



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

AUGUST 2016

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Stopping Mildew In Its Tracks

By Ken Andersen



Every spring into early summer we see samples of squash, pumpkins, and cucumbers that are suffering from an infestation of mildew.

When the growing conditions are right, this disease can quickly take hold in your garden. It presents itself as a white, almost powdery, coating on the foliage but it will not wash off.

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Decisions Are Dizzying When Selecting Show Stopping Crape Myrtles

By Melanie Potter



Tuscarora

They can be short or tall, with green foliage or black, and will boast blooms in variations of red, pink, white, or purple. Though they are deciduous, many will hold their leaves almost all year. There are so many choices that it may be best to determine your requirements when deciding which **Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia)** is best for your situation.

Dwarf varieties grow 3' to 6' which is a nice size if you are short on space or are looking to plant a hedge. Semi-dwarf varieties grow 5'-12', small trees get 10'-20', and tree sizes grow 20' or more. There is also a tiny version that grows 1'-3' and that is called very dwarf.

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What Is A Poha Or Ground Cherry?

By Chuck McClung

"Poha" or "ground cherries" or "cape gooseberries" are all names (among many others) for the same edible fruit of the plant **Physalis peruviana**. This once popular, easy-to-grow fruit has been making a comeback and is easier to find than in years past.

This short lived shrub, native to South America, is grown as a summer annual in our climate. Cape gooseberries have a bushy, sprawling growth habit similar to their relative the tomatillo (*Physalis ixocarpa*), only smaller in scale.



Cape Gooseberries

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Crape Myrtles continued from p1



Catawba

Here's a look at the varieties we most regularly stock, but be aware that availability varies:

Semi dwarf selections include '**Acoma**' and '**Zuni**'. Acoma has white flowers and is low spreading. 'Zuni' has violet flowers and in the fall the foliage colors to red-orange. **Black Diamond®** crape myrtle is a new series with brilliant jewel toned blooms and purple/black foliage. Their compact growth habit makes attractive flowering hedges or a street tree. This is a good variety for containers, too. Look for these names: '**Shell Pink**', '**Mystic Magenta**', '**Purely**



Black Diamond®

Purple', '**Best Red**', '**Crimson Red**', '**Red Hot**', '**Blush**', and '**Pure White**'. Reaching only 10- to 12-feet tall, these are perfect for urban landscapes, small spaces and containers.

Small Tree varieties include '**Catawba**' with its violet-purple flowers and foliage that turns red-orange in the fall.

Tall Trees are '**Natchez**' with its white flowers and fall color, '**Dynamite**' with red flowers, and the popular variety '**Watermelon**' with its vivid red flowers. '**Tuscarora**' has dark pink flowers and offers fall color. •



Duranta erecta 'Alba'

Fun Summer Finds

By Melanie Potter



If I had stayed inside on some of the hotter days this summer, I would have missed seeing these flowering plants that could have been easily overlooked.

When I mentioned seeing the pretty white Duranta I was met with surprise because **Duranta erecta 'Alba'** isn't too common. You may be used to seeing this plant with purple blooms, but the white ones are exceptional. Also called **White Sky Flower**, it grows 15'- 20' tall and 8'-12' wide. It likes full sun and needs regular water so it is not a match for a water wise garden.

Rose Pink Skullcap has a familiar look and may remind you of a **Polygala fruticosa** (Petite Butterfly Bush). It is loaded with fruit punch colored blooms. •



Rose Pink Skullcap

Attending WAN Classes Will Save You Money!

We have hosted Saturday classes for decades so we're not sure why it took us so long to noodle some changes to them. This month, class attendees will receive coupons that will provide savings off their purchases. The deal is that at the conclusion of the class, coupons will be given to attendees. **You'll save \$5 off of purchases of \$25 or more.** The coupons will be valid for that day's class.

And Speaking Of Classes...

Special Class August 13: Discover Olla Irrigation

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

Evening Class September 7: Backyard Orchard Planning

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

What Is A Poha? continued from p1



The fruit looks like a small tomatillo but with a papery husk covering a smaller, orangey-tan fruit about the size of a dime. The fruit is juicier and much sweeter than tomatillos. Great for eating fresh, they are frequently used in salad, salsas, chowders, chutneys, stews and stir fries.

Ground cherries are super easy to grow. Provide the same basic care as tomatillos: lots of sun, good veggie

garden soil, even moisture, and room to sprawl to about 2-3 feet across.

And get ready to pick those little things. Each plant can produce hundreds of little fruits! Look under the plant too. Even though many fall off, the paper husk keeps the fruit nice and clean. Once harvested, the fruit has a very long shelf life and can be stored for a few weeks. •

Stopping Mildew

continued from p1

While it is seldom fatal to the plants, it can weaken them and make them look bad. Luckily, there are a number of ways that you can control it. Neem Oil will work, but works better as a preventative spray. Safer Fungicide is sulfur based which can burn foliage during hot weather, so it must be applied carefully. Serenade is a natural fungicide, derived from a bacterium of all things! LiquiCop Copper Fungicide can get it under control as well but you need to make sure you apply it at the **GROWING SEASON** rate and not the **DORMANT SEASON** rate. Finally, Imunox and Daconil are two excellent fungicides that will get an infestation under control quickly.

The key to mildew control is to catch it early. No matter which course of treatment you decide to use, it is far easier to control when it first appears than once it gets established. •

You Gotta See These!

By Melanie Potter



Balsamic Blooms Basil

Balsamic Blooms

Truly a game changer. It is completely edible yet is so gorgeous you'll be torn whether to eat it or admire its beauty. The deep purple blooms have a mint flavor (we think it has a licorice flavor). This basil keeps growing leaves, even while it is blooming. Use it as a culinary herb or as an ornamental for containers, landscapes and gardens. This plant prefers full sun to light shade. For best results, give consistent moisture. These are limited and more will be available late August.



Hemerocallis Siloam Peony

Hemerocallis Siloam Double Classic

Elegant peach tinted blossoms resemble peonies in all their ruffled glory. Fragrant blossoms reach 6" across. Hemerocallis Siloam Peony Display, a diploid, will adapt to a wide range of growing conditions. Very drought-tolerant once established. You'll like these features: deer resistant, attracts butterflies, seaside/salt-tolerant and is heat-tolerant. This is in very limited supply and is pricey, but if you love peonies... •



Words From Walter

Summer Citrus Care

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

It's summer time and, WOW, it has been hot! You might not want to spend much time outside, but there are some tasks you want to ensure get done. First, be sure that citrus are getting enough water. We all know about water restrictions, but give your trees enough water to keep them flourishing. When it is hot, you may need to water two times per week on established trees. Water sufficiently to soak in the ground to about 18" deep. Mulching will help to keep the soil cooler, so less water will be needed. Concentrate most of the water and fertilizer to the drip line of the plant. Citrus in containers may need water every day or two when it reaches more than 90 degrees.

Be sure to keep your trees healthy with regular fertilizing. Generally you need to feed citrus every two to three months. Be sure to check the label on the package as different manufacturers have different recommendations for their products. E. B. Stone has Green-All Citrus and Avocado Food which advises four pounds for 100 square feet of area (10' x 10'), about what might be under one larger tree. Or 1/4 pound per inch of trunk diameter measured 24" above the soil. This is for two feedings per year. The instructions mention that it may be more beneficial to feed every other month at one half the rate above. For dwarf trees, it is recommended to use three cups for a plant that is about 4' tall and 4' wide. Citrus in containers should be fed monthly at one level tablespoon per 6" diameter of the container.

E. B. Stone Organics Citrus and Fruit Tree Food for established trees recommends two cups of fertilizer for each inch of trunk diameter; apply out to the drip line and feed two or more times at eight week intervals. For container



David Ross checks the citrus

plants, apply one tablespoon per 6" of pot diameter monthly from January to August.

Inspect your trees about once a month to check for insects or other problems. If you see insects, usually aphids or scale, try to spray as soon as possible. Mites are a little more difficult to see. They are almost microscopic but the damage is most visible on the fruit. The fruit can have a rusty or silvery appearance on the skin. Neem Oil does a pretty good job on most citrus insects, but you may need to make three or more sprayings about two weeks apart for best control. Using horticultural oil like Summit Year Round Oil or Bonide All Seasons Oil Spray once or twice per year will control most pests on citrus. •



AUGUST SPECIAL

Roses

Close Out

\$10 Each!

See page 6 for details

TO DO LIST: August



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 tropicals with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food.

WATER

If you will be unavailable, arrange with a neighbor or your gardener to watch your yard to make sure everything gets appropriate water. Adjust sprinklers to make sure they operate properly. Switch your existing sprinklers to more efficient types. If you are considering removing your lawn and plants to save water, we suggest starting with an irrigation tune-up. Have someone look at your system. It might be worth investing in your irrigation system rather than incurring the expense of removing existing plantings and replacing them. Mulch, mulch, mulch. Topping the soil with a layer of mulch helps keep the moisture in. Mulch breaks down and enriches the soil, and it makes your plantings look manicured and finished.

PLANT

Tropicals, ornamentals, trees, and shrubs. Late crops of warm season vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, beets, and carrots can be planted. Later this month, plant Sweet Peas for early crop of flowers. Add some drought-tolerant plants such as Cactus, Succulents, Lantana, Grevilleas, and Leucadendron.

LOOK FOR

Bedding plants, Bougainvillea, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Agapanthus, Citrus, Plumeria, and Avocados. •

Old Ben: Red Eared Slider Turtles

By Old Ben



I have had the pleasure of owning a Red Eared Slider turtle for more than 20 years. He lives in one of my ponds and loves basking in the sun. He is friendly and enjoys swimming among the plants and splashing water. With that said, forget about the birds, this month's article is all about red eared slider turtles.

Background

The red ear slider turtle can be found throughout America, particularly east of the Rockies. Although they can be found in the wild, they are commonly sold in pet stores.

These turtles spend most of their time in warm water and while they are good swimmers, they prefer to spend warmer hours of the day lounging on logs or rocks.

The red ear slider turtle is an omnivore, meaning they eat vegetable and plant matter as well as animal protein.

One of the most essential red ear slider facts to be aware of is that like any wild caught reptile, they can become stressed until they become acquainted with their new environment. A consequence of stress can lead the turtle to suffer from bacterial infections. Salmonella is another factor to be cautious of, as it can be transmitted very easily. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling a turtle and use paper towels to dry your hands.

Feeding Your Slider

A varied diet will ensure that your turtle stays strong and healthy and lives a long time. Younger turtles need

to be fed every day and adults can eat every two to three days. Be careful of feeding your turtle more than it can eat as the leftover food can rot in the water. Turtle food is available at most pet stores or centers.

Handling & Acclimating Your Red Eared Slider

When you bring your turtle home, place him or her in an already established tank or pond and leave it for a couple of days to get used to its new home. The first few days might see your new turtle closed tightly in its shell or withdrawing quickly when it sees you approaching or looking at it.

During this time, place fresh food in the turtles water every day. Ensure that the water is clean.

If you have to pick up your turtle, always make sure that you use both hands to support its body. They feel secure when they can feel something underneath their feet and find swimming in mid-air stressful. Make sure that they can feel your hands or fingers under their feet and not just under the bottom of their shell. Using two hands to support and carry your red ear slider turtle will help to make sure that they won't fall and suffer crippling injuries.

Last Few Words

The red eared slider turtle isn't the best pet for young children to care for without supervision. The daily maintenance of the tank/pond and the feeding schedule tends to get boring for kids. They must learn that they

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Old Ben's Specials

Valid August 1-30, 2016

Finch Sock Closeout!

Final Weeks! Lowest Prices Ever.

Small \$1.97 Reg. \$5.99

Large \$3.47 Reg. \$8.99

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.

10lb. \$14.97 Reg. \$24.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food of goldfinches and many other small birds.

10lb. \$19.97 Reg. \$29.99

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

Economy Wild Bird Seed or Duck & Waterfowl Food

Mix or match. Must buy 2 bags to get sale price.

2 for \$10 Reg. \$6.99

Old Ben's Hummingbird & Oriole Kits

Everything you need in one package: Feeder, food, ant barrier, and cleaning brush.

25lb. \$19.97 Reg. \$29.99

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



Garden Classes

AUGUST

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

8/6

Summer Fertilizing

8/13

Summer Rose Care

8/20

Orchids for Everyone

8/27

Garden Weed Wars

POWAY | 9:30AM

8/6

Summer Flowers & Heat Lovers

8/13

Discover Olla Irrigation

8/20

Fragrant Plants, Flowers & Foliage with Richard Wright

8/27

Fall Veggies, Prep & Planting

Old Ben: Turtles

continued from p5

can't just stick the turtle in the tank/pond and toss them a few leaves of lettuce now and again.

Scientists have said that cold-blooded animals and in particular the red eared slider can live a very long time, up to 40 years and more, since they tend not to display signs of aging. In the wild, they eventually die from being attacked by a natural predator, from poisoning, or from destruction of their habitat. Those in captivity can succumb improper care. •

Date To Remember

September 5

Poway Store Hours Change

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

August In-Store Special!

Valid August 1-30, 2016



**Close Out
on Roses
\$10 Each!**

Excludes carpet roses, Cecile Brunner, Monrovia roses, and staked 5-gallon roses.

Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other offer. While supplies last. Final sale. No coupon needed. Hedge Fund\$ certificates do apply.



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