



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

MARCH 2015

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Rose Care

For Early Spring

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

By now, your roses should have been pruned back. Even if you forgot, there is still time to prune them. They should have been sprayed with Liqui Cop as a dormant spray, at least two times. If they have new shoots, don't spray now.

Ada Perry's Magic Formula should be in the ground, and there's still time to do that. Adding this wonderful product will encourage more vigorous growth and larger blooms. Our customers rave about this product.

You should be fertilizing monthly now with our favorite fertilizer, Gro-Power. Apply monthly for optimum growth and bloom. We recommend using Gro-Power once a month until the last feeding in October. If you cut roses for indoor enjoyment, here's an old trick I learned from my aunt who was a florist. Put an

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March Is Busy With Events Don't Forget St. Patrick's Day

By Melanie Potter



Oxalis

March is a month of happenings. There's Employee Appreciation Day (3/6), the return of daylight savings time (3/8), St. Patrick's Day (3/17), the first day of spring (3/20), my birthday (I'm celebrating all month long), and Cesar Chavez Day (3/31).

If you're a fan of green beer, leprechauns, pots of gold, luck, and shamrocks, then St. Patrick's Day is for you. To mark the occasion we have loads of **Oxalis**, the

plant associated with Saint Patrick, for whom the day is celebrated. Saint Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland, credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. The **shamrock** is the national flower of Ireland because it is what he used to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagans.

As luck has it, this plant is easy to grow, and like a leprechaun in Irish folklore, it can be mischievous. If grown outdoors,

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Marvelous Marsala Is Trending As Color Of The Year

By Melanie Potter

Marsala is Pantone Institute's Color of the Year and this naturally robust and earthy wine-colored shades of red isn't hard to add to your landscape.

This hearty, yet stylish tone is universally appealing and translates easily to fashion, beauty, industrial design, home furnishings and interiors. Marsala is described as a choice that is dramatic and at the same time grounding;



Gazania

[continued p2](#)

Marvelous Marsala Is Trending continued from p1



Arctotis 'Pumpkin Pie'

the rich and full-bodied red-brown marsala brings warm color into home interiors.

You can get an easy start using marsala by selecting containers in this hue. While they aren't identified as being marsala in color, we have glazed containers in an orangey red or wine red that evokes such a shade.



Shrimp Plant

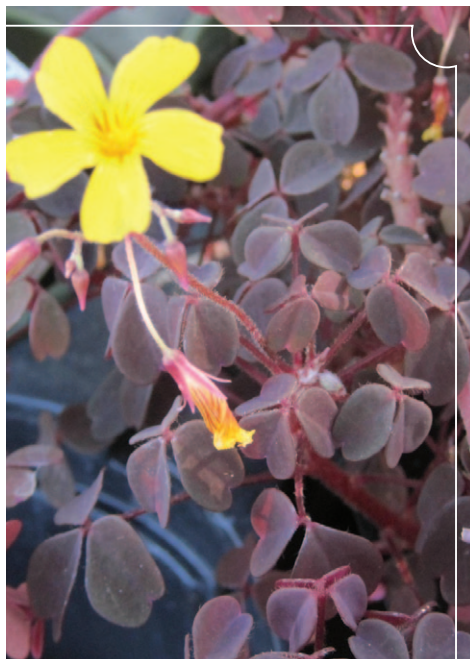
Right now we have loads of plants with marsala coloring. More will make their way into the stores as the seasons progress and some will be unavailable as their season passes.

Want some suggestions for sunny spots? How about **Arctotis 'Pumpkin Pie'**, **Kangaroo paws**, **pansies (Delta**

Pure Red, **Colossus Red with blotch**, or **'Sunburst')** **viola 'Amber Kiss'**, **marigold 'Safari Red'**, **erysimum** and **gazanias**?

Suited for shady areas and in time for St. Patrick's Day, is **Oxalis 'Zinfandel'** with its red leaves and yellow flowers. Many varieties of **Heuchera** and **Coleus** have marsala-like colors. There's also **Abutilon 'Cristina'** and **shrimp plant (Justica brandegeana)**.

Succulents can also provide a pop of marsala and one of the best ones that is blooming now is **Kolanchoe manganii 'Bette's Red Bells'**. ●



Oxalis 'Zinfandel'



There is still time to prune your roses.

Rose Care

continued from p1



aspirin tablet in the vase when you fill it with water. The blooms will stay fresher longer.

As the blooms run their course and start to fade, cut them off with long stems; don't just cut off the top with the bloom. By cutting them longer, you get into heavier branches that will support stronger new growth. If you don't cut them back like this, you will get a bunch of new spindly growth that will droop with the weight of the new buds. Don't be afraid to cut them back as you will be rewarded in the next month or so with more blooms. Watch for aphids, which are small, pin head sized insects that suck the juices out of the plant. They are mostly found on the newest growth and buds that are forming. You can try to wash them off with a strong stream of water, or you can also spray them with a good insecticide. There are many to choose from including Bayer, which has a systemic that is absorbed into the plant and lasts maybe three or four weeks. There are also organic controls that you need to apply more often, such as Neem Oil spray. ●

Words From Walter

Aphids: Easy To Control

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Aphids are one of the most common insects in the garden and also one of the easiest to control. They can be brown, green, tan, almost white or reddish in color. They are small



but easy to see. Most Aphids feed on the newer, more tender growth. They can also feed on the blooms of some plants. You can wash many of them off with a strong stream of water from the hose, but it is difficult to get all of them. Spraying is one way to get rid of them. The spray used and how fast the plant is growing, will determine how often you need to spray. There are also drenches you can use in the soil that are taken up into the plant through the sap that is carried to all parts of the plant. These usually last longer, but may be a problem for edible plants and fruit. Read the labels (it is a violation of federal law to use a product in a manner inconsistent with

its labeling)! For some sprays, there is a waiting time before you can harvest. Often, you will see ants in plants that have aphids. They are drawn to the waste or honeydew of the aphids. If you see ants on your plants, look for aphids.

Some products you can use to help control them:

Safer Insecticidal Soap

Monterey or Bonide Neem

Bayer Rose & Flower

Bayer 3-in-1 Disease and Mite

Year Round Oil Spray

Bayer Fruit Tree & Shrub Drench

Bayer Tree & Shrub Drench

Bayer Rose & Flower Drench

Worry Free Pyrethrum Concentrate

Bayer Rose & Flower DRY + Fertilizer •

March Is Busy With Events continued from p1

it can be invasive and is often looked at as a lowly weed rather than a lucky clover.

We have Oxalis with red or bright green foliage. The charming blooms are white (other varieties may be pink, yellow such as **Oxalis 'Zinfandel'**, or red) with five petals that sit atop long stems. The plant grows by tuberous roots that spread faster than a rumor, so they make a better indoor plant, or confined in a container outside. Provide lots of light but not direct sunlight. Water when the top of the soil is dry so as not to keep the soil wet. This is a plant that likes to dry out between waterings.

Unlike most houseplants, the potted shamrock plant goes dormant in summer. When leaves die back, the plant needs a time of darkness to rest. Caring for shamrock plants during the period of dormancy includes limited watering and foregoing feeding.

The dormant period when growing oxalis as a houseplant lasts anywhere from a few weeks to three months, depending on the cultivar and the conditions. New shoots appear when dormancy is broken. At this time, move shamrock houseplants to bright light and resume the usual care. •

TO DO LIST: March



PRUNING

Camellias and Azaleas, after blooming, to shape. Cut back frost damaged plants and feed with Gro-Power to encourage new growth and regeneration.

FERTILIZE

Roses and shrubs with Gro-Power or Gro-Power for Roses. Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruits with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Citrus & Avocado Food.

PLANT

Citrus, Avocados, and tropical and semi-tropical fruit. Start to replace cool season bedding plants with warm season plants. Start planting warm season vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and squash. Be sure to amend the soil with good organic compost. Ada Perry's Redwood Compost works great for general ornamentals and Harvest Supreme is perfect for vegetable gardens.

LOOK FOR

Azaleas, Spirea, Tuberous Begonias, Caladiums, Calla Lilies and Roses. •

Save The Date: Poway Rose Show!



Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway will host its annual Spring Rose Show May 16-17.

The show is free for exhibitors and attendees. Entries will be taken May 16, 8am-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are May 16 from 1pm-5pm and May 17 from 9am-4pm. •

Diversifying Fruit Trees

By Melanie Potter



Andy shows an assortment of cuttings he took that will be grafted to fruit trees.

For a couple of months, Andy Shearer from our Poway store, was inspecting and then collecting fruit tree cuttings that were laden with buds. Once cut, he had to keep them moist and alive. In early February, he handed them over to their next caretaker where they will be grafted to different fruit trees.

The cuttings were donated to the Leichtag Foundation, a humanitarian organization that runs a farm and food bank on the site of the former Ecke Ranch in Encinitas. These will be grafted onto existing fruit trees at



Cuttings from non-patented fruit trees are 6"-12" and laden with buds.

the ranch in order to increase their varieties.

The Leichtag Foundation supports programs and educational activities at the Ranch inspired by ancient Jewish traditions that connect people to community, food, the land, and social justice. Goals include creating a sustainable agriculture community, increasing its food bank operations, and providing economic opportunities.

More than 400 cuttings will be grafted next month. Andy collected 6"-12" cuttings from Walter Andersen's nursery stock that included three types of Mulberries, Katy apricot, Mid Pride peach, Double Delight nectarine, Fuyu persimmon, and Santa Rosa plums. In addition to increasing the variety on each tree, ripening times will be staggered for extended production.

For more information about the Leichtag Foundation, visit www.leichtag.org. •

Selecting Tomato Varieties

By Botanical Interests

There are so many tomatoes to choose from. How do you know which variety is right for you? Start with the tomato type. Tomatoes are categorized into two main types, determinate and indeterminate, according to growth habit and production.

Determinate types grow in a compact bush form requiring little or no staking. Fruit is produced on the ends of the branches and most of the crop ripens at the same time. One or more successive plantings will ensure an extended harvest period. If you're looking for a hefty supply of ripe tomatoes all at once, say, for canning, determinate types are your choice. Italian Roma, Celebrity, and Patio are the quintessential determinate varieties.

Indeterminate varieties continue to grow and produce fruit all season until first frost. Tomatoes in all stages of development may be on the plants at one time. The plants set fruit clusters along a vining stem that grows vigorously and long; typically about six feet in most home gardens. Some indeterminates have a bush form with stockier vines that set fruit clusters closer together. Sungold Cherry, Black Krim, and Early Girl are productive indeterminate varieties. There are dozens of other varieties to choose from. •

Pet Spotlight: Finding Forever Homes For Those In Need

Walter Andersen Nursery is tickled to be partnering with the **San Diego Humane Society's** Animal Admirer program where we help find forever homes for pets by promoting their availability. We like a challenge and some of these "forever" friends have conditions that may make them less adoptable. Meet **Simba**, a 7-year-old Boxermix. Simba and his brother (a three legged terrier who has been adopted) were brought to the Escondido Campus after being found locked in a play yard. He has hypothyroidism and requires maintenance medication. This handsome fella has a welcoming



personality. He loves people of all ages, knows how to shake, and the commands: sit and down. Simba is easy going and great with other dogs. His adoption fee is \$25. For more information on Simba, go to www.sdhumane.org/site/PageNavigator/Adoptions/availableanimals.html. •



Would You Eat A Monstera Deliciosa?

By Melanie Potter



Spadix of a blooming Monstera deliciosa

Somebody put what looked like a moldy corn cob on the lunch table at work and encouraged people to try it, promising it was tasty.

The moldy corn was actually the spadix (flower spike) of a blooming **Split-Leaf Philodendron (Monstera deliciosa)**, and indeed, it is tasty, if you eat it correctly. The fruit, called cerimans or monsteras, has a pleasant aroma and tastes, to the majority who tried it, like a cross between banana, mango, and pineapple. The fruit is loaded with potassium and vitamin C. This isn't something you just dive into and eat. The plant contains oxalic acid, which is toxic. To eat, you must pull the green crust-like coating off. The edible part is soft and white and you'll want to remove as many of the black seeds as possible before eating.

This plant is a vigorous, evergreen epiphytic climber from Central America and Mexico. It has glossy green leaves that are pinnately split and perforated with oblong holes. Leaves reach up to 3 feet in length and the stems will reach up to 30 feet or more. Stems are short and jointed, with cord-like aerial roots that help support the plants as they climb.

The plant blooms with flowers that are a white spathe, reaching up to 12

inches long. The spadix is about 10 inches long and will mature into the edible fruit.

Grow in partial shade to high indirect light, with a rich, well-drained soil mix. They are very vigorous growers and need a lot of support to keep the stems from breaking. •



Birds And Things That Look Like Birds

By Melanie Potter



It seems like this month I should write a bird column for Old Ben because there is a lot of bird business to share with you.

Our own **hummingbird whisperer, Melissa** in our Poway store, revived this little critter she came across. Poor guy was found not moving and covered in dust near the bookshelves. She made him comfortable, then began hydrating him with some sugar water and within minutes, he regained his strength and flew outside where he further rested.



If you don't normally look toward the ceiling when you come into our Poway store, next time you're here, look up. You'll be greeted by a **Pteranodon** with a 10' wingspan. Technically, this winged lizard is not a dinosaur nor a bird, and existed during the late Cretaceous geological period of North America.

Finally, the **chicken coop** in Poway is now complete and awaiting chickens. We'll keep you updated on our search for fowl. •

The California Gull

By Old Ben



The California Gull is the seagull that came to the aid of the Mormon settlers in Utah, helping rid their crops of a plague of grasshoppers. A golden statue in Salt Lake City commemorates the event, and in recognition, the California Gull was made the state bird of Utah.

California Gull adults are 19 to 21 inches in length with a wingspan up to 51 inches. Their head is white with a yellow bill. The neck and under parts are also white. The back and wings are dark gray. The legs and feet are a greenish-yellow color. Breeding and nesting time is usually May to June. The nest is typically a shallow depression on the ground lined with vegetation and feathers. The female gull normally lays two or three eggs. Both parents will take turns feeding the young. The California Gull is a four year gull, in that it takes four years for them to reach adult plumage.

The California Gull can be found on the pacific coastline from northern Mexico to British Columbia. They range far inland from Mexico to Manitoba. They prefer to eat insects, fish and eggs, however, they are well known for scavenging at garbage dumps or docks. They have also been spotted following farmers plowing in fields, eating the insects stirred up by the plowing.

The California Gull has an interesting foraging strategy for catching alkali flies along the shores of salty lakes in the Great Basin in the western United States. It starts at one end of a huge swarm of flies sitting on the beach and runs through the flies with its head

down and bill open, snapping up flies. California Gulls have a life expectancy of up to 24 years.

FAQs

What do you call a group of seagulls?

Answer: Birds in general are referred to as a flight (in the air) and a flock (on the ground). However, seagulls, when they are on the ground are referred to as a colony.

Why do seagulls gather high in the air and fly in circles?

Answer: Gulls like to float on the air currents so they can exert as little energy as possible. Seagull vision is very keen and they can see fish below the water even at high altitudes.

Why do seagulls often stand on one leg?

Answer: You may have noticed that almost all species of birds will stand on one leg, especially when they are resting. By standing on one leg, and pulling the other leg up against the warmth of its body, a bird can reduce up to half, the amount of heat lost through its legs. In short, they stand on one leg to warm up a little bit.

Can seagulls drink salt water?

Answer: Yes they can and here's why. Seagulls have a special pair of glands right above their eyes that are specifically designed to flush the salt from their systems through openings in the bill. This enables the gull to spend days out at sea without needing to come back to shore just to get a drink of fresh water. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid March 1-31, 2015

The No Mess Advantage!

No Mess Wild Bird Seed

All seed is hulled, seed will not sprout, birds are able to eat all the seeds, thus attracting fewer feeder pest.

20lb. Bag

\$24.97 Reg. \$42.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed attracts a wide variety of wild birds. A Premium wild bird mix with NO FILLERS.

20lb. Bag

\$16.97 Reg. \$31.99

10lb. Nyger Seed with FREE Small Nyger Sock

A \$5.99 Value! Included in the bag.

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Window Bird Feeder

\$19.97 Reg. \$34.99

1950s Fashion Feeder

Lowest Price Ever! While supplies last.

\$14.97 Reg. \$34.99

Oriole Food

3 for \$9.99 Reg. \$6.99 ea.

Ben's Goldfish & Koi Food 5lb.

\$9.97 Reg. \$14.99

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

The Benefits Of Drip Irrigation

DIG Irrigation Class Scheduled March 28th

By Gregory W. Smith—National Sales Manager, DIG Irrigation



California gardeners are hearing about the benefits of drip irrigation and are converting their conventional sprinkler systems to highly efficient drip systems. Drip irrigation (sometimes referred to as micro, low-flow, or trickle irrigation) is the slow and precise delivery of water directly where the plants need it, at the roots. This method of irrigation has many benefits such as water efficiency, the ability to minimize pest problems and weed growth, plus it is simple to install.

Studies show that drip irrigation systems use 30-50% less water than conventional watering methods. Drip irrigation is typically more than 90% efficient at allowing plants to use the water applied unlike other forms of irrigation, such as sprinklers, where only 65-75% of the water applied is used by the plant. Drip irrigation is more efficient because of its method of applying water in small amounts over longer periods of time which minimizes run off and evaporation.

A valuable benefit of drip irrigation is that the health of the plant is improved because the water is applied frequently in small amounts at the roots. Therefore, drought stress is avoided and lush growth is encouraged. Sprinkler systems spray the water overhead leaving water on the leaves of plants and that encourages pests and diseases. Fungal pathogens like botrytis and leaf spot are encouraged

when the leaf surface is wet. Snails and other insects are also attracted to this moist environment. Another pest that is encouraged by using sprinkler systems is weeds! Drip systems provide water to an isolated area thus leaving the rest of the soil and plant dry and that deters the growth of weeds, pests, and pathogens.

When installing a drip system, plan the layout and evaluate the type of emitters needed. It is helpful to start with a diagram of your garden. Using graph paper, sketch a scale view of your property looking down from above. Make notes where there are retaining walls, sidewalks, paved areas, plants and/or water sources.

The next step is to evaluate the types of plants in your garden and the soil that they grow in to determine the type of emitters to choose. Note the locations of small and large trees, shrubs, groundcover, flowerbeds, containers and vegetable gardens on the diagram. Then, divide the plants into groups with similar watering needs considering if they are in full sun or are shaded. Determine what the needs of each group are and evaluate which emitters fill those needs. Pressure compensating button drippers or adjustable flag drippers are suited for virtually all plant types; trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, etc. It is advisable to use two emitters on larger plants, one for each half of the root ball. Microsprinklers work well with groundcover, flowerbeds, or on areas that are sloped. For containers, potted plants and hanging baskets use button drippers or basket misters rated between .5-1 GPH.

The final step when determining which emitters to use is to take into consideration the soil type. Soil is like a storage room for water and plant

Manufacturer Sponsored **DRIP IRRIGATION WORKSHOP**

FREE!

Poway Location Only

**Saturday, March 28
9:30 am - 11:30 am**

50 People Maximum

**Sign Up/RSVP Required
Please Call 858-513-4900**

nutrients. The various components that make up your soil determine how it holds water and nutrients. In sandy soil, water will tend to go straight down, so use closely spaced 2 GPH drippers. In loamy soil the water will move slowly and will spread evenly, so use 1 GPH drippers with wider spacing. In clay soil, water will be absorbed very slowly, so using .5 GPH or 1 GPH drippers with wide spacing is advisable.

Drip irrigation systems efficiently use one of California's most precious resources, water. Save money and help conserve resources by converting to drip irrigation.

Come in to Walter Andersen Nursery and pick-up your free 44-page Drip Irrigation Installation guide. •



Garden Classes

MARCH

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

3/7

Yummy! Spring Vegetables

3/14

Tomatoes for Spring & Summer

3/21

Growing Orchids at Home

3/28

Garden Trends

POWAY | 9:30AM

3/7

Container Gardening
with Carol Fuller

3/14

Xeriscape with Carol Fuller

3/21

Veggies with Richard Wright

3/28

DIG Irrigation

RSVP at 858-513-4900

Limit: 50 people can attend

Watch Us On Television

By Melanie Potter

Did you know that one of the most successful ways people learn to do something is by seeing a demonstration? In just 2 1/2 minutes, **David Ross** can teach you gardening basics such as incorporating organic material into your planting regimen, growing citrus, designing a container garden, or starting a vegetable patch.

You can see David give these mini classes on Channel 10 News every Friday at 11:55am. It takes only a short time to get David over his shyness and camera ready, then it's, "lights, camera, action"! If you can't catch David around noon on Fridays, he won't mind if you DVR him!!



Following what's new at the nursery is easy to do. Visit our website and see our expanded internet presence on 10news.com. Follow us on facebook at facebook.com/walterandersens. •

Class Trivia

Walter Andersen Nursery has held **FREE Garden Classes** every week for more than 60 years. That's more than 3000 classes on all sorts of things, including a Hawaiian Plumeria class with genuine hula dancers. Some classes have drawn more than 100 attendees. Of course, not all classes are that large. We estimate that more than 60,000 people have attended these well received classes.

Poway Store Hours
To Change

On March 9th, our Poway store hours change to 9am-6pm Monday through Friday, and remain 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday.



**WALTER ANDERSEN
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San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™



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