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Going Native

By Melanie Potter



Banksia

When we prepared to give a plant presentation to the Horticulture Society, we knew we had to bring in lots of Australian and African natives since that was the subject. We ordered extra so we would have some to offer for sale. In fact, some

[continued p3](#)

Camellias—Easy To Grow In San Diego

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



'Yuletide'

During winter when many other plants are dormant and leafless, Camellias shine in San Diego.

Camellia japonica

There are many different types of camellias, but *Camellia japonica* is by far, the most popular type. They can grow fairly large. Some varieties can grow 8-10 feet or more, but can easily

be kept smaller by pruning them after they have finished blooming, and once or twice more during their growing season. Once flower buds begin to form (late summer), stop pruning until the plants finish blooming. Most varieties of *Camellia japonica* begin blooming from December to February, and continue blooming for about three months.

[continued p2](#)

10 Facts Every Japanese Maple Lover Needs To Know

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery

With more than 1,000 varieties and cultivars including hybrids, the iconic Japanese maple tree is among the most versatile small trees for use in the landscape. Here are 10 “did you know” fun facts about them.

There are lots of *Acer*s but only three species are commonly called Japanese maples, and only two of those are very commonly grown: ***Acer japonicum*** which hails from Japan, Korea and Man-

[continued p3](#)



Photo: Monrovia Nursery

Camellias continued from p1



'Setsugekka'



'Pink-A-Boo'

The plants have beautiful, medium sized, dark green, glossy foliage about 3-4 inches long. Blooms are 3-5 inches in diameter and are large, showy, and great for floating in bowls. They make great container plants (use larger, 16-20 inch pots), and do quite well in the ground. When planting in the ground, use a mix high in peat moss or other organic matter such as Sunshine Azalea Camellia mix. When planting in containers, use Edna's Best potting soil, or the Sunshine All Purpose in the black bag.

Camellias like to be kept moist, but not soggy wet. During winter, water camellias in the ground about once every 7-10 days. Camellias in containers will need to be watered about once or twice per week. During summer or hot, dry periods, water more frequently.

Fertilize with an acid food or camellia and azalea fertilizer. Stop fertilizing early September or once buds begin to form. Feeding after that may cause the buds to drop.

Camellia japonica prefers shade, morning sun or filtered sun but will tolerate more sun in the coastal areas. Generally, darker flowering varieties are more sun tolerant.

Camellia sasanqua

The second most popular variety has smaller leaves and smaller, but more plentiful blooms. They tend to begin blooming a little earlier, usually starting in October or November. Camellia sasanqua tolerate more sun, but usually do better with some afternoon

shade away from the coast. There are two primary growth habits to Camellia sasanqua. Some varieties grow low and wide, other types are more compact and upright.

Sasanquas also make excellent container plants. Some of the low growers can even be used as hanging plants! Care for sasanquas is very similar to japonicas.

The Tried & True and Something New

'Yuletide' is a favorite. Single, brilliant red blooms centered with bright yellow stamens make an elegant statement in the winter garden. The glossy, dark green foliage creates a handsome natural hedge, foundation shrub or espalier specimen. It's a mid-season bloomer and is evergreen.

'Setsugekka' has large, perfectly formed, semi-double, white flowers with ruffled edges and a bright center of golden stamens. The dense, upright habit and glossy, dark green foliage create an exceptional evergreen foundation planting or espalier. It's a mid-season bloomer.

Perfect for adding color to the winter garden is 'Pink-A-Boo' Camellia that offers wonderfully fragrant, deep pink blooms centered with bright yellow stamens. The long lasting flowers are stunning in floral arrangements or floated in a shallow bowl so that the fragrance can be enjoyed indoors. It's an excellent choice for a colorful evergreen hedge, espalier, or border shrub. •

TO DO LIST: November



FERTILIZE

For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds. 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!**

BERMUDA LAWN CARE

De-thatch and over seed Bermuda lawns with annual Rye.

PLANT

Look for fall bulbs, California natives and drought-tolerant plants. **Fall color selections** include Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, fragrant Stocks, Poppies, and more. **Look for** Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Camellias, Azaleas, and holiday plants. You'll find vegetables as well as potatoes, garlic and onions in mid-November. **Looking for more edibles to plant?** How about caneberries, strawberries, kiwi, asparagus, and olives? **Look for** potted bare root trees to arrive— Pomegranates and Figs. We don't have an arrival date so call the store to check. It should be late November or early December.

PEST CONTROL

This month **start dormant spraying** with Liqui-Cop and Oil Spray. The wetter the winter, the more crucial dormant spraying becomes! **Clean up** all foliage from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses. •

Japanese Maple Lover continued from p1

churia and *Acer palmatum* which hails from Japan and eastern China. Some also come from eastern Mongolia, and southeast Russia. (Bonus when you use this in conversation—the third is *Acer shirasawanum*—also native to Japan.

Heights vary from dwarf shrubs to small shade trees 20 to 25 feet tall, but in Southern California, generally much shorter. (Dwarf is a relative term, of course. Some Japanese maples will stay very small but many are just very slow growing meaning they stay small for a very long time.) Shaina Japanese Maple, Waterfall Japanese Maple, and Red Select Japanese Maple are good examples.

Japanese maples typically grow just one to two feet or less per year. However, under the right conditions, they can live to be more than one hundred years old.

In Japan the maple is called the “autumn welcoming tree” and it is planted in the western portion of gardens (the direction from which fall comes). Here, we plant them under other trees or in the shadow cast by trees and buildings to protect them from the hot summer sun and drying winds.

Inconspicuous flowers are followed by fruits called samaras which are nutlets enclosed in a papery, fibrous tissue that’s in the shape of wings. They are shaped to spin as they fall and to carry the seeds a considerable distance on the wind.

Seeds can be collected from Japanese maple trees, but the seedlings are not guaranteed to be exact clones of the parent plant. While these trees can be grown from cuttings, most are slow growing, weak, and difficult to overwinter. Most of the Japanese maple trees you see in garden centers are the result of grafting, wherein the select variety is joined with a seedling grown rootstock so they can continue to grow together. Grafting works well because you are starting with a rootstock that is vigorous and already a year old.

Development of Japanese maple cultivars began in Japan in 1700, but were only first seen in the west in 1820 when they were introduced in England. It

was likely *Acer palmatum*.

Japanese maples are monoecious meaning they have both male and female flowers on the same plant. These flowers are inconspicuous and small, and though they do not attract insects, grouse, quail, and many songbirds adore them. The seeds are on the menu for squirrels, chipmunks and other small mammals as well.

Japanese maples grow best in zones 5 – 8 but can be grown in containers in colder and warmer zones if you can provide appropriate care. In colder zones, allow plant to go fully dormant outside and then bring into an unheated garage or other sheltered, cool area. In warmer zones, place (or in this case plant) a Japanese maple in a shaded location and where it can be protected from drying winds. Also in warmer zones, using a silicon solution such as Pro-Text monthly with additional applications prior to hot, dry winds will help minimize leaf damage.

Fried maple leaves are a very popular snack in Osaka, and apparently have been for at least a thousand years. The city of Minoh is particularly famous for their fried leaves. The maple leaves are dipped and fried in tempura batter, which give them their unique taste. Chefs in Minoh usually store their leaves in barrels of salt for one year, which makes them particularly tasty. •



Going Native

continued from p1



Leucadendron

are varieties that aren't always available.

Banksia

These have interesting leaves and show stopping flowers. The tiny flowers appear in dense round or cylinder-like clusters that are then followed by woody seed cones. The blooms are rich with nectar which makes them hummingbird friendly and why they are referred to as Australian honeysuckle.

Leucadendron

Native to South Africa and a relative of Protea plants, you'll find these growing as a shrub or tree. They may be grown for their foliage or flowers. Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants at stem tips. The seed heads are woody and cone shaped, thus they are aptly known as Cone Bush.

[continued p4](#)

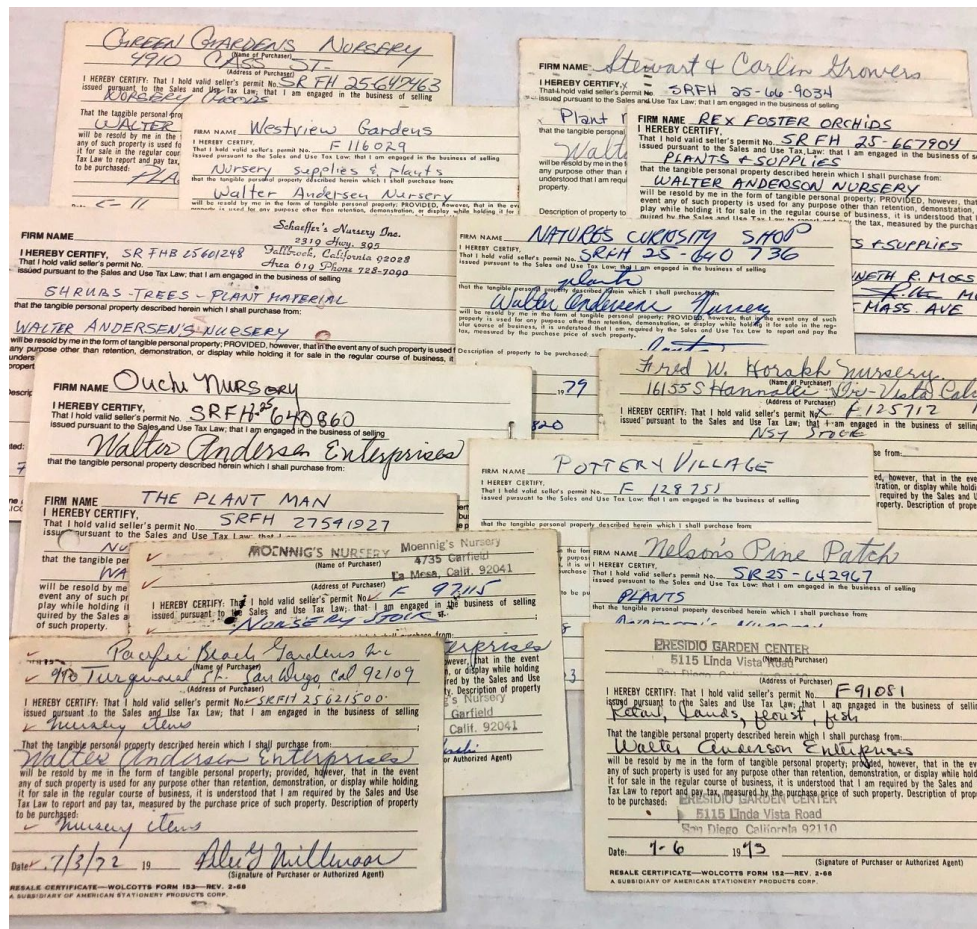
Saturday, November 24 @9:30am

Join Tony for a Bonsai Workshop!

If you need to work off your turkey dinner from Thanksgiving, come spend the morning with Tony at a bonsai workshop in Poway. He will teach attendees to bonsai a Japanese Maple. The class is \$30 and includes a non-grafted tree (or pay an extra \$10 and upgrade to a grafted 'Crimson Queen') and instruction. Call 858-513-4900 to RSVP and pre-pay. Must reserve a space as class size is limited. •

History of WAN: Ninety Years Sees A Lot Of Coming And Going

By Ken Andersen



Recently found stacks of old resale cards.

Twelfth 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)

One of the requirements of doing business in the state of California is that you must have a reseller's permit to make wholesale purchases tax free. People and businesses that want to purchase product from you and resell it to their customers must fill out a resale card with all of their permit information and we must keep those cards on file should we ever get audited by the state for the collection of sales tax. In a box of stuff discovered about a year ago, there was a stack of old resale cards, some dating back 40 years. Some of

the more interesting ones are in the photo. All are from nurseries that were run by friends and colleagues and no longer in existence. They include:

Westview Gardens
Green Gardens Nursery
Pacific Beach Gardens
Moenning's Nursery
The Plant Man
Presidio Garden Center
Nelson's Pine Patch
Horahk Nursery
Natures Curiosity Shop
Rex Foster Orchids
Stewart and Carlin Growers
Ouchi Nursery
Schaeffer's Nursery •

Going Native

continued from p3



'Kings Rainbow' Grevillea

Grevilleas

Also from the Protea family and native to Australia, they have finely textured foliage and slender, curved flowers. You can find them from low and spreading as a ground cover to 50' tall (G. robusta which you'll find in Hawaii). Many varieties grow as a shrub from 4'-15' tall.

Plant in well draining soil. Proteas are sensitive to high phosphorus levels in the soil so avoid using high phosphorus fertilizers. Most will take full sun to partial shade. •

Kokedama Class

Create a Moss Ball based on Japanese Traditions

Walter Andersen Nursery will hold a Kokedama class Nov. 10 at 9:30am at its Poway location. At the workshop, attendees will learn about Kokedama, a unique form of living art. It is a ball of soil covered by moss with plants that will grow in it. The class will be taught by Kanako Yamada, owner of Kodama Forest. It's limited to 20 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. •

Join Us!



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Holiday Open Houses

Poway

Dec. 1 :: 11am-1pm

Special vendors
sharing gift ideas

Free photos with Santa!

Hot dogs grilled by
our own David Ross

San Diego

Dec. 15 :: 11am-1pm

Face painters

Free photos with Santa!

Grilled hot dogs

Santa will read
"The Grinch" at 1pm!

Shop for holiday décor, and gifts for friends and family.
As always, we are family and pet-friendly!

www.walterandersen.com



San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™



Old Ben:

The White Crowned Sparrow

By Old Ben



You most likely have these beautiful sparrows in your yard right now. Furthermore, if you have leafy vegetables growing they may be missing some leaves or are gone entirely, thanks to these birds.

White crowned sparrows appear each winter over much of North America. Their smart black and white head, pale beak, and gray breast combine for a fantastic look, and make it one of the easiest sparrows to identify. Seeing flocks of these sparrows scurrying through brushy borders and overgrown fields is common.

Size and Shape: The White Crowned sparrow is a large sparrow with a small bill and long tail. The head can look distinctly peaked or smooth and flat, depending on the bird's attitude.

Color Pattern: First impressions of White Crowned Sparrows tend to be of a plain, pale gray bird. Next, your eye is drawn to the very bold black and white stripes on the head and the pale pink or yellow bill. Young birds have brown, not black markings on the head.

Diet / Feeding: These birds forage on the ground or in low vegetation, but sometimes make short flights to catch flying insects. They mainly eat seeds, plant parts and insects. In winter, they often forage in flocks. They will also visit bird feeders early and late in the day. They prefer millet, but will also eat sunflower chips and cracked corn. They will usually avoid conflicts with other birds.

Behavior: White Crowned Sparrows hop across the ground and through low foliage in brushy habitats. You may see them double scratching, a move they share with towhees involving a quick hop backwards to turn over

leaves followed by a forward hop and pounce. When these birds arrive on their breeding grounds, males and females pair quickly then wait until snow has melted enough to begin nest building. At the end of summer the pairs break up and winter separately. When both members of the pair return next summer, about two-thirds of the pairs reform. Young birds move very little for the first few days after they leave the nest and don't typically learn to fly until a week later. Siblings can stay with each other for more than two months after fledging.

Nesting: Females build nests out of twigs, coarse grasses, pine needles, moss, bark and dead leaves. They line the nest cup with fine grasses and hairs. The finished nest is about five inches across and two inches deep and takes the female two to nine days to complete.

Did You Know?

A young male learns the basics of the song it will sing as an adult during the first two or three months of its life. It does not learn directly from its father, but from the generalized song environment of its natural neighborhood.

Because male White Crowned Sparrows learn the songs they grow up with and breed close to where they were raised, song dialects frequently form. Males on the edge of two dialects may be bilingual and able to sing both dialects! •



Ask Old Ben!

Email Old Ben your questions to:
askoldben@aol.com

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 November 1-30, 2018

Old Ben's Economy Wild Bird Seed

A traditional blend that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. **20lb. bag**

SUPER SALE!

Sale \$9.99 Reg. \$14.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food for goldfinches and many other small birds. **25lb. bag**

Sale \$49.99 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

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

Sale \$19.99 Reg. \$24.99

Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The no mess advantage. Seed is hulled and chopped, will not sprout, birds can eat all the seeds which attracts fewer feeder pests. **20lb. bag**

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

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

Sweet Peas In San Diego

By Ken Andersen

For decades, Walter Andersen Nursery has bought a mix of sweet pea seeds and packaged them for sale at this time of the year. One of my earliest memories of working at the nursery, is as a child packaging these seeds, one shot glass at a time, into small envelopes that had been rubber stamped SWEET PEAS, also done by me! These beautiful flowering vines grow nicely in our cooler fall months and the fragrance of the flowers is intoxicating. Once, in the late 1960s with the help of my father and grandfather, I entered a bouquet of these sweet peas in the annual Mission Valley Flower Show held at the Mission Valley Mall. To my surprise, I won first place and even landed a large photo of myself with my prize winning blooms in the San Diego Union newspaper. The article on [page 8](#) from

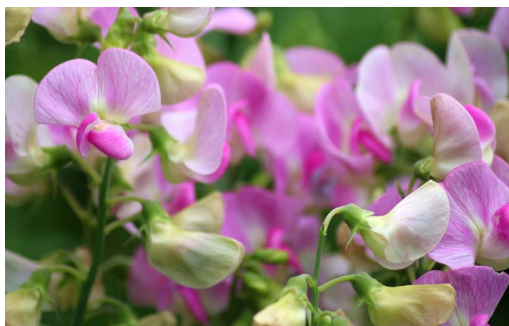
California Garden magazine has been reprinted with their permission. I encourage anyone that has not tried growing sweet peas to add them to your garden. They are a wonderful fragrant addition and as a cut flower will brighten any room!

Today some of the things cited in the article are not really necessary. The plants do like very rich soil so be sure to amend the planting area heavily with a good planting mix. At the time you amend the soil, add a good fertilizer like Gro-Power or E.B. Stone Rose and Flower Food. If you are growing in containers, use a quality potting soil like the Sunshine All Purpose Planting Mix. You will have to feed container plants a little more frequently than those in the ground, but the results should be the same. Give the plants something to climb on for support. An easy way to do this is to use trellis netting. This inexpensive option makes end of season clean up quick and easy. Just remove the net from its supports and pull the plants loose from the ground, bundle the whole thing up and dispose of it!



Editors Note: Read the California Garden articles on [page 8](#). Barbara S. Jones has gardened in San Diego for more than 50 years. She is the San Diego Floral Association Historian.

The 1939 article was written by **Mary Greer**, a long term president of the San Diego Floral Association and she was referencing Kate Sessions instructions on how to grow sweet peas for Christmas. Many thanks to **Nancy Clark**, from the San Diego Floral Association, who provided additional background information for this article. •



Meet A Local Gem in San Diego Gardening



California Garden magazine is one of the oldest gardening publications in existence, having been continuously published by the San Diego Floral Association for the past 111 years! Today, you will still find interesting and timely articles on a variety of subjects published six times a year. The latest edition, if we are not sold out, is at either of our two locations, the cost is \$5. An annual subscription is \$45 but that includes an annual membership in the San Diego Floral Association. For more information about the association and California Garden, go to www.sdfloral.org. •

Sweet Peas from **CALIFORNIA GARDEN** September-October 1998

Barbara S. Jones

An unofficial contest to have the earliest bouquet of sweet peas existed in the 1920s and 1930s in many San Diego neighborhoods. It was especially noteworthy if one had blooms by Christmas. We often had a small bouquet on our breakfast table, but not in the hot months of July, August, and September. I do not remember being impressed by the colors, light pastels, but the odor was marvelous. "Everyone" had a trellis or back fence covered with sweet peas.

Sweet peas have not been widely grown here in recent years, but there have been many new varieties developed and they are popular elsewhere. There are new brilliant dark and bright colors and there are dwarf varieties that do not need support and can be grown in a container.

The decorative sweet pea is derived from a weedy wild Italian plant with purple-blue flowers, *Lathyrus odoratus*. It was first collected early in the 18th century, and by 1900 over 260 varieties had been developed. Even today, new varieties are introduced every year and a wide selection of seeds is available.

Sweet peas need a sunny location with good air movement to grow well. It is important that the soil is rich. If you plan to have Christmas sweet peas, purchase an early blooming variety, begin preparing your soil for planting in September, and then follow Kate Sessions's instructions in early October. (It usually takes about three months from seed to flower, depending on the weather). •

Sweet Peas For Christmas from **CALIFORNIA GARDEN**

October 1939, Vol. 31 #4, Page 6 | Mary Greer

Dig a trench about two feet deep and eighteen to twenty inches wide.

After all the soil has been removed, the basin of the trench should be spaded thoroughly.

Put in some small stones to help with drainage.

Put in a layer of well-rotted manure, or other humus.

Use topsoil to fill the trench to within five or six inches of the top.

Some growers add bone meal with the soil. Use about a quarter pound to a three to four foot row.

Flood the trench thoroughly, leaving the soil a little lower in the center of trench.

Allow it to rest for a few days, keeping the compost in a moistened condition in this interval.

Before sowing, the ground should be leveled, and the entire area where the seeds are to be planted should be watered.

Twenty four hours later sow the seeds.

Open the furrow about four inches deep.

Set the seeds about six inches apart.

Cover with one inch of fine soil and compact it thoroughly.

Do not water again until the seed are up.

Cover with wire netting or brush to keep birds from eating the plants.

Get good seeds and soak overnight.

Plant immediately if you are planning blooms for Christmas.

Sweet peas were grown locally in the open ground when the above directions were written. Current instructions suggest that container-grown plants be fed every two weeks during blooming season with an all purpose liquid fertilizer. To prolong the blooming season, flowers should be removed immediately and not allowed to go to seed.

No part of the sweet pea – flower, seed or foliage – is edible. •

Hey Adults! **Do You Need A Sippy Cup?**

By Melanie Potter



Anyone who has had babies or toddlers in their lives understands how great an invention the sippy cup is. It is portable, pretty much unbreakable, and spill proof. Thanks to innovative friends from San Marcos, Shannon Zappala and Regan Kelahe, who began collaborating on all things 'wine' in 2015, comes an adult sippy cup. Their passion for great wine, dislike of plastic glasses and a love for Southern California's outdoor lifestyle, led to the birth of **GOVERRE**. their product is a stemless, real wine glass that is portable, fits snugly in a silicone sleeve and is topped with a drink-through lid.

Shannon and Regan both worked stable jobs in corporate America. After years of experience (in health-care and marketing) and many nights debating the "what ifs" over their favorite beverage, inspiration struck and both knew it was time to pursue their passion to build a brand.

In January 2017, the duo turned **GOVERRE** into their full-time jobs and set up shop at Shannon's house, storing inventory and shipping product. Fast forward several months later and the women of **GOVERRE** found themselves in a completely different setting, in the tank of ABC's hit series, *Shark Tank*. Once again surpassing their goals, Shannon and Regan secured investments with sharks Mark Cuban, Lori Grenier and Robert Herjavec.

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Garden Classes

NOVEMBER

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

11/3

Rose Pruning

11/10

Seed & Stone Fruit Pruning
& Maintenance Consulting
with Kurt Peacock

11/17

Eco-Friendly Composting

11/24

No Class

POWAY | 9:30AM

11/3

Vermiculture

11/10

Kokedama Class
\$28 Fee, Must RSVP & Prepay.
Class Size is Limited. [Details on p4](#)

11/17

Fall Fruit Tree Care Do's and Don'ts
with Richard Wright

11/24

Bonsai workshop with Tony
\$30 Fee, Must RSVP & Prepay.
Class Size is Limited. [Details on p3](#)

Dates To Remember

11/21 Poway store closes at 3pm

11/22 Both stores closed for Thanksgiving

12/1 - 12/31 No classes to be held in December

12/1 Poway Holiday Open House from 11am-1pm

12/15 San Diego Holiday Open House from 11am-1pm

12/24 Poway store closes at 2pm

12/25 Both stores closed for Christmas

12/31 Poway store closes at 2pm

1/1 Both stores closed for New Year's Day •

Sippy Cup?

continued from p8

The glasses hold a whopping 17oz. of liquid. The whole shebang is top rack dishwasher safe (with the exception of the glittered silicon sleeve version), and are made from all-natural sustainable raw materials (all FDA approved).

Our Poway store has these glasses available, just in time for the holidays! So start sipping. •

Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew

We love this organic insecticide containing Spinosad which acts like a systemic insecticide! That's because it is translaminar (a favorite word of Davis Ross!), meaning it penetrates the leaf tissue and remains effective for a longer period of time. It is very effective against citrus leaf minor and many other chewing insects. It is not very effective against sucking insects such as aphid, scale and mealy bug (we have other organic solutions for those). You can get Captain Jack's in concentrate, ready to spray and ready to use.



Visit Our 2 Locations

SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, California 92110
{619} 224-8271
Open 8am-5pm daily

POWAY

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, California 92064
{858} 513-4900
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