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Fabulous Summer Finds

By Melanie Potter



'Little Kiss' Salvia

The hottest day of June that we had by press time was the one I chose to spend outside looking for some sweet summer finds. I was well rewarded for that effort and here's a quick look at some exciting plants that made my day.

'Little Kiss' Salvia

Barb, in our Poway store, was giddy about this kin to Salvia 'Hot Lips'. It's from the Sunset Western Garden collection and has red and white bi-color blooms that cover the bush from spring to fall. It is compact and dense,

growing to only 18" high. Plant in full sun in well draining soil and water regularly until it is established and has time to adjust to lower watering needs. Younger, happier plants frequently have more red in their flowers. Heat and stress bring out more white.

'Berry Dazzle' Dwarf Crape Myrtle

OMG, this is the cutest little crape myrtle! It is a blooming machine too, given its size relative to how many

[continued p2](#)



Hello Vineyard

Ken Andersen inspects a grape vine in the vineyard at Cuyamaca College at last month's ribbon cutting. The one half-acre vineyard at Cuyamaca College is part of a groundbreaking viticulture apprenticeship program

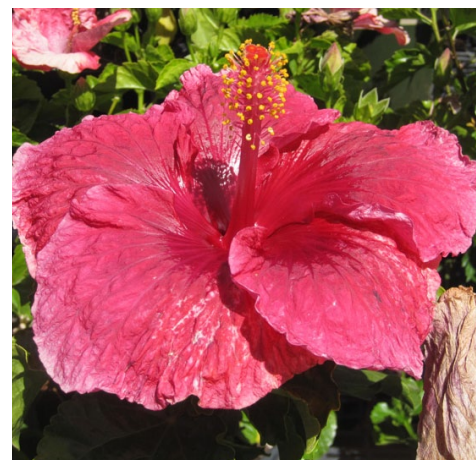
[continued p2](#)

Blessing The Hibiscus

By Melanie Potter

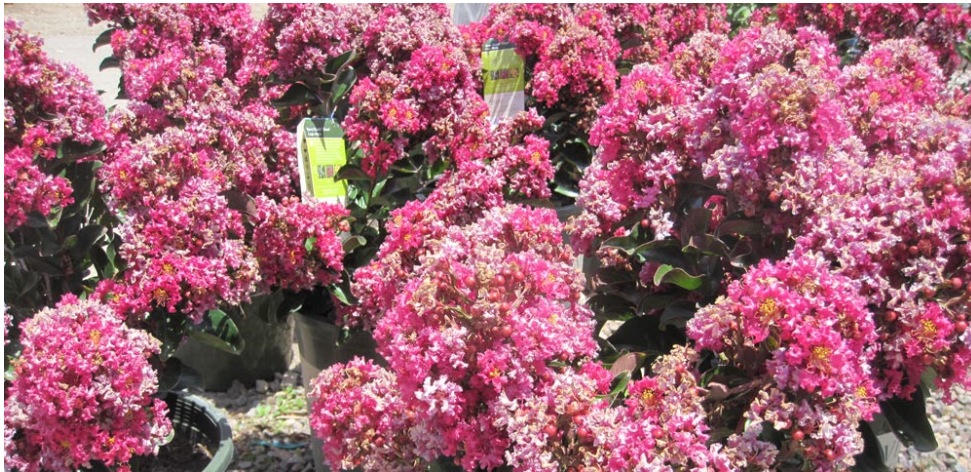
Bless my neighbors for planting the beautiful yellow hibiscus right next to the fence that separates our yards. It pokes through the bars of the fence and looks like it is actually on our property, next to the pool, where it helps create a tropical oasis. However, it looks lonely and could use some hibiscus friends and that means looking at some varieties to see what will complement it.

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'Brilliant' Hibiscus

Summer Finds continued from p1



'Berry Dazzle' Dwarf Crape Myrtle



'Canary Bird Bush'



'Bicolor' Buddleia

flowers cover it. Growing 3'-4' tall, this shrub packs a double punch with vibrant colorful foliage and flowers. New leaves emerge burgundy-red, then brilliant fuchsia-purple blooms appear early in summer, providing great summer color into fall. It's a superb compact border plant or landscape accent. No room for it in the landscape? It performs well in containers. The only downside is that it is deciduous.

Crotalaria agatiflora **'Canary Bird Bush' "Rattlebox"**

How cool is this? Its name comes from the fact that the flowers look like little birds perched on branches. The fragrant, yellow flowers are pretty and followed by seed pods. Plant in full

sun or part shade and water regularly to very little. In its native tropical East Africa and northeast Africa, this plant is invasive.

Buddleia 'Bicolor'

The buddleias are in bloom and one that gets a lot of attention is Buddleia 'Bicolor'. This is the very first butterfly bush to present two completely different colors within the same flower head from raspberry/magenta to amber/butterscotch. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds love it and for those in the mountains, deer hate it. It's drought-tolerant, fragrant and loves the sun. Plant toward the back of the garden as it grows tall, 6'-8'. •

Hello Vineyard

continued from p1

to meet a growing demand for skilled workers in the region's wine making industry. Cuyamaca College collaborated with the San Diego Vintners' Association, Fallbrook Winery, San Pasqual Winery, Highland Hills Winery and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards to host the viticulture apprenticeship program. The two-year program includes 14.5 units of horticulture classroom instruction and 3,000 hours of hands-on employment at one of the participating wineries and vineyards. These vines look good! •

History of WAN: Remember When Books Were A Research Tool?

By Ken Andersen

Eighth in the series.

Read all the articles starting with the December, 2017 newsletter at www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters.

When it comes to researching plant information, we have a wide variety of books in our library. Not all are new, but we do keep current issues of the standby **Sunset Western Garden Book** at the customer service counters as our 'go to' reference for staff and customers. Though the book has improved in many ways over the years, it has also taken a step back. The biggest, in my opinion, was the elimination of common name cross references. We still refer to a much older volume of this book when we are researching common names.

Some of our best printed resources go back many years but are still loaded with relevant content. Prior to Google, and even today the following volumes are extremely valuable ref-

[continued p4](#)

Hibiscus continued from p1

Hibiscuses are medium to large sized shrubs. They need well draining soil and regular water. Plant in partial to full sun and fertilize each month from March to September. The bright green foliage is a stage for beautiful colored flowers that bloom in bright, solid colors, bicolor or blends.

The plant is susceptible to whitefly and you'll know you are hosting this bug when you see white hair-like strands on the foliage. Whiteflies are soft-bodied, winged insects closely related to aphids and mealybugs. Whiteflies suck plant juices and then produce a sticky substance known as honeydew. Honeydew left on its own can cause fungus to form on leaves. The female lays eggs on the undersides of the leaves and after hatching, the nymphs produce long, hair-like filaments of wax up to two inches long that give a bearded appearance to affected leaves. If you aren't feeding the flowers to pets, use the Bayer or Bonide Tree and Shrub systemic. The non-toxic alternative would be an oil spray.

Here are a few varieties to whet your appetite:

Hibiscus 'Brilliant'

Give this hibiscus a lot of room. It has bright red blooms and quickly reaches 8 to 10 ft. tall, 4 to 6 ft. wide.

Bahama Bay 'Heartbeat'

Magenta flowers adorn a shrub that grows 4-6 feet tall.

Bahama Bay 'Forever Young'

Ruffled pink flowers with a deep pink to magenta eye.

Note: Availability and varieties subject to constant change. •



Our neighbor's yellow Hibiscus



'Heartbeat' Hibiscus



'Forever Young' Hibiscus



Both stores will be closed for the July 4th Holiday.

TO DO LIST: July



FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to **feed grass and control broadleaf weeds**. **Feed ornamentals** with Gro-Power. **Feed vegetables** with Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or E.B. Stone Organic Tomato and Vegetable Food. **Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruit trees** with Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado Food. **Feed palms and tropics** with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food. Add Ada Perry's Magic Formula to your regular **rose feeding** schedule. **Mulch plants** to conserve water and dress up planting beds.

WATER

Through October, keep a close watch on watering to make sure plants do not suffer from drought. **Adjust sprinkler clocks** or provide supplemental watering to avoid stress to plants. Make sure lawn sprinklers are working properly to prevent waste and dead spots.

PRUNE

Coral trees and roses.

PLANT

Plant anything! Just make sure it gets plenty of water! New plantings will require more frequent, shallower waterings than established plants. **Look for** Plumeria, Hibiscus, Lantana, Plumbago, Gardenias, and bedding plants. •



Choosing Lavender For Your Garden

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Goodwin Creek Gray



Munstead



Riverina Thomas French

As their native habitat is along the Mediterranean coast, lavenders are happiest in places with moist, cool winters and hot, dry summers. Don't forget to add full sun and well-drained soil. That's pretty specific, right? If none of this sounds like your backyard, don't be deterred from trying lavender. With the exception of very cold zones, there's probably one that's right for you.

While there are more than 400 varieties of lavender, they can be grouped into three main types:

English (*Lavandula angustifolia*): The classic with long spikes holding fragrant flowers. While some varieties better tolerate heat and others might bloom longer in cooler climates, most flower in late spring to early summer. Even after they've slowed in the blossom department, what remains is a silvery mound of intensely fragrant leaves.

Non-English (French, Spanish, Sweet, Woolly, etc.): These bloom earlier in the season in warmer zones, often in very early spring. A diverse collection, the variation in fragrance, size, color, texture, and flower heads in this group make it a truly exciting panoply of plants.

English hybrids (*Lavandula x intermedia*): Known as the lavandins, varieties in this group come latest in the bloom cycle, starting just as the English lavenders are finishing, and continuing to midsummer. Lavandins

have long gray leaves, twice or more the size of *L. angustifolia*, and grow much larger and faster. Some are more adept at dealing with heat than their English parents.

Before planting lavender, consider your soil. If you have either very clay or sandy soil amend well with organic matter such as compost, add gravel to the planting hole, and do not mulch around plants. This is true for all regions! Although lavenders are native to the Mediterranean, they need consistent moisture during the first few years while they establish a strong root system. Once rooted in, only occasional water is needed.

These lavenders may be a good match for your growing conditions.

Goodwin Creek Gray

Heat-tolerant and rugged with a compact, taller habit that makes for a charming short hedge. Grows up to 4' tall and wide.

Munstead

Compact habit and aromatic foliage with abundant, fragrant, flower spike; perfect for hot, dry slopes. Grows up to 2' tall and wide.

Riverina Thomas French

New triploid with large flowers that yield five times the aromatic oil of their parent types. Grows up to 3' tall and wide. •

WAN History: Books

continued from p2

ferences when it comes to plants and horticulture in general.

The **Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture** (3 Volumes) by L.H. Bailey dates back to 1927 and is a treasure trove of information and illustrations.

Hortus Second and **Hortus Third** by L. H. Bailey are comprehensive volumes with the third edition being about twice the size of the second. **Third** contains an extensive common name index which we reference quite frequently.

Two of my favorites when growing up and spending time in the nursery were **Tropica and Exotica** by A. B. Graf. Graf owned a huge greenhouse operation in New Jersey and traveled the world seeking and photographing plants. These books, along with a third book **Hortica**, document his travels and the plants he came across during his explorations. In addition to photographs of plants from common to extremely rare, there is information on growth habit and cultural details as well. The volumes contain thousands of photos taken all over the world with many plants being photographed in their native habitat. When I was younger, I would spend hours poring over the pages of these books marveling at the plants and the locations and making notes of plants I would love to get my hands on!

The **Encyclopedia of Horticulture** (10 volumes) by The New York Botanical Garden is another outstanding resource. It contains lots of in depth information on all aspects of horticulture.

At this time, I believe that all of these volumes are out of print but you can still sometimes find copies available on the internet, on eBay, Alibris.com, or Abesbook.com. •



Old Ben:

Lesser Goldfinch Facts

By Old Ben



Goldfinches may have been pirates or miners at one time, for a few of the species are 007, Treasury and Vein. An American naturalist by the name of Thomas Say was the first to define the lesser goldfinch in 1823. They are most common in California and Texas, but are found in Oregon, common in Mexico, and commonly breed in all of the four corner states. The male California Lesser Goldfinch has a green back and a black cap. The male Texas Lesser Goldfinch has a black back and cap.

Main Characteristics

The Lesser Goldfinch is one of the smallest American song birds. They are between 4 and 4.5 inches in length, have a wingspan of up to eight inches and they weigh about .33 ounces. Males have yellow colored underside and olive green upper parts with a yellow rump. Their wings are dark with white wing bars and they have a black capped head. Females are duller than males and lack the black capped head.

Habitat

Lesser Goldfinches are found in grasslands, woodlands and gardens of the west and south west United States and northern South American. They are usually found in flocks and it is common

for them to be seen at garden feeders.

Diet

Lesser Goldfinches mainly feed upon a variety of seeds, Nyger is their favorite. They love to eat sunflower leaves. They also like buds of elderberry, cottonwoods, alders, sycamores, willows and oaks. During the breeding season, they will occasionally supplement their diet with insects.

Nesting

During the nesting season, usually June and July in San Diego, a cup shaped nest of small twigs and other plant material is constructed in a bush or low tree. Lesser Goldfinches love to line their nest with kapok. Females lay three to five pale blue eggs that are incubated for 12 to 13 days. During this time and for the first days after the chicks hatch, the male brings food to the nest. After this period, both parents feed the chicks. When the young are two weeks old, they are ready to leave the nest, but their parents continue to feed them for at least another week.

Predators

Predators of the Lesser Goldfinch include birds of prey such as the American Kestrel and the Sharp Shinned Hawk. •

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Ask Old Ben!

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

All About Grafted Gardenias

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



'Everblooming'



'August Beauty'



'Mystery'

If you live in a warmer zone, gardenias are just one of the much-envied garden treasures you can grow. Once planted in partial to full sun, in the organically rich, slightly acidic, well-drained soil they love (yes, they have needs) and given a few years to settle, they bloom repeatedly from late spring through early summer.

But what if you could have a gardenia that performs better?

Monrovia is the only grower who offers a range of grafted gardenias. Gardenia varieties are improved when grafted onto *Gardenia thunbergii* rootstock due to its superior root system and its resistance to root-knot nematodes. This vigorous rootstock is also more efficient at soil nutrient uptake. Instead of slowly declining and dying, grafted gardenias grow and thrive.

If you've had difficulty growing gardenias, consider trying one of these four varieties:

Everblooming

Smaller in size (so good for containers and borders) but with that same pro-

fusion of fragrant white blooms and glossy evergreen foliage. Up to 4' tall and 3' wide. Partial to full sun.

August Beauty

A prolific bloomer with large, double, sweetly fragrant, velvety white flowers. Medium sized, it's ideal for mixed borders or a low hedge. Up to 5' tall and 3' wide. Partial to full sun.

Mystery

This most popular, upright gardenia is an excellent single specimen capable of scenting an entire courtyard or patio garden. Up to 5' tall and 3' wide. Partial to full sun.

First Love

Fragrant white blooms are larger than any other gardenia and the first to bloom. It's a superb evergreen landscape accent or container plant for courtyards or patio. •



'First Love'

This Rare Beauty Has Short Window Of Availability

By Melanie Potter



How gorgeous is this Marmalade Bush (*Streptosolen jamesonii*)?

Unfortunately, it is an uncommon plant and we will have a very short window of availability. However, it's worth sharing with you so if see one, grab it while you can. It is smothered in cheerful flowers throughout the year. The inch-long, trumpet-shaped blooms in a riot of colors, ranging from yellow to orange to red. It is an easy-to-grow evergreen perennial bush from South America. It has a spreading habit and can spill over a wall or hanging planter, or pruned to a neat, upright shape. Even without blooms, it's an attractive plant with glossy, bright green foliage that has a ribbed appearance. The 5-petaled blooms start out yellow or light-orange when they first open, then deepen to a darker-orange and red as they mature. Butterflies and birds regularly visit the Marmalade Bush which gets its name from its flower coloration. Plant in a pot in well-draining soil. It likes mostly-sunny conditions, and regular watering and feeding. •



Identifying Thrip Damage

By Ken Andersen

We have seen an influx of Thrips, especially on roses (sometimes in gardenias). These tiny splinter-like insects with a rasping mouth grind away at the surface of new, soft foliage and flower petals. This creates scar tissue which distorts foliage or can prevent flower buds from fully opening. Thrips on foliage are controlled with a contact kill insecticide like a rose and flower spray. Organic gardeners can use a spinosad product. Thrips in flower buds will require a systemic insecticide. •

Garden Classes

JULY

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

7/7

Cymbidium Repotting

7/14

Grafting with Ampol

7/21

Summer Lovin' Color Plants

7/28

Fairy Gardens

POWAY | 9:30AM

7/7

Grafting with Ampol

7/14

Bonsai Workshop:
Dwarf Pomegranate with Tony

7/21

Summer Fruit Trees & Pruning
with Richard Wright

7/28

Succulents for Containers

8/4

Composting & Compost Tea

Special Gardenia Class Scheduled At Both Stores

Master grafter and former nursery owner Ampol Orrungros will present a demonstration on grafting gardenias and maybe a few other plants! Ampol is well known for his grafting of gardenias and plumerias. Some of his grafted gardenia trees are still on display in our Poway location. Ampol will be in Poway July 7 at 9:30am and at the San Diego store July 14 at 9am. No reservations are necessary but arrive early for a good seat! •



Now is the time to combat citrus leaf miner by spraying with **Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew** monthly through October. Takes care of many other bugs. See label for details.

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