

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

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FALL

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IN THIS ISSUE

Colorful Foliage Adds Drama	1
Holiday Plants Not Limited To Poinsettias	1
October Anniversary Events	1
2006 Rose Picks	1
Ornamental Grasses	2
Gardens Can Shine After Dark	2
Fuller's Finds	2
Chrysanthemums	2
Herbs All Season Long	3
Babies In The Nursery	3
Tips From The Pros	3
Garden Trouble Shooting Tips	3
The Wee Corner: Table Top Garden Trees	4
Fall Garden Classes	4
Tool Shed	4
Coupon Savings	4

Holiday Plants Not Limited to Poinsettias

by Home and Garden Showcase
The Holiday Cacti or Cyclamen are great alternatives to the traditional poinsettia. These plants offer colorful holiday blooms, plus you can enjoy them all year 'round.

The Holiday Cactus, also known as the Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) or the Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*), can be bought during the holiday season already in bloom. It should sit in indirect sunlight, in regular indoor temperatures. Keep the soil moist and fertilize weekly.

To get last year's cactus to bloom, leave it at night temperatures around 55 degrees while the plant is beginning to flower. If you can't store them at that temperature, don't worry. They will flower with 12 to 13 hours of darkness each night. One trick is to lay black plastic over the plant when the lights are on.

Cyclamen, available in white, red, and deep pink, generally lay dormant during summer months and bloom indoors during winter. It's possible to have Cyclamen bloom from late fall to early spring by following these tips:
• When you first purchase the plant, use a houseplant fertilizer once a week, taper off to once a month after a few weeks.
• Keep inside temperatures relatively cool. If that's impossible, at night, keep temps in the mid 40-50s.
• Provide in-direct bright light and be sure to keep the plants away from heat ducts and vents.
• When mature blooms begin to fade, try pulling off the flowers rather than cutting. ●



Colorful Foliage Adds Drama

by Monrovia



PHOTO: PETER A. HOGG

Gardeners work all year long to foster a bounty of bold colors, but it can be a challenge. Even if you have a lot of flowers, they probably don't bloom all year round.

One suggestion is to look for interesting colored foliage. Leaf color can range from bright yellow to burgundy, close to black and even blue. This is a great way to add color when nothing is in bloom.

Yellow foliage really stands out and contrasts well against green plants. The experts at Monrovia, a leading grower of premium plants, suggest such stunning options as the Gold Coast Improved Juniper, with its dramatic golden-yellow foliage; the Golden Nugget, which maintains its golden color with an orange cast most of the season.



PHOTO: PETER A. HOGG

Blue foliage - yes, blue - can look very striking in the garden. Lots of easy-to-grow and waterwise conifers have a blue tinge, like the Dwarf Alberta Blue Spruce, Icee Blue Juniper and French Blue Scotch Pine.

Another hot trend is variegated plants. Variegation means there is more than one color on the leaf. Some stunners are the Canna Tropicana, which has huge burgundy leaves striped with yellow, orange and red.

The foliage of the new Strawberry Lemonade Mandevilla has three distinct colors - mint green, cream and white flushed with pink. The Banana Split Yucca has long soft leaves with a wide yellow center with gray-green edges. It looks very striking in containers.

In addition to bringing year-round color into the garden, distinctive foliage colors and shapes can provide the architectural design look that many top designers favor.

Editor's Note: There are great color choices for every season. The best advice is to ask at either store for recommendations. Varieties mentioned are subject to availability. Generally helleborus, plectranthus, coprosma, cordyline, nandina, begonia, castor bean (poisonous), coleus and heuchera are good choices for fall planting. ●

New Roses For 2006

The new rose selections are out for 2006 and there are a few that will be in limited availability and some that are destined to be hits. This year, you will find some great additions to the cutting garden and some that will be hardy and disease resistant. Here's a quick look at what's new! For a complete list of new roses as well as the ones we'll have in stock, check the website at www.walterandersen.com under Products & Services.



PHOTO: JACKSON & PERKINS

Black Cherry "Jackson & Perkins Floribunda of the Year"

A floribunda offering crimson buds with black tips. Long stems boast generous clusters of fragrant blossoms.



PHOTO: WILKEND ROSES

Ebb Tide

Smoky deep plum purple floribunda certain to attract attention. Old fashioned flowers with intense clove fragrance.



PHOTO: JACKSON & PERKINS

Julia Child AARS

A floribunda with buttery golden petals and a licorice scent. Highly disease resistant. Glossy green foliage. We planted this rose last year in a test garden at our Poway store, and it got a lot of attention.



PHOTO: JACKSON & PERKINS

Simplicity Fragrant Lavender

A fragrant lavender version of the best selling hedge rose with fuller blossoms than other Simplicity roses. Great light lavender color and citrus scent.



PHOTO: WILKEND ROSES

Soaring Spirits

This large flowered climber is bound to be a favorite given its parents' popularity, Berries 'n' Cream and Fourth of July. Pastel pink and yellow stripes, named to honor the 9-11 victims.

Continued on P2

Anniversary EVENTS FILL OCTOBER

Anniversary savings and celebrations are on tap for the month of October at both nurseries to mark our 77th anniversary. Here's a quick look at what's in store at the stores! Events are subject to change and will be updated on our website at www.walterandersen.com

Poway

Saturday, October 1 • 10:15am
Fertilizing the Organic Way

Learn about organic fertilizers, how to choose appropriate organics and hear the benefits of soil microbes with guest speaker, Gisele Schoniger from Dr. Earth Fertilizer.

Saturday, October 8 • 10am-Noon

Join artist **Suja Pritchard** as she makes her unique hand crafted fairy accessories on site at the nursery. Her beautiful pieces are formed from clay and painted with UV resistant paints. Watch her sculpt fairy food, furniture and playthings as well as answer your questions.

Sunday, October 9 • 11am-2pm
Enjoy Street Tacos.

Saturday, October 15 • 9:30am

A Guru's Guide to Ornamental Grass - Join John Greenlee to hear his favorite ornamental grasses for Southern California. We'll have copies of his book, "A Gurus Guide to

Growing Ornamental Grasses," and following the presentation there will be a potting workshop using grasses.

Saturday, October 22 • 9:30am

Fairy Gardens Come to Life - Hear our own fairy expert Julie Stratton share tips on creating fairy gardens, undersea gardens with succulents and more. Following the presentation will be an assisted workshop.

Sunday, October 23 • 11am

Landscaping with Natives
Join Yvette Anderson of California's Own Native Landscape Design to hear about native plants. Learn how to successfully plant them and incorporate artful elements into a native design.

Saturday, October 29 • 11am-1pm

Hotdogs and Sodas - We'll let David Ross, our Poway store manager do what he does best - barbecue hotdogs!

Point Loma

Saturday, October 1 • 1pm
Fertilizing the Organic Way

Learn about organic fertilizers, how to choose appropriate organics and hear the benefits of soil microbes with guest speaker, Gisele Schoniger from Dr. Earth Fertilizer.

Sunday, October 2 • 11am

Point Loma Garden Club Reach Out
Club members will be on hand to answer questions about their club and community.

Saturday, October 8 • 1pm

Fabulous Fall Flowers & Foliage Container Gardening Create color bowls with color, texture and shape. New looks for fall will be featured.

Sunday, October 9

What's New? Plant Introductions from Monrovia Nursery Be the first to hear about the new and exciting introductions from Monrovia Nursery with Kathleen Shawl who will introduce new plants and answer questions.

Saturday, October 15 • 1pm

Landscape Design 101 Explore the basic principals of designing the perfect landscape

through color, texture, form and functionality with landscape designer Kenn Cross.

Sunday, October 16 • 1am

Q & A with David Ross the NBC 7/39 Gardener David (who is our Poway store manager) will be on hand from 11am to noon to answer specific gardening questions, identify problems and help resolve your gardening dilemmas.

Saturday, October 22 • 1pm

Growing Subtropical Fruit Trees Paul Fisher, from Mt. Merit Nursery is a member of the state board of the California Rare Fruit Growers and an expert on growing rare and subtropical fruits, including (but not limited to) bananas, avocados and mangos.

Sunday, October 23 • 11:30 - 1:00pm

Lunch with Walter Andersen Enjoy a free hotdog and soda (while supplies last).

Saturday, October 29 • 1pm

Year Round Rose Care Jack Shoultz from the San Diego Rose Society will share his secrets!

Sunday, October 30 • 11:30am

Youth Scavenger Hunt Children of all ages are welcome to go on this educational hunt! Search the nursery with one of our "spooktacular" garden goblins for clues to find hidden Halloween Treats!

Overlooked Ornamental Grasses Get a Plug

by Proven Winners



Despite recent growth in popularity, ornamental grasses are still one of the most under-utilized categories of garden plants. This is especially unfortunate because there is a grass to fit almost any situation. There are grasses that are perfect for sun, shade, landscapes, and containers for every region of the country. From compact border edging plants to tall back anchors, grasses come in every size and shape with diverse colors, forms and textures. Renowned ornamental grass specialist and enthusiast John Greenlee has pulled together a collection of some of the best ornamental grasses to form the John Greenlee Collection™. Following are highlights from this collection to add depth and texture to your garden.

Finding interesting new plants for shade is always a challenge. Why not try Northern Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) or Quartz Creek Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus* "Quartz Creek") both of which are fairly tall with showy flowers. For plants with great foliage color but a little smaller in stature (12-18") try Dwarf White Striped Sweet Flag (*Acorus gramineus* "Variegatus") or Evergold Sedge (*Carex hachijoensis* "Evergold"). If you need the perfect plant to edge your shade bed, look into using "Miniature National Arboretum" Lilyturf (*Liriope* sp.). It sports very dark green to purple foliage and bears blue berries.

Spots that remain constantly damp are also a challenge, but there are several grasses that will thrive with wet feet. Northern Sea Oats is excellent in wet conditions as well as shade. New Zealand Hair Sedge (*Carex comans* "Frosted Curls") which has beautiful pale-green, fine, curly leaves and Fiber Optic Grass (*Scirpus cernuus*) which has leaves tipped with small white flowers are both 8" tall. For a taller plant try Heavy Metal Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum* "Heavy Metal") or Umbrella Plant (*Cyperus papyrus* "Alternifolius"). Both will grow to more than 3' tall.

Several of the plants that are good for wet conditions will also thrive in garden ponds. Umbrella Plant, Heavy Metal Switch Grass, and Fiber Optic Grass are all good water garden plants. If you would like to grow a Papyrus, but you don't have room for a 6' tall plant, try Dwarf Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus* "Isocladus") that is only 12-18". Another fabulous grass is Leather Leaf Sedge (*Carex buchanii*), sporting cascading coppery leaves. For that shady pond, try Quartz Creek Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*). Other great selections include Slender Veldt Grass (*Pennisetum spathiolatum*) which is excellent in dry conditions. Autumn Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis brachytricha*) is extremely heat tolerant, is beautiful in winter and is great for dried flower arrangements. Heavy Metal Switch Grass and Dwarf Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea* "Dwarf Garters") are two more grasses with nice winter texture.

More grasses with excellent color include: *Acorus gramineus* "Ogon" with yellow foliage, China Love Grass (*Eragrostis* sp.), Ruby Grass (*Melinis nerviglumis* "Pink Crystals"), and two Fountain Grasses (*Pennisetum messiacum* "Red Bunny Tails" and *Pennisetum setaceum* "Red Riding Hood") with pink flowers. If you want blue foliage try Blue Fescue (*Festuca ovina* glauca "Elijah Blue") or Blue Oat Grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*).

Other ornamental grasses which are lovely specimens for containers, rock gardens, and bed edges are available. Join John Greenlee Oct. 15 at 9:30am at our Poway store as he leads a presentation that reviews his favorite grasses. Copies of his book, "A Gurus Guide to Growing Ornamental Grasses" will be available and after the presentation will be the opportunity to create container gardens using grasses. ●

Roses Continued from Pt 1



Spellbound "Jackson & Perkins Rose of the Year"

A hybrid tea that is a fine exhibition rose. Disease resistant. Deep coral to coral pink blooms with excellent form and substance. Light, spicy fragrance.



Wild Blue Yonder

A grandiflora with shades of purple-red wine highlighted in lavender. Citrus and rose aroma with rare coloration. Expect it to be popular.



White Eden

An old fashioned white rose that will climb almost any garden structure. Blooms continuously and some blooms may have light pink hue in cooler weather. White version of the ever popular Eden climbing rose.



Gardens

Can Shine After Dark



Remember the days when you didn't "light your landscape?" You left a porch light on and called it a night. Now, as you drive through a neighborhood you will notice that even in the darkness, some yards come to life with light. Such an enhancement is a well thought endeavor that serves to beautify a landscape as well as provide a deterrent to crime. The first step to outdoor lighting is deciding what features of your garden to showcase such as a specimen tree, fountain, sculpture or garden area. You also get the added benefit of hiding things you don't want seen. Accent lighting highlights specific aspects of the garden, while task lighting illuminates areas such as a deck, lawn, or entryway where action takes place. To create a balanced and interesting atmosphere, use a variety of fixtures and lighting angles, placing fixtures in the foreground, middle distance, and background. Avoid letting light spill into your neighbor's property. Remember to hide the fixtures so that only their effects show. You will direct light by down lighting and up lighting. Down lighting is the more common technique and as the light comes from above, its effects look natural. The most dramatic way of down lighting is to mount canister-shaped lights near the top of a large tree or group of trees. Use three fixtures per large tree, set at different angles, to achieve

the most balanced light. Spotlight a garden bed by mounting a light closer to the ground, on the trunk of a tree, or on the eave of a structure such as a shed or arbor. You can also cast light onto a bed or border by using an upright fixture staked in the ground. Down lighting is also the most effective way to light a path or walkway. Avoid a blinding effect by using lights with top covers or shades that direct the light out and down but not up. Up lighting creates a dramatic reversal of natural light. A canister fixture staked in the ground can send light upward to highlight a tree. Also use up lighting for showcasing garden sculptures, fountains and arbors. Setting an up light directly behind an object and aiming the light at a wall creates a silhouette of the object. Place the light in front of the plant or object to cast a shadow onto the wall. Low-voltage fixtures produce a fairly low level of light, which is desirable for most outdoor lighting needs, but getting enough illumination requires many fixtures: three fixtures per tree for down lighting, one fixture for every 6 to 8 feet of pathway, one fixture per flower bed, and two or three fixtures for a border, depending on its length.

Fuller's Finds



Every newsletter, Carol Fuller will be on the trail of unusual plants to share with customers and readers. While the stores stock lots of popular plants, Walter Andersen Nursery is noted for its ability to sniff out unusual or hard-to-find plants and to provide expertise about them. Here's a look at Fuller's Fabulous Finds for Fall!

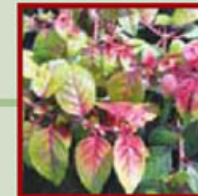
Here I go, snooping around the back of trucks again, looking for something new and exciting. I'll get caught some day but until then let me tell you what I found this time.



The cutest little pink flowers peeped out at me and winked. Honest! Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) is a native of Mexico. It's a fast growing, easy care, evergreen vine that will happily cover up and over any nearby object. Remember that big long fence you wanted to cover. During the summer, this vine produces large branching flower stalks (racemes) upon which masses of small pink flowers are produced. These brilliant flowers attract hordes of butterflies so be prepared for caterpillars. Not to worry though, its rapid growth rate and luxurious foliage will not succumb to a little, or a lot of, nibbling. This vine will grow in almost any type soil, needs full sun for best bloom but will tolerate a little shade, wants well-drained moist soil but will tolerate some drought. In the very coldest areas it will suffer from frost but a good layer of mulch should have it surviving the winter, just cut it back after threat of frost has passed. It has tuberous roots that are said to be edible and are eaten in its native Mexico. Coral Vine has been used in urban settings as it tolerates air pollution, restricted space, inadequate sunshine and poor soil.



Salvias are some of my favorite plants. So much so that anytime I see a new one it is planted in my yard immediately. *Salvia lanceolata* (no common name that I know of) is a compact (3'-4' high and wide) shrubby sage. Its narrow gray-silver leaves have a pleasing, pungent scent and its smoky rose-tan flowers are relatively large for a salvia. It truly becomes interesting when the flowers drop. The calyx takes on a pink tone and is as showy as the flower. It blooms early spring through fall. Regular water is ok, but it can be very drought tolerant. Like most salvias it loves full sun and any soil with good drainage. Hardy to at least the mid-20s so it will do well in most San Diego yards. The hummingbirds also like this.



I have several Fuchsias in my collection of plants but Autumnale Fuchsia has some of the most beautiful foliage that I have ever seen. This fuchsia has red sepal/purple corolla flowers offset by pure gold leaves flushed with purple and orange. It is not a large plant, 6"-18" high by 15"-18" wide, which makes this a splendid trailing fuchsia which would be perfect for window boxes, hanging baskets, and containers. Hummingbirds love fuchsias and this one has proven to be one of their favorites. As with most fuchsias it should be planted in a warm, sheltered spot in well-drained soil. Autumnale is an early blooming Fuchsia with flowers being produced summer through early fall. Fuchsias do not like to dry out so if it is planted in a hanging basket it may need daily watering. Keep the soil moist to the touch but not sopping wet.

Seasonal Recipe

Julie's Zucchini Squash

This year, Chris Callier at our Poway store planted some zucchini and we got a bumper crop. Our Bedding Manager, Julie Stratton, cooked a batch up using this recipe and received rave reviews from coworkers. Unfortunately, she couldn't supply precise measurements but that shouldn't be a problem.

8 cups chopped zucchini
Olive oil
3-5 cloves chopped garlic
2 handfuls of chopped basil
Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté the zucchini in olive oil until tender. Top with finely minced garlic and chopped basil. Season and serve. Julie brought in grated parmesan for those who like theirs with cheese. Your finished dish will look like zucchini that has been stirred with pesto.



Chrysanthemums Are Easy Color Choice

By Home & Garden Showplace



Chrysanthemums are a mainstay for color in the fall garden. Buy plants with unopened flower buds. Mums in full bloom may not produce additional flowers this fall.

Plant in a sunny to partly sunny location and keep well watered. Deadhead regularly, and when all of the flowers have faded cut the plant back about a third. If the weather is mild you may get a few more flowers.

Cut them back almost to the ground in late January, and they will bloom again for you next year in the fall. Or, pull the plants up and put them in the compost if they were planted for temporary color. ●

For the first time, Walter Andersen Nursery is allowing our customers to pre-purchase bare root roses! Pre-purchase any rose between October 1 and November 30 and when you come in to pick up your rose in December you will be given a certificate worth \$2.50 for each rose purchased that can be used for a purchase that day! Make sure you get the rose you want, especially the popular new varieties, and save on your planting supplies when you pick them up!

Roses may be purchased in person or over the phone at either store. Call Pt. Loma at 619-224-8271 or the Poway store at 858-513-4900.



Herbs - Spice Up Your Garden

All Season Long by Marge Loneski



Gardeners are rediscovering the magic of herbs and herb gardens. Freshly picked herbs from your backyard are more flavorful than those from the grocer and they fill your garden with alluring fragrances, color and textures.

Reflecting a rich and diverse history, they are used to flavor our food, treat our ailments and sooth our souls and they are easy to grow. With preferable growing conditions, most will take less care than almost anything else in your garden. Nevertheless, if you plan to grow herbs where nothing has been planted before it would be wise to do a bit of soil preparation first. Most herbs require well-drained soil.

Claylike soil can benefit by digging in quantities of organic matter, ideally from 25% to 50% of the soil volume. Annual herb plants need regular watering from planting to harvest and perennials will appreciate routine watering during the first year. Once established, you can water to their preference. For best growth, remember to plant herbs together that have similar moisture and lighting needs.

You won't find many pests in your herb garden. Insects and other pests are often repelled by plants with strong aromas and many herbs such as tansy, wormwood, chives, cilantro, fennel, peppermint, spearmint, garlic, borage, sage and thyme can be used as pest-repelling companion plants for your garden. If you do need to combat pests, be sure to use insecticidal soap or a

pyrethrum based insecticide, both of which are non-toxic to humans.

Many herbs in the garden require no routine feeding but you can't go wrong if you give them an annual feeding when the growing season begins. Leafy green herbs are more likely to need nutrient supplements than those with sparser growth and small or gray leaves.

As the song goes, a good start would be "parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme"; and, that's just the beginning. There are many varieties of basil, mint, and oregano. Feverfew is an attractive ornamental (daisy flowers), medicinal and insecticidal herb, and scented geraniums are available in a wide array of wonderful scents. Lavender, lemon balm and lemon verbena are also popular additions to your garden. Don't forget catnip and catgrass for the felines in your life. Many herbs can be grown in containers outdoors or in a sunny kitchen window.

Once harvested, if you find yourself with too many, try freezing some bags of individual or combined herbs. Basil, Chervil, Chives, Cilantro, Fennel, Lovage, Parsley and Sweet cicely freeze well. If you plan on using the frozen herbs by adding them to liquid, you can freeze directly with water in ice cube trays then just pop them out, store in baggies and use when needed.

Marge Loneski is a customer service representative in the Poway store. ●



Trouble Shooting Tips Nip Problems in the Bud

From Proven Winners, Nat'l Gardening Society

Weeding Options

You can minimize time spent weeding an annual garden by trying these options. Begin by covering the entire garden with black plastic or large tarps for a few weeks in early spring. This helps kill sprouting weed seeds. When you remove the plastic, till the soil, wait a week or so for more seeds to sprout, then till again.

Mulch is a great time saver. One easy, effective way to minimize weeds is to use a layer of newspapers covered with a thin layer of decorative mulch. You could also use landscape fabric in place of the newspapers. Organic mulches such as wood chips or grass clippings will add nutrients to the soil as they decompose. Keep mulch an inch or two away from plant stems to minimize disease problems. To keep the surrounding lawn from encroaching, dig a 6 to 8-inch deep trench around the entire bed.

Controlling Slugs & Snails

You may need to use a combination of tactics to control this slimy pest. First of all, create an environment slugs don't like. Remove leaf litter or other mulch from the soil surface and spread a thin layer of sand or crushed eggshells on the ground. This will remove their daytime hiding places and create a rough crawling surface they will avoid.

Beer traps are shallow containers baited with beer, and can catch a surprising number of slugs. If you begin early in the season, you may be able to control the population before it gets out of hand. Also consider surrounding your most precious beds with copper slug barrier tape. The copper reacts with their "slime" and gives them a shock.

If you're not too squeamish, go out at night with a flashlight and handpick them. Or you can try placing boards or hollowed out cantaloupe halves face down in the garden. Each morning, turn them over and gather the pests you find beneath them. Slugs are safe for using around people and pets and does a great job of getting rid of pests.

Aphids on Flowers

Aphids are small, oval, soft-bodied insects that may be pale green, pink, black or yellow, depending on the species. They feed on a wide variety of plants, including most edible and ornamental plants. Clustering on tips of new growth, buds and leaf undersides, aphids feed by sucking out plant juices, causing leaves to become distorted and yellow. Aphids secrete sugary fluid called honeydew that attracts ants and may cause the growth of a sooty black fungus on leaves.

In small numbers aphids do little damage, but they reproduce rapidly. It's best to control them while the population is still small. Simply washing plants with a strong spray of water will reduce aphid numbers dramatically. Insecticidal soap and horticultural oil are also effective controls. Just make sure your plants are listed on the label; some plants are sensitive to these pesticides. When spraying, be sure to cover leaf undersides.

A variety of natural insect predators and parasites including ladybeetles, lacewings and predator wasps also reduce aphid populations, which is the main reason you don't want to be overly aggressive with pesticide sprays. However, Bayer Rose & Flower Ready To Use will control them up to a month.

Spider Mites

Spider mites are tiny relatives of spiders that feed on plants (though some mites are predatory). They feed in dense colonies, and when the population is large, form webs on the leaves. Their feeding causes a silvery or stippling effect on the leaf top, but the precise symptom varies with the plant. They feed on many kinds of plants, both edible and ornamental including houseplants. Hot, dry and dusty conditions encourage mites.

To control, rinse plants with a forceful spray of water to knock mites from leaves. Wash plants thoroughly with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil, covering leaf undersides especially well. Buy and release predatory mites, and encourage those already present by not spraying insecticides or use Spinosad.

Lanky Plants

Tall flowers, such as hollyhocks, cosmos, and cleome, can grow tall and lanky for a variety of reasons. If your garden is shady for part of the day, they will lean toward the brightest light. These plants need full sun all day long to grow best.

They also don't need much fertilizer. If you feed them too much, they will develop lanky, supple growth that can't support its own weight. Some compost mixed into the soil at planting time may provide enough nutrients for the season.

Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is a fungal disease that attacks many plants. It appears as a whitish/grayish powder on foliage. Powdery mildew overwinters on living plants, and spores travel on the wind, so it's difficult to eradicate. If your plants are declining rapidly, you may want to replace them.

There are a few things you can do to minimize the effects of powdery mildew on new plants. The first line of defense is to grow resistant varieties. Also, be sure to space plants properly for good air circulation and thoroughly clean up plant debris at the end of the season.

Powdery mildew is unique among common plant diseases in that it doesn't require a wet leaf surface to spread. That means it can thrive during hot, dry weather, which is why it usually appears in the height of summer. The general advice to inhibit the spread of fungal diseases is to avoid wetting leaf surfaces. In the case of powdery mildew, you can actually inhibit infection with frequent sprays of water. Also, examine plants frequently, removing any affected foliage immediately. Immunox is a great control for powdery mildew on many plants including roses.

Thrips in Flowers

Thrips are shiny, elongated blackish or yellowish insects. Adults have feathery, fringed wings; the nymph form lack wings. There are many generations each year. Thrips prefer to feed on new, rapidly growing plant tissue where it is easy to hide. Most feeding causes only slight damage, but high populations can be quite destructive and deform the flowers. Certain species spread viruses to tomatoes and impatiens.

Natural enemies generally keep thrips populations below damaging levels. Encourage natural enemies by reducing or eliminating pesticide use. Locate plants away from weedy, grassy borders where thrips live. Keep plants well watered, and fertilize judiciously to prevent overly lush growth. If plants are severely infested, pull and destroy them, and replace with healthy, pest-free plants and if you still have trouble, try Spinosad or Bayer Rose & Flower Ready To Use. ●

Tips from the PROS

Seed Tapes

by Home & Garden Showcase

If your green thumb is itching to get back to your garden, then here's an idea to help scratch it. Prepare seed tapes, which are a clever way to make your spring planting, go really quick and seem like less of a chore. Plus, seed tapes perfectly space your plants. These tapes are merely strips of paper with seeds glued down the center of each strip and spaced properly. When you plant the strip in the spring, the paper and glue will decompose so you are left with correctly spaced crops.

To make seed tapes, start by ripping old newspapers into one-inch wide strips; tear from the top to the bottom of the page. Use only black & white pages since colored print can emit dangerous toxins into your soil. Make glue using 1/4-cup water to one-cup all-purpose flour. Dab each seed with the flour water glue. Stick each seed in the center of the strip spaced evenly apart (check the back of your seed packet for the recommended amount of space between each seed). When the glue is dry, roll up the strips and place in separate sealable plastic bags. Add a tablespoon of salt to the bag to keep seeds dry. It's a good idea to place the seed packet into the respective seed bag so, come spring, you'll have the planting directions for each.

Store in a cool place until you're ready to use them. When it's time to plant the seed tapes, lay each strip seed side up in rows several inches deep. Cover with soil and water, and then watch 'em grow. Editor's Note: This is a great project to do with kids too.

Babies in the Nursery



Boy do we attract a number of animals to share quarters with at the nursery. In addition to the bird and cat that have been staples in the Pt. Loma store both nurseries become nesting grounds for

doves and hummingbirds. Every spring you'll see areas of the stores with signs cautioning against disturbing nests, eggs, and newborns. Sometimes we have nests in a trellis or actual plants. Staff is careful not to water these inhabited plants and believe it or not, we won't sell the product that is home to feathered friends until it's been vacated. Most of the hatchlings successfully leave the nest and we've only suffered a few casualties.

If our guests aren't of the feathered kind, then they have fur – or they are so young – they've yet to grow fur. Like the opossums found clinging in their deceased mother's pouch. Only hours or days old, the 10 babies were being bitten by ants and in need of nourishment. Nursery staff cleaned them up, kept them warm and called Project Wildlife who sent volunteers to pick up the orphans.



Not all dwellers have such a transient history. Vice President and GM of the nursery, Ken Andersen, found himself the owner of a guinea pig that was rescued from a hungry hawk earlier this year. The guinea pig, who mysteriously appeared, was set to become a nursery pet in Poway until she went home with him for the weekend and found a permanent residence. Not that Poway is left without a resident pet. On warm days, you'll find Quetzal in the vegetable bed. Quetzal is a tortoise owned by store manager David Ross.

Product Updates You Don't Want to Miss

Citrus Leaf Miner

A new insect has invaded San Diego County called Citrus Leaf Miner. This small yellow insect creates the typical Leaf Miner trail on the foliage of various citrus trees. While it is not deadly to the trees it can damage foliage and make the trees look unsightly. You can help the situation by removing the damaged foliage as it appears. While nothing can be used to eliminate an infestation the Farm Advisor has recommended using Spinosad weekly to help prevent infestation.

Rodent Control

If rodents are getting the better of you, here's a product that will turn the tables. Ken Andersen successfully killed six rats over two nights using one trap. Look for the Rat Zapper, available in both stores. It uses batteries and kills rodents by shocking them to death. No poisons, no messy traps. Get an accessory called a Rat Tail that alerts you when the trap has caught something.

the wee corner

by Richard Wright



Can I Have a Tree in My "Table Top Garden?"

One tree, Two tree, Three tree, Four, Which tree is the right tree, I'll tell you more.

Let's first ask the question, "what is a tree?" I went right to the authorities on the subject on Table Top Gardens and asked the garden fairies and they ALL gave me a very simple definition; A tree is a plant with a trunk and some foliage (maybe a lot or a little) on the top of it! I'm not going to argue with a Garden Fairy, would you? Using a tree in your garden gives it a needed focal point, and some height. It will also give your Fairies a nice place to sit or even swing from. I even went out on a limb and asked for a list of their favorite trees.

Cork Bark Elm *Ulmus parvifolia* "Cortcosa". This is the most popular tree, with 46.9 percent of fairies so saying. The Cork Bark gets its name from the very rough bark it gets at a young age. It is deciduous, and can be used in full sun to full shade and every kind of fairy garden in between.

Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*. This one is #2 favored by 37.6 percent of fairies. It has little red berries on it, sort of like an apple tree, and fairies just love apples. It will have little white flowers in the spring, and this one is evergreen.

Serissa *Serissa foetida*. Coming in #3 with 29.5 percent, there are many types in this family, but the most popular with the fairies is the "Mt. Fuji". It has an upright growth habit. Flowers in spring and looks like a Magnolia.

Catlin Elm *Ulmus parvifolia* "Catlin". Last but not least with a 27.3 percent vote, the Catlin has a very nice spreading habit. It is semi-evergreen, with small leaves. This tree works very nice in a multi-planting. I have used the Catlin and Cork Bark Elms in Garden Railroad for years with great success.

Yes I know, I know, I am way past 100%, but I think some of the fairies voted twice, maybe even TREE times. Are you going to tell them NO? I didn't think so. We want them on our side. Please remember there is no wrong way to make a Fairy Garden or Table Top Garden or whatever you may call it. Just have Fun with it.

Editor's Note: The Poway store presents a Fairy Class and Workshop on Saturday Oct.22, at 9:30am On Oct. 8, join artist Suja Pritchard from 10-noon and see how she makes unique miniature accessories used in fairy gardens. ●

Fall Class Schedule

All classes are free and begin at 9:00am in Pt. Loma at 3642 Enterprise Street, and at 9:30am in Poway at 12755 Danielson Court. On rare occasions, we may need to make a last minute change. If you have any questions, please call 619-224-8271 (Point Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Show up early if you don't like standing, and have coffee on us!

POINT LOMA

- October**
- 10/1 Fall Lawn Care
 - 10/8 Protea
 - 10/15 Holiday Decorating Ideas
 - 10/22 Herbs - Selection & Care
 - 10/29 Fall & Winter Vegetables
- November**
- 11/5 Camellias & Azaleas
 - 11/12 Poinsettias
 - 11/19 Dormant Spraying/Pruning Grapes & Berries
 - 11/26 No Class
- December**
- 12/3 Pruning Apples, Pears, Figs & Persimmons
 - 12/10 Rose Pruning - First Class
 - 12/17 Pruning Peaches & Nectarines
 - 12/24 No Class
 - 12/31 Pruning Apricot & Plum Tree



POWAY

- October**
- 10/1 New Roses for 2006, & Some Old Favorites. Steve Benzing from Star Roses Will Bring in Some Cut Flowers.
 - 10/8 Gourmet Lettuces & Other Cool Season Vegetables. Steve Goto from Goto Nursery Will Host.
 - 10/15 Author John Greenie Discusses Great Ornamental Grasses for Southern California
 - 10/22 Fairy Gardening Class, Followed by Workshop. Purchase Accessories - Get Help Putting it All Together
 - 10/29 "Don't Touch Those Roses!" Things NOT to Do in the Rose Garden.
- November**
- 11/5 Dormant Tree Spraying - How, What & Why
 - 11/12 Houseplant Care - Keeping Them Alive!
 - 11/19 Garden Railroad, Christmas Trains, Getting Started
 - 11/26 No Class
- December**
- 12/3 Azaleas & Camellias
 - 12/10 Fruit Tree Pruning
 - 12/17 Rose Pruning/Bare Root Roses
 - 12/24 No Class
 - 12/31 No Class



Nursery Pro Teaches A Class



Guests who attended a recent staghorn fern class in Pt. Loma were treated to none other than Walter Andersen Jr. himself as the day's teacher. Jr. recalled it had been about 25 years since he last taught a class.

TOOL SHED

Liquid Tools by Richard Wright

We all have a shelf, up away from inquiring hands and minds, on which we keep bottles, cans and funny shaped containers of Pesticides, Herbicides, Fungicides and the "I forgot what it is", icides. I have worked on my shelf and thinned it out quite a bit. I want to share a few of my favorites that work for me around the yard and house.

My #1 liquid tool is Safer; Yard & Garden: It helps me keep Aphids, Mealy bug, Whitefly and Scale under control. It has Insecticidal Soap and Pyrethrins that make a real good 1, 2, knock out punch, in a RTU (Ready to Use) dispenser. I always take one with me when I go into the yard for a walk-around. That way I can take care of most simple bug problems ASAP, before it turns into a War of Will, which is much harder to win.

#2 on my list is Green Light; SPINOSAD: This is one of those "I wish I knew about this before" goodies, and boy is it! You will be able to take care of all sorts of things, like Caterpillars (even that yucky Rosa Slug), Thrips and Mites, especially the Avocado thrip & mite, that show their ugly little heads at any time, and the new Citrus Leaf Minder (see pg.3 for details). Did you say flies? Yes, even fruit flies. Please look at the label for lots of other things that it can handle.

#3 is by SENORET; Terro: We lost Diazanone, but have a bigger and better stick to fight ants with. In fact I had to use some during the writing of this article and boy-o-boy did it work, and fast too, over night! They were gone by the next morning, like a bad dream.

We have other Liquid Tools on our shelves at both stores. But the most important thing that I need to pass on to you is to Please, PLEASE, PLEASE, Read the Instructions. We care about you all and want to keep our Valued Customers safe and healthy at all times, in and out of the garden.

Select a Great Gift for the Holidays

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COUPON

Valid October 1 - December 31, 2005

\$2 OFF
Gro Power Fertilizer
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Limit Three (3) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

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Color Pack Bedding
Regularly Priced \$2.99
Limit 6

#10028011

Limit Six (6) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

Make a Note!

Walter Andersen Nurseries will be closed
November 24 - Thanksgiving Day, December 25 -
Christmas Day, and January 1 - New Year's Day.
We will be closing early December 24 - Christmas
Eve, and December 31 - New Year's Eve.

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