



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

SEPTEMBER 2015

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Cute As A Button!



Here's a gardenia that we think is as cute as its name: **Buttons!**

Buttons is available in a very limited supply right now as its performance is still being tested in plant trials. However, a release error occurred in our favor, and we have a few for each store.

[continued p2](#)

Fall Bulb Choices Include Drought-Tolerant Selections

By David Ross



Audrey Hepburn said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." David Ross said, "Planting bulbs, rhizomes and corms takes a whole lotta faith!"

The fall bulb season is upon us and that means both our stores will soon be well stocked with **Bearded Iris**,

Daffodils, Narcissus, Tulips, Hyacinth, Ranunculus, Freesias, Watsonias and much, much, more.

[continued p2](#)

Small Cracks Mean Big Problems For Irrigation

By Ken Andersen

Despite the miracle rains of July, we are not out of the drought and won't be for some time. It seems everyone is doing their best to conserve water and to use it in the landscape efficiently. Using water wisely makes sense, no matter what our water conditions are. When you think about it, why pay more when you don't have to?

I have converted most of my irrigation to stream rotor sprinkler heads or drip irrigation and my yard is surviving

[continued p3](#)



\$7 ROSE Blowout!

[Details on page 7](#)

Bulbs continued from p1



Tulips

At first glance, these bulbs don't look like anything we should be wasting our time with. I mean, they look brown and dry and certainly don't look like the easy to grow, armloads of flowers they'll turn into in just a few months! But that is exactly what these are, or will be. Planted in containers or in the ground, alone or with existing plants, these bulbs will be blooming in just a few months.

We call them fall bulbs because that is when they are available to be planted, though most of these will bloom during winter and spring. Many will naturalize here and bring flowers year after year with minimal care.

Look for the following:

Bearded Iris

We will have over a dozen varieties of one of the most durable, drought-

tolerant perennials you can plant. These strong, upright bloomers are fragrant and make excellent cut flowers.

Watsonia

Another durable, drought-tolerant grower that makes an excellent cut flower. It multiplies fairly freely, so give it space, or divide regularly.

Freesias

Easy to grow, very fragrant, and come in many colors.

Daffodils and Narcissus

Great planted in groups where they will get afternoon shade.

Tulips and Hyacinths

Need to be refrigerated in paper bags, not plastic, for at least six and up to 12 weeks prior to planting. They do great in containers as well. •



Paperwhites

Cute As A **Button!** continued from p1

What's neat about Buttons is that is a low-growing gardenia and the flowers are intensely fragrant. When it comes to an abundance of semi-double blooms, Buttons Gardenia cannot be beat. Appearing from late spring and into fall, the white blooms are fragrant and sit atop the beautiful dark green shiny foliage.

Buttons prefers morning sun and afternoon shade, however, is known to handle full sun quite well. In fact, it loves heat. It can be grown in most soil types as long as they drain well. When planting, incorporate plenty of organic matter and/or soil planting mix, especially in heavier soils and clay soils. It has low to average water requirements. This plant is deer resistant. [See more new plants on page 6.](#) •



TO DO LIST: September



FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for fall 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. 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. •

Irrigation continued from p1



just fine with the current restrictions. The areas that I could not convert, I supplement water when needed (it's ok to water with a hose in San Diego). With these changes, it was easy to look at my landscape with its sprinklers and drip systems working efficiently and think, "I've got this nailed!" Well not so fast. Just because things are going well above ground, doesn't mean all is well below the surface.

Since January, I have found three broken irrigation pipes that needed repairs. These were not noticeable geyser style leaks but subterranean leaks that wasted a lot of water. Here is how I found them and what I suggest you do in your own yard.

Set your sprinkler system to run an entire cycle with each station running five minutes or so in succession (regular maintenance of irrigation systems is allowable under San Diego restrictions). While it is cycling through, walk each station and look where the water is coming from. Check around heads to see if water is bubbling up from under them, or if you see water running off in an area where there are no heads, or areas that are excessively wet, and areas where irrigation pipes will cross paths with roots of trees and large shrubs. If you see anything suspicious, note it with a pin flag (small wire flags used by landscapers) for further investigation. Do this for each section of your system.

I found one leak under a section of sidewalk the city poured over my

landscaping after my house was built. It manifested itself as water bubbling up in the cracks of the sidewalk which I never would have noticed had I not been checking the system. When this was fixed, my bill dropped by about one third. Another leak was at the base of a tree where the roots had entangled the pipe and cracked it. This one manifested itself as water bubbling up from underground and required a section of my irrigation system to be re-laid to bypass the break that was entangled in the roots. Another leak was found while adjusting my newly installed stream rotor sprinkler heads on the back lawn. I noticed excessive water running on the surface. Following the flow of water up stream I found the source, a small bubbling leak near a sprinkler head. I believed I could fix this, so with the water running I started probing down and sure enough found it. A couple of shovels full of sod and soil later revealed this, which I photographed to share. It's a vinyl swing joint with a major crack down one side. This occurred from either old age or over tightening on installation or adjustment. I made a quick trip to the hardware store for a new fitting, reinstalled the head, placed it in position, then replaced the soil and sod, and done!

I suggest a survey of your entire sprinkler system at least once a year to catch these things. Another abnormality that will indicate a problem is a sudden spike in your water bill from cycle to cycle. If you see a spike but have not changed anything in your system or home, take a closer look as something is using that water. If you can control it, it will be money in your pocket and more water in the reservoirs! •

Straw Bale Gardening Experiment Begins

By Melanie Potter

We'll try nearly anything at Walter Andersen Nursery, so when we heard about straw bale gardening, we thought we'd give it a whirl.

A straw or hay bale garden is a gardening method used for raising vegetables, herbs, and flowers directly on a bale. Why is this popular you may ask? I referred to the Washington State University Extension website and found just a few reasons, which I cite below:

- **No digging or soil preparation is required, a big advantage if you have hard or rocky soil or if you live in an area where soils may be contaminated with heavy metals.**
- **Bales can be placed on concrete or asphalt paving.**
- **Bales are an inexpensive way to create raised beds for gardening**

Bear in mind, we planted these bales about two months ago. Interestingly, if you poke your finger into the bale, you see what looks like soil. The bales are composting and the plants are flourishing. It's early in our experiment so we'll update you on the results later. •



Straw Bale Gardening

Look Out! It's Raining Spit!

By Ken Andersen



We all know insects can do a lot of damage to our cherished plants. However, many have some pretty disgusting habits too! Snails and slugs leave slimy trails, Aphids, mealy bugs, and scale excrete honeydew which grows black sooty mold and attracts ants, tomato horn worms leave copious droppings, and glassy wing sharpshooters spray urine. Well there is another insect high on the grossness scale, the lowly **Spittle Bug!** These little leaf hopper type insects (there are about 23,000 species of them!) infest our plants and suck the sap out of them. Spittle bugs envelope themselves in a protective coating of foam that not only protects them from predators but also temperature extremes, and pesticides.

When I was a kid growing up in Bay Park we had a strawberry guava tree in our backyard near where we used to play. I distinctly remember it feeling like it was raining when we were under the tree because the spittle bugs had infested it. That was more than 40 years ago and I still remember my father, Walter Jr., explaining it to me before he eradicated them. Fortunately, they do little damage and are fairly easy to control. Usually a strong stream of water is all that is needed to knock them out of their perch and clean up the plant. You can use that same technique to control aphids as well. It doesn't take a lot of water just a strong blast. Both stores carry a nozzle called the Bug Blaster specifically designed for this. Put that on the end of a watering wand and you have an amazing insect control device that is pesticide free!

Here's one more thing to up the grossness factor on these little buggers. It's not really spit that you feel raining on you because it comes out the other end! •

Ada Perry's Gets New Look & Formula!

By Ken Andersen



For more than 50 years, Walter Andersen Nursery has recommended using Ada Perry's Magic Formula® on roses twice a year. These biannual fertilizer supplements do wonders for roses grown by rosarians and gardeners. Recently, the nursery changed manufacturers of Ada Perry's Magic Formula® and contracted with E.B. Stone Organics to produce an improved product in a flashy new bag! We are expecting to package the product later this fall in a 5 pound box for smaller projects and plantings.

The new formulation builds on the tried and true Magic Formula with the addition of 15% humic acid. Humic acid helps to kick start the microorganisms in your soil to build a better soil for your plants to grow in. This change allowed us to modify the label directions so that it can be used as a general pre-planting soil conditioner throughout your garden. This makes it a more flexible product that will benefit more than just roses! Next time you are in one of our stores, pick up a bag and try it. We think you will be as impressed as we are. Remember though, it is a supplement and should be used along with your regular fertilizing schedule. Walter Andersen Nursery is the exclusive supplier of Ada Perry's Magic Formula®. •



**\$7 ROSE
— Blowout! —**

Details on page 7

Old Ben: Mockingbirds

By Old Ben



Northern Mockingbirds endear themselves to many people with their melodious song, which can have up to 200 separate sound variations over their life span. They are a welcome sight in most gardens for their singing and because they eat common insects such as beetles, wasps, and grasshoppers. Northern mockingbirds require a mix of open and shrubby terrain to feel safe, so it is vital to mimic their natural habitat to attract them to your garden.

Size & Shape

A medium-sized songbird, mockingbirds have a small head, a long thin bill with a hint of a downward curve, and long legs. Their wings are short, rounded, and broad, making them seem very long in flight.

Color Pattern

Mockingbirds are overall gray-brown, paler on the breast and belly, with two white wing bars on each wing. A white patch in each wing is often visible on perched birds, and in flight these become large white flashes.

Behavior

The Northern Mockingbird enjoys making its presence known. They usually sit conspicuously on high vegetation, fences, eaves, utility wires, or run and hop along the ground. Found alone, or in pairs throughout the year, mockingbirds aggressively chase intruders out of their territory.

Habitat

Look for Northern Mockingbirds in backyards, parks, forest edges, and

open land at low elevations.

Cool Fact

It's not just mockingbirds that appreciate a good song. In the nineteenth century, people kept so many mockingbirds as cage birds that the birds nearly vanished from parts of the east coast. People took nestlings out of nests or trapped adults and sold them in cities such as Philadelphia, St Louis, and New York, where, in 1828, fantastic singers could sell for as much as \$50.

How To Attract Northern Mockingbirds

- 1) If you have a lawn, mow it often to create an open space where mockingbirds can swoop down to catch insects, which comprise the bulk of their summertime diet.
- 2) Grow a mix of native shrubs to provide year round cover and food during the autumn months. Plant species such as California lilac, toyon, and manzanitas, since they provide evergreen foliage and edible fruit.
- 3) Install a platform style feeder in your garden. Position it within 10 feet of the shrubs so the mockingbirds have ready access to cover if they feel threatened. Stock the feeder during the winter months when mockingbirds rely less on insects and more on fruit.
- 4) Stock your feeder with suet, raisins, dried currants, apple slices and rose hips. Do not add bird seed since mockingbirds won't eat it.
- 5) Provide a source of clean water somewhere in your garden, such as a bird bath, reflecting pool or even a shallow pan filled with water. •

50% OFF
Deciduous Fruit
Trees, Grapes &
Cane Berries

Details on page 7

Old Ben's Specials

Valid September 1-30, 2015

Introducing Old Ben's Organic Hummingbird Food

Certified Organic by Quality Assurance International and USDA.

16oz. Bag
2 for \$10 Reg. \$7.99

Nyger Seed

The staple food for gold finches and many other small birds.

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A classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in Old Ben's.

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The ultimate one seed wild bird food.

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Finch Sock Spectacular

Small Finch Sock

\$2.97 Reg. \$5.99

Large Finch Sock

\$4.47 Reg. \$8.99

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



Hello To These New Kids On The Block

By Melanie Potter



Sansevieria 'Ruffles'

Star Jasmine 'Sassy Sarsaparilla'

Some people love the scent of Star Jasmine. Others hate it. I love it, but I'm not sure about the scent of Star Jasmine 'Sassy Sarsaparilla'. This new variety smells nothing like the traditional Star Jasmine. Stick your nose into a flower cluster and you will come away swearing you smell root beer. That is exactly what this jasmine smells like. Root beer! It grows 12"-18" tall and 12"-48" wide if left unsupported. If given something to climb on, it will cover a fence like traditional Star Jasmine. This plant is heat and drought tolerant and performs well in sun or shade.

Red Crinum 'Menehune Burgundy Dreamer'

This heat loving compact crinum has striking, upright, burgundy leaves about 2-3 inches wide that only get 2-3 feet tall. Much more compact than its larger cousin! It is grown primarily for its foliage, but will have light pink, flowers. It flowers best when planted in the ground.

Sansevieria 'Ruffles'

This new Sansevieria will get about two feet tall and three feet wide and its leaves fan out from a single trunk. Ruffles is as drought tolerant as they come, and harder to kill than a Cast Iron Plant! It looks its best with no direct sun and is happy both inside the home and out.

Vinca—New Soiree Series of Catharanthus Hybrids

These Vinca hybrids from Suntory were among the favorites at California Spring Trials this year and give us new, previously unseen flower forms! Soiree Series Vinca fills out nicely in the landscape and thrives on the heat we get during summer and fall and frequently overwinters here as well. It lines up nicely along borders, tucked in next to other plants as a filler, or planted en masse. It has a mounding, bushy habit and its brightly colored flowers stand out against its deep green foliage. They are just as happy to find their home in a hanging basket or container and they look great with other flowers or all on their own. Best of all they require little water once established. Here are descriptions of the THREE new varieties we just received:

Pink 'Ka-wa-a-ii' Extremely compact plants with small flowers that are a hot fuchsia pink.

White 'Double' Double blooms have two distinct layers of frilly petals. Petal color is more of a pale pink.

White 'Crown' Gorgeously ridged petals shaped like a queen's crown. The flowers are called white, but are really a pale pink color. Plants grow 6-10 inches tall and spread 12-18 inches.

Tri-Colored Bougainvillea

Very Limited!! We have special test samples of a tri-colored bougainvillea. Three bougainvilleas are grafted onto a single stem. These may or may not be available again. •



Crinum 'Menehune Burgundy Dreamer'



Vinca 'Soiree Double'



Vinca 'Soiree Ka-wa-a-ii'



Vinca 'Soiree Crown'



Star Jasmine 'Sassy Sarsaparilla'



Tri-Colored Bougainvillea

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**9/5**

Soil Amendments for
Every Application

9/12

Summer Rose Care

9/19

How To Cut & Dry Herbs

9/26

Garden Trends Now!

POWAY | 9:30AM**9/5**

Some Like It Hot! Lush
Gardening with Desert Plants
Teresa from Moosa Creek

9/12

Citrus with David Ross

9/19

Fall & Winter Vegetables
with Richard Wright

9/26

Fall/Winter Flowers
with Brian Robert

Dates To Remember

Sept. 7**Labor Day**

Poway store closes at 5pm.

Sept. 7**Poway Store
Hours Change**

On Sept. 7, Poway store hours are
changing to 9am-5pm daily.

**Sept. 12 from 10am-1pm****Pet Adoption Event**

The San Diego Humane Society will
be at our San Diego store with some
pets looking for a forever home.

In-Store Coupon

Valid September 1-30, 2015

\$3 OFF
Ada Perry's
Magic Formula®

New & Improved!

20# Bag

Limit 3

Print or Show on your Phone

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Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.
Hedge Fund\$ points do apply.

In-Store Specials

\$7 Rose Blowout!

Final Clearance Price

All Sizes, No Limit

Valid September 1-30, 2015

Excludes Flower Carpet, Cecil Brunner &
Banks Roses. Limited to stock on hand while
supplies last, no special orders.

50% OFF

**Deciduous Fruit Trees,
Grapes & Cane Berries**

Valid September 1-20, 2015

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special orders. Hedge Fund\$ points do apply.



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