



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



FALL

07

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NURSERY NEWSBITES

Cabbage Tales

Once a plant leaves our nurseries, we seldom know what happens to it. Some grow beautifully, some get killed by their care takers and every now and then, one goes on to fame. At least 15 minutes of it that is. This cabbage was a seedling when Sherry Mercereau bought it at the Poway store this winter. In her garden in Poway it flourished, then was lopped off and entered in the San Diego County Fair where it won 'Best of Show, First Place'. Sherry is seen in this photo beaming over the merits of her cabbage after snagging the blue ribbon and \$50 in prize money!



Poway Store Hours To Change

On Oct. 8, the Poway store will begin closing at 5pm as the days will be getting shorter and dark earlier.

Game Days In Pt. Loma

Don't want to miss the game? Neither do we! The Point Loma store now has the Charger games on color TV. You can catch the scores and the highlights while you shop!

Discontinued Department 56

Poway will no longer sell Department 56 villages and accessories. The store will continue to carry holiday ornaments from Department 56 and other companies. Sales of the Department 56 villages and accessories have declined over the years so it was decided last year to discontinue selling these items.

Holiday Schedule

Please note that both nursery locations will be closed on Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 25 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. In Poway, the store will close at 2pm on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Holiday merchandise such as Poinsettias and holiday ornaments will begin arriving in the stores as early as two weeks prior to Thanksgiving followed by deliveries of Christmas trees the week of Thanksgiving. These are approximations only and not guaranteed.

Additional Store Closing Dates

Both stores will be closed to conduct annual inventories. The Poway store will be closed all day Nov. 20 but will reopen for business at 9am on Nov. 21. The Pt. Loma store will be closed all day on Nov. 21 but will reopen for business at 8am on Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving is Nov. 22). Poway store hours are from 9am-5pm; Pt. Loma opens at 8am and closes at 5pm. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope you'll take a look at page 2 of the newsletter for coupon savings good for those days.

1)

Force Bulbs The Professional Way

by Langeveld Bulb Co.



Indoor forcing is the process that stimulates bulbs to bloom out of season. Hyacinths, Daffodils, Tulips and Crocuses are perfect for indoor forcing. Of all the flower bulbs available in autumn, Hyacinths, Paperwhites, Narcissi (Daffodils) and Amaryllis are the easiest to bring into flower. However, many other bulb varieties are also suitable for your indoor garden.

Here are Step-By-Step Directions for Forcing Bulbs

Place a layer of hard medium (such as pebbles or clay chips) on the bottom of the container to provide drainage. Fill the container almost to the top with potting soil, and then plant the bulbs on top of this, close together.

Add the rest of the soil to partially cover the bulbs. Thoroughly soak the entire pot with water. Place the container in a cool place (below 50 degrees) for a period of 12 weeks. During this period, keep the soil moist; (Paperwhites and Amaryllis do not require cold temperature treatment).

A cool cellar, unheated garage, or refrigerator is a perfect environment. After 12 weeks of cool storage, the root system should be well established. With a strong root system and one inch sprouts, your pot is now ready to be moved indoors to a sunny location. The temperature should not exceed 80 degrees. The pale shoots will quickly turn green.

Water once a day or every other day to keep the soil moist. You have just fooled Mother Nature into producing beautiful, natural blooms in your home!

Containers for Indoor Forcing

Choose containers that reflect your decorating tastes. Metal, ceramic, plastic and clay planters will all do. If new clay pots are used, soak them in water 24 hours prior to use. Forced bulbs require well-drained soil; therefore, containers must have a drainage hole, and must be at least twice as deep as the bulb for roots to develop.

Number of Bulbs per 6" Container

Tulips	6 bulbs
Narcissus (Large Varieties)	3 Bulbs
Narcissus (Short Varieties)	6 Bulbs
Hyacinths	3 Bulbs
Crocus	12 Bulbs
Muscari (Grape Hyacinths)	12 Bulbs
Paperwhites	5 Bulbs
Amaryllis	1 Bulb

Continued P4

Prepare The Garden Now For Rose Planting

by David Ross



Fall is typically a time when little or nothing needs to be done in the rose garden. If you come to one of Walter Andersen Nursery's fall rose care classes, that's what you are likely to hear. No fertilizing, no cutting, no spraying, no planting, and little or no watering. With all these no, no no's, what's a die-hard gardener to do? Why, prepare for the upcoming bare root rose season of course! Now is the time to determine which of your existing roses won't make the grade and is a candidate for the compost bin to make room for the new and exciting roses that will be arriving in just a few weeks.

Even though it is not time to do as many garden chores, now is a perfect time to prepare your soil for the new arrivals. Roses love good, rich, well-drained soil, and this is not what we find in most areas of San Diego county. So much of our soil is filled with rocks, held together by clay. Not a hospitable place for roses, so take this opportunity to amend your soil to make it a place where roses will thrive.

Now is the perfect time to add compost to your soil. Black Forest compost or Sunshine Rose Planter Mix are very good, and your roses will love them. Dig about a two foot diameter hole and backfill it with about a 50-50 mixture of one of the above composts, and your native soil. If your soil is heavy clay, use even more compost, and if your soil is more of a decomposed granite, a touch less compost. Throw in a couple of hands full of GroPower Flower and Bloom, then mix, mix, mix, and wait for the new roses to arrive mid-December.

When the roses arrive, select your favorites, take them home and plant them. At planting time, mix a cup or two of Ada Perry's Magic Formula for roses in the very bottom of the hole to ensure a nutritious start. Then just sit back and watch them grow and bloom, hopefully in time for Walter Andersen's Ninth Annual Rose Show to be held at the Poway store!

Editor's Note: Don't miss this rose class date. On Dec. 15 at 9am the Pt. Loma store will hold a bare root rose class.

See our 2008 Rose Preview at www.walterandersen.com

You're Invited

To the **HOLIDAY EVENT** held at the Poway store on December 1st from 5-8pm. This has become an annual event in which the store closes at 4pm and then reopens for an **AFTER-HOURS SHOPPING EXPERIENCE**. Hotdogs, beverages and holiday treats will be served; there are crafts to keep kids busy and a **VISIT BY SANTA**. This is your first notification of this popular event. In November, invitations will be mailed.

Customer Appreciation Anniversary Events!

Walter Andersen Nursery celebrates its 79th anniversary this year and to commemorate its years in business both stores have added some special events to their calendars.

Point Loma Events

- Sunday, October 28 / 1pm**
The 3rd Annual Halloween Scavenger Hunt
Join the nursery goblins for a fun & informative scavenger hunt through the nursery. Come in costume and enjoy the fun – prizes for everyone – children of all ages welcome.
- Sunday, November 4 / 11am**
Holiday Color Bowls!
Linda Pearson will demonstrate how to plant holiday themed color bowls for your patio, garden or home. Fall & holiday colors will be featured with an emphasis on color, texture and balance – adding just that extra something special to make your color bowls pop! At the end of the class one lucky attendee will win a color bowl.
- Sunday, November 11 / 10am**
Mounting Staghorn Ferns with Walter Andersen
Walter Andersen has been mounting Staghorn Ferns for 45 years and

- will demonstrate the proper way to remove the fern from the old board, divide the fern and then remount them on new boards. He will go over basic care for the ferns and the tools needed for the job! At the end of the class one lucky attendee will win a Staghorn Fern.
- Sunday, November 11 11:30am to 1pm (or while supply lasts)**
FREE HOT DOGS!
Keeping with tradition, the nursery will barbecue hot dogs for customers to say "Thank You" for your patronage.
- November 6, 13 & 19 / All Day**
Dippin' For Discounts!
At check out, take a "Dip" to win discounts and prizes. Discounts up to 20% off your entire purchase that day! Other prizes include seeds, gloves and other gardening supplies!

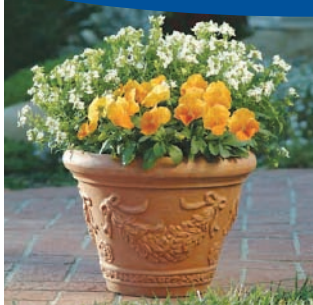
Poway Events

- Sunday, October 28 / 1pm**
The 1st Halloween Scavenger Hunt
It has proven popular in our Pt. Loma store, but this is the first time the Poway store has hosted such an event. Join the nursery goblins for a fun & informative scavenger hunt through the nursery. Come in costume and enjoy the fun – prizes for everyone – children of all ages welcome.
- Saturday, November 3 9:30am to Noon**
Kids Potting—No Charge!
Kids are welcome to join David Ross and Miss Liz as they show the wee gardeners how to plant their own color bowl. From 11am-1pm we'll be barbecuing hotdogs for all nursery customers.

- Saturday, November 10 / 9:30am**
Mounting Staghorn Ferns with Walter Andersen
Walter Andersen has been mounting Staghorn Ferns for 45 years and will demonstrate the proper way to remove the fern from the old board, divide the fern and then remount them on new boards. He will go over basic care for the ferns and the tools needed for the job! At the end of the class one lucky attendee will win a Staghorn Fern.
- Saturday, November 10 11am to 2pm**
Enjoy Carne Asada Tacos & Live Music with local musician Jerry Gontang. See his website at www.starsonthewater.net.
- November 6, 13 & 19 / All Day**
Dippin' For Discounts!
At check out, take a "Dip" to win discounts and prizes. Discounts up to 20% off your entire purchase that day! Other prizes include seeds, gloves and other gardening supplies!



Pansies & Violas Are Fabulous Fall Finds



Pansies and Violas both are in the same genus, Viola. In our climate, pansies are grown as annuals. Violas are either perennial or annual, depending on the hardiness of the specific variety. If you're looking for perennial Violas, often referred to as violets, be sure to read the tags and do a

little research to make sure the variety is hardy.

One of the best-known violas is the Johnny-Jump-Up. It is prized for its abundance of small tri-color flowers in a combination of rich purple, creamy white and clear yellow. Plant breeders have crossed Johnny-Jump-Ups with several other viola varieties to give us some amazing variations. As if these plants didn't already have enough to offer, their flowers are edible! Try adding a few blossoms to your fruit plate. You may even see candied violet flowers on a wedding cake or another fancy dessert.

Pansies and Violas are very cold-tolerant plants. They easily handle temperatures down to the mid 20s and keep on blooming. If temperatures drop any lower, existing flower buds may be damaged, but the plants live on.

Pansies have a very fine, fibrous root system. When you ease them out of their pots, the outside of the root ball may be a mat of white roots. Make several shallow cuts through these roots to encourage outward growth. It is also important to plant them at the same depth they were growing. They don't do well when planted any deeper.

Since Pansies are cool season annuals, as the summer gets warm, their blooming slows down and they are usually replaced with heat-loving petunias. Deadheading will encourage them to bloom longer. When it gets too hot the Violets can be cut back to within a few inches of the ground; they may fill back out and begin blooming again in fall. Pansies and Violets will benefit from regular feeding with a water-soluble fertilizer high in phosphorus.

To keep pansies compact, be sure they receive strong light and stay well fertilized. Pansies do very well in fall; often blooming through spring. As a bonus, you may even have a few of them bloom all the way into summer!

Generally, all the violas sold on the same tables as the pansies, are not reliably hardy. Perennial Violets are sold in larger containers a little later in the season. Hardy Violets are short-lived perennials. The plants form compact, multi-stemmed clumps with fine, fibrous root systems. Because they have rather small flowers, they are good plants for smaller gardens or in areas that are viewed closely. ●

Tips For Choosing The Right Tool For Fall Pruning

by Garden Center Products & Supplies Magazine

Pruning can be heavy, repetitive work and trying to take too big a bite with the wrong tool is the quickest way to increase fatigue and frustration while also shortening the life of equipment.

An ideal 'starter' assortment of pruning tools should include the following: **Bypass Pruner**—A one-handed tool ideal for cutting green growth with diameters up to 3/4-inch in diameter; **Lopper**—Basically a pruning shear with long handles. The longer handles provide more leverage allowing you to cut much larger branches, up to two inches; **Pruning Saw**—A folding or sliding saw designed for branches 2 inches or more in diameter. This pocket-size tool is also handy for cutting branches into manageable pieces.

When selecting pruning tools, think ergonomics! Carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis and even arthritis are the scourge of gardeners, young and old. It's vitally important to choose tools that help reduce the stress and strain often associated with gardening. Select loppers or pruners with a mechanical advantage, such as multiple pivot points. Think gears or levers, mechanisms designed to increase leverage and maximize cutting power, thus reducing fatigue. Lightweight tubular steel, aluminum or fiberglass handles fitted with comfortable grips provide additional comfort.

Pruners will be identified as having an anvil or bypass device. Bypass pruners and loppers cut with two curved blades that bypass each other, similar to scissor blades. Use bypass loppers on green growth. An anvil lopper features a single, straight-edged cutting blade that closes against an anvil of softer metal. Use it for cutting dry, hard or old growth or for trimming back live branches before making the final cut with bypass loppers.

Pruning should be done year-round as needed. The best time to prune varies with each plant species. Plants that flower during the spring are usually pruned after they bloom. If you prune before bloom, you will remove the flower buds. A light fall pruning is beneficial to many shrubs and trees. Some plants need preparation for winter, especially large, overgrown shrubs. In the case of deciduous trees, pruning when the leaves are off will give you a better idea of how the pruning will affect the tree's shape. Removal of dead, diseased or damaged branches should be done as soon as possible regardless of the time of year.

Sharp tools cut with less effort and clean cuts from sharp tools promote faster plant healing. The easiest way to maintain the correct cutting angle on the blades is to color in the area to be sharpened with a black felt tip pen before sharpening. Use a whetstone and sharpen evenly until no trace of the ink can be seen on the blades. Remember that many manufacturers offer replacement blades should the blades become too dull to work with. ●



The Nurseries Are Closing!

(for one day!)



Before you get excited, the stores are **closing for one day each and on different days to take a physical inventory.** The Poway store will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 20 and Point Loma will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 21. On the day that the store you normally shop in is closed, you can bring the coupon at right into our other store and enjoy a substantial discount on your purchase! So if you shop Point Loma regularly, take a road trip to Poway, there is always plenty of parking and five acres to peruse. Don't forget to check out the garden railway while you are there! If you normally shop in Poway, load up the car and head south to our San Diego store. There you will find the most interesting selection of plant material offered by any nursery in Southern California! Known throughout the state for its ability to locate plants, our San Diego store has served the needs of gardeners and plant collectors for nearly 80 years. So grab your coupon and check it out! Both stores offer a unique character and really are completely different! ●

Coupon Savings!

Save 15% on your next purchase!

Offer Valid in Point Loma on Tuesday, Nov. 20 ONLY and in Poway on Wednesday, Nov. 21 ONLY.

This offer is ONLY good on the following dates at the locations listed. Coupon MUST be presented at time of purchase - NO retroactive discounts for this offer. Offer not valid on labor, design services, design department orders, sod, or already discounted or sale merchandise.



Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

I was out in the desert not long ago. Peoria, Arizona to be exact which is near Phoenix. As usual, I make a deal with my husband; for every place I want to see, he gets to pick another place. Needless-to-say, I saw a few motorcycle and bicycle shops and he visited a few nurseries and a botanical garden. I figured if these plants can stand the heat and drought in Arizona, they will love it here.



I have seen and grown other Indigo Bush but I really like the look of this Trailing Indigo Bush (*Dalea greggii*). It is a trailing groundcover that will grow about 1 to 1 1/2 feet tall and 3 to 8 feet wide. It has a very delicate look which gives you the impression that

this is not a very tough plant. The feathery, delicate compound foliage (sort of like Jacaranda) is a silvery green which makes the flowers stand out. The flowers are a rosy lavender and look a little like a sweet pea. They are in the fabaceae (pea) family. You will find this plant on the hillsides of New Mexico and West Texas. It has long trailing, ground covering stems which will root where they touch the soil. This would make this plant perfect for stabilizing a slope or tumbling over a wall or rocks in a rock garden. It flowers spring through summer, but I am told it will bloom off and on all year long. It is a low-water use plant that will take full sun to light shade and well draining soil. Because of the frost damage my yard suffered last winter I am very mindful of introducing plants that will not tolerate the cold. This little gem is hardy to 15 degrees and is root hardy below that temperature.

Yellow Alder aka *Turnera ulmifolia* is a native to the West Indies and Mexico. It is a compact shrub that will reach 2 feet in height and about as wide. In colder climates, it can be grown as an annual. The leaves are a dark green, dentate in an oval shape and the flowers are yellow single petals. Like a daylily, the flowers only last a day, but against the dark green they certainly stand out. This is new to my collection and according to all the research I've done, it would appear it will bloom sporadically the whole year. It will need some regular water to get established but will handle drought once established. I noticed in really hot weather a little wilting, but some extra water brought it right back. If you are in a really hot area you might try planting it in a partial shade to protect it from the hot afternoon sun.



Regular fertilizer will keep it nice and green. A flower and bloom formula in spring ensures a nice flower display early in the season. The leaves do have an odor when crushed and it is distinctive. I just can't decide whether it smells good or not.

If you have been following Fuller's Finds or attended my classes you know that if there is a *Salvia* out there...I'll find it. I love them. If I don't have it or have had it, I will have it...it's just a matter of time. Here are two more that you just have to try if you are as obsessed with *Salvias* as I am.



Mountain Desert Sage (*Salvia pachyphylla*), aka Giant Purple Sage is one of the toughest *salvias* out there. It is a native to the foothills of Southern California and can be grown in most gardens as long as you keep it dry. Try to water it during the summer and you will kill it (I write from experience). It is known as the Giant Purple sage because in some years the flowers are almost as big as the plant itself. The flowers are an elegant pinky/lavender with a little hint of blue. The blue is perhaps because the foliage

is a silvery white as are most low water use/drought-tolerant plants. It even likes our alkaline soil. For the size of this plant, 2 to 3 feet, it is a very compact, neat, and clean specimen. It has the foliage fragrance of sage but I don't think it is as strong as some. Like several other horticulturists I know, we think it is the queen of California sages.



There aren't that many sages out there that thrive in light shade. I found one. It is a type of sage referred to as a Hummingbird Sage and sometimes Pitcher Sage. There are a number of 'hummingbird sages' as well as 'pitcher sages' out there so when dealing with *salvias* it is best to try to work with the botanical name *Salvia* spathaceae 'Kawatre'. This sage has a sprawling growth habit to about 12" tall and 3 to 4 feet wide. It has arrow-shaped basal leaves that give off a fruity fragrance when crushed. It is hardy to about 20 degrees. It is native under coast live oaks so it will enjoy an environment that has organic matter, especially leaf litter. It spreads by underground rhizomes so it is pretty easy to propagate. Burgundy flower spikes will rise above the foliage to about 2'. They should be staked as they will fall over but if you prefer, just let them sprawl. As with most *salvia*, low water is key.

Well, until next time, happy gardening! ●

on the web

New Additions to the Website

Check www.walterandersen.com for the 2008 Rose List, the Preview of 2008 Roses, and Winter Tomato Suggestions. If garden pests are bugging you, take a look at our Garden Tips information and see how Plant Rx can help diagnose and remedy the problem.



Seasonal Recipe

Baked Mushroom & Rice Casserole

Good for potlucks and cold nights. Serves 6

2 cups uncooked white rice
1 can (10.75) condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 cup vegetable broth
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup fresh chopped mushrooms
1 teaspoon parsley
1 teaspoon oregano
1/4 cup melted butter
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl, stir together the white rice, cream of mushroom soup and vegetable broth. Blend in the onion, mushrooms, parsley, oregano, melted butter, salt and pepper. Transfer to a 2-qt. baking dish and cover with a lid or aluminum foil. Bake 35-40 minutes in the preheated oven. If the rice looks dry before it is tender, add a little water or vegetable broth and continue cooking until rice is tender.

This Year's Memorable Houseplants

by Melanie Potter



Cissus juttae



Philodendron 'Congo'

Throughout the year I made a list of the houseplants I noticed that seemed like they were worth a mention in the newsletter. In the past, there were so many other things to profile that insufficient space kept them a secret. Now is

a good time to review them, just bear in mind that they are subject to availability so you may not see them for a few months.

During the year, I made a special sign for this plant and the more I looked at it, the better I liked it, Chlorophytum, or Mandarin Plant. It has a beautiful rosette of shiny dark green pointed leaves with a heart of glowing orange. It is a colorful relative to the well-known houseplant, the Spider Plant. It may be used as an indoor potted plant, outside in mixed containers or as a specimen shrub in a tropical landscape.

It requires partial shade to filtered sunlight. Plant it in sphagnum peat, pine bark & vermiculite. Keep moist but don't over water. Flush with distilled water as high sodium may damage the foliage.



Chlorophytum 'Mandarin Plant'

This next plant was elusive to me. I'd spot it, look at the name (promptly forget it) then go back to find it. It would be nowhere in sight. Named *Cissus juttae*, this rare and strange looking plant is native to the south and west areas of Africa. It is a member of the succulent grape family. It has a thick, fleshy, stubby, pale gray smooth trunk that divides into a few thinner branches. Its waxy, green leaves eventually give way to attractive clusters of red berries.

Succulent grapes fall into three general categories: vining plants, clambering plants with thickened, segmented, often angular stems, and pachycaulous caudiciforms, with enormously swollen bases either elongated into trunks or squat as egg-shaped boulders. *Cissus juttae* will have the latter.

Finally, I recall seeing *Philodendron 'Congo'*. This recently introduced *Philodendron* has large thick, leathery leaves and is quite easy to grow. There is little information about it and what I saw shed no light on its origin. I liked the coloring of this plant which has reddish-purplish stems. New leaves are a reddish green that turn lighter green with maturity.

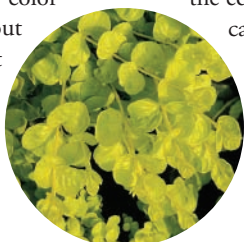
Place it anywhere there is a light source except direct hot sunshine. In low light the plant may become stretched. In larger containers allow the surface of the soil to dry down about 3" before watering. In small containers allow the soil to dry 1" to 2" from the surface. Feed bi-monthly with a balanced liquid plant food. ●

cultivar called 'Variegatus'. It is also 8-14 inches tall and can be used the same as 'Ogon.' *Salvia 'Tricolor'* has green, white, and pink variegated foliage and is an excellent filler plant in either beds or planters. The last plant with silver foliage is *Lamium 'Herman's Pride'* which has what appears to be an almost silver net overlaying green foliage. This mounding plant will fill in the middle ground of combination planters but will also spill over the edge in a cascade of silver green foliage. 'Herman's Pride' can have small yellow flowers but it is grown mainly for its foliage.

Red to purple foliage is also popular in fall. A good example is *Ajuga 'Catlin's Giant'*, an extremely hardy (USDA zone 3) perennial with dark purple to almost black foliage. Grown primarily as a groundcover it also makes an excellent combination component plant. If you are looking for something a little more unusual you might want to try a couple of *Euphorbia* varieties. The cultivar 'Despina' is blue-green with just a tinge of red while 'Efanthia' has dark green foliage with maroon highlights when the weather is cool. Both will flower in early spring and are hardy to USDA zone 4. Other plants with red to purple foliage are *Heuchera* (Coral Bells) varieties that can be used in the ground or in combination planters. First, is 'Amethyst Myst' which has a mist of silver over purple-burgundy foliage. The second variety is 'Purple Petticoats' which has chocolate leaves with burgundy underside. The leaves also have ruffled edges giving it a unique appearance. The last *Heuchera* variety is 'Green Spice' which is a stunning mix of green, silver and purple. The dark purple veins stand out against the silver leaves that are then edged in green.

As summer fades into fall there is an abundance of browns to be seen, from soft fawn to dark coffee and cinnamon, brown pulls the fall color scheme together.

A popular plant in this color class is *Carex 'Toffee Twist'*, a fairly tall (18-24") grass with mahogany colored foliage that twists and twirls. It can be used in a variety of containers and landscapes and add a unifying element to all of your plantings. ●



Lysimachia 'Goldilocks'



Lamium 'Herman's Pride'



Heuchera 'Amethyst Mist'

Fall Magic Foliage

by Proven Winners

Editor's Note—When the calendar indicated September had come, the staff in the Poway store began removing color from the store that signified summer and changed it out with the warm palette of fall. Below, one of our most popular vendors, Proven Winners, shares suggestions for adding fall color to your garden. As with all plant suggestions, availability is not guaranteed.

Many leaves in fall turn bright yellow and there are varieties that have yellow to chartreuse foliage. *Acorus 'Ogon'* is a short grass, 8-14 inches tall, that loves damp conditions and mixes extremely well in combinations. 'Ogon' is yellow and green variegated. It is an excellent plant to add a bit of a vertical element without being overpowering for small combinations. It is also an excellent filler plant for larger combinations. *Salvia 'Icterina'* has green and yellow variegated foliage and is also a great filler plant in combinations as well as in landscaped beds. Also in this color class is *Lysimachia 'Goldilocks'* which has round, chartreuse colored leaves on a very prostrate habit. It looks excellent spilling over the edge of a combination planter. The last plant in this category is *Heuchera 'Amber Waves'*. The stunning amber-gold foliage is totally unique and quite beautiful. If that isn't enough to entice you, its USDA zone 5 hardiness will probably clinch it. It is great in ground beds and containers alike.

Silver to white foliage is popular in a fall collection. Plants that exhibit these colors include *Helichrysum thianschanicum 'Icicles'* and 'Lavender Cotton' (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) both of which have soft silver colored foliage. They are used as filler plants in combinations and are excellent highlight plants. In addition to the yellow/green variegated *Acorus* grass there is a white and green variegated

Our yard took a beating from the winter's cold weather and fortunately the frost killed some of the things we weren't crazy about. Time came when we could no longer dilly dally over whether to remove those plants or take the lazy way out and just put up with the look. Not eager to continue my losing battle with weeds that sprang back immediately after I plucked them out, I suggested using a lot of boulders and flagstone. Those items could cover a significant amount of area that plants didn't need to. Within no time we were at KRC Rock choosing rocks and flagstone, and that afternoon, we had a path!

Your stone path can wind throughout the yard or can be as small as a step-over for your flowerbeds. The first thing you should do is decide exactly where your walkway will go, how wide it will be and how long. Decide whether you will have a stepping stone type path with large stones or if you will have more of a cobblestone look with many stones close together. Once you have your spot picked out, mark the path's location with spray paint or string tied to stakes.

You could dig down about 6 inches into the ground the entire length of your pathway to sink your stones into, but the thought of digging that much into the

rocky soil was so unappealing that we just placed the stones on the leveled soil that had been amended. Working on level soil will aid you in placing the stones and it will also prevent the stones from shifting over time. The next step will take more thought as you will arrange the stones in the way that looks most attractive to you. You can use a large level to place across your stones to make sure the path doesn't slope in any one place. Tamp down the stones with the back of a shovel to make sure they are set.

After all of your stones are set and level, you need to take more dirt and fill in the spaces in between your stones, tamping down again to make sure the dirt fills in all of the empty spaces. You can plant between your stones. Depending upon your growing conditions, you may want to consider dichondra, pennyroyal, chamomile, creeping thyme, or dimondia.

If any of your stones seem to sink after they have been walked on a bit, simply pull them up and add more dirt underneath. Eventually the stones will be set and become a natural part of the landscape. The best part about a stone path is that it doesn't have to look perfect. Each stone will be irregularly shaped and spaced and that only adds to the charm! ●



Getting Lawns Ready For Fall

by Bayer Advanced

Fall is an ideal time to revitalize your garden. It's the best season to invigorate your lawn, divide perennials and to think about new landscaping. But if you plan ahead and start a little early, your fall jobs will be a lot easier. If you're planning on landscaping this fall, begin preparing the soil now by working in ample amounts of organic matter and controlling weeds.

Here are some things you can do now to get a jump on an active autumn:

CONTROL GRUBS. White grubs live in the top few inches of soil and feed on the roots of lawn grasses. White grubs are typically .5 to 1.5 inches long, milky-white with a brown head and almost always are curled into a "C"-shape. White grubs are the larva or "juvenile" stage of various breeds of scarab beetles including Japanese beetles, chafers, June beetles and May beetles. These "adult" grubs can also cause damage to roses, trees and other plants around your yard.

There also are some simple but effective ways to identify white grubs. Look for the following symptoms:

- A general thinning and weakening of the lawn
- A wilted or dried-out look to your grass, even when soil is moist
- Large, brown, irregular patches of grass
- Large patches of dead turf that can easily be pulled up in one piece, much like a piece of carpet; you'll find the C-shaped grubs underneath
- Moles, birds or raccoons digging in your grass; these animals love to feed on grubs, so frequent visits could be a sign of white grubs.

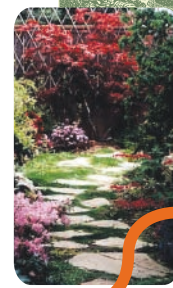
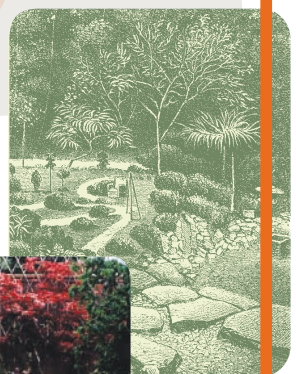
White grub damage is usually most severe in late summer, but problems can begin as early as mid to late spring. To control grubs now and give your lawn a chance to recover this fall, use Complete Insect Control for Soil & Turf Spray. It will kill grubs quickly and also controls mole crickets, cutworms and sod webworms. Then, follow-up with Bayer Advanced Season-Long Grub control with Merit®. One application will control grubs for months.

CONTROL LAWN WEEDS. The upcoming cool fall weather is the prime growing period for cool-season lawns, such as Kentucky bluegrass and fescue. But the best time to control lawn weeds is now. Late summer weed control will give your lawn the best chance to fill in and look great this fall. To control lawn weeds in cool-season lawns, use Bayer Advanced™ All-In-One Weed Killer for Lawns Concentrate. In many areas this may mean spraying in early September.

CONTROL GARDEN WEEDS. If you'll be landscaping this fall, start controlling weeds now. Kill existing weeds with Roundup or Remuda. ●

Paths Provide Non-Planting Solutions

by Melanie Potter



the wee corner

by Melanie Potter



Tips For Miniature Plant Care

Walter Andersen Nursery no longer carries many of the fairy garden accessories it used to. Gone are the fairies themselves, furniture and decorative items you might place in such a garden. Both stores, however, still carry a large selection of tiny plants suitable for fairy gardens, garden railroads and miniature gardening projects like terrariums.

These plants require much the same care as larger plants but some extra attention in areas will improve your success with them.

Group plants if possible—They are usually planted in smaller pots which dry out quickly. If you can, group miniature plants together in larger plantings with good soil, rather than leaving them in tiny pots which leave them more exposed to wind and drought.

Watch for sunburn and heat exposure—Make sure miniature plants do not suffer sunburn or too much heat exposure if they are put on window ledges or elsewhere they receive strong sunlight.

Fertilize lightly—Miniature plants may have limited growth and will not require extra fertilizer if they are planted in good soil. If left in their original pots and soil, you may want to add diluted soluble fertilizer once a week when you water, or sprinkle the soil surface with a few pellets of a slow release fertilizer formulated for flowering plants.

Watch for insects—The size of miniature plants means they can be infested quickly by insects such as aphids, so make sure you inspect them often and head off insects when you first see them. The occasional wash with a spray of pure soap and water (Ivory or another natural soap, 1 tablespoon to one gallon of water) helps, but don't leave a moist plant in a sunny window. ●

Forcing Bulbs *Continued From Pt 1*

Soil for Forcing

Light soil is the key, especially for drainage. Potting soil is the easiest or you can combine equal parts of weed-free garden soil, peat and sand. Don't worry about fertilizer—the bulb contains all its own food, unless you expect them to regrow and bloom next year.

After a minimum of 12 weeks, the bulbs will have adequate root and sprout growth. The roots will be visible through the drainage hole and sprouts will be one to three inches tall. At this stage, the containers can be placed in a warmer environment for forcing. Initially place pots in a 60 degrees semi-dark area. After four days transfer pots to a well-lighted 65 degrees - 70 degrees area. Water regularly and keep pots away from heaters and drafts. Potted bulb flowers in bloom prefer cool locations—warmer temperature will shorten their bloom. They enjoy full sunlight during the day but should be moved to a cool location at night. ●

Remember To Use Your Account!

If you are a customer at either Walter Andersen Nursery location, chances are that your name is in our database. This provides a history of your purchases and returns and includes you on our mailing list. In essence, you have an account with the store. To keep your account active and stay on the mailing list, make sure when you are in our stores to have the cashier ring your purchase under your account. Just provide your name to the cashier who will then find you in the computer and make sure your transaction is credited to your account history. That way your account will remain active and you won't miss an issue of Garden Talk! Inactive accounts are purged from the mailing list regularly. If you have signed up to receive Garden Talk and haven't seen any in the mail, chances are that your purchase wasn't transacted under your account.

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www.walterandersen.com

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 questions,

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 9am

October

10/6 Ferns—Tall, Low & In Between

10/13 Autumn Herb Care

10/20 Holiday Decorating

10/27 Fall & Winter Veggies

November

11/3 Camellias

11/10 Poinsettias

11/17 Dormant Spraying

11/24 No Class

December

12/1 Winter Color Plants for Your Yard

12/8 Rose Pruning

12/15 Bare Root Roses

12/22 No Class

12/29 Pruning Apricots & Plums

POWAY 9:30am

October

10/6 Fall Bedding Color

10/13 Fall Container Gardening with Carol Fuller

10/20 Azaleas & Camellias

10/27 Fall Rose Care

November

11/3 Kids Color Bowls—Kids 15 & Under Can Plant Up A Color Pot, FREE!

11/10 Remounting Staghorn Ferns with Walter Andersen!

11/17 Orchid Care & Culture

11/24 No Class

December

12/1 Care of Poinsettias & Living & Cut Christmas Trees

12/8 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright

12/15 Rose Pruning

12/22 No Class

12/29 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright



Words From Walter

With Walter Andersen, Jr.

FALL TOMATOES



These are my tomatoes in fifteen gallon containers at home. You can still plant them in September and early October for a fall crop. Growing them in containers is quick and easy. I used SunShine Container Mix (the blue bag) and Dr. Earth Vegetable Food (1/2 cup every three weeks) which works wonders. If done right, they could have fruit in about seven weeks from time of planting. These plants are taller than the five-foot tall stakes. I tie them with the green plastic tape, so they don't fall over as much. These were planted four plants to a pot, but I am sure you could plant one plant and get similar results. There is a 'variety' of different ones in one pot. I planted a 'Sweet 100' and you can use 'Early Girl' which fruits in a short time. ●

TOOL SHED

by Melanie Potter

Man's Best Friend & Burn Spots



If you have a dog, your grass might be a victim of this. If you don't have a dog but your neighbor does, and the dog prefers your yard because the grass is always greener on the other side, you may also be a victim. The grass is greener that is, until the dogs choose to relieve themselves on it, and then you have brown patches.



How to prevent burn spots on grass as a result of dog urine is a question we are often asked. The brown spots are actually burn areas caused by the salt in the animal's urine. To remedy this you can set up a lookout command and as soon as you see the dog relieve itself, run outside with a hose and water down the area to leach out the salt. Even easier is this method which does the work for you. Look at the Grass Saver products made by NatureVet. The nurseries carry dog biscuits, pills and a liquid that contains a combination of b-complex vitamins, amino acids and biotin. This synergistic combination helps dogs' bodies metabolize nutrients better to reduce the salt level in the urine which in turn, diminishes yellow/brown spots on the lawn. GrassSaver works on about 98% of dogs. In order to make your lawn grow back quickly to a nice lush green you should take these simple steps while feeding your pet this product: Water lawn heavily for two weeks to "rinse". Reseed lawn after feeding GrassSaver for two weeks. Continue feeding GrassSaver daily.

Editor's Note: Before using any food supplement for your pet, check with your veterinarian.

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