



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™*

DECEMBER 2017

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## 90 Years & Still Growing

By Ken Andersen



Walter Sr. in a growing house at Rose Court Floral.

In January, Walter Andersen Nursery will celebrate its 90th anniversary. In honor of this major milestone, we will be running a series of articles in **Garden Talk** recounting our history here in America's Finest City.

### How It All Began

Our founder, Walter Andersen Sr., was born on July 7, 1900 in the small Nebraska farming town of Boelus, not

far from Grand Island. The second of eight children, he lived and worked on the family farm and for other farmers into his early 20s. In 1922 he was contacted by his cousin, Chris Westergaard, who was living in San Diego and running a nursery and floral business in Mission Hills called Rose Court Floral. Chris offered him a job at Rose Court which Walter Sr. accepted in the spring of 1922.

[continued p2](#)

## Not Too Late To Dormant Spray

By Ken Andersen



You can get a jump on disease and insect control for next spring by dormant spraying now. This is the time to get control of **Peach Leaf Curl** on peaches and nectarines, **Fire Blight** on apples and pears, as well as **Powdery Mildew**, **Rust** and **Black Spot** on roses. Dormant spraying **Liqui-Cop** copper fungicide kills off any over wintering spores and pathogens that may be on your plants.

[continued p3](#)

## Keeping Safe During The Holiday Season

By National Capital Poison Center

From mid-November to mid-January, many children and pets crawl on the floor and sip from the Christmas tree stand. Parents and pet owners are often concerned if there is Christmas tree preservative in the water.

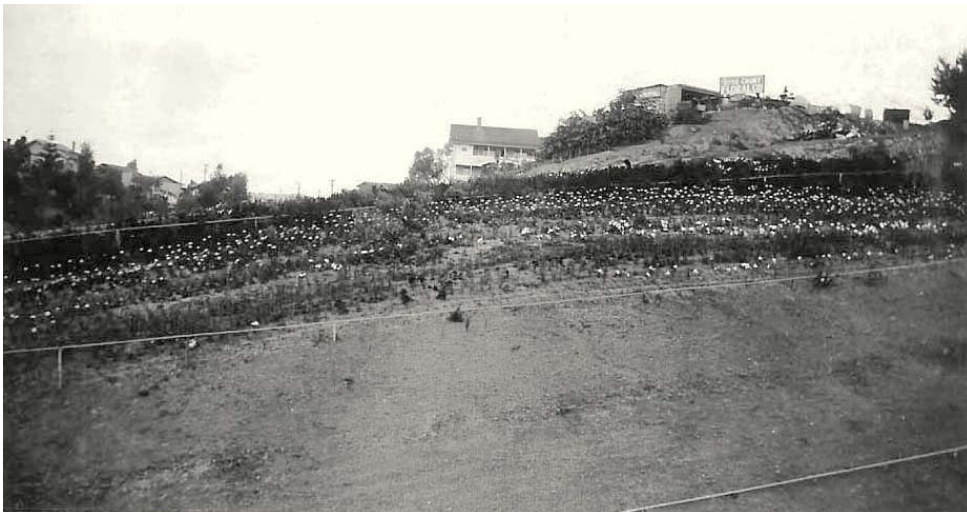
Commercial preservatives typically contain some kind of fertilizer, some type of sugar, and perhaps fungicides. The amounts usually consumed by children, cats, and dogs are not poisonous. There may be some stomach upset and even vomiting, but rarely do serious problems occur.



[continued p3](#)



## 90 Years & Still Growing continued from p1



*Rose Court Floral on Crane Place in Mission Hills.*

He drove his 1919 Model T touring car from Boelus to San Diego and began working for Chris. While we do not have a lot of background information on his time with Rose Court Floral, we do have some photos, shown here, of Walter and the nursery.

Walter worked for Rose Court through 1927 and then decided to venture out on his own. In January of 1928 he opened Walter Andersen Nursery on Juan Street near Taylor in Old Town on a lot that is now the parking lot behind the Casa Guadalajara restaurant. The

nursery remained at this location until 1932. He used to mention that after he moved off that lot to his next location, it remained vacant. Other than being used as a parking lot it remains vacant to this day.

He purchased his first delivery truck, a 1928 Ford Model A pickup, and set to work. In the beginning, Walter offered landscape design, installation, and maintenance services that became a hallmark of his work. As there were few wholesale nurseries in San Diego at that time, he also grew a lot of plants both for the landscaping business as well as the nursery.

Even though the stock market crashed about 22 months after opening, Walter was able to ride it out and the business continued to grow. In 1932 he moved the operation to the corner of Pacific Highway and Taylor Street to what is now the Old Town State Park parking lot and Old Town Transit Center. ***Our next installment will pick up from there; don't miss our January 2018 newsletter! •***



*Walter Sr. and his first company truck, a 1928 Model A Ford pickup. Note the Juan Street address.*



## TO DO LIST: December

### 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, carrots, and more. **Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms.** Roses, roses, and roses are due the second half of the month. Potted pomegranates, figs, grapes, cane berries and bare root berries are here!

**Look for** Sasanqua and Japonica Camellias, Azaleas, Pyracantha, Holly, Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, and Photinia. **It's the time of year** when some of the things you plant don't look like a plant. You'll have to root through damp shavings to find many of the edibles you want to grow and when you find them they will likely be a brown root that lacks stems or leaves. Don't worry, plant these ASAP and watch them leaf out in the new year. **You'll also find** bare root asparagus, artichokes, strawberries, blackberries, boysenberries, youngberries, and blueberries.

### PEST CONTROL

**Dormant spray** for diseases and over wintering pests. Use Liqui-Cop for disease control and Year-Round Oil Spray or Volck. •



## Keeping Safe continued from p1

Homemade preservative recipes contain anything from lemon-lime soda, sugar, and corn syrup, to aspirin, bleach, even whiskey. Some contain both bleach and vinegar or lemon juice; this combination can form a poisonous gas called chlorine. Aspirin is not recommended for children, even in non-toxic amounts, nor is it safe for many pets. Alcohol, in the form of whiskey or any other alcoholic beverage, can be dangerous for children if swallowed.

Bacteria can grow in the stagnant water in Christmas tree stands, whether commercial or home-prepared Christmas tree preservative solutions are used. Drinking a contaminated solution could cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea in children and pets.

The National Christmas Tree Association recommends using **ONLY** plain water in tree stands—and plenty of it! These

professional tree farmers specifically recommend against using anything other than plain tap water.

There are many reasons to keep children and pets away from Christmas trees. They could break or chew on ornaments, swallow tinsel, trip over light cords, or tip the tree and suffer injury. It's best to keep the tree behind a closed door or gate. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recommends keeping the bottom of the tree covered to minimize the chance of pets taking a drink.

If someone does drink from the Christmas tree stand, get poison control guidance by using the webPOISONCONTROL® online tool at [www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org) or by calling 1-800-222-1222. Poison Control help is available twenty-four hours-a-day, even Christmas day. •

## Help Us Help Those Who Helped Us!

By Melanie Potter



*Erythrina has been adopted!*

As the holiday season begins, Walter Andersen Nursery likes to help those in need by securing donations that are then given to an organization.

This year we thought it would be appropriate to help someone who helped the nursery when we found ourselves in a jam—twice!

Remember back in October when in a one week period, we had 10 cats aban-

doned at the Poway location? We were able to find homes for four and were lucky to be connected with **Holli Howe** of **Howe-2 Care 4 Critters**. Holli took six cats and provided medical services to them and began the process of socializing them with the goal of securing forever homes. At press time, two have been adopted and one is available. Three are still working on socialization.

Now, it's our turn to help Holli. When we first visited her in October, she was caring for 22 cats and kittens; many of which have been adopted. One rescue kitten from Tijuana had just been adopted. She was found on the street with severe burns from having boiling water thrown on her. She was successfully treated before finding a home.

Holli and her daughter provide so much for the cats in their care, yet their wish list is incredibly small. This holiday season, she could use wet food and cat litter. Just bring your donations to either of our stores and we will take them to Holli.

## Dormant Spray

continued from p1

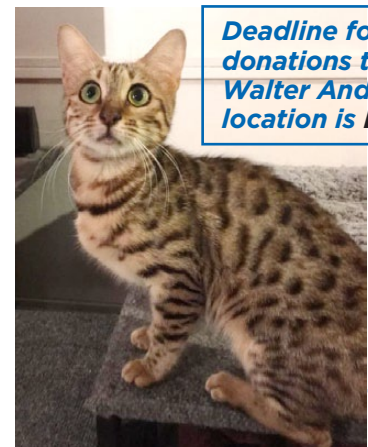
**They are lying in wait for the fruit trees to leaf out in the spring.**

**Don't worry if the plants or trees are not completely dormant, the application of the dormant spray will cause the final leaves to fall. Any pruning should be done prior to spraying and all cuttings and leaf litter should be raked up and thrown in the trash; do not put this yard waste into a compost pile. Typically, good results can be had by making two to three applications about a week apart, starting in late November or early December. Follow the label instructions for dilution and application rates.**

**To control any over wintering insects or insect eggs, two to three applications of horticultural oil will usually take care of them when applied separately. For best control, do not apply both on the same day. Follow the label instructions for dilution and application rates.**

**Remember, dormant spraying is meant for deciduous plants and fruit trees only, do not apply to evergreen plants. If you have any questions, you can always speak to a customer service representative at either of our locations. •**

Follow the tales of these lucky felines at [www.facebook.com/Howe2Care4Critters](http://www.facebook.com/Howe2Care4Critters). •



*Salix has also been adopted!*

**Deadline for bringing donations to either Walter Andersen location is Dec. 16.**



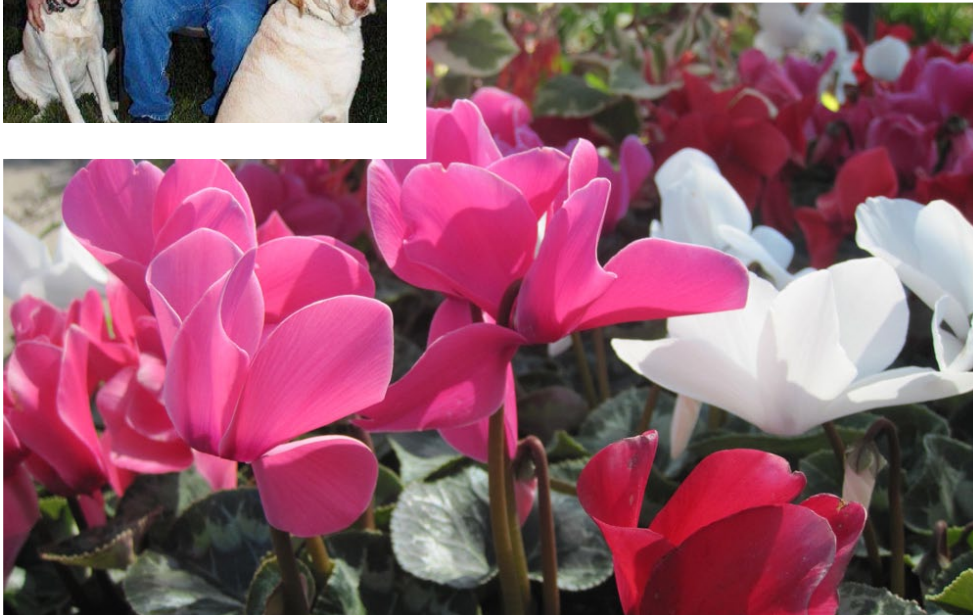




## Words From Walter

### Cyclamen Is A Cool Season Favorite

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



#### Hybrid Cyclamen are difficult to beat for cool season color.

They are easy to grow in shade to part sun or full sun along the coast. Pretty colors such as variations of pink, white, purple, lavender and red can fit most needs. They will be blooming when you buy them, so no guessing as to color. You can plant in flower beds to brighten your patio or put a few in a large pot by the front door. They should have blooms almost all winter long. •

### Holiday Open Houses

Dec. 2  
&  
Dec. 9



Don't miss the holiday open houses at our stores this month. Our Poway store will hold theirs on Saturday, December 2 from 5:30-7pm. The San Diego open house will be Saturday, December 9 from 11am-1pm. See Santa at both locations and don't forget to bring your [coupon available on the flyer](#) in this newsletter! •

## Poway To Hold Kokedama Workshop



### Create a Moss Ball based on Japanese Traditions

The Poway store will hold a Kokedama workshop Dec. 7 at 10am. During the workshop, attendees will learn about Kokedama, a unique form of living art. It is simply a ball of soil covered by moss in which arranged plants 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:

### Feeding Birds

By Old Ben



If you feed birds, you're in good company. Feeding birds is one of North America's favorite pastimes. A 2010 report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that about 65 million Americans provide food for wild birds.

#### Wintertime is Not Easy

In much of North America, winter is a difficult time for birds. Days are often windy and cold; nights are long and even colder.

Vegetation has withered or been consumed, and most insects have died or become dormant. Finding food can be especially challenging for birds on cold days. Setting up backyard feeders makes their lives easier and ours more enjoyable.

#### Types of Bird Food

During the spring and summer, most songbirds eat insects and spiders which are highly nutritious, abundant, and for the most part, easily captured. During fall and winter, non migratory songbirds shift their diets to fruits and seeds to survive. This is the time of year when bird feeding enthusiasts roll out the welcome mat and set the table.

#### Which Seed Types Should I Provide?

Black oil sunflower seeds attract the greatest variety of birds. These seeds have a high meat to shell ratio, they are nutritious, and high in fat. Their small size and thin shells make them easy for small birds to handle and crack. Although sunflower seeds are the overall favorite, some birds prefer other seeds. For example, blackbirds like corn, and doves prefer millet and safflower. Nyger is a delicacy for small finches such as goldfinches, and siskins. Nyger seeds are small. Offer them in special Nyger feeders. Most groundfeeding birds prefer white millet to black oil sunflower seeds.

#### Water, Water, Water

A dependable supply of fresh water will attract many birds to your yard, including species that don't normally visit feeders. A shallow, easy to clean birdbath is best. Clean your birdbath often and keep it filled with fresh water.

#### Feeder Placement

Place your feeders close to natural shelters such as trees or shrubs. Evergreens are ideal and provide maximum cover

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## Old Ben's Specials

Valid December 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 Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix. **20lb. bag**

**Sale \$24.99** Reg. \$29.99

### Old Ben's Nyger Seed

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

**25lb. bag**

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

### Old Ben's Christmas Red Hummingbird Food

**Must buy 2 to get sale price.**

**Sale 2 for \$10**

Reg. \$6.99 ea.



### Ask Old Ben!

Reach out and ask Old Ben 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.*



#### Christmas Special—Lowest Price Ever!

### Old Ben's "A Treat For The Beak" Bird Seed

Eleven ingredients that domestic and wild birds love!

**5lb. Container Sale \$14.99**

Reg. \$19.99





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 9**  
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!**  
.....



*San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™*

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

*Coupon Valid Day of Events Only*

**Enjoy Special Savings!**

*Use Coupon During Our Open Houses*

**December 2, 2017 in Poway or**  
**December 9, 2017 in San Diego**

**\$25 OFF**  
a Purchase of \$75 or More  
Limit 1 per customer



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

**#133365**

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

## Garden Classes

## DECEMBER

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**

12/2

Poinsettias with Ted

12/9

Winterizing Your Backyard  
Orchard with Tyler Trimble

12/16

Care & Pruning of your  
Established Roses

12/23

No Class

12/30

No Class

**POWAY | 9:30AM**No Classes Scheduled  
for December

## Dates To Remember!

**December 2**Holiday Open House at our  
Poway store from 5:30-7pm**December 9**Holiday Open House at our  
San Diego store from 11am-1pm**December 16**Last day to **drop off donations**  
at either store for Howe-2 Care  
4 Critters**December 24**

Both stores close at 2pm

**December 25**Both stores closed for **Christmas****December 31**

Both stores close at 2pm

**January 1**Both stores closed for  
**New Year's Day** •**Old Ben: Bird Feeding** continued from p5

from winds and predators. A distance of 10 feet from trees and shrubs seems to be ideal. You can provide resting and escape cover for ground dwelling birds, such as Song Sparrows, by placing a large, loosely stacked brush pile near your feeders.

- Keep food and food storage containers dry and free of mold and insects.
- Check your feeders for safety. Sharp edges can scratch birds and lead to infections.

**If You Build It, Will They Come?**

It may take a while for birds to discover a new feeder. If you are not seeing birds within a few days of setting up your feeder, try sprinkling some seeds on the ground around the feeder to make the new feeding site more obvious. •

**Helpful Hints for Successful Bird Feeding**

- Avoid overcrowding at feeders by placing numerous feeders several feet apart.
- Keep your feeding area and feeders clean.



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[twitter.com/walterandersens](https://twitter.com/walterandersens)



[online store](#)



[videos](#)

## 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