



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

AUGUST 2018



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## Dog Days Of Summer

By Ken Andersen

The dog days of summer are foretold by the rising of the star Sirius, in the night sky; a precursor to the hot weather of late summer harking back to ancient times. Here in San Diego, they came early this year. During and after those hot days, we saw many cases of heat damage and drought stress on plants.

Plants that normally can withstand high heat may be damaged if they are on the dry side when the heat hits. This can cause wilting, sunburn,



Sunburn due to drought stress

[continued p2](#)

## August Good-Looking Plants

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Santa Barbara Mexican Bush Sage



Compact Spicy Jatropha

Sure, you can garden year-round, but things slow down as the heat of August cranks up. Good news is that some shrubs really hit their zenith with lush growth, fabulous flowers, or pretty fruits this month. (And, with fall planting just around the corner, now's the time to take stock of the garden and with an eye toward spots that need a bit of late summer interest.) Here are five shrubs that look great this month.

### Santa Barbara Mexican Bush Sage

A more compact selection of the ever popular Mexican bush sage with the same rich purple flowers and long-blooming nature. Beautiful, soft, gray-green foliage is a wonderful complement to the bright blooms. Makes a stunning addition to a rock garden or mixed shrub border. A must-have for sunny Mediterranean-style gardens. It is evergreen.

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## Buddleia & Butterflies Are Meant For Each Other

This butterfly wasn't shy about showing its love for buddleia. Also known as 'Butterfly Bush', there are more than 100 varieties. These plants are not only friends to butterflies, as hummingbirds and bees love them too. Here's another plus, they are heat and drought-tolerant and fragrant! •



## Dog Days Of Summer continued from p1



*Heat stress on a Hibiscus*

or in the worst case, death from dehydration. Some plants are more susceptible to drying out and need to be watched closely, especially if they are newly planted. For instance, young leptospermum and dwarf bottle brush are notorious for giving up the ghost if they get dry just one time. However, once established, they are nearly impossible to kill.

When hot weather is expected, make sure plants are well irrigated BEFORE the weather hits. Trying to play catch up with drought and heat stressed plants does not always work and can lead to sunburn and other damage. Make sure irrigation systems are working efficiently and properly. Give extra water by hand if needed. Container plants are especially susceptible to heat and smaller potted plants may need water more than once a day. Moving containers to a shady area can help. Sometimes with container plants, it can be so hot that they transpire water through the foliage faster than the roots can bring it up. This will lead to wilting during the hottest part of the day. If the root ball is well soaked though, as the weather cools down in

the afternoon and evening, you will see the plants start to perk back up. This can be especially true of hydrangeas where the first part of the plant to wilt will be the flower heads.

Some plants like gardenia and hibiscus can shed foliage in extremely hot weather. This is typically foliage lower on the branches that will turn yellow and fall off while the foliage and flowers toward the end of the branches remain vibrant and green. This is a reaction to save water for the main plant by losing some of the older, less needed foliage.

The best advice is to keep an eye on the weather in the summer and hotter months of fall. Plan ahead so your plants go into it without being in or near drought stress by watering before the weather peaks. Make sure sprinklers are working well. Keep an eye on your containers and give them extra water as required. If you spot the signs of drought stress, give plants extra water for relief. If all of this is done, your landscape and garden should handle the dog days of summer with little or no problem. ●

## 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.

### PLANT

**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. ●



## August Good-Looking Plants continued from p1



Yellow Bird of Paradise



Royal Cape Plumbago



Scarlet Torch Bottlebrush

### Compact Spicy Jatropha

Clusters of rich rose-red flowers appear at the branch tips of this easy-care, tropical evergreen shrub. An excellent compact hedge or border accent. New foliage emerges bronze and turns vivid green with age. Resilient to extreme summer heat. Makes a great patio tub specimen. Also suitable for indoor use.

### Yellow Bird of Paradise

Let's see, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, deer-resistant, easy-care, heat-loving, water-wise, and smothered in large yellow flowers with striking long red stamens. Wonderful in groups or as a screen. Up to 6 ft. tall and wide. What's not to like?

### Royal Cape Plumbago

Huge clusters of vivid deep-blue flowers cover this sprawling, water-wise, vine-like shrub most of the year. Impressive statement when massed in a spot where you want loads of color without a lot of fussy upkeep. Up to 5 ft. tall and 8 ft. wide.

### Scarlet Torch Bottlebrush

Pair with anything from roses to grasses to succulents. This water wise shrub's fanciful flowers span the seasons (but they really look great in August!) Give them plenty of space for showing off. Up to 9 ft. tall and 12 ft. wide. ●

## A Pair Of Showstoppers To Share

By Melanie Potter



*Myoporum floribundum*

On a day when the temperature was into the triple digits, I spotted a tree with what looked like snow on it. Looks can be deceiving and on this *Myoporum floribundum* it was actually covered with tiny white flowers lined up along the branches. Sure you know myoporum as groundcover, but *Myoporum floribundum*, commonly known as weeping myoporum or slender myoporum, is a tree that can grow to 10' tall.

Long and thin drooping leaves hang from branches that serve as a base for the white flowers. Full disclosure, the flowers smell a little sour.

This is a plant we haven't seen often, but is native to New South Wales and Victoria, Australia. It can take full sun to partial shade and once established is drought-tolerant.

Here's another plant that likes full sun and is drought-tolerant,

## Water When You're Gone



Did you know that there are handy contraptions that can water your plants while you are away? We have a few products that can be attached to a water bottle or other water source and will supply a constant source of water to your plants when you are unavailable to do so. These can be used on indoor and outdoor plants, and you can add fertilizer to the water so plants can continue their feeding regimen. Now, get out of town and don't worry about your plants! ●

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## History of WAN: Walter Andersen— The Early Years

By Ken Andersen

*Ninth in the series. Read all the articles starting with the December, 2017 newsletter at [www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters](http://www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters).*

The parents of Walter Andersen Sr. emigrated from Denmark in the later part of the 1800s, making their way to Howard County, Nebraska where they homesteaded an 80 acre farm.

They built and lived in a primitive sod house for several years. Farming was a challenge because they dry land farmed, which made them dependent on rainfall as there was no infrastructure for irrigation. Wells were hand dug, primarily to supply drinking water for the families and animals raised on the farms. Windmills were everywhere and pumped small amounts of water into stock tanks. The power for farming was horses or mules. The Andersen family used horses. Each spring, the farms were planted in hopes of a good crop. The biggest gamble was rain.

In 1898, Hans (Walter's oldest brother) was born and two years later, Walter came along. He was followed by six brothers and sisters over the next 18 years. Eventually a traditional farm home was built for the family by his parents. The family mostly spoke Danish and many of the surrounding farms were inhabited by Danish immigrants. The children were educated in a one-room country school house. As the older children grew, some were sent out to work on other farms in the area. A small 80-acre farm could not support eight children. As a teenager, Walter worked on neighboring farms for \$30 a month, plus room and board.

In 1922, Walter's cousin Chris Westergaard, traveled by train from San Diego to visit the family. Walter and Chris (who was about five years older) seemed to get along well. Chris had established a nursery and greenhouse in the Mission Hills area of San Diego

called Rose Court Floral. He told Walter he would have a job there if he relocated. Walter agreed to work on a neighboring farm until the crops were harvested, then come to San Diego later in the summer.

Walter had managed to save some money to buy a used Model T Ford. That summer, Walter and a friend drove his Model T to San Diego (new Model T Fords were selling for about \$300). Walter relayed that there were virtually no paved roads at that time. Most were just graded soil. Denver, he said, had about 10 miles of paved roadway, east and west of the city. Most other areas were dirt or gravel. They camped out at night beside the road. It took them 10 days to drive from Nebraska to San Diego.

Arriving in San Diego, Walter went to work for Chris the next day. Rose Court Floral grew mostly interior plants and cut flowers for the businesses and hotels in downtown San Diego. This was all new to Walter, but he learned quickly. He worked for his cousin until 1928 when he decided to provide landscaping and general maintenance services on the larger homes in Mission Hills and Point Loma.

He rented a small parcel of land near the bottom of Juan St. and stored his equipment there as well as plants and supplies for landscaping. Soon there were customers who wanted to buy plants for their own yards and a retail nursery was founded.

After a few years, this new nursery area became too small and Walter rented a larger space on Pacific Highway near Rosecrans (the area under the freeway where the Old Town transit parking is today). A couple of years later, Walter bought a larger piece of land at Rosecrans and Moore Street, just a block away, and the nursery moved for the second time. •

## Showstoppers

continued from p1



*Agapanthus 'Twister'*

**Agapanthus 'Twister'.** Agapanthus is popular with landscapers and you're probably familiar with the various shades of purple, trumpet shaped flowers that make up an orb that resembles an exploding firework. If you think Agapanthus is over used, Twister is bicolor and that is what makes it so unusual. Each pale white bud opens into a delicate trumpet with a deep blue throat creating a dramatic color contrast that is simply astounding. It is on the rare side and not as easily found as other Agapanthus. Plant in rich soil. •

## Poway Store Hours



**Poway store  
changes its  
hours effective  
September 3  
to 9am-5pm  
daily.**





## Old Ben:

### Good Reasons, Bad Practices And No-Nos To Sharing Your Backyard With Birds

By Old Ben

#### The Good!

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

**Pest Control:** Many birds eat a variety of insects, including aphids, mosquitoes, spiders and other bugs that may not be welcome in a yard or garden. Attracting birds encourages them to take advantage of this natural food source.

**Weed Control:** Finches, towhees and sparrows consume great quantities of weed seeds, making them effective landscapers to help control unwanted plants. Planting seed bearing flowers for birds can also give them a natural food source to enjoy.

**Flower Pollination:** Hummingbirds, orioles and other birds that sip nectar are efficient pollinators of garden flowers.

**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 work to maintain.

#### The Bad!

Even well-maintained, beautiful landscaped yards could be hiding dangerous hazards for backyard birds.

**Dryer Lint:** Often set out for birds as a soft nesting material, dryer lint is actually a toxic trap. Even using natural cleaners or organic products produce lint with high chemical concentrations that can be harmful to birds. Dryer lint also falls apart when it gets wet and wet, sticky lint may coat a bird's feathers and make it more difficult for them to preen. Long strands of hair or

threads in lint can be tangle hazards in the nest.

**Dirty Bird Feeders:** Not all bird feeders are helpful to birds. If the feeder is dirty, it can harbor bacteria, mites and other pests that can spread diseases among an entire backyard flock. Dirty feeders are also smelly, which can attract pests such as wasps, raccoons, rats, and other visitors.

**Dirty Bird Baths:** Dirty bird baths can spread diseases to birds that drink or bathe from the basin. Dirty bird baths can also be breeding grounds for mosquitoes that can transmit diseases to humans. Hose clean your birdbath regularly.

**Empty Feeders and Baths:** Clean or not, bird feeders and baths aren't any use to birds if they aren't kept filled. An empty fixture forces birds to seek food and water elsewhere. Empty feeders can also become home to unwanted insects such as wasp or hornets nests, or mice or rats may take up residence.

#### The No-Nos!

**Glue Strips:** Any glue based pest control may seem like a fast, easy way to get rid of unwanted pests, but they're an indiscriminate tactic that can be fatal to birds. Small birds can get stuck on strips or traps as they try to feed off captured insects, and the glue can tear off bird's feathers or cause other brutal injuries.

**Bread Scraps:** Birds go crazy for all types of bread, from stale crusts and crumbs to cookies, donuts, chips, muffins and more. Unfortunately, these foods offer very little nutrition, and instead are the equivalent of avian JUNK FOOD. Over time, a diet filled with bread scraps can lead to growth deformations, obesity and a range of other health problems. •

## Old Ben's Promise

- I believe ingredients should come from nature, not a lab.
- I believe wild bird food should be made only with ingredients I am proud to share.
- I believe wild bird food should be simply prepared with as little processing as possible.
- I believe wild bird food should be made with a commitment to quality.
- Nature has nothing to hide; neither should your wild bird food.
- I use ingredients from natural sources across my entire line - NO artificial anything.

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid August 1-31, 2018

### Old Ben's Economy Wild Bird Seed

A traditional blend that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. **20lb. bag**  
**Great Value \$14.99**

### Old Ben's Nyger Seed

One of the favorite foods of goldfinches and many other small birds. **10lb. bag**

**Sale \$24.99** Reg. \$29.99

### Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

A very popular blend in a **25lb bag**. Many other wild birds love this blend.

**Sale \$19.99** Reg. \$24.99

### Old Ben's Crystal Clear Hummingbird Food

**Sale 2 for \$10** Reg. \$7.99

Must buy 2 to get sale price.

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



## Ask Old Ben!

Email Old Ben your questions at:  
[askoldben@aol.com](mailto:askoldben@aol.com)



## 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/](http://www.walterandersen.com/calendar/).

## SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

8/4

Second Harvest!  
Harvest More Vegetables

8/11

Backyard Chickens

8/18

Houseplants

8/25

Pepper Harvest & Salsa Making  
with Marco

## POWAY | 9:30AM

8/4

Composting &amp; Compost Tea

8/11

Success Begins in the Soil

8/18

Summer Lawn Care

8/25

Vegetable &amp; Fruit Lore

## Bonide

Annual Tree & Shrub  
Insect Control

**Bonide Annual Tree & Shrub Insect Control** may be the easiest way to control insects on ornamental trees and shrubs. No spraying required and it lasts up to one year. Mix Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub in a watering can and pour the amount specified around the base of your tallest ornamental tree or smallest ornamental shrubs. It controls Aphids, Borers, Leafhoppers and miners, Scales, whiteflies and many more pests. Read and follow all label directions carefully for best and safest results. •

August Special *Valid August 1-31, 2018*E.B. Stone  
Savings!

Buy 3 Mix or Match Edna's Best Potting Soil,  
E.B. Stone Planting Mix or GreenAll Soil Booster

**Special Combination Price \$19.28!**

**Must purchase 3 items to receive special pricing. No limit.**

*No special orders. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. While supplies last.  
Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.*

## 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



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