department of Agriculture to see if they had any information on GMOs that we could share with our patrons. I was told there was none. However, they did refer me to a professor at UC Riverside, Dr. Alan McHughen, who was knowledgeable. Dr. McHughen has worked in the field for many years and knows the subject inside and out. He referred me to his book. Pandora's Picnic Basket: The Potential Hazards of Genetically Modified Foods. Don't let the name fool you, this book is not a doom and gloom book about GMOs but rather a very objective treatise on

Saving The Monarch continued from p1

move, they take pollen with them. The pollen is deposited on other plants, helping with the continuation and growth of many plant species. The presence of butterflies also signals a healthy environment. Because they are sensitive to pesticides, chances are that if you have butterflies present, then other beneficial insects like ladybugs and bees, will



be present as well. That's good for the overall life and health of your garden!

Unfortunately, the butterfly we all know and love is losing its habitat, specifically milkweed, to modern farming methods and population development. The Monarchs are the only North American butterflies that make a 3,000-mile migration to Mexico and California for the winter, taking 6-8 generations to complete the journey. The fragmentation of milkweed in their migratory path is significant because milkweed is the only host plant where Monarchs lay their eggs, and the sole food source for their larvae. With fewer host plants, their population is suffering as a result. Their population decline is so significant that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing to determine if the butterfly should be classified as "threatened" under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

As home gardeners, we can help to replenish the butterfly habitat by growing milkweed/butterfly flower from seeds or established plants. Let's make it a goal to have a butterfly flower in every garden! •

GMOS continued from p2

the subject addressing both sides of the issue. The reader, once armed with the facts in the case, is free to make up their own mind about which direction they would like to go in regards to GMOs. I recently read it and found it fascinating.

For those of you that prefer to not have GMOs in your garden, rest assured we can help. As it turns out there are no GMO fruits or vegetables (aside from natural or manmade hybrids made through sexual reproduction of plants) in the retail market. As a matter of fact, there are few fruits and vegetables that ARE GMOs certified for use in the U.S., mostly corn and soy beans. Our three primary vegetable seed suppliers, Lake Valley, Botanical Interests, and Renee's Garden Seeds are GMO free, and many are certified organic. Stop in either store to see the great selection.

I highly recommend the book, regardless of your thoughts on the subject. I learned a great deal about the subject and have a much better understanding of the issue. You can easily find it on Amazon: Pandora's Picnic Basket. •

Growing Basil From Seed Is Easy

By Botanical Interests

Aromatic. Spicy. Versatile. Downright addictive. That's what we say about the incredible herb, basil. Whether you're making pesto or tea, Italian or Thai food, basil is so easy to grow at home, that you can always have some on hand.

Basil is a great companion plant for tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers, and can be grown in a container with other herbs indoors or outdoors. It is a bit of a misnomer that basil is hard to grow from seed—that couldn't be more untrue! It is very frost-sensitive and when grown in the garden outside, prefers 70 degree F soil temperatures; sowing too early results in slow and much delayed emergence. A sunny location in well-drained, rich soil with ample moisture will keep it very happy. Pinch off basil's flower buds and prune your plants every two to three weeks for better tasting and bushier plants. If grown indoors in a pot, give the plant a minimum of four hours of bright light, and a location away from drafts. If your basil is sown outside, make sure you do your final harvest before the first frost and pull the whole plant out of the ground or harvest individual leaves.

Basil's uses are as diverse as their flavors. Some varieties, such as Purple Petra, are used as attractive ornamentals in the summer landscape, and others, like Thai and Tulsi, add interest (and fragrance) to cut flower arrangements. Basil is also thought to have many health-promoting properties and is full of essential vitamins such as K and A, minerals, and other nutrients.



Editor's Note: In seed, find these varieties: Custom Blend, Dolce Vita Blend, Greek Yevani, Tulsi, Italian Genovese, Italian Large Leaf, Lemon Rs. Burns, Napoletano, Purple Petra, and Siam Queen.

Wee Corner: Miniature Plant Care Tips

By Ken Andersen



Mini Garden Fairy Farm

After a few years of being dormant, fairy gardens are back in style and it seems like there are more accessories than ever with which to design miniature landscapes. You can find doors, paving stones, ponds, furniture, and garden accents/décor. Choosing plants goes hand in hand with selecting accessories, but may require more consideration as they will need to be maintained.

Plants for miniature gardens require much the same care as larger plants but some extra care will improve your success with them.

Follow These Tips:

Group Plants if Possible

They are usually planted in smaller pots which dry out quickly. If you can, group miniature plants together in larger plantings with good soil, rather than leaving them in tiny pots which leave them more exposed to wind and drought.

Watch for Sunburn & Heat Exposure

Make sure miniature plants do not suffer sunburn or too much heat exposure if they are put on window sills or where they receive strong sunlight.

Fertilize Lightly

Miniature plants may have limited growth and will not require extra fertilizer if they are planted in good soil. If left in their original pots and soil, you may want to add diluted soluble fertilizer once a week when you water, or sprinkle the soil surface with a few pellets of a slow release fertilizer formulated for flowering plants.

Watch for Insects

The size of miniature plants means they can be infested quickly by insects such as aphids, so make sure you inspect them often and head off insects when you first see them. The occasional wash with an insectidal soap will help.



Plant Suggestions For Your Fairy Garden

For ground cover, try Baby Tears, Roman 'Lawn' Chamomile, Corsican Mint, Mecardonia 'Gold Dust', Irish & Scotch Moss, Isotoma 'Blue Star Creeper', Leptinella, small leaf Sedums, Elfin Thyme and Woolly Thyme.

Taller plants that act as miniature shrubs for a fairy landscape include: Alyssum, Armeria, 'Boxwood Basil', 'Spicy Globe' Basil, dwarf Curry, Erodium reichardii, Lobelia, Marjoram, Oregano, Primula malacoides 'Fairy Primrose', Santolina, thymes and sedums.

You can even use vines in your fairy garden, although you will need to keep them trimmed. Look for Pink Jasmine, Mecardonia 'Gold Dust' and Star Jasmine.

TO DO LIST: May

CONSERVE WATER

Mulch under and around plants and open areas with decorative bark to reduce evaporation from irrigation. Water in the early morning or cooler evenings to reduce evaporation. Consider replacing sprinklers with drip irrigation. We sell easy-to-use conversion products.

FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for fall fescue, and Hi-Yield Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds. Feed ornamentals with Gro-Power. 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

Watch for insects beginning to invade the garden. Pay close attention to Aphids, Whitefly and Scale. Use systemic controls from Bayer for longest control. Watch for slug and snail damage and apply Sluggo or Sluggo Plus as needed.

PLANT

Bedding plants for color such as Marigolds, Zinnias, and Petunias. Trees, shrubs, fruit trees, tropicals, and roses.

LOOK FOR

Roses, Ceanothus, Viburnum, Fuchsias, Wisteria, and Dipladenia. •

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY'S OWN



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

Benefits Of Backyard Birds

By Old Ben



It can be a lot of work to attract birds; but doing so can offer many benefits beyond just enjoying backyard visitors.

Birds are part of the local ecosystem, and attracting them to your yard means planting bird-friendly landscaping, adding fresh water to the yard, and choosing the best bird feeders and bird houses. If you do these things, you will enjoy many benefits.

Pest Control

Many birds eat a variety of insects, including aphids, mosquitoes, spiders, and many other bugs that are not welcome in a yard or garden. Attracting birds encourages them to take advantage of the natural food source.

Flower Pollination

Hummingbirds, orioles, and other birds that sip nectar are efficient pollinators of garden flowers. This can give flowerbeds an added color boost from extra blooms, which will in turn attract even more birds.

Weed Control

Finches, towhees and sparrows consume large quantities of weed seeds, making them effective landscapers to help control unwanted plants. Planting seed bearing flowers can also give them a natural food source to enjoy without needing frequent feeder refills.

Environmental Conservation

Bird friendly landscaping makes use of native plants. Native plants use less water and are more resistant to diseases, making them better for the local ecosystem and requiring less effort to maintain.

Increased Property Values

A home that is well-maintained with appropriate native landscaping that attracts birds, have better curb appeal and value for homeowners.

Education

Observing backyard birds is a unique opportunity to study local wildlife. Attracting birds all year round gives backyard birders the chance to see plumage changes, courtship behavior, and nesting. This is also a great way to introduce children to wildlife enjoyment and appreciation.

Wildlife Conservation

As more habitats become threatened through development, attracting backyard birds provides a critical oasis for birds and wildlife conservation, both for local species and migrating birds. This helps preserve birds both in the yard and in the larger local environment.

Stress Relief

Watching birds, interacting with them, listening to their songs and taking the time to work outdoors to improve their habitat, can help relieve stress and promote well being.

For many backyard birders, the best benefit of attracting birds is simply being able to enjoy them, but attracting them with proper landscaping and attentive care can lead to a range of other benefits that make enjoying the birds even more exciting and productive.

Old Ben's Specials

Jarden Ola



Valid May 1-31, 2015

Introducing Old Ben's Hummingbird & Oriole Kits

Everything you need in one package—feeder, food, ant barrier & cleaning brush.

Hummingbird or Oriole Kit \$19.97 Reg. \$29.99

1950s Fashion Feeder *NEW* patterns & shapes!

\$19.97 Reg. \$34.99

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. \$24.97 Reg. \$42.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Attracts a variety of wild birds. Premium wild bird mix with *No Fillers*.

20lb. \$16.97 Reg. \$31.99

Window Feeder

Watch birds feed at your window! **\$19.97** Reg. \$34.99

Spray Millet

Grown on the Sacramento Delta. *Seven millet sprays per bag*. A super treat for wild & domestic birds.

\$7.97 Reg. \$10.99

Hanging Multi-Purpose Bowl

Ideal for water, jelly, mealworms, peanut nuggets, fruit & more.

\$9.97 Reg. \$14.99

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



2015

🕻 MAY 17th

9am–4pm

Walter Andersen Nursery

MAY 16th

1pm–5pm

05.15 Walter Andersen Nursery Garden Stalk

PREP CLASS May 9: 9:30am REGISTRATION May 16: 8am–10:30am JUDGING May 16: 11am-1pm LOCATION 12755 Danielson Court Poway | 858-513-4900

HOSTED BY

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

Garden Classes

MAY

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 | 9:00AM5/2Tropical Plants5/9Strawberries: Garden to Harvest5/16The Compost Class:Everything You Need to Know5/23Where the Wild Things Are:Unusual Plants for Home Gardens5/30Garden Trends Now!

POWAY | 9:30AM

5/2 Rose Care Made Easy w/David Ross

5/9 Pumpkins, Melons, Squash & Heat Loving Veggies w/Richard Wright also Rose Show Prep Class

5/16 & 17

Rose Show!

5/23

Flower Arrangements from Your Yard

> 5/30 Summer Flowers

May In-Store Specials!

Valid May 1-31, 2015





Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Hedge Fund\$ certificates do apply.

Look for In-Store Specials while Shopping at WAN! Selections will vary by store.

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**

Dates To Remember

May 10: Mother's Day Shop both stores for plants, gift items, or gift cards.

May 16-17: Poway Rose Show At our Poway location. Bring your prize-winning roses and show them at the Show! No cost to enter. See the rose show schedule at www.walterandersen.com/pdf/ roseshowschedule.pdf.



May 31: Pet Adoption Event The Poway store will hold a Pet Adoption Event with the San Diego Humane Society. If you are looking for a furever friend, come see us. Pets will be at the store from 10am-1pm. A similar event will be held at the San Diego store and is tentatively scheduled for September. •



Walter Andersen Nursery™

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