



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

OCTOBER 2017

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## Mexico And Japan Are Home To Beautiful Plants

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



*Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold'*

**Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold'** is a very bright yellow-green perennial grass from Japan. 'Golden Hakone Grass' is often used as a common name and it grows as a clump to about 12" tall, perhaps a little wider in time. It can brighten up a shady area. In coastal areas, it tolerates full sun. Plant in rich, well drained,

[continued p3](#)

## Spooky Colors For Your Garden



*Pennisetum rubrum*

With Halloween just around the corner, both stores have plants that might provide the spooky look you want to achieve in a container garden.

**Pennisetum rubrum 'Giant' or 'Fireworks'** has black-purple foliage and fuzzy flower spikes. It is a tall and showy plant that could be the thriller in your Halloween container garden.

If you were a fan of the television show, The Addams Family, then you



*Crinum 'Sangria'*

will recall that Gomez Addams would often give roses to his wife, Morticia. If he were to gift her with a plant, it could very well be **Crinum 'Sangria'**. This is a tall plant with green-black foliage that blooms with a pink lily-like flower. It has a weeping habit and could steal the show in a container.

Another black-colored thriller is **Aeonium 'Zwartkop'**. This succulent

[continued p2](#)

## Make Pumpkins Last Longer

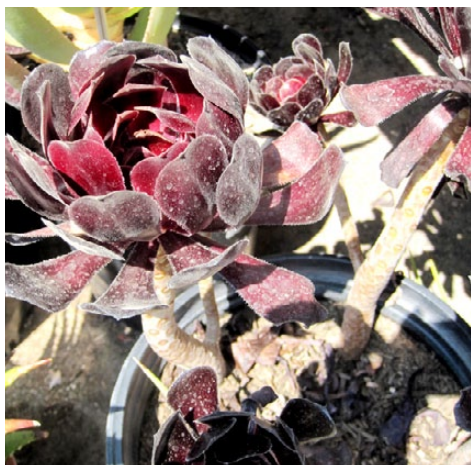
By Botanical Interests

Autumn is here, and nothing says October like "pumpkin". In addition to starring in delicious food dishes, there are many creative ways to decorate with pumpkins for fall. Speaking of pumpkin decorations, did you know that the Jack O'Lantern came from an Irish myth? In the myth, Jack put an ember in a hollowed-out turnip, and he became known as "Jack of the



[continued p4](#)

## Spooky Colors continued from p1



*Aeonium 'Zwartkop'*



*Hamelia 'Sierra Red'*



*Black Mondo Grass*

will fare well in a container or you can transplant it in the garden.

**Hamelia 'Sierra Red'** would be a good match with its red-orange blooms and bright green foliage. Add some **Black Mondo Grass** and a Halloween pick or decorative item and you would have a versatile container garden that could be replanted for Thanksgiving.

Since Black Mondo Grass is low-growing, it makes good filler for a container. Fill in with other plants such as **red leaf lettuce** or **Scarlet Bor Kale** (why not have container gardens that are partially edible)? **Heuchera 'Frosted Violet'** or **Sedum 'Dragon's Blood'** won't

continued p3



*Scarlet Bor Kale*



*Sedum 'Dragon's Blood'*



*Red Leaf Lettuce*



*Heuchera 'Frosted Violet'*

## Spooky Colors continued from p2

disappoint as filler and for a spiller, how about **Black Potato Vine**?

For splashes of color that could also be the thriller in a container, look no further than **Gloriosa Daisy 'Autumn Colors'**, **Lantana**, or **Marigolds**. Don't miss **Plectranthus 'Mona Lavender'**. It has purple flowers and the bright green foliage is dark purple underneath!

If you don't feel like designing a Halloween container, grab a pot of **ornamental peppers** and a piece of Halloween décor; put it in a container and voila; instant spooky container garden! •



*Gloriosa Daisy 'Autumn Colors'*



*Black Potato Vine*



*Lantana*



*Marigolds*



*Ornamental Peppers*



*Plectranthus 'Mona Lavender'*



*Beschorneria yuccoides*

## Mexico And Japan

continued from p1

moist soil as you would with most ferns. Consider this for borders along shaded walks, or cool rock gardens. It is a frost hardy plant.

**Beschorneria yuccoides** is a beautiful plant native to Mexico. It resembles yucca plants but the leaves are spindles. The long, strap-like leaves have a bright streak of yellow in the center. In early summer the plant sends up a flower spike of coral pink stalks with bell shaped yellow-green flowers three feet or more above the plant. It is great as a specimen in a container or in the soil with other landscape plants. •

## Special Buy!



**Lomandra  
'Katrinus Deluxe'**  
**\$2.99**

**1-Gallon.** 3' x 3' Evergreen Grass. Available at both stores.  
*Limited to stock on hand. No rainchecks.*

## Pumpkins continued from p1

Lantern" which was shortened to Jack O'Lantern over time. No matter what your creative inspiration, here are some tips to enjoy pumpkins longer.

### [1] Choose your pumpkin carefully

A soft stem, nicks, or bruises are indications that they may have started rotting, so these pumpkins will not hold up as long.

### [2] Decorate pumpkins

Painted, glittered, and stenciled pumpkins are beautiful and hold up much longer than carved pumpkins.

### [3] Carve only a few days ahead

All carved pumpkins look their best in the first three days, so schedule carving parties accordingly. Keep carved pumpkins clean and sanitized to prevent

mold from taking over. Soaking a carved pumpkin in a diluted bleach solution has proven to be the most effective method for keeping it fresh and rot-free for a full week (possibly a little longer).

### [4] Do nothing—Really!

For carved pumpkins, several so-called remedies like glue and hairspray actually cause mold to build up more quickly than doing nothing. An all-natural pumpkin can last up to a week, although the carving may shrivel a little bit (a great asset for a spooky, witches face!).

### [5] Protect from heat

Bring pumpkins inside if the weather is hot. •

## Come See Our Barrel!

Our Poway store is one of six businesses sponsoring and hosting a hand-painted wine barrel to preview before the **5th annual Ramona Art and Wine Festival** where one of the many events includes an auction of the barrels. The festival will be held at Begent Ranch, 18528 Highland Valley Road in Ramona on November 4th from 11am to 5pm. The barrel we are sponsoring was painted and carved by artist **Jackie Neal**, a Poway resident. •



Hand-painted by Poway resident Jackie Neal

## TO DO LIST: October



### PLANTING

**California natives** and drought-tolerant plants are best planted this time of year to get root systems established. **Bulbs** like Daffodils, Ranunculus, Freesias, Anemones and more. **Winter annuals** like Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, and Primrose are good for shade areas. Cool season **vegetables**, shrubs such as early **Camellias** and **Azaleas**, and trees that provide wonderful fall color such as **Cotoneaster**, **Liquidambar**, and **Ginkgo**. Overseed Bermuda **lawns** with Annual Rye. It's a great time to plant Fescue from seed or sod.

### WATER

When dry **Santa Ana Winds** arrive, make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns as needed, especially container plants.

### 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. **Do not feed** Camellias until after they are finished flowering. •



## Words From Walter

**Trees** By Walter Andersen, Jr.

### Strawberries on a Tree?

Well, not quite. **Arbutus unedo compacta**, or “**Compact Strawberry Tree**” is a pretty, smaller growing tree to about 8' - 10'. Its combination of green leaves and cinnamon colored bark is eye catching. In summer, it forms clusters of small white blooms that are followed by seedpods eventually turning orange to red-orange that resemble strawberries as they mature in fall. The fruit is edible, but bland and not commonly used for food. Grow it as a great smaller growing tree/large shrub. It is an attractive addition to almost any landscape. It is water wise once established which is another plus.



*Arbutus unedo compacta*



*Magnolia grandiflora*

### A Dwarf Magnolia

**Magnolia grandiflora ‘Little Gem Dwarf’** is a wonderful smaller growing Southern Magnolia. It has large, glossy, green foliage and huge, fragrant 5” to 6” white blooms from late spring into fall. The great thing about these dwarf magnolias is that they don’t become huge trees as some of their relatives. This variety maxes out at about 20 to 25 feet tall yet still delivers the great magnolia blooms that everyone loves. Growing 10 to 15 feet wide, they are much better suited for neighborhoods. Here’s an interesting tidbit. Most of the growers leave the lower branches on in case you prefer a low branching tree. •

## Biennials Facts, Tips, & Fun Information

By Botanical Interests



Biennials live for only two years, producing foliage the first year and flowers the second. If you sow them now, the foliage will grow this year, and give you a big boom of blooms this coming spring!

**Biennial Tip:** Plan your blooms! Sow some seeds now for next spring, and sow again next fall for the following spring. Since there is a bonus of many biennials reseeding, you have ensured beautiful biennial flowers year after year.

**Hollyhock** is a favorite biennial and Botanical Interests added a new one to their collection this year that has a wonderful story.

**Outhouse Hollyhock:** No garden should be without the prolific and long-blooming hollyhock. Did you know that they were traditionally grown near outhouses? Some say to hide the outhouse; others say they were grown there as a signal to ladies so they did not have to ask where it was located. ‘Outhouse’ includes pink, white, red, and burgundy flowers and some have contrasting centers. Flowers have a long bloom period and are edible! They are fairly drought-tolerant but perform best with ample moisture and rich soil; otherwise, practically care-free! They can contract rust so keep an eye out for this fungus. They attract pollinators and are deer resistant. •

## WAN To Partner with NCL at Holiday Time

We are pleased to work again with the **Poway chapter of the National Charity League** in conjunction with their annual holiday home tour. The event, to be held **December 2**, allows ticket holders to view three Poway homes beautifully decorated for the holidays. Tickets are \$25 and will be available for sale at our store in Poway. Tickets will include a coupon for that evening’s holiday open house at the Poway store. **See page 8** in this newsletter for information regarding both stores’ holiday open houses. •

## What's In Your Fall Bed?

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



*Sweet Pea Shrub*

'Sweet Pea Shrub' is the common name for **Polygala dalmaisiana**. The lavender-purple blooms resemble tiny orchid flowers. They cover the plant non-stop from spring to fall. You may even have blooms in winter. The foliage is grey-green and the shrub grows 3' to 4' tall. It can be trimmed back which will make the plant bushier. There is a dwarf variety that is more compact. It grows best in full sun to part shade. Avoid dark, shaded areas with this one.

'Russian Sage' is a very colorful plant that blooms from late spring to fall. (**Perovskia** is the botanical name) This woody perennial is tough and loves the sun. The plant is covered with tiny lavender-blue flowers and grows to 48" tall. There is also a dwarf variety that only grows to 2 feet. It is easily



*Russian Sage*

trimmed to maintain the size you prefer. In fact, trimming off spent blooms will encourage more later on. It is a low water plant once established.

**Asparagus 'Meyerii'** is a wonderful plant that is very easy to grow. It forms long stems (like tails) from a central clump. The plant grows to about 24" tall and about 40" to 48" in diameter. The stems are covered with lots of tiny bright green leaves that are fluffy looking. They can have little white blooms that if pollinated develop into seed pods of bright orange-red little balls about 1/4" in diameter. The plant

looks great year-round and the unusual shape draws attention. It grows best in half day shade, more shade inland where it is warmer. It is a great potted plant, but will grow larger in the ground. It is hardy and not fussy but will appreciate the addition of soil amendment when you plant. Fertilize with E. B. Stone General Purpose Organic plant food every two months. It can be planted in full sun but tends to get a lighter green. •



*Asparagus 'Meyerii'*

## Poway To Hold Kokedama Workshop



### Create a Moss Ball based on Japanese Traditions

We think you'll have a ball at this class! A moss ball that is and Oct. 28 (9:30am) at our Poway store is the date that you will learn about Kokedama (Ko Kay Da Ma), a unique form of living art. It is simply a ball of soil covered by moss then arranging plants that will grow into it.

The class will be taught by Kanako Yamada, owner of Kodama Forest. She made her first Kokedama with a house plant when visiting her family in Japan after being inspired by her uncle and taught by her father.

The class is limited to 15 people and there is a \$28 materials and instruction fee. Call 858-513-4900 to RSVP and pre-pay for the class. Participants will have access to the supplies (moss, soils, materials, and plants) needed to make a moss ball and are welcome to bring gloves and an apron to wear. •



## Old Ben:

### Creating A Wildlife Habitat

By Old Ben



Whether you have an apartment balcony or a 30 acre farm, you can create a garden that attracts beautiful wildlife and helps restore habitat. Creating a wildlife habitat is as easy as providing food, water, shelter, and a place for wildlife to raise their young. Another benefit is that you will be incorporating sustainable gardening practices.

#### How to Create a Wildlife Friendly Garden

**Provide Food for Wildlife:** Everyone needs to eat! Planting perennials, shrubs and trees is the easiest way to provide the foliage, nectar, berries, seeds, and nuts that many species of wildlife need to survive and thrive. You should also add supplemental feeders and other food sources.

**Supply Water for Wildlife:** Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources can include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans and wetlands. Man made features such as bird

baths, installed ponds, puddling areas for butterflies, or even a clay or plastic saucer work great.

**Create Shelter for Wildlife:** Wildlife requires places to hide in order to feel safe from people, predators and bad weather. Use things like native vegetation, shrubs, thickets and brush piles or even dead trees.

**Give Wildlife a Place to Raise Their Young:** Wildlife need a sheltered place to raise their offspring. Many places for cover can double as locations where wildlife can raise young. Locations include wildflower meadows and bushes where butterflies and moths lay their eggs and caves where bats roost and form colonies. Nest boxes and nesting material can go a long way to help the wild birds.

**Let your Garden Go Green:** How you maintain your garden or landscape can have an important effect on the health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife. Composting, and mulching your yard are important steps to greener gardening! •



### Everything But The Web... Old Ben's Hummingbird Nest Building Kit

Invite Hummingbirds to nest in your yard. The Hummingbird Nest Building Kit includes green moss, forest bark, lichen and 100% natural kapok tree golden silk fibers. The hummers will supply the spider web.

**Sale \$11.99** Reg. \$14.99

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid October 1-31, 2017

### 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 pests.

**20lb. bag**

**Sale \$34.99** Reg. \$39.99

### Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

A popular blend in a **NEW 25lb size**. Many other wild birds love this blend.

**25lb. bag**

**Sale \$22.99** Reg. \$29.99

### Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The Staple food for goldfinches and many other small birds.

**25lb. bag**

**Sale \$49.99** Reg. \$59.99

### 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](mailto:askoldben@aol.com)



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



Join us at our

# Holiday

## Open Houses

AT WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY  
POWAY AND SAN DIEGO LOCATIONS

**Poway**

**December 2**  
5:30-7pm

*(Poway store closes at 5pm and reopens at 5:30pm)*

**San Diego**

**December 2**  
11am-1pm

Get your **FREE** photo with Santa and enjoy food and beverages. Shop for your tree, holiday plants, ornaments and décor, as well as gifts for friends and family. As always, we are family and pet-friendly!

.....  
FREE Photo  
with  
**Santa!**  
.....



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• [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com) •

*Coupon Valid Day of Events Only*

**Enjoy Special Savings!**

*Use Coupon During Our Open Houses  
on **December 2, 2017**  
in Poway or San Diego*

**\$25 OFF**  
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*This offer may not be used in  
conjunction with any other  
discounts, consultation  
services and sod or gift  
certificate purchases.*

## Garden Classes

## OCTOBER

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

10/7

Fall Bulbs-Spring Blooms

10/14

Winter Color Garden

10/21

Pruning Stone Fruit Trees

10/28

Winter Composting with  
Matt from Malibu Compost

## POWAY | 9:30AM

10/7

Fall is for Composting!  
with Matt from Malibu Compost

10/14

Carnivorous Plants

10/21

Citrus Selection & Care  
with Richard Wright

10/28

Kokedama Workshop  
(\$28 materials fee, must RSVP)Planting **Horse Tail**

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Despite its name, **Horse Tail Reed (Equisetum hyemale)** is not a bamboo or even close to it. This is an ancient plant that has survived almost everything. It grows just about everywhere. Plant in sun or part shade. It will be a good idea to plant it in a container or restricted use bed because it is very invasive and difficult to control.

Horse Tail loves wet areas and is at home around a pond. It is a real eye catcher in pots. You may see it trimmed like a flat top hair cut, but grown naturally is equally attractive. It is ideally suited for Asian, modern or contemporary landscapes. This tough plant grows well with minimal care to about 4' - 5' tall. •

## October Special!

Offer Valid October 1-31, 2017

# 20% OFF

## All Terra Cotta and Glazed Pottery

Styles & sizes vary by store.

Limited to stock on hand. No special orders.  
Cannot be combined with any other discount or  
offer. Hedge Fund\$ points do apply.



## WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

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## 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