

Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

Blue-Eyed Grass

BY MELANIE POTTER

Eyes sure have a funny way of creeping into the plant world. You find them on potatoes and Southerners love their black-eyed peas. Black-eyed Susans bloom late summer and Goblins Eyes pop open in time for Halloween. When spring came around, we discovered Blue-Eyed Grass more popular than ever.

Sisyrinchium is a genus of up to 150 species of annual and perennial plants of the Iris family, and **Blue-Eyed Grass**, **Sisyrinchium bellum**, 'Greyhound Rock' is one that shouldn't be missed if you are looking for blooming ornamental grasses. This is a 1 foot tall perennial with 1 inch blue flowers that bloom January through June. The flowers are actually more blue than purple so if you're looking for true blue flowers, take a peek. It has small, iris-like leaves and is widely found in California on open, grassy slopes. It likes



Blue-Eyed Grass

full sun and can become very drought tolerant. It grows in sand to clay soils, coastal bluffs to interior grasslands.

We have a dwarf variety that grows to 8" that is a perfect addition to a fairy or miniature garden.

Use Blue-Eyed Grass in rock gardens or mixed with prairie wildflowers and grasses for a prairie meadow effect. ■

Pink Hillside Signal Spring

BY MELANIE POTTER



Colorful hillsides are popping up all over. You can also get blooming groundcover color from *Gazania*, *Lampranthus spectabilis*, *Lampranthus aurantiacus*, *Malephora*, and *Drosanthemum*.

If you are new to the San Diego area, then you should be more careful than usual when driving along hillsides in late winter and early spring. This is when hillsides begin to turn a vibrant, hot pinkish-purple color, creating such a stunning site that is hard to keep your eyes on the road. Millions of *Delosperma cooperi* are in bloom and giving the effect of a huge, brilliant vermilion colored carpet being draped on banks and hills.

Nicknamed Pink Carpet or Purple Trailing Productus, what you're seeing is a dwarf perennial plant, native to South Africa that forms a dense lawn with abundant, long-lasting flowers. The coverage area is enhanced by the plants' fleshy leaves and a trailing stem that hangs down.

Given its country of origin, this plant is well suited for our climate. The plant is sun-loving, and thrives well in very dry and hot environments. While it adapts well to various soil types, it prefers well drained soils, or even rocky terrain. Environments that are too wet will cause the roots to rot.

You'll buy this plant by the flat. Each flat covers about 50 square feet; plant each plant a foot apart. Water after you plant. If you have heavy soil that holds water, mix in some organic compost and starter fertilizer.

This groundcover is loved by butterflies, is deer and disease resistant, drought tolerant and is easy to care for. Snails will hide in it, but don't usually eat it. Consider sprinkling Sluggo to help keep the population under control. ■

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New Hedge Fund\$™ For 2013

BY KEN ANDERSEN

A new Hedge Fund\$ program is under way; in fact, you have been earning points since February 1 and can begin redeeming them as soon as your point balance reaches 500. For every 500 points earned, you receive a certificate worth \$5 to be redeemed on future purchases. Here's a quick look at how to earn points:

For every \$1 spent, you receive 5 points. So, if you spend \$100, you've earned 500 points and will be given a \$5 certificate, good toward most purchases. (Hedge Fund\$ certificates cannot be used towards the purchase of Gift Cards, Sod or for Payment on Account). Certificates must be redeemed within 45 days of being issued.

Hedge Fund\$ certificates will print automatically on your receipt when a point balance goes over 500 points. For instance, if a customer has 700 points, 500 points will be used to issue a Hedge Fund\$ certificate and the remaining 200 points remain as Hedge Fund\$.

continued p3

April

Garden Tasks

FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue, Scott's Turf Builder or Turf Builder Plus 2 to feed 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.

PEST CONTROL

Keep insects under control by hitting them early or use a systemic control like Bayer All-in-One Rose and Flower, Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Spray, Bayer Fruit Tree and Vegetable Insect Control, or Bayer Tree and Shrub. Early detection makes for easier control so be vigilant.

PLANT

Warm season bedding plants, Dahlias, ornamentals, and perennials. Warm season vegetables and vegetable seeds.

LOOK FOR

Flowering deciduous trees and shrubs, blooming roses, blooming bulbs, Ceanothus and tropicals.

14th Annual Rose Show Slated

The 14th annual Walter Andersen Nursery Rose Show is scheduled for May 25-26 at our Poway store. This popular event continues to grow with last year seeing more than 100 entries. A prep class to help participants learn how to prepare roses for the show will be held May 18 at 9:30am at the Poway store. Entries will be taken May 25 from 8-10:30am. Judging is 11am-1pm. Show hours are May 25 from 1-5pm & May 26 from 9am-4pm. Pick up your entries between 4-5pm as they, along with tags, will be unavailable after close of business on May 26. ■

Words

From Walter

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.



Orchids One Of The Largest Plant Families

Did you know the Orchid family, "Orchidaceae", is one of the largest plant families?

There are thousands of varieties, over 20,000 species. They are found all over the world, from cooler areas above the Arctic Circle, to the tropics; although there are more species found in tropical and sub-tropical parts of the planet. Some orchids grow in soil, as terrestrial plants while others are epiphytic, growing on trees and not taking any nourishment from the host plant.



Cymbidium

Many orchid varieties are quite easy to grow, even for a novice. Some do require a greenhouse with controlled humidity and temperatures, however in Southern California, our coastal climate is ideal for many different varieties to grow outdoors. Some will require a little protection from the cooler winter conditions we have.

A few of the most popular varieties are Cymbidium, Cattleya, Epidendrum, Paphiopedilum, Oncidium and Phalenopsis. Many people are successfully growing these. Epidendrum and Cymbidium, for me, are the easiest to grow and get to bloom. Most of the orchids in our area are grown in containers, rather than in the ground. Some have special needs, such as requiring well draining planting mixes. Orchid bark, most often a type of Fir bark, is used alone or mixed with other ingredients such as Perlite or Pumice, perhaps a little redwood compost to help hold moisture. It seems every grower has their own special formula for growing orchids. For the epiphytic varieties (probably the majority grown here)



Odontoglossum

small (¼") and medium (½") Orchid bark is used. Epidendrum are terrestrial and are often planted in a bark or cymbidium mix.

When you buy an Orchid it will probably be in bloom, so you can see the beautiful blossoms. As they grow, they will probably need to be repotted into larger containers, or divided, into smaller plants, depending on the variety. The best time to repot or divide the plants is when they are finished blooming. Repotting a blooming plant might cause the blooms to abort, or you run the risk of breaking the bloom spike.

Growers have been successful growing Cattleya, Phalenopsis, Paphiopedilum and Oncidium in simple Orchid bark, usually the coarser type. For Cymbidium, many growers use the finer Orchid bark (¼") mixed with redwood compost; about two thirds bark and one third compost. In the last five years or so, I have started using coconut husk chips called Coir. I use the chips as they come from the bale or bag, nothing else added. This has worked very well for me, the plants are thriving and they rebloom well. What I like about the coconut chips is the ease of use, you don't have to mix it, and it is relatively clean, and not a lot of messy dust is produced. I use a small stick to poke the chips down into the root ball so they sit firmly in the pot. After potting, I can lift the plant by the foliage and the roots stay in the pot. Lift the pot off the ground like this so you know it is packed in tightly enough. With Epidendrum, I have had good success with Sunshine Container Potting Mix.

For optimum growth and bloom, Orchids need to be fertilized on a regular schedule. If you use water soluble Orchid food, you should plan on applying it every two weeks. Osmocote is a slow release pelletized plant food that is applied about every three months. Gro-Power makes a tablet that I use every three months.

Don't be put off because you think you can't grow an Orchid. With just a minimum of care, most are not that difficult! ■

Don't Miss Trying Our Own Brands

BY MELANIE POTTER

You can't miss the signs out front with our name on it, but did you know that once in the store, you'll also find products labeled as Walter Andersen Nursery grown or produced? Here's some that might catch your eye, and how they came to be that way.

Walter Andersen Special Mix

About 60 years ago, Walter Andersen Sr. was concerned that the grass seed mixes he was able to buy might not be best suited for our special coastal Southern California climate. He met with a major seed supplier, Germain's Seed, and they came up with a bulk grass seed mix that seemed to perform better than the others.

It was sold as Walter Andersen's Special Mix, our own special blend. Back then, we had very large bulk bins to store the seed, and we would scoop out the amount needed for customer's lawns. At the San Diego store we used those same bulk bins full of seed until about nine years ago, along with the antiquated scale. We now have it all pre-packaged under our name.



Our current blend of Walter Andersen Special Mix contains the following mix: Intrigue Chewings Fescue, which is a finer textured Fescue that grows well in sun, but can also establish nicely in shaded areas. Creeping Red Fescue, a fairly fine textured grass that also does well

in sun or shade. It can send out rhizomes (or runners but it is not considered invasive) and is considered somewhat drought tolerant, but regular irrigation produces the best results. Rugby Kentucky Bluegrass is considered one of the top 14 Kentucky bluegrass varieties. Manhattan Perennial Rye, which is an improved variety of Ryegrass that is resilient and able to tolerate wear from children and pets. Ryegrasses germinate quickly and this variety performs well in mild climate areas. Poa Trivialis, which is disease and insect resistant and recommended for cooler areas, it is not usually planted in areas of extreme heat. The foliage is soft and narrow and may be a lighter green than other varieties in this mix.

Corky's Honey Delight® Fig

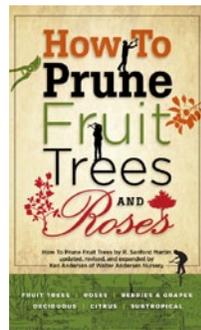
In the 1950s a great tasting fig was brought into the nursery in very limited numbers by the brother of Walter Andersen Sr. His name was Lawrence



Andersen, but the nickname, Corky, stuck with him from childhood. Grandma Andersen lived in the Midway area and had a Fig tree growing in her yard that produced wonderful figs. Corky would take cuttings from this fig and start them at home and bring in a few of the small plants from time to time.

A few years ago we decided to change the name of this Fig to Corky's Honey Delight®. Now that Monrovia is growing these trees for us, the supply is steady but still limited, and all the trees originated from cuttings taken from the original tree that Grandma Andersen had in her yard.

“How To Prune Fruit Trees And Roses”



In 2011, a manager at Walter Andersen Nursery realized the store was down to its last few issues of R. Sanford Martin's "How To Prune Fruit Trees". He took them out of inventory and squirreled the last copies away, doling

them out to employees only when absolutely necessary. That was the only option as the popular, folksy, and easy to follow guide had been out of print for many years and copies were scarce. That began the nursery's quest to see the book return to print. It was Ken Andersen's desire to enhance the book by adding a section on pruning roses to reflect the dual opportunity the bare-root season for fruit trees and roses presents to gardeners. Some of the more archaic text was brought up to date, Martin's sketches were redrawn, and photos were added of pruning tools and rose pruning techniques. Once the additions and revisions were made, Andersen copyrighted the revised edition and this book is once again available for sale.

Ada Perry's Premium Redwood Blend Compost

We were looking for a supplier of a redwood compost made from mostly redwood and everything we'd seen from our regular suppliers contained only a small amount of redwood along



with other forest products. We found a supplier who had the old style of straight redwood compost and contracted with them to bag it under Walter Andersen Nursery's private label. Now you can buy Ada Perry's Premium

Hedge Fund\$ *continued from p1*

The receipt will include the certificate dollar amount and the expiration date.

Some things to remember about the program:

- Hedge Fund\$ certificates are like cash and cannot be replaced if lost or stolen.
- Points never expire, certificates do.
- No Cash Refund on Hedge Fund\$ certificates or purchases.
- Partial redemptions are allowed, but the customer receives no change if they do not use the full Hedge Fund\$ certificate amount. The Hedge Fund\$ certificate is “use it or lose it” in regards to the balance of the certificate.
- Hedge Fund\$ certificates must be surrendered at the time of purchase.
- Maximum amount of points earned per ticket is 10,000. Any sales amount over \$2,000.00 does not earn points.

For complete program details, go to www.walterandersen.com/hedge-funds.



Redwood Blend Compost, which contains mostly redwood along with some forest products. It's organic compost that provides enrichment for your soil.

Ada Perry's Magic Formula

Ada Perry was a somewhat famous gardener in San Diego many years ago. She wrote garden columns and even worked at the nursery. She was famous for her roses and taught gardening classes. Ada realized that the things roses need to do their best were not in most commercial rose foods. She came up with her formula to promote the best growth and blooms, using products off the shelf. She had roses at her home and would do tests to see what worked the best. Then she would tell everyone you need to add a cup of gypsum, a half cup of soil sulfur, and so on, two times a year to each rose. “If you do this, and also use a good rose food, you will have the best roses anywhere,” she would explain. The mix was a huge success and in 2000, the nursery began pre-mixing and bagging her formula so customers did not have to buy all of the different ingredients to make it on their own. It just made things a lot simpler and a lot less dusty! ■



Old Ben's Specials!

Sale Prices Valid April 1-30, 2013

Hummingbird Swing

\$6.99 Regular \$9.99

Also attracts Blue Birds, Gold Finches and Orioles.

Hummingbird Cage with Nesting Material

\$9.99 Regular \$11.99

Invite Hummingbirds to nest in your yard!

Crystal Clear or Beet Red Hummingbird Food

2 for \$10 Regular \$5.99 ea.

100% natural, no dyes or preservatives.

*Repeat of a Sell Out!
Fantastic Prices!*

Old Ben's Nyjer Seed

5lb. Bag \$9.99

Regular \$11.99

10lb. Bag \$17.99

Regular \$21.99

25lb. Bag \$34.99

Regular \$44.99

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



Basic Facts About Hummingbirds



BY OLD BEN OF OLD BEN'S WORKSHOP

Hummingbirds are small, colorful birds with iridescent feathers. Their name comes from the fact that they flap their

wings so fast, between 50 and 200 times per second that they make a humming noise.

Hummingbirds can fly right, left, up, down, backwards, and even upside down. They are also able to hover by flapping their wings in a figure eight pattern. They have a specialized, long, tapered bill that is used to obtain nectar from the center of long, tubular flowers.

The hummingbird's feet are used for perching only, and are not used for hopping or walking.

Hummingbirds primarily eat flower nectar, treesap, insects and pollen. The hummingbird's fast breathing rate, fast heartbeat and high body temperature require that they eat often. They also require an enormous amount of food each day. Hummingbirds have a long tongue which they use to lick their food at a rate of up to 13 licks per second.

Hummingbirds are only found in the Western Hemisphere, from southeastern Alaska to southern Chile, although most live in the tropics. There are more than 320 species of hummingbirds, 12 of which summer in North America and winter in tropical areas.

Like other birds, hummingbirds communicate via visual displays. They are very territorial



and have been observed chasing each other and even larger birds, such as hawks, away from their territories.

Hummingbird's gestation period is 13-22 days, and the clutch size is 1-3 eggs. Babies don't stay in the nest long and start to fly in 18 to 30 days.

Interesting Facts

The hummingbird is the smallest bird and also the smallest of all animals that have a backbone.

A hummingbird has no sense of smell.

The hummingbird has a heart rate that can reach up to 1,260 beats per minute.

Percentage-wise, the hummingbird has the largest brain of all birds.

The longest recorded hummingbird life span is from a female Broad-Tailed Hummingbird that was tagged then recaptured 12 years later.

Hummingbirds have between 900 and 1,500 feathers, the fewest number of feathers of any bird species in the world. ■

How To Help Us Help You

Customers always have questions that we are happy to answer, if we can. Here's what you can do so we can best answer them.

- If you need a plant or plant malady identified, bring in a fresh sample. If the plant blooms, try to bring in a sample of it blooming or a photo of it. Even with the best samples, it may take us a bit of investigating to diagnose ailments or identify more obscure plants.

- To help you determine if a particular product is poisonous, bring in the ingredient label. If you are concerned, you should call the Poison Control Center, or, if pets are involved call your veterinarian.

- To answer your soil questions, it helps to know what type of soil you are trying to amend. You can bring us a sample. We'll also ask what you are planning to use the area for.

- If you need ideas about what to plant, it will help if you know the dimensions of your planting areas as well as the sun exposure it gets and what your watering expectations are.

- Our buyers can search for hard-to-find plants, and we can special order large quantities of plants.

So, when you're stumped, here are some ideas of what we'll need to know to get your questions answered. ■

Specialty & Ghost Peppers Are A Hot Ticket

BY MELANIE POTTER



Hot off the trucks is our first shipment of Ghost and specialty peppers. The trend of eating hot peppers continues and just like in years past, both stores will have a large selection of these favorites.

Hot peppers, also known as chili, or chile peppers, owe their spiciness to a chemical substance called capsaicin. This chemical is concentrated in the cross walls of the chile and around the seeds. This is why some recipes will call for removing the seeds and veins from the inside of the chile before cooking with it. Chile peppers can be mild to blazing, tongue

blistering hot, depending on the amount of capsaicin present. These fiery beasts are rated on the Scoville Scale, and given a numeric representation in Scoville heat units (SHU) to indicate the amount of capsaicin present. Peppers that do not contain capsaicin, such as bell peppers, are considered sweet peppers. When we talk about specialty peppers, they include other peppers of unusual shape, size, and/or color.

The Ghost Pepper, Bhut Jolokia, is a chile pepper recognized in 2007 by Guinness World Records as the hottest pepper in the world. In 2011, the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion stole the title and then the following year; some ghost peppers were tested to be hotter than the Scorpion varieties so the two were tied for the title of hottest pepper and ranked over one million on the Scoville Scale. Some Trinidad Scorpion Peppers that were grown in very hot conditions rated more than two million SHU and according to the 2012 New Mexico Chile Conference, the Trinidad Scorpion Pepper is the hottest. If your taste buds could talk, they would tell you that these peppers are 400 times hotter than Tabasco sauce! ■

Where There Is Heat, There Is The SHU

Ever wonder how the heat index for peppers came into being and why? Well, it exists mainly to give gardeners and chef-types a general idea of how hot any given chile is.

In 1912, a chemist working for Detroit's Parke Davis Pharmaceutical Company was tasked with developing a method to gauge the heat of various chile peppers to aid in the development of the company's salves for sore muscles. The job fell to Wilbur L. Scoville (1865-1942), a well-known chemist. Scoville determined that the most sensitive and best gauge of heat in chilies was his mouth. Thus the Scoville Organoleptic Test, which measures the amount of dilution required for each pepper to lose its hot taste, was born. This test is expressed in Scoville Heat Units or SHU.

Creating the test was bit of a process: He first ground the peppers, and then soaked the powder in alcohol overnight to extract the capsaicin. He then added sugar water to the capsaicin-infused alcohol in increments and

tasted each blend until he could no longer detect any heat. As an example, the extract of Habanero peppers had to be diluted 200,000 – 350,000 times before capsaicin was no longer discernible by Scoville's taste buds, thus earning it a rating of 200,000 to 350,000 SHU.

As laboratory technology advanced, Scoville's methods went out of fashion, although he



was successful in his mission for his employer. Scoville went on to become a celebrated chemist, winning industry awards and honorary doctorates.

On the right is the SHU chart for some peppers. ■

Dates To Remember

MAR 31 – Stores closed for Easter.

APR 27 – **Wearable Garden Class.** Make a wearable garden necklace with artist Annalisa Von Klipstein. Must RSVP to 858-513-4900. Class held in Poway, \$20 materials fee.

MAY 5 – **Irrigation Classes Presented by DIG Irrigation.** Class is held in Poway and limited to 50 attendees. Attend either the 9:30am or 1pm class. Must RSVP by calling 858-513-4900. \$30 worth of merchandise is free to every attendee.

SHU Chart

Scoville Units	Peppers/Pepper Extracts
16,000,000	Pure Capsaicin
5,300,000	Police Grade Pepper Spray
2,000,000	Common Pepper Spray Trinidad Moruga Scorpion
1,463,700	Trinidad Scorpion Butch T
855,000-1,041,427	Bhut Jolokia
800,000-1,000,000	Trinidad Scorpion Pepper
100,000-350,000	Habanero Pepper
100,000-325,000	Scotch Bonnet
100,000-225,000	Bird's Eye Pepper
100,000-200,000	Jamaican Hot Pepper
50,000-100,000	Thai Pepper
40,000-58,000	Pequin Pepper
30,000-50,000	Cayenne Pepper
30,000-50,000	Tabasco Pepper
15,000-30,000	De Arbol Pepper
5,000-23,000	Serrano Pepper
5,000-10,000	Chipotle Pepper
5,000-10,000	Hot Wax Pepper
2,500-8,000	Jalapeno Pepper
2,500-5,000	Guajillo Pepper
1,000-2,000	Ancho Pepper
1,000-2,000	Poblano Pepper
1,000-2,000	Pasilla Pepper
500-2,500	Anaheim Pepper
100-500	Pepperoncini Pepper
0	Sweet Bell Pepper

April

In-Store Specials!

Sale Prices Valid April 1-30, 2013

Save Big on Blueberries!

**Bountiful Blue
Blueberries from
Monrovia Nursery
Sale \$19.99**

Regular \$29.99.

**Gro-Power
Citrus and Avocado
Food Sale!**

\$3.00 OFF 20lb. Bag
\$5.00 OFF 40lb. Bag

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

Coupon Savings!

To redeem, present coupon or show cashier this offer on your smart phone.

Coupon Valid April 1-31, 2013

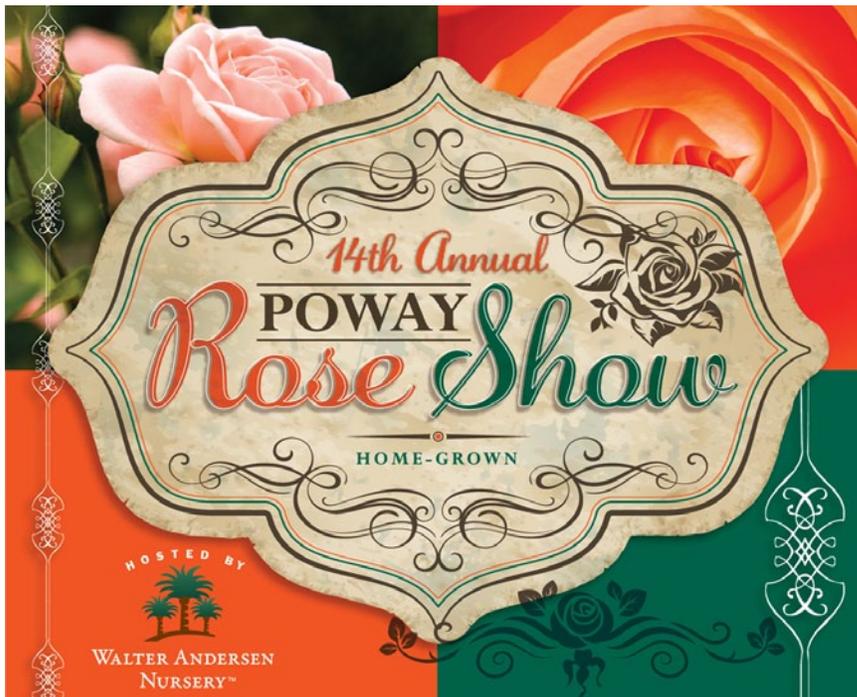
**\$5.00 OFF
Citrus Trees**

5-Gallon and Larger

Limited to stock on hand.

Coupon must be redeemed at time of purchase.
Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

#108407



May 25-26, 2013

SHOW HOURS:

May 25 from 1-5pm / May 26 from 9am-4pm

ENTRIES REGISTRATION:

May 25 from 8am-10:30am

PREP CLASS:

May 18 at 9:30am

JUDGING:

May 25 from 11am-1pm

LOCATION:

12755 Danielson Court, Poway / 858-513-4900

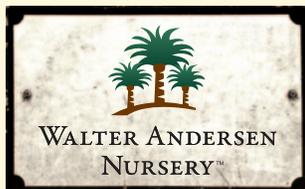
ACCREDITED JUDGE SUPPORT/SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE E.C.R.S.

April Garden Class Schedule

All 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. Class topics are subject to change with no notification. You may call for confirmation.

9:00AM SAN DIEGO NURSERY	9:30AM POWAY NURSERY
4/6 What Hummingbirds Like with Old Ben	4/6 No Class Scheduled
4/13 Tomato Madness	4/13 Citrus & Avocados with Richard Wright
4/20 Culinary Herbs	4/20 Barn Owls with Old Ben
4/27 Hot Peppers	4/27 Wearable Gardens—Jewelry Making Class. RSVP and prepay \$20. Call 858-513-4900. Class size is limited.

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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