



WALTER ANDERSEN
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Garden Talk

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Spend Saturdays With Us



Big news! On June 18, GardenTalk Radio on KFMB moved to Saturday mornings at 6am. This move enables us to provide a show earlier in the weekend and allows us to do live shows from time to time, so you can call in and ask us questions directly. We hope you enjoy the new time slot. Remember, if you can't listen live, you can always catch the podcasts on our GardenTalk page, <http://www.760kfmb.com/story/32075046/garden-talk>. •

The Look of Love

By Melanie Potter



Sollya heterophylla 'Monterey Bay Sapphire'

I'll be the first to admit that there's not a lot (ok, anything) about gardening that I love. That's a terrible truth to admit given where I work. Thus, I dug deep and found some things I actually do love about it. I love that I have gardeners who take care of the yard. I love having plants that perform well and I love it when everything looks picture perfect outside. I love the

bamboo that my husband planted right next to the pool despite the desperate pleas from the pool guy to remove it because of the tremendous mess it makes. I do look forward to walking around the nursery and seeing all the plants we stock, and that's when I fell in love (or became obsessed) with these that I must have.

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Feeding Hungry Monarchs

By Melanie Potter

Sometimes it seems like we can't keep enough **Asclepias (milkweed)** in stock to satisfy the hungry caterpillars that will become Monarch butterflies. They tend to eat us out of house and home, so we were glad to see a large delivery of **Asclepias fascicularis** (native California milkweed, also called Narrow Leaved Milkweed) arrive.

What a forgiving plant this is. It is adaptable to being watered regularly or not. It tolerates heat and any soil,



Photo: Annie's Annuals

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The Look of Love continued from p1



Clerodendrum 'Bleeding Heart Glory Bower Vine'

Sollya hetrophylla 'Monterey Bay Sapphire'

When I saw this dense, compact, bright green-leaved plant with small, blue bell shaped flowers, I had to take a second, then third look. Reading the tag, I was surprised to see that it is low water and likes sandy soil (I have a perfect spot for two in the front yard). It's a sprawling to climbing shrub growing to 2' tall, 6' or so wide. It can climb much higher as a twining vine when established, if given something to climb on. Want to hide a fence? It can turn a chain link fence into a wall of tiny blue bellflowers, so says the grower. The clusters of small, pendant, bell-shaped flowers are produced from late spring through fall. It finds its greatest use in landscapes as a groundcover for dry shade. Although it can grow in full sun, it may burn during summer in the very hottest areas. It grows well under Eucalyptus trees. Needs little summer watering when established, but looks better with some. It becomes damaged below 25 degrees F but can survive 20 degrees F.

Agave 'Blue Glow'

The first time I saw this agave was on the Monrovia Nursery website and I was struck by how beautifully this plant was photographed. Then, when I saw the real thing I was disappointed not to see the glow that the photos captured. Fast forward to a recent walk through the

store and the light was just right. The plant was glowing, and I was in love!

This agave has smooth, blue-green leaves with yellow-edged red margins that form a single, symmetrical rosette. Each leaf tip bears a short red spine. This is a slow grower perfect for sunny, low water gardens in warm coastal or humid Mediterranean-like climates. It is handsome in dry desert gardens as well, if provided some shade and supplemental water.

Acacia cognata 'Cousin Itt'

My favorite character on the classic comedy show, The Addams Family was Cousin Itt, mainly because of his hair. So it would be hard not to be drawn to *Acacia cognata* 'Cousin Itt', its namesake. Also called Bower Wattle or Little River Wattle, it's a mini cognata that grows quickly to 2-3' tall. Mini cog is a dwarf version of *Acacia cognata* which can grow to 20' tall so its small size has increased the popularity of this acacia.

This is a newish plant that was introduced in 2010. Foliage is brilliant emerald green, long, narrow, and grass-like. It can be planted in masses or along a border, even in containers. A neighbor up the street from me planted one in his yard and it is deep green, beautifully mounding, and lush looking. My advice is to plant more than one; they look that good once they are in the ground. One is not enough.



'Blue Glow' Agave

Plant in full sun, well draining soil and provide regular water until it becomes established, after which it will be drought tolerant. It's hardy to 20-25 degrees F and is deer resistant.

Clerodendrum 'Bleeding Heart Glory Bower Vine'

Just when I thought I would never love again, I walked by the receiving area and saw this Bleeding Heart Glory Bower Vine, fresh off a delivery truck. The calyx are small and bright white, with a brilliant red center.

Native to western Africa, *Clerodendrum bleeding heart* is a well-behaved, non-aggressive plant that reaches lengths of about 15 feet at maturity. You can train *Clerodendrum bleeding heart* vines to twine around a trellis or other support, or you can let the vines sprawl freely over the ground.



[continued p3](#)

The Look of Love

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These grow best in partial shade or dappled sunlight, but it may tolerate full sunlight with plenty of moisture. The plant prefers rich, fertile, well-drained soil. Water the plant frequently during dry weather; the plant requires consistently moist, but not soggy soil.

One more thing I love, the fig tree that my husband planted years ago that is the source of many compliments. It is full shaped, has huge leaves, and makes a beautiful canopy over the fireplace. But, I do not love the figs that crowd the lower part of the trunk as they look like tumors. •

Hungry Monarchs

continued from p1

including clay. As it grows, you'll have many branching stems and long, narrow leaves that make a bushy habit. In summer, clusters of creamy-pink tiny flowers will bloom and the nectar from them is a food source for butterflies. Frequently visiting this bush will be Monarchs which lay their eggs on this *Asclepias*. When the hungry caterpillars emerge, they devour the leaves. Thank goodness this plant gets bigger and better every year and spreads to form small colonies.

*Editor's Note: Also frequently available are two other native varieties, *Asclepias speciosa* (Showy Milkweed) and *Asclepias eriocarpa* (Indian Milkweed). •*

TO DO LIST: July



FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Hi-Yield Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broad-leaf 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. Add Ada Perry's Magic Formula to your regular rose feeding schedule. Mulch plants to conserve water and dress up planting beds.

WATER

Through October, keep a close watch on watering to make sure plants do not suffer from drought. Adjust sprinkler clocks or provide supplemental watering to avoid stress to plants. Make sure lawn sprinklers are working properly to prevent waste.

PRUNE

Coral trees and roses.

PLANT

Anything! Just make sure it gets plenty of water when it is hot. Smaller root systems will require more frequent, shallower waterings than established plants.

LOOK FOR

Plumeria, Hibiscus, Lantana, Plumbago, Gardenias, and bedding plants.

Beware of the Blue Bottle

By Ken Andersen



Branding is an important part of a company's marketing strategy. Differentiating their products from the competition so they will stand out on the shelf is at the heart of the strategy. Companies use color, style, and labeling to do this.

They also will use the same containers for different products. This can lead to some confusion, and if you aren't

careful, either wasted time and money, or worse, catastrophic consequences.

For example, take these three blue bottles from Bayer. They look exactly the same at first glance. But when you look more closely you will see that they are three products all doing different things and if improperly applied will waste time and money or severely damage your landscape or garden.

While you might think it can't happen, it can. I know from experience! So before you grab that blue bottle to spray your roses, take a moment to make sure you have not grabbed the bottle of weed killer by mistake (a mistake that my roses soon made abundantly clear to me). An extra glance at the label can save time, money and heart ache. Trust me I've been there. •

Eucalyptus 'Moon Lagoon'

Newly available to us is **Eucalyptus 'Moon Lagoon'** or **Fine-Leafed Mallee** (at right), a shrubby Eucalyptus with small rounded spade-shaped, gray-green juvenile leaves flushed a pale purple that mature to green with a curved boomerang shape. Cut hard every few years to maintain it as a medium-sized shrub (4 feet tall). If left to mature, in spring to summer appear reddish orange caps that open to expose white flowers. Plant in full sun to light shade. Water occasionally to infrequently. •



Photo: San Marcos Growers

Old Ben: Birds and Colors

By Old Ben



Did you know that birds have excellent vision and see colors extremely well, even better than humans' vision?

The striking colors of birds aren't just for our viewing pleasure. Every hue, stripe and spot serves a vital purpose.

Why Birds See Color

Color is important to many bird species and they rely on color clues in their environment in several ways.

- Bright plumage colors indicate a mature, healthy bird that will be a strong mate.
- Molting to brighter colors indicates the onset of the bird breeding season.
- Colorful markings can be warnings against toxins or strong predators.
- Brightly colored fruit indicates ripeness and readiness to eat.
- Bright flowers are filled with nectar and will attract insects for another food source.
- Changing colors can indicate changing seasons and time for migration.

Because birds are so attuned to colors, adding the right colors to your backyard can be a creative and beautiful way to attract them.

When we look at birds, the colors we see aren't always what they seem. Bird plumage colors are a result of either pigment or from the light reflecting off feathers. For example, bluebirds, indigo buntings, and blue jays are not really blue. The color we see is the light reflecting off their brown feathers. Fortunately for birds, some predators do not see the same bright

blue reflections we do, which helps protect them. This is the same reason a bluebird in heavy shade will not look blue. Less colorful birds, such as sparrows, are marked to blend in with their habitat. Their streaks, stripes, bars, spots and lines look so much like their surroundings, that they are almost impossible to see.

Using Color to Attract Birds

There are many ways to add both natural and artificial color sources to your backyard to attract birds. Birdscaping with colorful flowers, trees, shrubs, vines, and grasses is one of the best options. Many plants that have these bright colors will also provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds, making them even more useful for bird friendly landscaping.

When choosing plants, look for the most colorful varieties. Also look for the colors of any fruit produced by the plants or seasonal changes in the foliage. If gardens or flowerbeds are not available, think about adding colorful plants to large pots or window boxes.

Keeping Color In Perspective

While color can attract birds to the backyard, it is important to understand that color alone will not keep birds visiting. Use color to catch a bird's attention, but provide good food, fresh water, secure shelter, nesting sites, and bird friendly landscaping to encourage birds to stay. Once birds find your colorful, bird friendly yard, you will discover that their plumage adds an even more welcome touch to color the landscape. ●

Old Ben's Specials

Valid July 1-31, 2016

Finch Sock Closeout!

While Quantities Last. Lowest Prices Ever.

Small \$1.97 Reg. \$5.99

Large \$3.47 Reg. \$8.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

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

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

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

Spinach in Summer!

By Chuck McClung



Basella rubra 'Malabar Spinach'

Salad greens like lettuce, arugula, and spinach prefer cooler weather; it's just too hot for these crops in most summer gardens. But did you know there are other kinds of spinach that can be grown all summer long?!

Names being what they are, when we use the word "spinach", we are almost always referring to traditional spinach (*Spinacea oleracea*). It's a cool weather annual that bolts quickly when conditions become hot and/or dry. There are many varieties (e.g. Bloomsdale, Tyee, Olympia, Imperial), but they all prefer the same, cooler, evenly moist conditions.

Red Malabar Spinach (*Basella rubra*) on the other hand, is a vining, tropical perennial that loves heat and uses less water than most vegetable crops! The succulent leaves can be eaten fresh in salads or used in soups or a stir fry. This vigorous, colorful climber can cover a 4'x8' trellis/fence in one year. Water sparingly during winter; the plant may die to the ground when temperatures remain below 50F.

Also heat-tolerant is **Okinawan Spinach (*Gynura bicolor*)**, a close relative of Longevity Greens (*Gynura procumbens*). This perennial rambling plant, has purple tinted leaves that

can be eaten fresh right off the plant. Both Okinawan Spinach and Longevity Greens are excellent perennials for the edible landscape or vegetable garden, and require less water once established. One unique feature of the plant lies in the clusters of bright orange, fuzzy-button flowers that smell...really bad!

Lastly, **New Zealand Spinach (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*)**, is another heat crop, but this one needs to be cooked. This low-spreading, warm-season annual has succulent leaves and stems, requires less water than most crops, and reseeds easily.

So if you really like your spinach but temperatures are too hot right now, try one of the many types of heat-tolerant spinach! •

A Special Buy!

Steel Garden Carts by Bond

Now \$74.99!

Reg. \$129.99

Assembly Required
While Supplies Last!



Special Classes

Come To Poway



Mark your calendar for two special events at our Poway store. Join us Aug. 13 for a 9:30am class with David A. Bainbridge for a presentation about olla irrigation.

"I started working with olla irrigation after reading about it in *The Fan Sheng-chih Shu* (the first scientific agricultural extension book) published in China more than 2,000 years ago. This book was written for farmers with too little land and too little water. A buried, unglazed clay pot filled with water provides controlled irrigation to plants as the water seeps out through the clay wall of the pot," explained Bainbridge.

Olla irrigation saves time and energy because they may require filling only once a week. This makes them ideal for gardeners who are busy or who are away from home much of the week. Olla irrigation also allows soil amendments to be placed only where they will benefit the crops instead of the weeds. Olla irrigation works very well for landscaping (inside and out) and growing plants in containers. It can be very effective for plants that are susceptible to diseases from over-watering or wetting leaves.

Bainbridge is a retired professor of sustainable management and studied and used innovative irrigation systems for more than 30 years. He is the author of, "The Straw Bale", "A Guide for Desert and Dry land Restoration, and "Passive Solar Architecture".

On Sept. 7, Tom Spellman will be our guest for a 6pm class about backyard orchard planning. Since it is an evening class, hotdogs and sodas will be provided. •

Garden Classes

JULY

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

7/2

Everything Organic
for the Garden

7/9

Hot Weather Veggies

7/16

Peppers & Salsa
(A Taste of the Spicy Garden)

7/23

Plumeria

7/30

Gardening 101: Houseplants

POWAY | 9:30AM

7/2

No Class

7/9

Where Did My Lesser Goldfinches
Go? with Old Ben

7/16

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning
with Richard Wright

7/23

Introduction to Permaculture

7/30

Succulent Pots Class & Workshop
with Richard & Wendy Wright

Dates To Remember

July 4

Independence Day

Both stores closed for the holiday.

August 14

Special Class:

Discover Olla Irrigation

Join us for this irrigation class with David Bainbridge at the Poway store at 9:30am.

September 5

Poway Store Hours Change

Our Poway store will be open daily from 9am-5pm.

September 7

Evening Class:

Backyard Orchard Planning

Join us for an evening class with Tom Spellman at the Poway store at 6pm. Hotdogs and sodas are on us!

Tool Shed: Ada Perry's



It is time to feed the roses and here is a perfect addition to your tool shed; a 5-lb box of **Ada Perry's**. It is the same formula that we sell in the 20-lb bag, just a smaller version. Your tool shed will love it because it doesn't take up a lot of space, and your roses will love it because it provides them with the trace elements that supplement the fertilizer you feed them with. Ada Perry's is labeled for general soil conditioning, too. •



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