



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

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Ornamental Grasses For Late Season Magic

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery

Are there more dramatic plants in the late season garden than ornamental grasses? Have you seen them when they're back lit and glowing in the late summer sun? How about their graceful sway and hypnotic movement in even the slightest of breezes? Do you notice their sheer scale and height as they show off their full-grown stature? You can't take your eyes off a stand of them.

Here are my choices that are classified as warm season grasses which can handle heat, humidity, and drought then bloom well into fall. These are wonderful in borders, beds, and island plantings and most

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Good Eats: How To Grow Fig Trees

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Is there a tree more outrageously sensual than the fig? Those iconic leaves, the sculptural branching habit, and those sweet-as-honey fruit are the stuff of legends and lore. Cleopatra dished them up to Mark Antony. Adam and Eve found the foliage to be a handy coverall. Nations went to war over them.

Figs are also a bit of a botanical oddity as they're not actually "fruits" but a mass of inverted flowers. Wait, what? Yes, the flowers are inside the "fruits" and you are eating the blooms. (Impress your friends—this structure is known botanically as a synconium.) Best eaten lusciously ripe and sun-

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Sneak Peek For Spring: Bat Wing Passion Flower

By Ken Andersen

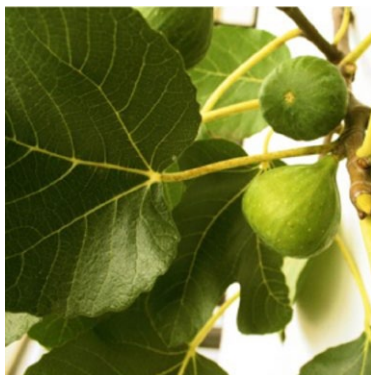
When I was much younger, (back when I only watered plants at the nursery) we had a large specimen of *Passiflora coriacea* or Bat Wing Passion Vine. It was in a large container and spilled over a trellis. It was spectacular! Unfortunately, we sold it without taking any cuttings for future plants.

Being a big fan of Passion Vines, I have been on a quest for another one for more than 35 years. A couple of years

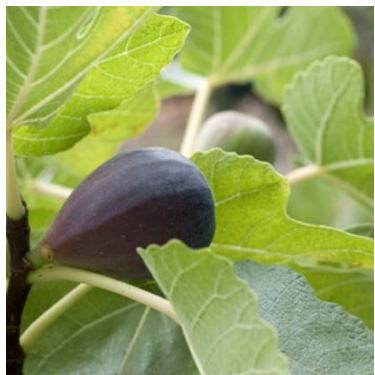
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Grow Fig Trees continued from p1



Peter's Honey



Mission



Black Jack



Brown Turkey

warmed straight off the tree, figs can vary in size, shape, flavor, texture, and time of harvest and can be black, green, brown, violet, yellow, or purple. Self-fruitful, so you need only one plant to produce fruit. They are easy to grow, and there's one for just about every size garden (and several that are quite cold tolerant).

Choosing the Best Fig For Your Space

Mature fig trees can be 15 to 30 feet tall—space a bit apart so that you can really see the unique shape of the mature tree. There are several varieties that stay naturally small and fit nicely into large containers. If you have the room, plant several and choose early-, mid-, and late-fruiting varieties to extend the harvest from early summer into early fall. Some figs will produce fruit very early in the season, called a “breba” crop, as well as the main crop later.

Where to Plant Fig Trees

Fig trees thrive in full sun and love the reflected heat of walls and buildings. During the first year, as plants become established, water regularly and mulch. Once established, figs are very drought tolerant. They need little pruning apart from removing weak, diseased, or dead branches, or if you want to keep your fig tree small.

Harvesting Those Delicious Fruits

This is the moment! When fruit is de-

veloping, it's important to water regularly. Check daily, and pick just as they ripen. You'll be picking the main crop of fruits depending on your climate and conditions, anywhere from June to September in warmer inland areas to October and November for cooler coastal places. In some tropical locations, fig trees may bear some fruit throughout the year, with increased production in early summer and mid-winter.

Now, about the birds. Yes, they love figs. The trick is to stay ahead of them by harvesting daily! Here are 7 of our favorite varieties for you to try in your own backyard garden.

Kadota Fig

Treat this fig as a small shade tree or accent if you don't have it in a fruit garden. Its green fruit is not as decorative as other figs, but some say even more delicious. Up to 25' tall and wide, smaller by pruning. Full sun. **Fruit:** Pert green skin gives way to a heart of pale amethyst. The taste is especially sweet and appealingly complex. Spoon over ice cream or yogurt.

Peter's Honey Fig

Originally from Sicily, it's an attractive garden tree. Needs plenty of heat to ripen fruit in cooler areas. Up to 25' tall and wide, smaller with pruning. Full sun. **Fruit:** Soft-skinned, yellow-green

with honey-like amber hued flesh. Great for preserves.

Mission Fig

Cultivated in the western US since 1768 and loved for its tall and wide habit that offers dense summer shade and abundant fruits. Up to 35' tall and wide, much smaller with pruning. Full sun.

Fruit: Deep blue-purple with deep-pink syrupy sweet flesh. Lovely dessert fruit.

Black Jack Fig

Wonderful container plant and cold-hardy, too. Up to 15' tall and wide; easily kept to 6' with annual pruning. Full sun.

Fruit: Elongated purple fruit with strawberry-red juicy flesh; sweetest with plenty of heat. Chop and add to salads.

Brown Turkey Fig

Plant where you can easily harvest its two yearly crops. Medium size, good for screening or as background. Up to 25' tall and wide, smaller with pruning. Full sun. **Fruit:** Deep-purple with rose-hued sweet flesh. Mild flavor pairs well with goat cheese.

Corky's Honey Delight® Fig

Semi-dwarf, thrives in mild coastal and warm humid areas. Can be grown in a large container. Up to 15' tall and wide, smaller with pruning. Full sun.

Fruits: Greenish with amber colored flesh, flavorful honey note. Great for smoothies.

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Grow Fig Trees continued from p2



Corky's Honey Delight®

Celestial Fig

Smaller-sized tree prized for vigorous growth, improved cold resistance, and bountiful early harvest. Up to 10' tall



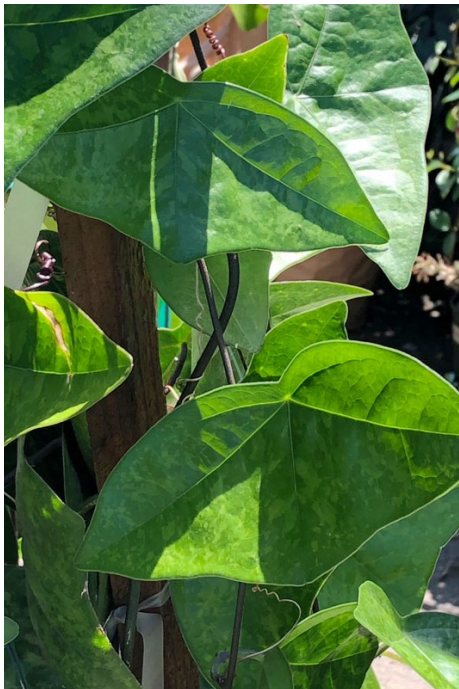
Celestial

and wide. Full sun. **Fruits:** Violet-brown with pinkish-purple sweet flesh. Perfect for preserves. •

Bat Wing Passion Flower continued from p1

ago I happened to find cuttings of *Passiflora coriacea* hybrids called Manta. This Passion Vine has all of the characteristics of *P. coriacea* that I remember, such as large batwing leaves that are a deep mottled green color and an exquisite tiny flower the size of a quarter.

Our Poway store has been growing the cuttings and I am hopeful to have them available in at least 1-gallon containers next spring. Not wanting to make the same mistake twice, we will keep the mother plant so we can continually have more in the future. Keep your eyes on the newsletter. When they become available, we will announce it here! Here is a sneak preview of what to expect. •



Poway Store Hours

The Poway store fall hours begin September 2.
The store will be open daily from 9am-5pm.

Ornamental Grasses

continued from p1



Plumetastic®



Miscanthus

spellbinding when grown in groups of three or more!

Plumetastic® Pink Muhly Grass

Glittering clouds of vivid purple plumes lend rich color from late summer to fall. Up to 3' tall and wide; blooms to 4' tall. Partial to full sun. **Design:** Add to ornamental or native landscapes as a singular sensation or massed.

Miscanthus—Morning Light Maiden Grass

Dense clumps of slender blades with creamy white margins creates a shimmering silvery appearance. Up to 5' tall, 4' wide; plumes to 6'. Partial to full sun. **Design:** Use height and width to contrast low borders or walls.

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TO DO LIST: September



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. Last feeding for Camellias, Azaleas, and roses for the year.



Cauliflower

Plant

Plant Sweet Peas, winter annuals like Calendulas, Stocks, Pansies, Violas, Mums, and Snapdragons. Plant winter vegetables. For your veggie planting, don't miss broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, lettuces and greens, potatoes, radishes, and peas. Cool-season tomatoes are here!



Hyacinths



Freesia



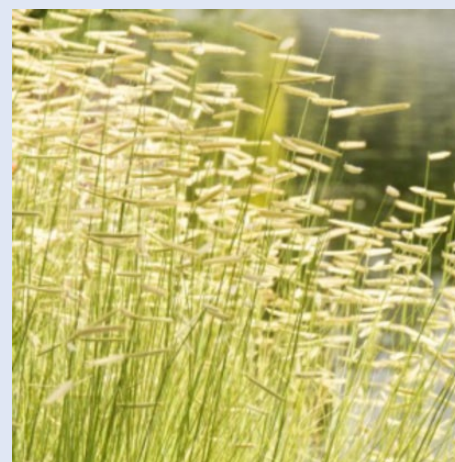
Agapanthus

Look For

Fall bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus and Freesia). For the best selection, buy them early. Most spring-blooming bulbs such as Tulips, Hyacinths, and Crocus will need to be pre-chilled in the refrigerator for 6-8 weeks to 'fake' winter before planting outdoors. Crape Myrtle, Arbutus, Bougainvillea, and Agapanthus. •

Ornamental Grasses

continued from p3



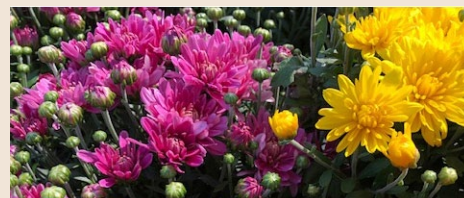
Blonde Ambition

Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass

Rugged native with flag-like, golden summer flowers on stiff, weather-resistant stems. Up to 3' tall and wide. Partial to full sun. **Design:** Adds texture to waterwise gardens. •

What's New?

We know it feels like summer but fall is around the corner and that means it's Mum time! By mid September we will have a larger selection of these beauties along with fall vegetables and other favorite fall flowers. •





Old Ben:

The American Kestrel

By Old Ben



The American kestrel is one of the most common and colorful birds of prey in North America. Because of its plumage and small size, about the size of a robin, it can easily be mistaken for a songbird as it sits atop a utility pole or wire. However, once witnessed hovering over an open field in search of prey, the Kestrel's predatory nature becomes apparent.

A member of the falcon family, the American Kestrel is closely related to the Peregrine Falcon and Merlin. The Kestrel is often referred to as the Sparrow Hawk because of its small size. The Kestrel's diet consists mainly of insects and small mammals. As is the case with many beneficial predator species, the Kestrel's value lies in keeping insect and small rodent populations in check.

American Kestrels are apt and able hunters. They hunt large insects, bats, mice, small reptiles and occasionally small birds. Kestrels usually hover before dropping on prey from above, pinning victims to the ground. They

rarely chase prey, such as flying insects or bats through the air. Kestrels perch on wires or poles, or face into the wind, flapping and adjusting their long tails to stay in place. Kestrels are declining in parts of Oregon and California.

Bonding among Kestrels is strong and usually permanent. A pair is established after the male takes over a particular territory. Then, a female will begin to hunt and associate herself with the male. The activities that will strengthen the bond between the two Kestrels include courtship, feeding of the female by the male, aerial displays and the search for a nest site. Kestrels nest in the spring from April to early June in woodpecker holes, natural cavities, and niches in cliffs or buildings.

American Kestrels favor open areas with short ground vegetation and sparse trees. You'll find them in meadows, grasslands, deserts, parks, farm fields, cities and suburbs. When breeding, kestrels need access to at least a few trees or structures that provide appropriate nesting cavities. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid September 1-30, 2019

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

Attracts Lesser Gold Finches and many other small birds.

25lb. bag

Sale \$49.99 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The No Mess Advantage. Seed is hulled and chopped, will not sprout so birds can eat all the seeds which attract fewer feeder pests.

20lb. bag

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

A very popular blend. Many other wild birds love this blend too.

25lb. bag

Sale \$19.99 Reg. \$24.99

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



Old Ben's Large Nyger Feeder



Constructed of cedar woods and stainless steel wire. Decorated by a San Diego artisan for Old Ben's Workshop. No two feeders are exactly alike. Holds six pounds of Nyger Seed.

Sale \$49.99

Reg. \$64.99

Ask Old Ben!

Ask Old Ben questions about birds, show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences?

You can at

askoldben@aol.com

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

9/7

Container Gardening

9/14

Fundamentals of Drip
Irrigation

9/21

Native Plants
with Moosa Creek

9/28

Marco's Salsa Class
Ole!**POWAY | 9:30AM**

9/7

Fall & Winter Vegetable Gardens
with Chuck McClung

9/14

Succulents for Containers

9/21

Fall Orchard Care: Spraying &
Prepruning with Richard Wright

9/28

Bonsai: An Introduction with Tony
There is no charge for this class!

Smart Pot Class



Mark your calendar for October 12 and join us at the Poway store for *Container Gardening With or Without Smart Pots* presented by Eric Olsen of Smart Pots. Smart Pots are environmentally-friendly fabric pots that do not leech harmful toxins into the water system. They are made in the USA.

This is a free class but you must RSVP to the Poway store at 858-513-4900. The first 50 to RSVP will receive a 5-gallon Smart Pot! The class begins at 9:30am. •

Volunteer Opportunities at Poway Parks



On September 14th we will have a special guest at our Poway store.

A park ranger from the City of Poway will host a booth to share volunteer opportunities for **Blue Sky Ecological Reserve** and the **Kumeyaay-Ipai Interpretive Center**. Both sites need volunteers to help maintain trails and preserve natural habitat as well as provide assistance for special events and lead tours for the public, scouts, schools and community groups. No experience needed and the training is flexible and self-paced!

The park ranger will be on site from 9am-11am and looks forward to answering your questions. •

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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