



WALTER ANDERSEN  
NURSERY™

# Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

DECEMBER 2018



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## Bareroot Fruit Trees Are On Their Way



Fruit trees are due in at the end of December, and throughout January is the best time to shop the selection. Choose from up to 20 different apples, 10 nectarines, 16 peaches, 7 persimmons, 10 plums, and 17 grapes. We also have hybrids. Unfortunately, the berry and ornamental tree selection will be reduced due to the loss of one of our growers. Selection will vary by store. •

## Do You Have A Favorite Poinsettia?

By Melanie Potter



'Renaissance'

Did you notice that we had autumn poinsettias that were an orange-gold color in time for Thanksgiving? Now it is time to tout the more traditional Christmas colors, and there a few surprises that we didn't even know were being sent to our stores.



'Green Envy'

Good news if you are a fan of winter rose poinsettias as we'll have them in miniature and regular sizes. There is even a new twist on the Winter Rose poinsettia called 'Renaissance'. 'Renaissance' poinsettias are a 25 year old sister to the Winter Rose and make lasting cut flowers. Cut them, and then burn the stem to seal the cut then place in a vase. If they wilt, make a fresh cut and burn the stem again. They grow

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## Cool Season Growing

By Brijette Pena

San Diego is known for the warm weather and forever sunny days. Gardeners know San Diego as the perpetual warm season. Sometimes, we can grow tomatoes right up until Christmas! This is fun for those of us with family back east. Teasing them with photos of us eating fresh garden salsa in December is always a hoot! But there is so much more to gardening in San Diego than just tomatoes, squash and melons. The real treat

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## Poinsettias continued from p1



'Luv U Pink'

well outside too. We will have a limited supply of these in both stores. Look for the red, white and pink blooms in each pot! Other poinsettia choices include traditional pink, red, burgundy, and white poinsettias, along with Marble and some of the autumnal colored ones, 'Gold Rush' and 'Orange Spice'.

"Green Envy" is a hit if you want a something different as it is a true green flower. You can also choose from 'Red Glitter', 'Christmas Lights Pink', 'Luv U Pink' (small flamingo pink bracts, it's always popular), and 'Prestige'. Sizes range from 4.5" to 10" and we have hanging basket poinsettias as well. •

## Cool Season Growing continued from p1

lies just beyond October when the days shorten, temperatures cool and sometimes, just sometimes, when we are lucky, get rain. This is where gardening nirvana resides. This is where you really can enjoy the spoils of gardening in San Diego.

The period from late October to April or so is known as the elusive cool season. This often overlooked and underappreciated period of time for most gardeners is very hectic. This doesn't mean you should miss the joys of harvesting your produce from the garden for your holiday dinners. Nothing is more delicious than creamy, velvety, cauliflower soup on one of those cool days. Or garlic, fresh from the garden, in flavors you can't buy in stores. Nothing is more delicious than your own home-grown carrots, greens, broccoli and potatoes.

We hear the same argument all the time. "Potatoes and carrots are cheap,

why grow them?" The answer is always the same. "Because you can't match the flavor and texture of homegrown cool season produce."

So, before you put away your gardening tools for the winter, think about this. Consider letting mother nature water your crops every once in a while. Consider growing some delicious and diverse cool season crops. Produce like carrots, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, collards, peas and more are always welcome at the holiday dinner table. They make great gifts too!

If I have not convinced you that now is the best time to garden in Southern California, then come on over and try our home-grown cauliflower soup, that should do the trick.

**Editor's Note: You'll find Brijette in our Poway store as part of our customer service team. She is also the owner of San Diego Seed Company. •**

## 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! Selection varies by store. Call for details, follow us on Facebook, or check the website for the list. Due to the failure of another supplier, we won't have bare root strawberries or cane berries this year. They will be available in pots, only.



### LOOK FOR

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

### PEST CONTROL

Dormant spray for diseases and overwintering pests. Use Liqui-Cop for disease control and Horticultural Oil Spray. •



## Holiday Project Turns Boxwood Into Wreath

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Photos by Doreen Wynja



It's the season for celebrations. Holiday parties either mean bringing a token gift for the host or sending guests home with a little "thank you for coming over" present. Why not make something super simple instead? Here are the steps to make a beautiful boxwood wreath.

### Step One:

Gather supplies (wire frame and paddle of green florist wire from craft store, pruners, wire cutters, and plenty of boxwood branches—you'll need about 20 dense branches for this project. Lighted ribbon is optional.

### Step Two:

Make small bundles of boxwood branches by gathering them in your hand and then clip ends so stems are about 6 – 8 inches long. You can make ahead and wrap the ends of the stems with wire, or make bundles as you go.

### Step Three:

Begin to wire bundles onto the frame. Place one bundle over the outside of the frame and the next bundle so over the inside of the frame. Continue to alternate outside and inside placement overlapping as you go. This will make your wreath very dense and lush. When you get to a corner, tuck the ends into the last bundle and continue to wire. Do not worry if the corners are not neat. You can fix this by adding more pieces at the end. Use a hot glue gun or just tuck them into the wreath.

### Step Four:

Finish by filling in as needed and then either slip the stems of berries into the foliage or attach them with a hot glue gun. Hung in a sheltered location, this will stay fresh for about a week and then dry to a lighter shade of green. If brought inside, keep away from direct sources of heat. •

*Both of our stores carry many varieties of Boxwood to get you started.*

## San Diego Seed Co.



**Congratulations to San Diego Seed Company for recently attaining its organic certification. San Diego Seed Company sustainably produces local heirloom seeds (non-hybrid and non-GMO). When she's not working at her farm, you'll find owner Brijette Pena at our Poway store helping with customer service. •**



## Holiday Favorite Plants Are Here!



It felt like summer outside, and the Thanksgiving turkey hadn't even been bought, yet the Christmas plants arrived. Sure enough, we were unboxing poinsettias the second week of November and making room for the living Christmas trees, holly, and rosemary bushes. •

## Winter Container Contentment

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery

These are just a few of the many ways to fill containers for winter and here are a few other plants to consider.

### Cotoneaster

Berries, berries, and more berries on low growing creepers or upright state-ments. Thrive in pots.

### Hellebores

The foliage is a great match to cool seasonal annuals. Best of all, flowers in late winter.

### Camellia

What more can we say about a shrub that blooms in winter and then looks elegant the rest of the year?

### Alaska Azalea

Blooming earlier than other varieties, it is a classic in a container paired with seasonal annuals.

### Clivia

Blooming in late winter but looking good in pots paired with other tex-



Image Credit: Cording Landscape Design

tures such as Asparagus ferns.

### Sempervivums

Cold loving succulents that thrive even in cold temps. •

## Holiday Drive Supports Escondido Cat Rescue

By Melanie Potter



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

Once again, we are collecting cat food and litter for Holli Howe, the founder of **Howe-2 Care 4 Critters**, a cat rescue in Escondido.

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. Donations will be collected through Dec. 23.



*The good work of Howe-2 Care4 Critters helps cats like Ginger and Graycie, five-year-old bonded sisters who got their start in life as stray kittens. They were shoved in a sealed cardboard box with their mom, two sisters, and another adult female, and were dumped at night at a cat rescue in Northern California. They both have microphthalmia (underdeveloped eyes). They have limited vision but they get around just fine and are very healthy.*

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



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



San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™





## Old Ben:

### Three Different Stories To End The Year

By Old Ben

I have three stories this month and only one of them is bird related. All are interesting to read.

#### The Last White Mum

When my mother passed away in August of 2000, I wanted to give something to everyone who attended the service. My mother, Martha, was a fantastic grower of African Violets and she loved white chrysanthemums. I purchased many four-inch pots of violets and white mums from Walter Andersen Nursery in San Diego. At the end of the service, everyone was asked to take a violet or mum home to remember my mother.



There was one white mum left, but it had been trampled on the floor and the flowers were broken off. I took it home and planted it in my garden next to some roses. I remember it re bloomed on October 26 of that year.

The white chrysanthemum has had its first bloom of the year every October 26th since 2000. That's 18 years in a row! That date is significant because that is my mother's birthday and this would have been her 100th.



#### Wisteria's Seed Pods

I have had a wisteria plant growing over a patio cover for more than 40 years. Up until this year, it has never had seed pods. Since it has taken 40 years to have seed pods, I am guessing it's a Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*).

Not knowing what to do with the pods I let them mature on the plant. It has taken many, many months for them to turn brown and dry. One night several weeks ago, I was watching TV with the side door open that leads to the patio cover. I heard what I thought was gun fire hitting my house. I quickly closed the door and got behind a solid wall.

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#### Ask Old Ben!

Email Old Ben your questions to:  
[askoldben@aol.com](mailto: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 December 1-31, 2018

### Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts a variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix.

**20lb. bag**

*Lowest Price of the Year!*

**Sale \$21.99** 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

### 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.*

## DECEMBER Specials

Valid December 1-31, 2018\*

*Special Clearance Pricing Just in Time for the Holidays!*

## Miracle Gro Quick Start Planting Tablets

Clearance Price  
**\$1.99**

Regular \$3.99



## Great Stocking Stuffer! Centurion Stainless Steel Herb & Floral Snips

Clearance Price  
**\$3.99**

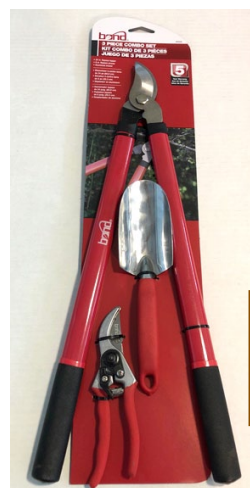
Regular \$9.99



## Tomcat 2-Pack No Touch Mouse Traps

Clearance Price  
**\$.99**

Regular \$1.99



## Great Christmas Gift! Bond 3-Piece Pruning & Planting Set

Clearance Price  
**\$9.99**

Regular \$24.99



## Tomcat 5-Pack Wooden Mouse Traps

Clearance Price  
**\$.79**

Regular \$1.49



## Great Christmas Gift! Bond 3-Piece Watering Combination

Clearance Price  
**\$9.99**

Regular \$24.49

Limited to stock on hand while supplies last. No rain checks. No other offers or discounts apply. Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.



## 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/).



No Classes are scheduled for December.

Old Ben continued from p6

The firing kept up and had me really puzzled. I thought I saw something bounce off a window and knew at that point it was not a bullet. It was the seed pods exploding and sending seeds all over the place. I found some seeds as far as 25 feet from the vine. The pods are very woody and the seeds are very flat, hard, and are the size of a dime. The seed pods and seeds are poisonous. When the seeds explode, they make a powerful, loud noise.

My understanding is that the seeds are easy to start in small pots or straight in the ground. The seeds need to be soaked in warm water for up to three days to soften the hard outer shell, or nick the shell like you would for sweet peas to make it easier for the water to get in. Plant in a well draining potting soil, or mix some potting soil into your soil and plant directly into the ground. Plant them two inches deep and keep the soil moist but not wet.

## We're Celebrating A Special Anniversary

Old Ben's Workshop will celebrate 10 years in business in 2019! It all started with Walter Andersen Nursery. I brought in two jelly feeders I had built and met James in the San Diego store who introduced me to Walter Andersen, Jr. The next day I put two of each feeders in that location. Ten years later, Walter Andersen Nursery has been the main home of Old Ben's Wild Bird products.

To celebrate this anniversary, I have been working on a new seed blend. It has been a long haul but I believe the effort will be worth it. This blend is 95% no mess and will attract birds of all sizes, including some non seed eating birds. My goal is to have the "Anniversary Blend" available in late December or by January 2019. This blend will ONLY be available at Walter Andersen Nursery during the first six months of the new year. •

## Dates To Remember

**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 •



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## 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  
Open 9am-5pm daily