



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

SEPTEMBER 2014

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College Bound Students Can Enjoy A Green Thumb Experience

By Melanie Potter



Sansevieria



Succulents

Do you like the look of our newsletter? Ty Webb is our graphic artist and when we're working on each issue he goes above and beyond what you would expect a designer to do. He fixes things before I notice they need fixing. We edit copy together, rework space that looks impossible to fill, and he even suggests topics of articles.

Last month we had some space to fill in the newsletter and he pitched a story about plants that would be good to grow in dorm rooms. What a great, timely, and fresh idea. If I had my thinking cap on (rather than a dunce cap), I might have thought of it. But, I didn't and he was the one who recognized that students heading to college and spending nearly

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Succulents Galore

By Melanie Potter



'Blue Glow' Agave

I can't seem to get away from succulents because every time I turn around I see them planted in bowls or clever containers, growing low and compact, or supermodel tall and leggy. Succulents have a way of growing on gardeners because they are versatile, easy to care for, require little water, and are a natural fit to grow in Southern California. They look wonderful in a xeriscape garden or planted in all sizes and shapes of containers. The foliage colors are amazing, and they bloom, too!

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Bearded Iris Season Includes New Selections

By Melanie Potter

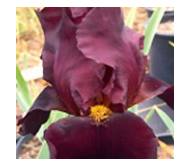
Bearded Iris time is upon us. This year, we'll have a better selection due to the supply beginning to catch up with demand. In addition to favorites such as **'Beverly Sills'**, **'Champagne Elegance'**, and **'Breakers'**, we'll have: **'Clarence'**, **'Ida Red'**, **'Navy Blues'**, **'Persian Berry'**, **'Feedback'**, and **'Silent Patriot'**.

Also available will be **'Grandma's Purple Flag'** and **'Great Grandma's Purple Flag'** which are strong rebloomers.

As for the newbies this year, here's a quick look:

'Ida Red'

Our supplier reports that this one was hoarded for years and there are finally enough to bring to market. It has glowing deep wine red blooms.



'Ida Red'

'Clarence'

A tall Bearded Iris which typically grows to 3' tall. Standards (upright portion of flower) are white with a violet tint and falls (drooping portion) are light blue-violet with white centers. Cream beard. Fragrant.

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College Bound Green Thumb Experience

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a year in a dorm might appreciate adding something to the décor that lent a homey touch and could calm fraught nerves.

I went to a couple of experts to get ideas of plants that could cut it at college. First stop was David Ross because he knows pretty much everything about plants! Turns out that this topic is close to his heart as last year when one of his twin daughters, Jaclyn, went to college, she acquired a **Pothos plant** that she even named (Sid, for those now distracted and wondering just what you would name a plant) and a year later, still has it. Pothos make good roommates and don't mind being neglected. They do well in low light despite preferring bright light and they like the soil to dry out between watering. Jaclyn did not have success trying to grow a Pink Polka Dot plant as some of the showier plants need more light and optimal growing conditions to flourish. Her sister reported that a **lucky bamboo** did very well.

My next source for information was Andrea, the houseplant expert in our Poway store. She and I would have likely been soul mate college roommates because she was able to rattle off quite a few suggestions. She instinctively knew what we would require when it came to sharing a dorm

and all her suggestions were forgiving ones—plants that could survive in any type of light and wouldn't need regular water or care.

Her suggestions included **Dracaena marginata** and **ZZ Plant** which can take low light. ZZ plant is short for **Zamioculcas zamiifolia**. It's a plant that has been around since the time of the dinosaurs. Appreciating bright light are choices like **succulents**, **Sansevieria**, **Peperomia**, and a **Goldfish plant**. Most of these plants just need a desktop to grow on, but if space is at a premium, don't despair as you can always grow a Pothos as a hanging plant or opt for other low maintenance hanging plants like a **spider plant**. •



Goldfish Plant



ZZ Plant



Peperomia

TO DO LIST: September

Watch for Santa Ana winds and make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns as needed, especially plants in containers.

FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue or Scott's Turf Builder. Use Scott's Turf Builder Plus 2 to feed 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. Last feeding for camellias, azaleas, and roses for the year.

PLANT

Sweet Peas, Winter Annuals like Calendulas, Stocks, Pansies, Violas, Mums, and Snapdragons. Plant winter vegetables.

LOOK FOR

Fall bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus and Freesia), Crape Myrtle, Arbutus, Bougainvillea, and Agapanthus. Be sure to chill Tulips, Hyacinths, and spring blooming Crocus before planting. •

Words From Walter

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Bulbs Are A Fall Must Have



Amarcrinum

Autumn is just around the corner and that's a good time to think about planting fall bulbs. Most usually arrive in September, so consider where you might plant some **Daffodils** and **Narcissus**, especially **Paperwhites**. Check out the selection of **Dutch Iris** and **Bearded Iris** with their huge, colorful blooms. **Crocus** and **Freesia** are not to be missed and check around the bulb displays as you might find something that you have not seen before. Bulbs are always fun and easy to grow.

When selecting bulbs, remember the general rule that 'bigger is better' and squeeze the bulbs lightly to be sure they are firm. If you are buying **Tulips**, refrigerate them for about four weeks in a paper bag. This chilling will cause the bulbs to think it is winter. When you plant them in our warmer soil, the bulb reacts to spring-like conditions and produces a stronger plant. If you plant **Hyacinths**, also refrigerate them. Most other fall bulbs can be planted as soon as our soils begin to cool, usually late September.

The majority of bulbs prefer being planted in a sunny location, but a

couple of hours of shade is usually fine. For best results when planting, mix a good compost into the soil to a depth of about 12" to 14". E. B. Stone Big Harvest Bale would be a great product to mix in before you plant. I suggest a mix of about 50-50 with your existing soil to get them off to a great start. If your soil is really terrible (like mine), use 70% Big Harvest and 30% existing soil. This will add a lot of great organic material that improves your soil. If you are going to plant in containers, use Sunshine Container Mix right out of the bag. At the same time, you might want to add a little Dr. Earth Rose & Flower organic fertilizer. This will get them off to a great start and they'll grow robust foliage.

Once your bulbs start to grow, scatter a little more Dr. Earth Rose & Flower on top of the soil to maintain their growth and good looks. I apply this monthly until the plants show signs of going dormant. Bulbs are a great way to have lots of color in the cooler months of the year. Remember, if you are planting in containers they dry out faster than bulbs in the ground, so be sure the soil does not get too dry. •

Backyard Orchard Culture Presentation

Dave Wilson Nursery



Join us September 27 at 9:30am at our Poway location, as we again welcome Tom Spellman, Southwestern States Sales Manager for Dave Wilson Nursery, the largest growers of deciduous fruit, nut and shade trees in California. Tom gave a presentation last year that was standing room only. This year, Tom will discuss how the objective of "backyard orchard culture" is the prolonged harvest of tree-ripe fruit from a small space. He will show how many different varieties of fruit trees with different ripening times can be planted close together for smaller, but year-round harvests. Learn how trees can be size-controlled by summer pruning, so that they can be cared for and their fruit harvested without the use of a ladder. Tom will also discuss planting and training techniques, including the selection of compatible varieties, espaliering fruit trees, hedgerow growing, and other space-saving strategies. •



Succulents Galore continued from p1



Lampranthus 'Pink Vygie'

The other day, a couple of stunners caught my eye that are worthy of a second look.

Try to imagine a daisy-like flower on a succulent and you'll get an idea of what *Fenestraria rhopalophylla* looks like. Also called Baby Toes, the plant lacks stems and leaves, but has clusters of cylindrical appendages that look like toes, posed in an upright position. The top of each toe has a clear layer that filters the sunlight and allows the plant to photosynthesize, thus enabling it to survive in the harsh Namib desert where it is from. Blooms will be either white or yellow.

Plant in well draining soil; provide bright light, and a thorough watering when the soil is dry.

I am determined to plant *Lampranthus* (*Oscularia*) *deltoides* 'Pink Vygie' somewhere. It has an awesome, tightly clustered look to it. Reddish-pink stems are topped with very small fleshy toothed leaves that are a silvery-blue color and the very edges are tipped in the same color as the stems. The leaves look like a drawing of a Christmas tree. You can grow this as a groundcover or in containers. This is a prolific bloomer and you could get daisy-like blooms in a range of colors; white, yellow, orange, pink, red or magenta.

Finally, one of my favorites. Agave 'Blue Glow' is a smaller (grows 1-2 feet) agave with smooth, blue-green leaves, red margins edged in yellow, and with tiny, soft spines. Blue Glow stays compact so it is well suited to being planted in a container. Plant in well draining soil, full to part sun, and water sparingly. ●



Fenestraria rhopalophylla 'Baby Toes'

Bearded Iris

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'Navy Blues'

Ruffled standards are very dark navy blue-violet; dark violet beards.

'Persian Berry'

Standards are dark lavender with falls that are a lighter violet/lavender that fades to white near the bright orange beard.

'Feedback'

Large blue-violet flowers with yellow beards.

'Silent Patriot'

Grape-scented, 'Silent Patriot' is a more traditionally shaped and scaled violet-blue iris. It was bred right here in San Diego County by the late Sanford Roberts, who was better known for his daylily breeding. The name came from this plants' consistent rebloom. It would bloom every spring of course, but it could also be counted on to rebloom on the 4th of July and usually once or twice more each year. Mr. Roberts considered the blue "flags" to be Silent Patriots standing at attention every 4th of July. ●

'Great Grandma's Purple Flag'



'Grandma's Purple Flag'



Raccoons: The Little Bandits

By Old Ben



The raccoon, also spelled racoon, is primarily a nocturnal North American mammal. They are considered omnivores (meat and plant eating) although they will eat almost anything, including garbage.

General Facts

Raccoons in the wild can live up to 16 years and records indicate a captive raccoon living for 21 years. Many don't make it past the age of three. Some deaths are attributed to predators like, cougars, bobcats, wolves, foxes and owls. Disease, hunting, trapping, and being hit by cars account for the majority of deaths.

Raccoons range in weight from 12-30 pounds and up to 50% of their weight can be made up of fat.

They are known for their masked face and the distinguishing ring markings on their tail. Anywhere from five to seven dark colored rings appear on the tail in an alternating pattern with brownish grey rings. Their tails often make up over half of their body length, which can often be over two feet long.

Raccoons are very agile tree climbers and do not mind climbing or falling from elevations as high as 40 feet.

They are considered to be quite intelligent and skilled animals. They use their paws to open trash cans, open doors, and pick up their food and eat it similar to the way a human does.

Raccoons have bad eyesight and are color blind, but have great hearing and a great sense of smell.

Raccoon Diseases

Raccoons have a reputation for carrying diseases that are dangerous to humans.

Because they are not picky eaters and will ravage garbage cans and even dead and rotting animals, they are carriers of harmful bacteria and parasites. Raccoon roundworm is a microscopic parasite that is extremely dangerous to both other animals and humans. If humans contact the disease from raccoon droppings, it can cause nervous system distress, blindness, and sometimes death. Raccoon rabies makes up almost half of all wildlife rabies cases that are reported in the United States.

Raccoon Facts

Raccoons have a large array of vocalizations. Scientists have determined that they can make more than 50 different sounds. They purr, whistle, growl, hiss, scream and even whinny. Their hands are so nimble they can unlace a shoe, unlatch a cage and retrieve coins from your shirt pocket.

On the mammal IQ scale, raccoons rank higher than cats and just below monkeys!

Raccoons have the ability to rotate their hind feet a full 180 degrees to allow them to climb down from trees head first.

A raccoon can run at speeds up to 15 miles per hour, and the heaviest weight recorded for a raccoon was 99 pounds.

They can live in storm drains and sewers. Population densities in urban areas can be 20 times higher than for raccoons in rural environments.

Raccoons have 40 sharp teeth including four long canine teeth at the front of the mouth.

Christopher Columbus is the first person we know of to have written about the species.

One thing raccoons will not eat are tomatoes. •

Old Ben's Specials

Prices Valid Sep. 1-30, 2014

25lb. Old Ben's Nyjer Seed
\$29.88 Reg. \$46.99

10lbs. Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed
Special Purchase!
Save 50%
\$9.99 Reg. \$19.99

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The easiest way to feed wild birds
\$29.99 Reg. \$42.99

Nyjer Mesh Finch Feeder
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Multi-Purpose Hanging Bowl
New Product!
\$9.99 Reg. \$14.99

Large Finch Sock
7 colors to choose from
\$5.99 Reg. \$8.99

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



Mums The Word

If we are going to talk about fall color, you can't keep mum about including Chrysanthemums somewhere in your landscape. Mums, of which there are about 30 species, are differentiated by their petal arrangements, but all types come in a wide variety of colors, including pinks, purple, orange, blue, yellow, and red. This is the season when both stores receive regular deliveries of China mums and regular fall mums.

Did you know that it's not just their range of colors that make these favorites of fall, but that the plants appreciate shorter days? Chrysanthemums are "photoperiodic", which means they bloom in response to the shorter days and longer nights we have in fall. Therefore, do not plant chrysanthemum

flowers near street lights or night lights because the artificial lighting may wreak havoc with their cycle.

Plant in full sun and in well-drained, enriched soil, and don't overcrowd chrysanthemums as they require good air circulation to reduce the chance of disease. Divide every couple of years.

Chrysanthemums not only look pretty in your home, but they contain a derivative that protects plants from falling prey to insects. You may have heard our customer service employees telling you about various products that work because they contain Pyrethrum, a natural insecticide. Chrysanthemum flowers are pulverized, and the active components called pyrethrins, contained in the seed cases, are extracted. This is applied as a suspension

in water or oil, or as a powder. Pyrethrins attack the nervous systems of all insects.

If you're looking for cut flowers to bring a feeling of fall into the house, look no further than China mums. These are mums with big heads and a vase life of one to three weeks. ●

Mums



Garden Classes

SEPTEMBER

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

9/6

Planning Your Backyard Orchard (Fruit Tree Pointers)

9/13

Appropriate Soil Amendments for Every Need

9/20

Cutting & Drying Herbs

9/27

Summer Rose Care

POWAY | 9:30AM

9/6

Succulents for Pots & Smaller Spaces

9/13

Xeriscape with Carol Fuller

9/20

Fall Veggies with Richard Wright

9/27

Backyard Orchards with Tom Spellman from Dave Wilson Nursery

Poway Store Hours

Poway store hours will change September 29. The store will be open 9am-5pm daily. The San Diego store is open 8am-5pm daily.



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