

Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

Poinsettias Share Holiday Spotlight

BY HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE



Cyclamen

The Holiday Cacti and Cyclamen are great alternatives to the traditional poinsettia. These plants offer colorful holiday blooms, plus you can enjoy them all year 'round.

The Holiday Cactus, also known as the Thanksgiving Cactus or the Christmas Cactus, can be bought during the holiday season in bloom. It should be placed in indirect sunlight,

in regular indoor temperatures. Keep the soil moist and fertilize weekly.

To get last year's cactus to bloom, leave it at night at temperatures around 55 degrees while the plant is beginning to flower. If you can't store them at that temperature, don't worry. They will flower with 12 to 13 hours of darkness each night. One trick is to lay black plastic over the plant when the lights are on.

Cyclamen, available in white, red, and deep pink, generally lay dormant during summer months and bloom indoors during winter. Be sure to smell the blooms as some have a light, sweet scent. It's possible to have Cyclamen bloom from late fall to early spring by following these tips:

- When you first purchase the plant, use a houseplant fertilizer once a week; taper off to once a month after a few weeks.
- Cyclamen prefer cool temperatures, and night time temperatures in the 40s and 50s. If that isn't possible inside, put them outside overnight.

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Holiday Gifts For All!



Does your holiday shopping include gifts suitable for teachers, hostesses, Bunco, or other gift exchanges? We've got you covered this season with table ware, candles, ornaments, kitchen towels, and plants. Don't forget gift cards for those who may be hard to shop for, as well as orchids. Photos above taken at our Poway location, selection varies at both stores.

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A Look Back At 2013: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

BY MELANIE POTTER



Wedelia

Garden-wise, I'm sort of glad 2013 is winding down. Our vegetable garden was a complete loss, with the exception of a few tomatoes and a new introduction that hit a home run. Late in the season after wracking our brains for reasons why we experienced flora failure, we discovered nematodes were to blame – that was ugly! There is a new nematode control available, **Monterey Nematode Control**.

What was a hit in the garden and at the table were **Tree Collards**. These will grow 8'-10' tall and in their first year

continued p2

December

Garden Tasks

PEST CONTROL

Dormant spray for diseases and over wintering pests. Use LiquiCop for disease control and Year-Round Oil Spray or Volck Oil for insects and their eggs.

PLANTING

Last chance for fall bulbs. Plant conifers, junipers, evergreens, California natives and drought-tolerant plants. Don't miss Pansies, Violas, Stocks, and Calendulas. This is the time to plant potatoes, onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, and carrots. Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms.

LOOK FOR

Sasanqua and Japonica Camellias, Azaleas, Pyracantha, Holly, Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, and Photinia.



Ready For

Winter Planting

BY MELANIE POTTER

The time of year is here when some of the things you plant don't look like a plant. You'll have to root through damp shavings to find much of the edibles you want to grow and when you find them they will likely be a brown root that lacks stems or leaves.

Our best selection of potatoes is here. Choose from La Ratte, Russet Norkotah, Caribe, Red La Soda, French Fingerling, Purple Peruvian, Purple Majesty, and German Butterball. Onions include Super Sweet Yellow, Red Creole, and Texas Early White.

You'll also find bare root asparagus, artichokes, strawberries, blackberries, boysenberries, youngberries, and blueberries. ■

Poinsettias Share Spotlight *continued from p1*



Christmas Cactus



Just some of Walter Andersen's live trees & plants

- Provide indirect bright light and be sure to keep the plants away from heat ducts and vents.

- When mature blooms begin to fade, try pulling off the flowers rather than cutting.

Editor's Note: Here are Some WAN Picks for the Holidays

Rosemary

Not just for the holiday season, plant this in the yard and have year-round access to a fresh herb. Make this a gift that keeps on giving.

Mini Christmas Trees

These are fun, easy to care for, and can be planted in the yard for year-round enjoyment.

They are usually decorated and wrapped in decorative foil. Remove the foil to water and make sure the plant drains thoroughly before returning it to its decorative sleeve.

Ivy Topiaries

An instant formal look is achieved with these. They are fast growing and easy to maintain. Keep in bright light and keep soil moist. Snip wayward new growth or wind into existing foliage to maintain the shape.

Orchids

Ken Andersen recommends Phalaenopsis because they are so easy to grow. Also called Moth Orchids, they tolerate low light and usually need weekly watering. ■

A Look At 2013 *continued from p1*

will shoot up 3'-4' tall. Just eat your way up the stalk. Another plant that over delivered was **Wedelia**. This tough groundcover grows quickly, loves the poor soil we have in Scripps Ranch, and covers dirt areas that were an eyesore. It requires regular watering and mowing with a weed eater on occasion. Leaves are bright green and it has yellow daisy-like flowers.

Don't tell Old Ben, but if only I'd found this next product early in the spring, I could have saved a few bird's lives and made barbecuing a more enjoyable experience. However, once we thought to pick up some bird spikes, the doves had made a nest and started a family on a beam over the barbecue grill. Everything that you would like to stay in the nest, including eggs, managed to fall onto the barbecue which required regular cleanings to keep it useable. **Bird-B-Gone** is a bird control product that uses clear plastic spikes to deter birds from landing and nesting in unwelcome areas. They are easy to set up and won't hurt your feathered friends.

What were your hits and misses for the year? Tell us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/walterandersens. ■



Tree Collards

Words



From Walter

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

Camellias Are Winter Warriors

In mid-winter, there are not many blooming shrubs, and fewer still that produce such amazing blooms as Camellias. Generally, they are easy to grow and bloom well. If you plant enough different varieties, you can have Camellias blooming almost year round. They are survivors, but given a little extra care, they can be an outstanding addition to most gardens. Camellias were brought from China and Japan during the 19th Century and have become very popular. Camellia japonica and Camellia sasanqua are the two basic types that are most commonly sold. Camellias can make great container plants for a patio or balcony.

The most common are Camellia japonica. There are hundreds of named varieties. For the most part, probably about 50 or 60 or so are available on a regular basis from the growers. These generally produce the larger, showier and complicated blooms. Some can develop into almost tree-like plants, in time, reaching more than 15' tall. They are usually kept as shrubs to about 5' to 8' tall. They can reach about the same in width if given the room. Generally, these grow and look best if they have a little shade during the warmest part of the day. However, the deeper pinks and reds can stand more sun than the lighter pinks and white varieties. Near the coast in San Diego (within 10 miles or so), most can tolerate full sun, but still look better with some shade during the hottest part of the day. These come in many shades of pink, red and white, with combinations of red and white, two tone pinks and whites with a blush of pink. The blooms can be single with bright yellow stamens showing, to semi double with stamens more hidden, and formal varieties where no stamens are visible. Formal and informal forms are also found. Formal is where each petal of the bloom is symmetrical. For informal varieties, the petals are formed in many different free form patterns. Camellia japonica blooms are usually 4" to 6" in diameter.

Some varieties are compact and bushy; needing only a light trim now and then to keep the shape you want. Other varieties are more narrow and upright, and faster growing.



The foliage is glossy and deep green; they look good even when not blooming. The plants are usually available all year long, but during winter when they are blooming, you will probably find the largest assortment.

When planting a new plant, be sure the hole is a little deeper than the original root ball and about half again wider than the root ball. Put some new mix in the bottom of the hole, maybe 2" to 3" or so. Back fill around the root ball with a good planting mix consisting of peat moss and other bark products, peat moss being the primary ingredient. Be generous with this mix, at least half mixed with your old soil. If your soil is not very good, the mix can be used as is from the bag. Sunshine Camellia Mix is probably the best one on the market. Camellias prefer an acid type soil which peat moss provides. We recommend building a berm around the plant, a little larger than the original planting hole to be sure the water soaks down deep when you water.

In spring, start feeding the plants with Camellia and Azalea food. Try to apply this every two months. Stop feeding in fall when you see small flower buds forming. If you keep feeding them heavily in late fall, they may try to put out new growth and drop the flower buds. Enjoy their blooms, and as the blooms disappear in spring, start feeding again.

There are not many insects that bother them, but watch for aphids on the new growth or flower buds. Occasionally you might find scale feeding on them. This usually happens on the woody stems and older leaves. If you find insects, bring in a sample so we can advise you.

Sasanqua varieties of Camellias take similar care, but these can tolerate more sun. Plant and fertilize as you would a japonica. Some sasanquas start blooming a month or two before the japonicas, some in full bloom at Thanksgiving or Christmas. The blooms are usually smaller and more open, more semi-doubles and singles, to about 3" across. Sasanqua varieties have a more open growth habit, and most don't get nearly as large as the

[continued p5](#)

Rose Pruning Keeping It Simple

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

How simple is pruning a rose? To start, you'll need a good, sharp shear and maybe a pruning saw if the canes are old or very large. A lopper would probably work as well. Best time to prune: December and January.



You'll prune your rose varieties differently:

Hybrid Tea is the most popular rose. First, just take an overall look at the plant; remove any sucker growth (it comes from the root stock). Then, remove the oldest canes, or mishapen canes, leaving the newest and strongest canes that grew last season or the season before. Now you have the newest growth canes, remove all but about 3 to 5 of the best ones. Prune those back to about 12" – 14" from the soil. When you cut these canes, try to find a growth bud that faces out and away from the center of the plant. Cut about 1/4" above that eye. If you can't find a good eye, choose the best one you can find and cut to that. Roses are very forgiving. You will get lots of new growth from the remaining canes, and you can do some corrective pruning later if needed.

[continued p4](#)

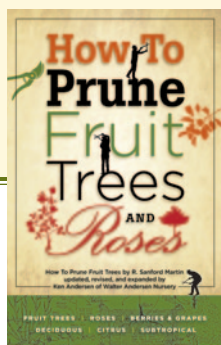
Rose Pruning *continued from p3*

Grandiflora are taller growing than Hybrid Tea roses. It is the same basic principal; you leave the 3 to 5 good canes longer. Prune these about 14" to 16" from the soil.

Floribunda roses are the smaller, more bushy type of rose. With these, because they don't get so tall and are a lot bushier, you still want to remove the older canes and misshapen and crossed canes, so you leave more new canes. For Floribundas, you leave about five of the best canes, then cut some of the side branches off, leaving a few of the stronger side branches. The heavy canes should be cut to about 10" – 12" from the soil.

Miniatues and some Shrub Roses: Just trim the whole plant back. Look for crossing canes and misshapen older canes, and remove those as best you can. In the end you will still have many canes, perhaps 10 or so and the final cut would be about 8" – 10" long.

Be sure to spray with Liqui-Cop as a defense to any diseases from last season that bothered the roses. Use year round oil to kill any insects or their eggs. ■



For the Gardener on Your List this Holiday Season

We've revised and expanded Sanford Martin's classic, **How To Prune Fruit Trees**. Ken Andersen of WAN has written new chapters on pruning tools and pruning roses. The original illustrations of Martin's were preserved. Stocked in store and online.

Buy Online!



Garden Railroads: A Joy & Toy For All Ages

BY KEN ANDERSEN

Let's face it, what little kid (or big kid for that matter) didn't want a train set and imagine they were a rail baron? The problem usually



The Piko Starter Set at WAN

was that you didn't have much room to build your empire or it only was used during the holidays. This year, why not consider starting your own rail empire in your garden? A starter set from LGB or PIKO is a great way to do that. Pick one up for the holidays, then start planning your layout outside. The starter sets come with locomotive, cars, track (full circle), transformer, and hook up wires.

Once you know where in the garden to put it, start thinking about how you want to lay it out and where you want it to go. It will need to be close to a 110 volt outlet to power the transformer and you will want to keep it fairly flat, less than 4% grade is ideal. It can add to the effect if there are mountains and valleys for it run in and around. If you add tunnels, just make sure that you can reach over half way through from either side. This will save you aggravation in the future, because if your train derails in the tunnel, and it will, you want to make sure you can reach it from both sides. Try not to lay the track in an area where water collects. The track can stay out year round but it will not want to sit in water when it rains.

When you are ready to expand your rail empire, our Poway store stocks everything you will need from track and switches to rolling stock, locomotives, buildings and repair parts. Stop by our Poway store to check out the selection and don't forget to visit our huge railway layout outside for inspiration. Trains run daily from 10:30am–4:30pm weather permitting. This holiday season, let the little kid in you dream big, it can be too much fun! ■

Join in the

Holiday

FUN!

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

Save The Dates!

Open Houses: December 7 in Poway | December 14 in San Diego

You're invited to our annual holiday open house events at our Poway store Dec. 7 from 5pm–7pm and, Dec. 14 from 11am–1pm in San Diego. As always, it's family and pet-friendly. Shop with special holiday savings, get your photo with Santa, and enjoy food and beverages. The Poway store will close at 4:30pm on the 7th and reopen at 5pm.

The Christmas Goose



BY OLD BEN

A goose is a medium to large sized bird found in Europe, Asia and North America. There are 29 known species of geese around the

world including Canada geese.

Geese build their nest in order to raise their babies, known as goslings, in the north during the warmer summer months. The geese then migrate south during winter when goslings are strong enough to fly.

Geese tend to have the same partners for their entire lives. The bond between male and female geese is very strong. They will often spend most of their time together. Both males and females build the nest and raise the young.

Geese are omnivorous birds but mainly feed on grain, insects, grubs, small fish and plankton in the water. Geese spend a great deal of time on the water and have webbed feet which make their aquatic life easier.

Geese have a number of predators. Due to the size and strength of a goose, predatory animals don't always have an easy time if they fancy goose for dinner. The main predators of geese are foxes, raccoons and birds that prey on eggs and newborn baby geese. Humans are among the most common predators of geese, as geese are hunted all around the world for their meat and feathers.

Geese are strong and hardy birds. They are known to reach old ages even in the wild. The average life span of a goose is between 20 and 30 years.

Geese are known to have extremely strong wings, as most geese migrate long distances every year to warmer climates. The wingspan



of a goose is normally one and half times the length of a goose's body.

Geese flap their wings to intimidate unwanted company. They also make a loud hissing noise.

If these methods of defense fail, it is not uncommon for a goose to charge at the intruder, hissing and flapping its wings at the same time.

The term goose is normally used to refer to these birds in general, but more particularly a female. The term gander is used to refer to the male. A group of geese on the ground is called a gaggle. Geese flying in formation are called a wedge or skein.

Canada Goose Trivia

- Some migratory populations of the Canada goose are not going as far south in the winter as they used to. This northward range shift has been attributed to changes in farm practices that make waste grain more available in fall and winter, as well as changes in hunting and in weather.
- In a pattern biologists call assortative mating, birds of both sexes tend to choose mates of a similar size.
- The oldest known wild Canada Goose was 30 years 4 months old. ■

Camellias *continued from p3*

japonica varieties. There are some low growing (to about 14" tall) varieties that can be used as a groundcover. Others are more upright to about 4' to 6'. A few can reach higher, to 8'. These too can be pruned to shape if you like. A light pruning during new growth will form more branches and a thicker plant.

There are other varieties of Camellia you might find interesting. Camellia sinensis is the plant grown for tea. Most teas we drink are from the clippings of Camellia sinensis. The foliage is smaller and the blooms quite small, not considered showy like the others discussed. Camellia reticulata have quite large blooms, most are informal in shape and the growth shape is open and sprawling. They are fussier to grow; they are more of a collector plant, not commonly stocked at most nurseries. ■

Old Ben's Specials!

Sale Prices Valid
December 2-31, 2013

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed!

20lb **\$16.99** Reg. \$24.99

All seed is hulled; seed will not sprout. Birds are able to eat all of the seed. Fewer feeder pests.

Birdhouse Platform Feeder

\$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

Classic Tall Birdhouse

\$19.99 Regular \$24.99

General Store Birdhouse

\$14.99 Regular \$19.99

50% OFF Finch Socks

Small **\$2.99** Reg. \$5.99

Large **\$4.49** Reg. \$8.99

Old Ben's Goldfinch and Koi Food

5lb **\$9.99** Reg. \$12.99

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



Old Ben Shares the Love with Fish

By now you are probably familiar with Old Ben's products for birds, but now, the finned friends can feel the love. Both stores are carrying **Old Ben's Fish Food for Goldfish & Koi**. We've got it in 5lb. bags. This month, it's on sale! ■

Join in the
Holiday

FUN!



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

You're Invited

To Our Annual Holiday Open Houses!

POWAY

Saturday, Dec. 7th from 5pm-7pm

Poway store will close at 4:30pm and reopen at 5pm.

SAN DIEGO

Saturday, Dec. 14th from 11am-1pm

Shop with us, get your FREE photo with Santa, and enjoy food and beverages. Select your tree, holiday plants, ornaments and décor, as well as gifts for friends and family. As always, it's family and pet friendly.



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WANT FUN!

www.walterandersen.com

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

December

In-Store Specials!

Stop by both stores to see our in-store specials. We have some great holiday gifts!

10% OFF
Gloves

25% OFF
Glass Bird Baths

25% OFF
Garden Flags

Bulb Clearance!

Last chance to get fall bulbs.
Excludes Paperwhites & Amaryllis

Coupon Valid December 1-31, 2013

\$5.00 OFF
Felco Shears
When you turn in your old pair of shears.

Valid on any shear or lopper.

Limited to stock on hand. Must be redeemed at time of purchase. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ points apply. Limit 1 per customer.

#10028014

Offers valid December 1-31, 2013. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Hedge Fund\$ Certificates can apply.

Dates To Remember



DEC 6 & 7: DECEMBER NIGHTS

See our display at December Nights!



DEC 7: POWAY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

It's our Holiday Open House at the Poway store from 5 to 7pm. The Poway store will close at 4:30pm and reopen at 5pm.



DEC 14: SAN DIEGO HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

It's our Holiday Open House at the San Diego store from 11am to 1pm.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Christmas in the Park at Old Poway Park. Walter Andersen Nursery donated the tree!



DEC 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

The Poway store closes at 2pm.



DEC 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

Both stores are closed.



DEC 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Poway store closes at 2pm.



JAN 1: NEW YEAR'S DAY

Both stores are closed.

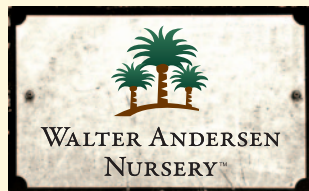


December Garden Class Schedule

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/.

9:00AM SAN DIEGO NURSERY	9:30AM POWAY NURSERY
12/7 Pruning Peaches, Nectarines & Stone Fruits, New Variety Introductions	12/7 Holiday Wreath Making with Carol Fuller
12/14 Bare Root Rose Class & New Rose Introductions	12/14 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright
12/21 Pruning Apple & Cherries, New Variety Introductions	12/21 Rose Pruning with David Ross
12/28 No Class	12/28 Bare Root Fruit Trees: Selecting & Planting with David Ross

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™



www.walterandersen.com

Visit Our 2 Locations:

SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street, San Diego, CA 92110
{619} 224-8271

POWAY

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



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