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It's Fair Time



You can feel summer quickly approaching and we've been busy working on our exhibit for the San Diego County Fair. The fair opens early this year, June 3 with the theme, 'Mad about the Fair'. We anticipate you'll see a lot of references to Alice in Wonderland this year, given the theme. Walter Andersen Nursery is the longest running exhibitor at the fair. This year, we've worked with Advanced Waterscapes to install a water feature, and found some wacky features that you might see if you fell down a rabbit hole. Look for our display and have fun at the fair. •

Nasturtiums Are Hardy And Memorable

By Botanical Interests & Melanie Potter



I have a very fond memory from years ago of my son coming home from preschool with a nasturtium planted in a Dixie cup. The kids had a ball planting them and bringing home a blooming flower for their parents. Knowing it would have a short lifespan in the waxed paper cup, we replanted it in a big, empty planter. Who knew there was a green thumb amongst our

brown ones? Before we knew it, the nasturtium had taken over the planter where it continued to grow for many years.

When the popular seed company Botanical Interests distributed an email reminding nurseries of the wonderful qualities of nasturtiums, I immediately recalled that lovely memory. I think it

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Good News From Gro-Power

By Ken Andersen

It is finally back! Gro-Power has reintroduced their All Organic Soil Conditioner under a new label; Gro-Power Soil Conditioner 75/20. After being taken off the market to clear up some labeling issues with the state, we are happy to have it back.

This product is 75% humus, 20% humic acid, and 5% kelp. Although not a fertilizer, this outstanding addition to your soil acts as a catalyst, helping the beneficial microbes in your soil make nutrients available to your plants. Just



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Nasturtiums continued from p1

is worth sharing and hope it serves as an inspiration to plant something fun with your little ones.

Did you know that all parts of nasturtiums are edible? The leaves can be used as a peppery substitute for watercress in salads and on sandwiches; the flowers make a gorgeous edible garnish for salads, hors d'oeuvres trays, and fruit salads; and unripe nasturtium seeds can be pickled and used as a substitute for capers. Beauty and taste! Nasturtiums are also fairly drought tolerant once established and deter both rabbits and deer. They are perennial in many areas of San Diego

County and reseed freely. TIP: Blooms heaviest in cool weather; heat may pause bloom production.

If you grow them from seed, sow outside one to two weeks after average last frost. In very hot summer regions, sow in fall for winter bloom. Ideal soil temperature for germination is 55 - 65 degrees F. Soaking seeds in water for 12 to 24 hours aids germination. Nasturtiums require darkness to germinate so be sure to sow them at the recommended depth of 1/2".

You can also grow them from seedlings and they are available at both stores now. •

Gro-Power continued from p1

adding it to existing soil helps free up nutrients and will stimulate new growth on your plants or lawn. Also, mix a handful or two in the bottom of the hole when planting new plants or preparing a new planting bed. When used in conjunction with regular applications of Gro-Power, it can really make a difference in the health, vigor and over all good looks of your plants! Stop by and pick up a bag and see the difference for yourself! [See page 7](#) of the newsletter for special savings! •

Your Summer Preview Is Here

By Melanie Potter

Loads of good things happen in summer and it's fun to anticipate the activities that will increase the enjoyment of the season. That said, we have a couple of summer blockbusters to share with you.

Brakelights® Red Yucca

(Hesperaloe parviflora 'Perpa' P.P.A.F. Brakelights®)

It's a compact new color selection of Hesperaloe parviflora. The vibrant, brake-light red flowers are a wonderful contrast and improvement to the standard form, which tends to be pinker or salmon colored. Its long bloom season and attractive gray-green foliage is striking in containers or massed into groups. It's a compact grower reaching two feet tall. It needs good drainage and is very drought-tolerant. Does not set seed, resulting in a longer bloom period. Use in xeriscape and waterwise gardens, it's also a good container specimen.



Royal Hawaiian®
Black Coral
Elephant Ear
(above)
& Brakelights®
Red Yucca (left)
by Monrovia

Royal Hawaiian® Black Coral Elephant Ear (Colocasia esculenta 'Black Coral' P.P.A.F.)

Large striking, glossy, jet-black foliage contrasts spectacularly with bright-colored plants. Spreads freely in rich, wet soils; more slowly in dry, clay soil. It adds bold color and tropical flair to any garden. It will reach 36-48" tall and wide. Plant in filtered to full sun. •



Lemon or Lime?

By Ken Andersen

Now is the time of year when we have customers bringing in lemons that look like they have blossom end rot.

We have a couple diagnoses for them. First, the funny thing is that they usually aren't lemons but Bearss limes! Secondly, they have been ripening on the tree for so long they turn yellow and start to rot from the end!

Moral of the story, make sure your lemon is actually a lime and pick them before they turn yellow. If you actually do have a lemon tree, make sure you wait to harvest after they have turned yellow! •



Old Ben: Refilling Your Bird Feeders

By Old Ben



Over the years I have been asked many times, "How often should I refill my bird feeders?" The answer might sound simple, but below are some answers that might surprise you.

Many things affect the amount of time it takes for a feeder to become empty, such as:

Feeder size and capacity, type of food offered, number of backyard birds feeding, feeder style, backyard safety that affects feeding birds, weather patterns and feeding times.

It may take just a few hours for a feeder to be emptied as explained in this scenario. Imagine a small feeder with a popular food (for example, hulled sunflower chips) that is accessible to many birds and is filled when birds really need the meal, such as before a storm or during the busy breeding season. But on the other hand, if a higher capacity feeder with a very selective style offering a specialized food, (such as a mesh sock offering Nyger), that is refilled during a quiet time of day, it could be several days or longer before it becomes empty.

Refilling is also a matter of preference. You can refill your feeders frequently or sporadically. Some people refill their feeders multiple times per day (especially during the nesting season), many do it once a week, still others refill them once a month. If you can't decide how often you should be refilling your



feeders, check out these three feeding schedules you can implement to see which best fits your lifestyle.

Refill When Food Gets Low

Probably the most popular method of refilling feeders is to wait until the seed gets low. This does require monitoring.

Refilling feeders before they get empty creates a reliable food source for your birds. This means there will never be a point when birds look elsewhere for food. It also means that food will almost always be fresh. By waiting until it's almost empty, you ensure that old seed doesn't stay in the feeder too long.

Set Up a Scheduled Date

One sure fire way you will remember to refill your feeders is to do it on a certain day. The downside of this method is that sometimes (especially during nesting and migration) your feeder will become empty much quicker. If you have a large capacity feeder and you normally refill on the first of every month, you may have to adjust. The opposite goes for those times when birds aren't coming around very often.

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Old Ben's Specials

Valid June 1-30, 2016

Old Ben's Special Purchase

Hummingbird & Butterfly Garden Seed Mixture

GMO free. Package contains over 20 different varieties. Will cover approximately 30 sq. feet.

7.4 grams \$1.97 Reg. \$4.95

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

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

20lb. \$15.97 Reg. \$31.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The best seed for attracting Goldfinches and other wild birds.

25lb. \$39.97 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's Economy Seed Blend

A blend that will attract doves, sparrows and other birds.

20lb. \$9.97 Reg. \$17.99

Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

Specially blended to attract these and other ground feeding birds.

5lb. 2 for \$10

Reg. \$8.99 ea.

Must buy 2 to get sale price.

Finch Sock Closeout!

While Quantities Last. Lowest Prices Ever.

Small \$1.97 Reg. \$5.99

Large \$3.47 Reg. \$8.99

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

There's Blooming Beauty in Them Thar Hills

By Melanie Potter



California Sunflower '*Encelia californica*'

This time of year I get tremendous enjoyment from walking around the back yard to see what's blooming, what needs harvesting, and what's coming up. However, taking a walk on the wild side, and by that I mean long walks at Lake Miramar or hiking local trails has me appreciating what Mother Nature and a little rain have accomplished.

The trails and hillsides are alive with color, for now, so I thought it would be a perfect time to pay homage to what is growing wild. I did the hiking and photographing then turned to Shirley in our Poway store to identify my finds. She's right for that task because she's an outdoorsy, nature loving gal who worked for the Wildlife Research Institute and the Western Tracking Institute.

Here is a smattering of what we found!
Editor's Note: some plants may not be available.

Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)

This highly aromatic, evergreen shrub is native to California, and Baja California. The flowers are usually a pale blue or lavender color.

Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)

Tiny flowers appear in dense, frilly clusters. Each individual flower is pink and white. This is a common shrub native

to the southwestern United States, California, and northwestern Mexico.

California Sunflower (*Encelia californica*)

A species of flowering plant in the daisy family known by the common name California brittlebush. It blooms from February to June, and attracts butterflies, bees, and other insects.

Miner's Lettuce (*Claytonia*)

Shirley was quite excited to see this plant as she said it is rare to find the red coloring; bright green is most usually spotted. It's a fleshy annual plant native to the western mountain and coastal regions of North America from southernmost Alaska and central British Columbia south to Central America, but most common in California in the Sacramento and northern San Joaquin valleys. Shirley swears it is edible. The common name Miner's Lettuce refers to its use by California Gold Rush miners who ate it to get their vitamin C to prevent scurvy. However, we don't just willy nilly advocate foraging, believing that finding meals in the wild takes experience and knowledge.

Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

This California native plant is an aromatic, evergreen shrub that typically grows 8 to 10 feet tall, sometimes taller and near the coast shorter, with a



Black Sage '*Salvia mellifera*'



Buckwheat '*Eriogonum fasciculatum*'



Miner's Lettuce '*Claytonia*'

stout, short trunk and many spreading branches. The leaves are mid to dark green with a leathery texture, with a margin that usually has small sharp

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Old Ben continued from p3

Leave Feeders Empty for a Few Days

You have probably heard people say you should never let feeders go empty. Not only does this encourage birds to go elsewhere but it also takes away a valuable source of food that your backyard birds depend on. So why is leaving feeders empty for a few days before refilling them fine? First, birds will not starve. Unless it's in the dead of winter when food becomes scarce, birds typically use feeders to supplement their diet. This method is appealing to some people who can't afford to feed birds all the time. Feeding birds is fun and rewarding, but it can be very pricey. There is no shame in not refilling feeders constantly. This also makes cleaning easier because there is no seed inside.

Some Suggestions on Feeding Birds

Choose larger feeders or more feeders to offer a diverse, larger feeding station. As birds spread their efforts to different feeders, a single feeder will not be emptied as quickly.

Opt for Old Ben's No Mess Birdseed to minimize seed tossed to the ground, as birds pick their preferred tidbits. While No Mess Seed may be more expensive per weight, unit cost is often a better value because there are no hulls or unwanted seeds to pay for. The birds will eat almost every morsel.

Finally, take steps to discourage squirrels and other backyard pests, such as mice, deer, and raccoons. When a feeder is emptied very quickly, it isn't always birds enjoying easy meals. •

There's Blooming Beauty continued from p4



Lemonade Berry '*Rhus integrifolia*'

teeth and the petioles and central leaf veins are often attractively maroon to pink tinged. The small flowers, in tightly grouped clusters, are white to rose-pink in color and bloom at the tips of branches from February to May. The fruit is a sticky, flattish drupe that is covered with a fine reddish-brown down, inside of which is a hard stone of a seed.

Mimulus

Native to the Santa Monica mountains, monkey flowers exhibit rapid move-

ment, a rarity in the plant world. If you lightly touch the flower's white, two-part stigma, it quickly closes up, assuming that a bee or hummingbird had deposited pollen from another flower while gathering nectar. When the plant senses the absence of pollen, the stigma will reopen. In the home garden, Monkey Flowers combine well with succulents such as larger aeoniums, aloes and agaves.

Splendid Mariposa Lily

When we spotted this hiking, we thought it was a poppy. However, we were very wrong as it is a member of the lily family (thank you, Shirley). It bears flowers singly or in clusters of up to four. Each flower is ringed with smaller, ribbon-like, curling bracts. The bowl-shaped flowers are of varying shades of purple, often lavender, with a spot of darker purple at the base of each petal. The flower may have plentiful white hairs in the center and bright purple pollen. There's still time to catch these in bloom; they have a long season starting in March and ending in July. •

TO DO LIST: June



FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall 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 tropics with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food.

PRUNE

Ornamentals for shape. Dead head roses and other flowering plants. Prune stone fruits after harvest.

PEST CONTROL

Look for slugs and snails, apply Sluggo and Sluggo Plus. Watch for mildew, rust and rose slug on roses; spray with Bayer 3 in 1 Insect Disease and Mite Control. Eliminate sowbugs, earwigs, cutworms, slugs and snails in vegetable gardens with Sluggo Plus. Keep flies around trash cans under control, using fly traps that can catch them before they invade your trash.

PLANT

Bedding plants, Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Tropicals, fruit trees and shrubs.

LOOK FOR

Jacaranda, Magnolias, Hydrangeas, Star Jasmine, Dipladenias, Plumeria, Fuchsias, Roses, Summer Vegetables and Annuals. •



Cut Flowers Have A Lot In Common With Rubber Bands

By Chuck McClung



Someone recently asked me if it's true that cut flowers last longer if the stems are re-cut under water. The answer is definitely, "yes". Would you like to know why?

The answer depends on understanding how water actually moves through a plant—entering the roots, moving into the stems and leaves, and exiting through pores or "stomates" in the leaf's surface.

Air is always drier, or has less moisture, than tissues inside a plant leaf, unless of

course it's raining. Therefore, because the air is drier, water is literally being sucked or pulled out of the plant when the stomates are open. This pull causes water to enter the roots and travel upward through the plant. As a result, the water in a plant is literally being stretched like a rubber band.

When you cut a flower, the water or "rubber band" snaps back inside the stem of the plant, thus creating an air bubble at the cut end. By re-cutting the stems under water, the air bubble is removed, and the stems can more easily take up the water in the vase. As a result, your fresh cut flowers last longer in the vase! That's how it works.

So avoid cutting flowers during the warmest part of the day when the water in the plant is being stretched the most. The best time to cut flowers is when the stomates are closed and the rubber band is stretched the least, in the early morning or in the evening after the sun has set.

Cut flowers last longer when the plant from which you are cutting has been watered well the day before.

The same holds true in your vegetable garden. Herbs, lettuce, spinach and other greens will remain fresh much longer in your refrigerator if you harvest in early morning or in the evening. •

Rose Show Winners

Our 17th Annual Rose Show has come and gone. The entries were beautiful this year and we noticed some new exhibitors to the show. Thanks to all who participated and our judges.

The Winners Are:

Best Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora

Black Magic (Carl & Bobbie Mahanay)

Best Single Stem Floribunda

Grand Prize (Sue Streeper)

Best Old-Fashioned Type

Scarborough Fair (Sue Streeper)

Best Old Garden Rose

Pink Pet (Kathy Strong)

Best Miniature/Mini Flora

Dr. John Dickman
(John & Barbara Lester)

Best Mini Flora/Mini Spray

Mariotta (John & Barbara Lester)

Best Bouquet

Lady Elsie May (Sue Streeper)

Best Mini Flora/Mini Bouquet

Erin Alonzo, The Lighthouse, This is the Day (Carl & Bobby Mahanay)

Best Floating Bowl

Grand Prize (Kathy Strong)

Best Mini Flora/Mini Floating Bowl

Mariotta (Dwyn Robbie)

Most Fragrant Rose

Frederic Mistral (Dwyn Robbie)

Best Fully Open Variety

Betty Boop (Robert & Kris Russell)

Best Non-Classified Rose

Candyland (Sue Streeper)

Andersen's Choice Award for Best Non-Awarded Rose

Baby Austin (Kathy Strong)

Queen of Show

Best Horticulture Entry

Ring of Fire (Carl & Bobbie Mahanay)



Striped roses are a hit!



Candyland

Garden Classes

JUNE

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

6/4

Composting Worms
For The Garden

6/11

Drought Tolerant Plants

6/18

Hot Weather Gardening

6/25

Planting Your Butterfly
& Bee Garden

POWAY | 9:30AM

6/4

Summer Color

6/11

Food For Your Soil with
Matt from Malibu Compost

6/18

Backyard Chickens
with Richard Wright

6/25

Summer Vegetables
with Roy Wilburn

In-Store Specials

Valid June 1-30, 2016 | No Coupon Needed!

*It's back and now you can save!***\$5 OFF****Gro-Power Soil Conditioner**
30# Bag*Start your drought-tolerant and native plants off right!***\$3 OFF****Gardner & Bloome**
Native Planting Mix

Specials cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$™ points do apply.

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{619} 224-8271

POWAY

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, California 92064
{858} 513-4900GardenTalk
On Sunday MorningsMark, David & Ken
at KFMB studios

Join Ken Andersen, David Ross, and Mark Mahady Sunday mornings at 6am on AM 760 KFMB. We will be happy to answer your questions on the air, just post them on our Facebook page! Follow GardenTalk Radio at: www.facebook.com/GardenTalk-Radio-by-Walter-Andersen-Nursery-1612389342307392/?fref=photo.

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