



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

AUGUST 2017

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Summer Watering Tips

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery

Watering the garden seems simple enough, but it actually takes a little finesse to do properly. Follow these few simple rules for watering your garden to keep it healthy throughout the season.

To make sure you really do need to water, use that handiest of garden tools, your finger, to test soil moisture levels before grabbing the hose. If the soil surface looks dry, probe down a few inches to see if the soil is dry several inches down. If it is dry, then water; if not, wait a day.

So, your garden does need a deep drink. When's the best time of the day to water? You have two opportunities: early morning or late afternoon. Early morning is best when water can soak into the soil rather than evaporate due to heat

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Solo Effort Helps Restore Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies

By Melanie Potter



In May, there was big news out of San Francisco. So big it made the national morning news and was also featured on internet news services. It was all about a special butterfly making a giant comeback.

Sadly, the California Pipevine Swallowtail populations were almost extinct because nobody was growing their

only food source, the California Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), also known as California Dutchman's Pipes. This news proves that with a little effort and some patience you can change the world for the better. You can see the story here: www.cbsnews.com/videos/rare-butterfly-makes-stunning-comeback.

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Bring The Outdoors Inside With These Houseplants

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Walter, Jr. longs to take care of growing things inside his house that are peaceful in nature. However, he shares his home with three rambunctious, loveable dogs and a one-eyed cat (who rules the roost). Perhaps he dreams of these plants and thinks they will be perfect in your home!

Anthurium andraeanum

Commonly known as just Anthurium, it makes a very attractive indoor plant. The blooms are



Anthurium andraeanum

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Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies continued from p1

So, what exactly is this California Pipevine? You may know it as Dutchman's Pipes. Pipevine is a vigorous, climbing, woody vine without tendrils. It has pipe shaped flowers and heart-shaped leaves. The flowers are curved, like a pipe. It is native to central and northern California and should be planted in a somewhat shady to sunny

area. Because it is a vigorous grower, provide a trellis, fence or arbor to grow on. It can grow to be as tall as 20-30 feet!

The flowers have a musty, unpleasant odor that attracts fungus gnats, which are suspected of being the successful pollinator of the plant. •

Houseplants continued from p1



Crossandra infundibuliformis

large and spectacular. Colored red, white and pink, the blooms are heart-shaped and 5 to 6 inches wide. The leaves are quite large and very shiny; they almost look like they have been waxed. Blooms last for about six weeks on the plant and you can expect them to bloom off and on all year when grown indoors. Larger plants can support more than one bloom at a time. They like a well draining potting mix. To maintain, fertilize monthly with a good indoor plant food. Even without blooms, these are very attractive plants.

Crossandra infundibuliformis

Commonly known as Crossandra, this is a wonderful blooming plant that grows to about 16" tall and wide. The plant has a tropical look with its deep green leaves and flat-faced flowers that are peachy colored. It prefers fairly bright light if you want it to keep



Spathiphyllum 'Peace Lily'

blooming. Mature plants bloom almost continually if you fertilize them once a month with a good liquid indoor plant food. Plant foods with formulas for African Violets will work well also. To encourage them to grow larger repot into 8" containers.

Spathiphyllum

Sometimes called Peace Lilly, this is a remarkable plant for indoor use. There are several varieties; the main difference is in the mature size. The most common grow to about 16" to 18" tall. Slender stalks grow into very wide leaves of deep green. The pure white blooms are formed just above the leaves. Don't let them dry out and they will reward you with almost continual blooms. Almost any liquid plant food will keep them happy, if you don't have any; try Gro-Power Liquid once a month. •



Watering Tips

continued from p1

or wind. Missed that window? Late afternoon is also fine, but not too late. Water on foliage needs to dry before the sun goes down to avoid developing fungal diseases.

While it's pretty satisfying to stand, hose in hand, and blast the garden, it's vital to deeply soak a plant's entire root system (which is probably the same width as the plant and may be a foot or two deep), and not just spritz its leaves. A thumb over a hose aimed at the roots works, but a watering wand, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses better directs water right to the root zone. The payoff for this extra effort is that deep watering encourages plants to develop deep roots that find water in the subsoil when drought strikes.

Roots deprived of oxygen due to waterlogged soil may lose their ability to drink up. Watering slowly, deeply, and infrequently creates the damp-but-not-soggy soil that most plants love. Aim for moist soil five to six inches below the surface. If soil surface is really dry, water may puddle or run off. Start slowly, and once the top few inches are moist, the water will be absorbed more easily.

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Can't Go Wrong With Succulents

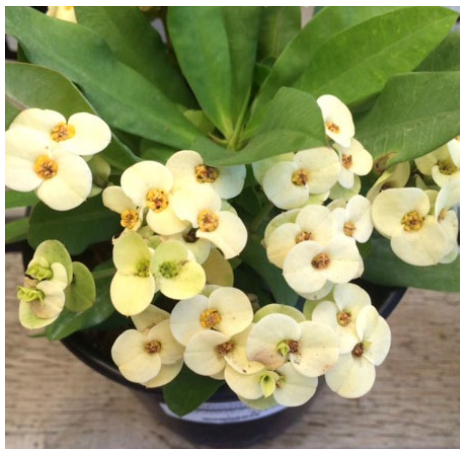
By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Aloe Vera



Euphorbia



Euphorbia

Whether you plant them in containers or in a drought-tolerant landscape, these are a popular choice for gardeners. They are used in wreaths and table top décor and best of all is how easy they are to plant and propagate.

Aloe Vera (*A. barbadensis*)

Often called the burn plant or medicinal aloe or just Aloe Vera, which is a smaller growing variety. It has very thick fleshy foliage with leaves to about 10" to 15" long when mature. It grows well in full sun to light shade in most areas of San Diego. This plant takes very little care other than

watering about once a week. It can be grown indoors in a bright room. Some folks keep them in the kitchen to use as a burn medication. When you cut through the leaf there is a thick, gel-like center that you can spread on burns, scrapes or rashes. Aloe Vera is a very popular and useful succulent.

Euphorbia milii (*E. splendens*)

Has the common name Crown of Thorns. This is a very bright, showy plant that botanists have traced back to the Spiny Forest of Madagascar. It has been highly hybridized and there are many varieties. You'll find blooms

Watering Tips

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You can help keep soil moist by covering it with a layer of mulch to help reduce evaporation and minimize runoff. Just remember that you can have too much of a good thing; if the mulch is too thick, it can prevent moisture from reaching the roots. Aim for about a two inch layer, and pull mulch back from the main stem to avoid rot.

A Few More Things...

- Resist the urge to water in the heat of the day, even if your plants are wilting. Plants sometimes wilt to conserve moisture, but they should perk up again when evening comes.
- If foliage edges are turning brown, you're probably overwatering.

Editor's Note: It has been a hot summer and there have been days when we've had to water plants at the nursery multiple times. Those in small containers dry out quickly. Bear that in mind and give close attention to plants in containers as they may require more water than usual. •

of pink, red, white, cream and other colors. Blooms are formed in clusters at the end of branches. The stems and trunk are very thorny so handle carefully. Leaves are deep green and 1" to 2" long. There are some varieties that do have foliage to perhaps 4" long, and are larger growing. The two in the photos are more compact varieties. These are popular in rock gardens or you can plant with other succulents and cactus. Believe it or not, these are related to the common Poinsettia! •





Old Ben:

The Rarest Bird In The World

By Old Ben



Nechisar Nightjar

In 1990, a group of Cambridge scientists arrived to the plains of Nechisar in Ethiopia. On that expedition, they collected more than two dozen specimens; saw more than 300 species of birds, and lots of rare butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, mammals, and plants. As they were gathering up their findings, a wing of an unidentified bird was packed into a brown paper bag. It was to become the most famous wing in the world.

This wing would set the world of science buzzing. The wing was entirely unique. It was like nothing they had ever seen before. Could a new species be named based on just one wing? After much discussion, a new species was announced and it was to be known as **Nechisar Nightjar**, or **Camprimulgus Solala**, which means "only wing." And so birdwatchers began to dream.

In 2009, a trip was led by Ian Sinclair, a renowned ornithologist, to the area

where the wing was found. They located the Nightjar on the first night they arrived! This Nightjar was easily distinguishable from the more common smaller Nightjars in the area. It was a large Nightjar with huge white patches and was seen several times in the next few nights. It appeared to be a male; the museum wing specimen had a more buff colored patch and appeared to be that of an immature female bird.

Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical dry lowland grassland; it is threatened by habitat loss and is listed as vulnerable. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid August 1-30, 2017

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The Staple food for goldfinches and many other small birds.

20lb. bag

Sale \$44.99 Reg. \$49.99

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

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.

20lb. bag

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

Ask Old Ben!

Old Ben doesn't always think about birds. Sometimes he thinks about his business and that's when he had a grand idea. How cool would it be if you could reach out and ask him all kinds of questions about birds, or show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences? Well, now you can by using this email.

askoldben@aol.com

Old Ben's Favorite Hummingbird & Oriole Feeders by "First Nature"

Features:

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- Spill-resistant
- 10 feeding ports
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Hummingbird



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No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.



Words From Walter

Outdoor Favorites

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

I'm going to share some summer plants that have nothing in common. You're going to learn about something tropical, something native, and others that are nice to grow because they are beautiful or functional. I'm all over the page with these plants that came to my mind.

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis variegata

Variegated Carmel Creeper 'Diamond Heights' is a great plant to use as a groundcover or on a slope. It hugs the ground, though in time it may get to 20" tall, and spreads to about 4' to 6' wide. There is a green Carmel Creeper, but this is brighter with its yellow-green and green leaves that are almost glossy in appearance. It has small blue flowers, but the foliage is why you want it. This plant likes well draining soil and full sun. Ceanothus is native to California and there are many varieties and hybrids. Some are small trees. It takes a little while to get them established, but once they are growing, they need very little care. They will grow better with some irrigation during the hot summer, maybe bi-weekly. If it rains like last winter, no additional water will be needed. Do water about once a week to get them started if you plant during warm weather.

Fuchsia!!!

What can I say? These are just super plants that bloom almost all summer long. Colors of white, pink, red, purple, lavender and even salmon are paired in artful combinations. Upright Fuchsias can grow to 5 feet or more if you support them with a stake or trellis. There is also weeping or hanging varieties that make spectacular hanging baskets. The branches can droop down 12" or more and are draped with beautiful double or semi-double blooms. Fuchsias real-



Ceanothus



Fuchsia



Pelargonium crispum

ly do best in shaded areas. Try planting some in containers using Edna's Best Potting Soil and you will be very pleased. Fertilize lightly once a month with Ada Perry's Magic Formula plant food. Don't overdo it as this product can work miracles without using great quantities.

Pelargonium crispum (P. hortorum)

I like this variety, Variegated Lemon Scented Geranium. This is a very cute compact growing plant with small

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TO DO LIST: August



FERTILIZE

For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf 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 for a neighbor or your gardener to **watch your yard** to make sure everything gets appropriate water. **Adjust sprinklers** to make sure they operate properly. Think about switching your existing sprinklers to more efficient types. If you are considering removing your lawn and plants, 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.

PLANTING

Plant tropicals, ornamentals, trees, and shrubs. Late crops of warm season vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, and beans 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. ●

Outdoor Favorites continued from p5



Plumbago capensis



Acanthus



Alpinia sanderae

crinkly foliage of green and bright yellow. Light lavender-pink blooms are about the size of a quarter. These blooms adorn the plant most of the summer, but you'll have fewer blooms in cooler weather. Despite cooler weather, the plant stays nice looking. It's easy to grow so plant in full sun to partly sunny areas. This will grow to about 15" tall and as wide. This also makes a cute container plant. Once established, a light watering about two times per week will suffice. It does not like to be soggy wet. As for its name, when you crush the foliage it has a nice citrus fragrance. •

Plumbago capensis (P. auriculata)

Cape Plumbago, native to South Africa, is a really sturdy plant. It's generally grown as a large shrub to about 6 or 7 feet tall, and probably a little wider if left untrimmed. It is not very fussy as to soils, but adding a planter mix to your soil will get it off to a faster start. Keep new plantings moist, but once established, they require infrequent watering. Plumbago has attractive light green foliage, to about 2" to 3" long, and sky blue or white flowers through spring and summer. To form a thick screen, plant about six feet apart, they will fill in fairly quickly. Prefers full sun, but shade part of the day would be fine. It also works great on a bank.

Acanthus

Did you know that variegated Acanthus make very attractive and interesting plants for shaded areas of your yard? More common are the all green foliage ones, that have leaves a little larger than this variegated form. These leaves are dark green with almost pure white markings. It can really catch your eye in darker shadier locations. Acanthus likes to be kept moist pretty much all of the time. Mix in plenty of planter mix into your soil for best growth. Fertilize with Gro-Power every two months to encourage new and larger foliage. These are so easy to grow and your neighbors will be impressed.

Alpinia sanderae

Or common name Variegated Shell Ginger, is a great plant for shaded areas. It is a true Ginger, so it adds a tropical touch to your landscape. It's easy to grow and has bold green and yellow striping on the large leaves. It grows to about 4 to 5 feet tall and the leaves are about 10" long and almost 5" wide. It also makes a wonderful container plant if you have a shaded porch or patio. It generally does not bloom as much as the Common Shell Ginger, but the stunning foliage makes up for it. •



Water Lettuce Is A Versatile Floater

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



The name **Water Lettuce** is easier to remember than *Pistia stratiotes*, so that is what everyone calls this plant.

It's a small water plant or pond plant that floats on the surface of the water. It's super easy to grow and only requires being put in water. It will float among your water lilies and other pond plants.

It forms clumps to about 6" to 8" wide, and offshoots are formed to make new plants, which makes it self propagating. In time, you may need to thin them out. These floating plants help keep the water clear (shading the water) and if you have fish, they will feed on the roots.

For a decorative touch, you can try something a little different and place them in water in a ceramic pot with no drainage. Water Lettuce prefers bright light and may not be the best choice for a shaded area. Blooms are insignificant small white flowers that you shouldn't even bother to look for. The light green, soft fuzzy leaves are what make them attractive. I have seen the tiny offshoot used in small glass table decorations in place of flowers which is a novel way to show case them. •

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

8/5

Orchid Care & Repotting

8/12

Summer Fruit Tree
Maintenance

8/19

Weed Wars

8/26

Salsa Ole'
with Marco Diaz**POWAY | 9:30AM**

8/5

Herbs!

8/12

Common Sense Gardening & Watering
for Summer with David Ross

8/17 | 6:30pm

'New & Forever Roses' w/Steve Bening

8/19

Summer and Fall Veggies
with Richard Wright

8/26

Terrariums

Don't Miss These
Classes

August 17 | 6:30pm

Join us at the Poway store for 'New & Forever Roses' with Steve Bening from Star Roses. Learn about Star roses and enjoy grilled hotdogs.

September 2 | 9:30am

In Poway, Aubry Brown will lead 'Dirty Little Hands', a class designed for children ages 3-12 and their accompanying parents/guardians. Plan on getting dirty, singing, and dancing while celebrating our connection to food, flowers, soil, water, and bugs! •

It's Time To Grow Up;
Plant A Wall!

Beginning this month, both stores will have vertical gardening kits for sale. If you have at least a six foot space of wall, you can plant more plants than you ever thought possible. The Grow Wall system from Grow Up Vertical Farming improves space utilization by up to six times and reduces water usage by over 80% while still growing produce in soil, the way it was meant to be grown.

Growing vertically 10 sq. ft. of ground space can yield over 80 growing points. By drip irrigating the base of the plants and then catching and reusing any excess water, no water is lost in the watering process. For more information, visit www.growupverticalfarming.com. •

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