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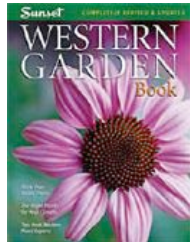


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8th Annual Rose Show Is Set

The 8th Annual Walter Andersen Nursery Rose Show is scheduled for April 14-15 at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway store. This popular event continues to grow with last year seeing more than 100 entries. A rose show prep class will be held April 7 to help participants learn how to prepare roses for the following weeks show. The rose preparation class begins at 9:30am at the Poway location (12755 Danielson Court) and will feature Jack Shoultz who will provide tips as to what the judges look for in entries, and share some secrets to success. Entries will be taken April 14 from 8am-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are April 14 from 1pm-6pm and April 15 from 9am-4pm. Stu Miller from Weeks Roses will give a presentation, 'Tops in Roses' April 14 at 11am.



Newest Edition of Sunset Western Garden Is Released

Walter Andersen Nursery now has copies of the eighth edition of Sunset Western Garden, believed by many to be the most essential and respected gardening resource in print. You'll find more than 8,000 plant listings (500 of them are new) in 768 pages. There are 30 plant selection guides and special contributions from 40 eminent Western garden experts. This edition sports a new, easy-to-read design and offers more plant photography, larger illustrations, updated information on the Western climate zones, and a Practical Guide to Gardening with basic advice on plant care and essential gardening techniques. This edition introduces a new feature: gardening tips from respected plant experts throughout the West.

Ceramic Pot Sale In Poway

Our Poway store will have a greater number of ceramic pots in stock the beginning of April just in time to go on sale! For two days only, April 14 and 15, selected pots will be marked 20% off. We'll have an assortment of sizes and shapes in spring colors, the always favorite 'Oxblood', and multi-colored drip style pots. As always, Walter Andersen Nursery will be happy to drill holes in your pot if they aren't already there to ensure adequate drainage. For this event we'll have container gardens made up to serve as inspiration for you. See how plants are selected to showcase a container and how color combinations can work for amazing final results. Not sure what container will suit your needs? Just bring a photo of where you'd like to put the container and we can offer advice for choosing the right size, shape and color and help you with plant selections.



1)

8th Annual

POWAY

ROSE SHOW



Perennial Selections To Complement Your Roses

by California Assn. of Nurseries & Garden Centers



Many times a good low growing perennial is an excellent planting companion for your rose garden. You actually get double your pleasure with eye pleasing blossoms at the top and bottom of the flowerbed.

Perennials are easy to care for and can be clipped back in the late fall or early winter to encourage a fresh start in the spring.

Here are some suggestions:

Catmint (Nepeta) - Soft, gray green aromatic leaves with light blue flower spikes. Spreading. Shear back when flowers are spent.

Fleabane (Erigeron) - Produces daisy-like flowers in a variety of colors. Blooms early summer through fall. 12-18 inches in height.

Nemesia - Shrubby perennial, reaches approximately one foot by two feet. Light pink flowers with yellow throats.

Candytuft (Iberis sempervirens) - Evergreen with pure white flower clusters reaches a height of 12-18 inches. Blooms early spring through June. Makes a great border.

Coral Bells (Heuchera sanguinea) - Dense mounds of green foliage. 8 inches tall by 15 inches wide. Foliage is crowned with arching stems of pink or red nodding bell shaped flowers.

Creeping Phlox (Phlox subulata) - Approximately 3-6 inches tall and spreading to two feet across. Blooms April and May. Intense flower colors.

Sea Pink (Armeria) - Narrow, stiff leaves grow into compact mounds topped with small white, pink, rose or red flowers in dense globular heads. Blooms early spring through fall.

Pinks (Dianthus) - A member of the carnation family, this perennial comes in a variety of heights and color combinations. Blooms late spring through the fall. Shear back and feed to encourage another flush of bloom. Extremely hardy.

Lithodora diffusa - Sparkling blue tubular flowers crown this shrubby, slightly mounded perennial. Blooms May through June.

Pincushion Flower (Scabiosa) - This easy to grow perennial blooms midsummer and continues through the fall. Lavender blue, pink or white flowers

Cup Flower (Nierembergia) - Stiff narrow mounding foliage is covered throughout the summer months with blue to violet blue bell-like flowers. Reaches a height of 12 inches.

Yarrow - (Achillea) - Generous bloomer in summer and fall, yarrow is available in a variety of heights and colors. The flower head is large and flat, made up of tiny flowers. Foliage is aromatic, gray or green in color. Taller growing varieties can be cut and dried for indoor bouquets. ●

Summer Fruits For California

by David Ross



I often speak to people who are wary of growing their own fruit trees, because they fear they will get too big, and be uncontrollable. There is a solution to that qualm, something new and easy, and when practiced properly, will allow anyone with any sized space to grow their own little piece of California's summer fruits.

Traditionally, fruit trees are pruned during the winter months, but more and more we are learning that "summer pruning" is the way to go if you want to enjoy lots of fruit but don't have lots of space. Summer pruning is just that, pruning the trees while they are growing to limit how large they ultimately will get. When done properly, trees will yield lots of fruit in a relatively small space. Summer pruning also reduces the number of leaves to photosynthesize. Less photosynthesis means less growth, and a smaller tree. It also encourages more branching which produces more fruit in much less space.

Continued P4

Ten Steps To Growing A Productive Vegetable Garden

by Bayer Advanced



Few gardening endeavors are as enjoyable or rewarding as growing your own vegetables. The pure pleasure of being able to stroll through your garden, harvesting fresh tomatoes, beans and cucumbers for that day's meal, is only heightened by the knowledge that you're providing the freshest, most flavorful and nutritious produce that nature can create.

Growing a productive vegetable garden isn't all that different from other types of gardening. However, there is less room for mistakes. Successful vegetable gardening is about consistency - making sure that growing conditions are properly maintained for the entire growing season.

Here are 10 steps to growing a productive vegetable garden:

- 1 Choose locally adapted varieties. Not all vegetable varieties grow well in all areas. So ask which varieties are best for where you live. There may be varieties that resist diseases specific to your area, or ones that produce better quality crops under your climate conditions.
- 2 Plant at the right time of year. For most areas, now is the time to plant summer vegetables like corn, tomatoes, squash, and peppers. But in some areas planting windows are very narrow and you must hit them fairly precisely for a bountiful harvest. In other areas, you can plant several times over the summer and maintain the longest possible harvest season.
- 3 Prepare the soil properly before planting. Work in generous amounts of organic matter such as compost or composted manure. If you don't use composted manure, which already contains nitrogen, also work in a complete fertilizer.
- 4 Plant properly. Follow planting directions on seed packets or in books on vegetable gardening. Sow seeds at the proper depth and space, or thin plants later to recommended distances. Vegetables that are planted too closely together will produce poorly.
- 5 Water consistently. This is probably the most important step to a successful vegetable garden. Maintain even soil moisture so plants do not dry out, but are not over-watered. Water deeply, and then give the soil time to dry partially before watering again. Inconsistent watering will reduce yields in most vegetables, and make others, like cucumbers and lettuce, taste bitter. One of the best ways to water a vegetable garden is to install a drip irrigation system connected to an automatic timer.
- 6 Fertilize regularly. Maintaining vigorous growth is very important with almost all vegetables. Most should be fed with a nitrogen fertilizer at least every 4 to 6 weeks. However, you do have to be careful not to over-fertilize. Some vegetables, especially tomatoes, will produce less if fed too much nitrogen.
- 7 Mulch. A 2- to 3-inch layer of organic matter applied over the roots of your vegetable plants will cool the soil, reduce weeds, and help prevent soil moisture fluctuations that ruin quality.
- 8 Eliminate weeds. Weeds compete with vegetables for water, nutrients, and sunlight, thus reducing yields. Pull weeds by hand, or cultivate the soil frequently to keep them to a minimum.
- 9 Harvest often. Many vegetables, especially beans, squash, peppers, and cucumbers, will stop producing if not harvested frequently. Pick every few days.
- 10 Control insect pests. Many insect pests enjoy fresh vegetables as much as you do. Always keep an eye open for insect damage.

Here are Walter Andersen Nursery's warm season suggestions: Plant in spring, after threat of frost is past. The following need 6 to 16 weeks of warm weather to mature, depending on the variety.

- Snap Bean
- Lima Bean
- Corn
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Okra
- Melon
- Pepper
- Pumpkin
- Summer Squash
- Winter Squash
- Sweet Potato
- Tomato ●



Make A Note!

Both Walter Andersen Nurseries will be closed April 8th for Easter Sunday, and Wednesday, July 4th.



Courting Crotons

by Melanie Potter



I may be sprouting a green thumb. As hard as that it is for anyone to believe my live houseplants are looking better than the silk imposters. The schefflera is now too big for its pot, the false Aralia is thriving despite its corner having less than ideal light, I can't do anything wrong to my Dracaena, and the two nearly dead topiaries I took home around the holidays are sufficiently revived. On such a wave of success I thought I would add to the menagerie and went hunting for the perfect addition.

I didn't look far before I spotted a croton with its colorful foliage that made a welcome change from all the green palms, ferns and ficus that dominated the Houseplant Department. I am no stranger to Crotons because they are a common sight in Florida where I grew up. In South Florida they are used in landscapes and make a great hedge. Here, they don't tend to survive outside in our desert climate, unless you live hear the coast, but they will make a good houseplant.

Croton leaves are multicolored, usually with bright yellow, shades of red and green all on one plant. The leaves of most varieties of crotons are large, a few varieties offer narrower, wavy leaves and some are shaped like oak leaves while others are incredibly wrinkly or curled. The nursery typically carries varieties such as Icteton, Excellent, Super California, Petra, Sunnystar, Goldstar, Golddust and Neriva.

These plants need bright light and high humidity. If you don't have the perfect spot for a croton, consider using them as a temporary house guest. Enjoy their bold color for a few weeks or months, and let them go. Crotons need to be kept slightly damp and cannot be allowed to dry out. Water thoroughly when the top several inches feel dry to the touch. Crotons like it warm, but not hot. Avoid exposing them to temperatures below 60°. Humidity is essential for a healthy croton so a misting now and then may help. To maintain good growth, feed crotons regularly spring through fall with a water soluble fertilizer such as Dyna Gro. Let the plant rest during fall and winter.

Keep in mind that crotons like to be somewhat crowded into their containers, repot them in early spring if needed. Their large leaves can collect dust which clogs the plants pores and interferes with the leaves collecting available light. To minimize this problem, give them an occasional shower outside or wipe off the leaves with a soft cloth. Pests that can bother Crotons include mealybugs, scale and red spider mites which can be eliminated with Schultz Houseplant & Garden Insect Spray. ●

Do You Use Yuzu?

by Ken Andersen



Yuzu, or Citrus junos, is a Japanese culinary citrus. One of the hardiest varieties of citrus, it can withstand temperatures down to about 10 degrees. The medium sized yellow to orange fruits are closely related to tangerines but are rather sour. The rind is very fragrant and used to flavor vegetable, fish and noodle dishes. Essential oils or the fragrance is used for lotions and perfumes as well. Rare in the US, Walter Andersen Nursery has found a good source for them and has brought them into the stores for you to try. Treat them as you would an orange or lemon and grow them in full sun in well drained soil. Feed regularly with Gro Power Citrus food and enjoy! To get you started we have even researched a recipe for you to use your Yuzu!

Yuzu Pots Recipe by T.Fuji

This little yuzu appetizer is typically made using fresh yuzu fruits as the serving "pot". If you don't have access to fresh yuzu then substitute tangerines for the pots but use bottled yuzu in the recipe. Cut off the stem end of two yuzu fruits (or tangerines) and remove the contents, taking care so as not to break the rind. If using fresh yuzu, squeeze the contents to produce a juice, then add several drops of vinegar to the juice. This mixture is call yuzu-su or yuzu vinegar.

Mix two teaspoons of yuzu-su (yuzu vinegar) with three tablespoons of white miso, one tablespoon of mirin, and two tablespoons of dashi-jiru.

In each of the hollowed fruits place three shrimp, one-half of a fresh shiitake mushroom, and a mitsuba leaf (Japanese parsley) and several drops of sake. Heat the stuffed fruits in a microwave oven for a minute and a half. Then, add about half of the above-mentioned dressing to each and heat for half a minute again. ●

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Moisturizers For Your SOIL

by Jolene Andersen

Most of us are familiar with moisturizers for our skin and the important restorative job they do keeping us vibrant, but did you know there are products that perform that function for your soil as well?

SOIL MOIST is just such a product. SOIL MOIST is a polymer product designed to reduce the need for watering. This product works great in containers and landscape beds alike. The polymers absorb water much as a sponge does and, as the soil dries, the stored water is slowly released back into the soil over an extended period of time.

SOIL MOIST is safe to use on all plants and plantings and may reduce the need for watering by as much as 50% and lasts for several seasons.

Available in envelope packages of 3 ounces and jars of one pound, just add to soil and planting mediums for amazing help with all water needs. Use indoor or out!!

One caveat: Use according to package directions. The first time I used polymers in a color bowl I added extra polymer so I wouldn't have to water as often as even the label suggested. After saturating the color bowl with water, the next morning my bedding plants had been popped out of the container by the engorged polymers. So more is not necessarily better with polymers, follow the directions for best results and most economical use!!!

Extend the length between watering and some people have said they can take short trips and the polymers will tend to their container plants water needs while they are gone. Try them if you would like to water less but just as effectively. ●



Preview Of 2008 Introduction Suited For California Gardens

by Star Roses



Is it a rose? Is it clematis? 'The Imposter' rose has the stunning novelty of looking more like a small clematis bloom than a rose. Each petal is uniquely dusted with streaks of deep pink and carmine red over a base of light pink. This ever-blooming, very compact, landscape rose thrives not only on the coast, but also in the hot dry climates of Inland California. Nearly always in bloom, 'The Imposter' works equally well in small gardens or mass plantings in large spaces. Foliage is medium green and semi-glossy but the rose has no fragrance. Limited availability at both stores now. ●

Seasonal Recipe

Green Beans with Herbs

3 tbsp olive oil
3 tbsp unsalted butter
2 medium onions, chopped
2 tbsp minced fresh thyme
2 tbsp minced fresh chives

1 tbsp minced fresh rosemary
2 lb green beans, trimmed & blanched
Salt & pepper to taste
3/4 cup chopped walnuts

Melt olive & butter in large skillet over med. heat. Add onions and cook until golden brown, about 10 mins. Stir in thyme, chives & rosemary; cook for 5 min. Add green beans, toss and cook until heated through. Season with salt & pepper. Sprinkle with toasted walnuts.

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER



After the freeze of January and February, I made an effort to find plants that survived. Here are a few I liked and bought for my yard.

The word "Melaleuca" should not strike fear in your heart. I know some of you have experienced the Melaleuca quinquenervia 'Paperbark Tree' or 'Swamp Tree' and that experience was not good, but these are different.

If you like the look of Juniper chinensis but are not fond of the plant itself, take a look at Melaleuca pubescens aka Melaleuca lanceolata. I have to admit that not much is known about this Melaleuca. Several research sites could not give me a lot of information, but I will share what I learned from the grower. It has a mounding shape and really looks like a little juniper with its needle-like foliage. It will grow somewhere between 3' to 6'. I wish I could be a little more specific on the size, but soil and water will determine the height. It is drought tolerant but regular water will not hurt it in the least. The flowers are white and it blooms in the spring.



Melaleuca diosmifolia also know as the Green Flowered Melaleuca. This shrub flowers in spring and summer with green bottlebrush-like flowers. It has small leaves that neatly spiral around the stems. This is a very attractive plant whose foliage and flowers look impressive in a vase. This Melaleuca can handle damp soil and coastal conditions in full sun or part shade. It is tolerant of most well-draining soils and conditions. It will grow from 5' - 12' depending on soil conditions and water availability and will make an excellent screen, hedge or windbreak as it is easily pruned. Although it is noted that foliage can be damaged from moderate frost,



the specimens I saw seemed to be unaffected. However, as with all plants, light, water, nutrients, and soil conditions affect growth.

Melaleuca elliptica - I saw this Melaleuca and determined that it was definitely going in my front yard. It has the most incredible peeling bark in cream, tan, brown and black. It was the first thing I noticed. It has a very open habit already, but responds to pruning and can be grown as a hedge or screen. It is considered a medium shrub (6'-12') with grey-green leaves and large deep red bottlebrush flowers that bloom in summer. It is tolerant of most well-drained soils in full sun or partial shade, extended periods of drought and frosts. It would make an excellent container plant but best of all, a striking specimen tree. I cannot tell you how impressed I was with the bark on this tree, it is impressive.

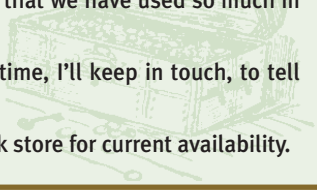
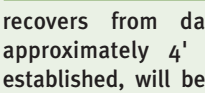


When you shop for these Melaleucas, don't be discouraged. I saw them planted in the ground, in 5 gallon pots, and in 1 gallon pots. In the ground, they are impressive. A 5 gallon starts to show how the plant will look, but the 1 gallon plants are unimpressive. If I hadn't seen them in the ground first, I probably wouldn't have noticed them, so keep that in mind when determining what size you want to buy.

One last plant I found was a dwarf form of the Agonis flexuosa - Dwarf Willow Myrtle. It is very cute with its green, lance-shaped leaves with maroon margins. It is from Western Australia, so it is about the same weather conditions as here. It needs little pruning and has small white flowers. It tolerates moderate frost, and recovers from damage fairly quickly. It will grow approximately 4' x 6' (wider than tall), and, once established, will become quite drought tolerant. I think it would make a nice replacement for the many Indian Hawthornes and Pittosporums that we have used so much in Southern California.

Well, so many plants so little time, I'll keep in touch, to tell you what I find.

Availability fluctuates, so check store for current availability.



Water Gardening Adds Another Dimension to the Garden

by California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers

It is surprisingly easy to add a water garden to your yard. Even a modest pond can become a beautiful and intriguing focal point in your garden.

First, starting with a pre-formed pool or flexible liner create the shape or style you desire. Or check for styles and sizes of pre-formed pond liners that can be easily installed in your garden. When you add water nozzle displays, water runs, circulating pumps, statuary and lighting, you can create your own special look. To create a natural setting to your pond, add

various types of water plants from shallow bog plants to deep-water lilies, and to finish off the pond you might want to add fish. Now you have a miniature ecosystem where plants and fish thrive in a balanced and decorative environment.

■ Try some of these water loving plants in your pond:

Umbrella Plant (Cyperus alternifolius)

In or out of the water this ancient plant will enhance your garden with its form and silhouette patterns. It is a hardy, clumping perennial that grows 4 to 8 feet tall. It is very effective in containers and pools. Plant in full sun or shade and water regularly to establish.

Water Poppy (Hydrocleys nymphoides)

This is a deciduous perennial, a semi-floater that spreads by stolons to about 3 feet wide. Pull out excessive plants to maintain order. It blooms with a deep yellow 'poppy' shaped flower in summer which appears just above the foliage. Plant in sun or part shade and a water depth of 2-6 inches above the crown.

Japanese Water Iris (Iris ensata)

This is a spectacular addition to places in the garden with moist soil. Plant it along streams, in ponds, pools etc. It produces beautiful, large blooms in June-July on long three foot stems. Colors range from white, rose, purple and many shades in between.

Parrot's Feather (myriophyllum aquaticum)

This plant has feathery foliage. It provides great coverage for fish. Pot in rich soil and submerge the edge to soften the lines of a formal pond or water basin. Plant in sun or part shade. Prune regularly.

Hardy Water Lilies (Nymphaea hybrids)

These are a collection of hardy, winter dormant plants for ponds and pools that are easy to grow.

The blooms open during the day from spring through fall. Colors are most often in shades of yellow, pink, red, peach and white. All water lilies need sun and 8-12 inches of water above the soil in the container for the big leaves to float on.

Water Canna (Canna hybrid)

The dark foliage of this plant makes it an excellent accent plant for bog or water garden planting. Showy red flowers add color over a long season. It is a hardy, deciduous perennial with an overall height to 4 feet tall. Excellent for ponds, streams and bog plantings. Flowers from spring until fall frost. Plant in sun, wet soil or water up to 6 inches deep.

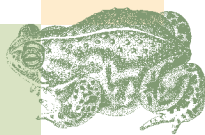
■ What's Wrong with my Statuary and Fountain???

Spring is a great time to renew your investment in your statuary and fountains. Clean out the filter on your pump and do so at least once a month or every two weeks. Drain or siphon out the water in your fountain or birdbath every two weeks. Wash with mild soap and water and refill with fresh, clean water. Don't use abrasive cleaners, brushes, or bleach or you could damage the finish. Never run your fountain without the pump being completely submerged in water so you may need to top off every day if it's hot or windy.

■ Having algae problems? In addition to cleaning, try a few drops of Nacrosan 10. It's safe for birds. Always read directions on the label.

■ Check for damage on your GFI outlet for your fountain and make sure you're not using extension cords to plug your fountain in.

■ Remember, statuary is made from concrete that is a natural product (including sand and rocks). Unless you purchase pieces that are made from resin or other man-made materials, your statuary will age and wear. This adds integrity and life to the piece and is not considered detrimental to the value. Hairline cracks often develop and patinas from leaf stains, mineral build up, and wearing of the stain or paint will not harm your pieces. To reduce this aging, cover and empty your statuary of water in the winter to protect from rain and frost and annually seal with a clear masonry sealer. Otherwise, enjoy the individualized antiquing of your cherished statuary pieces year round. Add a new statuary piece to your collection and photograph it through the seasons documenting the effects of time and nature. Celebrate aging! It really is beautiful. ●



The Mystery of Growing Coconut Palms

by Ken Andersen

Anyone who has traveled south of our latitude to Florida, Mexico, Hawaii or further is very familiar with Coconut Palms. These beautiful trees just exude the feeling of the tropics and are an icon of the South Pacific. While these palm trees are available to us in San Diego, there is something about our climate that does not allow them to thrive here as they do in other places. Try as we might, coconut lovers have yet to crack the secret code of growing success.

If you take a look at the areas that Coconuts grow, you would think that it would be possible to grow them here in San Diego. Yet for some reason they only thrive as houseplants in this area.

Coconuts grow in a rather large climatic area even as far north as Cape Canaveral Florida. Now, even though Cape Canaveral is a fairly tropical environment, it can experience much colder temperatures than we do here in San Diego. For example, take the record cold weather that doomed the space shuttle CHALLENGER in 1986. Freezing temperatures are not an unusual occurrence in that area so why would our coastal climate zones that get little or no frost each year not be ideal for growth?

San Diego is known for its alkaline water. We fight its effects on plants all the time. From poor fertilizer uptake to tip burn, the salt in our water is a problem. As for affecting growing coconut palms, we should be able to rule this out. Anyone who has seen these trees growing in the more tropical areas knows that coconuts can actually sprout on the beaches after drifting at sea and washing ashore. Now if the tree can grow with the salt water of various oceans of the world lapping at its roots, then why can't we grow them here even with our alkaline water?



A couple of years ago I was talking with one of our customers who is a landscape architect and palm tree aficionado. We were trying to answer this question for ourselves. His theory and he was going to test it, was that the key to growing Coconuts is the soil temperature. Given the information that I outlined above, his thoughts were that you need to keep the root system warmer in the winter. Yes it may get colder in Florida but for shorter periods of time and the normally higher temperatures even out the soil temperatures. Therefore, the average soil temperature in Florida may not drop as low as it does in San Diego!

He may be onto something! I have wracked my brain about this many times and I cannot come up with a reason why this is not the answer! I am asking you, our readers, to send me your experiences growing Coconuts and if you have been successful, send me a picture of your tree or trees! If we get some good responses I will include the best ones in an upcoming article. You can email me at wan.poway@yahoo.com ●

by Monrovia Nurseries



Soil pH Contributes To Hydrangeas Color

The color of the pink and blue varieties of hydrangeas is determined by the degree of soil acidity. Pink varieties develop color best at a soil pH of 6.5 to 7.0., while the best blue color occurs at pH 5.0 to 5.5.

The hydrangea flower is small and insignificant but is surrounded by showy bracts. The anthocyanin pigment will be pink or blue, depending upon the incorporation of either iron or aluminum in its molecules. Insufficient aluminum is absorbed by the plant at a pH of 6.5 to 7.0 so iron is used.

As the pH drops to 5.0 to 5.5, aluminum becomes more soluble, is absorbed by the plant, and becomes part of the anthocyanin molecule resulting in blue coloration.

White hydrangeas contain no pigment in their sepals (although some may develop as the blossom ages). They may be grown as either pink or blue, the only indication being given by the small petals. Common white varieties are Sister Therese and Regula. Rose Supreme, Merritt's Supreme and Merveille are examples of varieties which can be blue or pink depending on soil conditions.

To maintain pink coloration, enough limestone should be incorporated in the soil at the time of planting to keep the pH at the above levels.

The aluminum necessary for blue color will become soluble in nearly any soil at a pH of 5.0 to 5.5. Since soluble phosphates precipitate aluminum, a fertilizer containing low phosphorous or none at all should be used (13-0-20 and 15-0-15 are examples).

If you want blue hydrangeas, we recommend adding Aluminum Sulphate (use as directed per the label) to the soil during the month of April.

There's An Art To Shade Gardening

by California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers



Gardening in the shade needn't be the problem some people would have you believe. Because of the large and varied number of plants available, shade gardening can be a fun and rewarding experience.

The ever popular Gold Dust Plant (aucuba) is a logical choice, as it takes considerable shade. The large glossy leaves are flecked with gold, and mature plants in the fall will produce bright red berries the size of cherries. Glossy leaved Aralia is a landscaper's favorite in the shade garden. The apple green is a highlight and the extra large, deep cut leaves a conversation piece. Both are medium size growers.

Lower growing shrubs include a glossy, dark green sarcococca and holly fern. Both feature small leaves and have handsome textures which rate their use in borders or foreground plantings. This fine spreading growth habit is a further bonus. Sarcococca has a wonderful fragrance in the winter. If possible, plant it near a doorway or window area. Plantings in the foreground of a bed can include hostas, Cranesbill geranium and Coral Bells (Heuchera). The hosta's broad, mounding leaves make an excellent backdrop for colorful annuals or the colorful periwinkle blue flowers of the geranium and the slender stems of red bell shaped flowers of the Coral Bells. Plant a row of Coral Bells to edge the flower bed and you'll be rewarded with a larger show year after year.

For broader color, where shade is not dense, the fibrous begonias and impatiens provide months and months of brilliant color. Tuberous Begonias are a seasonal sensation this time of year and whether used in the ground, grown in pots or in hanging baskets, the colors and flower forms are unsurpassed for beauty. In spring a border of colorful cineraria (senecio) makes a bold and colorful statement.

For light shade or filtered sun, there is a bevy of garden aristocrats to plant: azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, and fuchsias. A garden of those alone would be enough to stop traffic in all directions.

For a bold effect in part shade, plant the hydrangea or colorful pieris. In mild winter areas the H. macrophylla or Garden hydrangea makes a splashy statement with its big leaves and large flowers. The flower clusters are actually made up of many smaller flowers. There are red, pink, white and under some conditions blue flowers.

Pieris like cool humid conditions. On the coast it will tolerate full sun but further inland it prefers some protection from the hot sun. Pieris has bronze to pink new growth. In spring, it produces strands of greenish pink beads which open to white, red or pink bell shaped flowers. Pieris like the same conditions as azaleas and rhododendrons. ●

the wee corner

by Carol Killebrew



Enticing Little Friends To Your Garden

Last spring my husband and I watched a pair of Western Bluebirds raise a family in a nest box we put up near our kitchen window. Observing the wing waves and listening to the vocalizations of the male during courtship was great fun. So was the nest building by the female. Later we enjoyed watching the fledglings and their parents frolic in the birdbath and forage for insects.

The Western Bluebird is in decline as a result of loss of habitat and from competition for cavities from House Sparrows. Anyone who puts up a bluebird nest box or two assists in the California Bluebird Recovery Program. If you'd like to get started with bluebirds, you can find all the bluebird basics at "Bluebirds of San Diego County", on the web at <http://home.netcom.com/~bluebirds/> where you'll also find information about Western Bluebirds, nest boxes, site location, water and food, nesting behavior, predators and pests, monitoring, bluebird resources, abandoned bluebirds, the California bluebird Recovery Program, and more.

You can also help Barn Owls who are shy and live by night and don't seem to mind living around human activity by providing them with a nest box. If you have some open space, there's a good chance you can encourage some barn owls to nest in your yard. An adult barn owl will typically eat 2-3 rodents a night. And a family of owls can increase that to about 10. So that translates to more than 2,000 rodents per year.

The best way to attract barn owls to your yard is to build a plywood barn owl nest box and mount it 15 to 20 feet high on a pole or in a large tree facing North or East. Barn owls require no nesting material in the box; they just lay their eggs on the floor. It may take up to two years for barn owls to move in, but once they've discovered the box, it will often be used year after year. For more information and a free barn owl nest box plan, visit: <http://home.netcom.com/~bluebirds/owl.htm> •



Bulb Planter is a Handy Tool

by Ken Andersen

Even though spring is upon us and all of our bulbs for the season have long been planted keep that bulb planter of yours handy! This little tool is good for more than just planting bulbs and corms in your garden. The size of the soil plug that this little tool pulls out of the ground is the perfect size for planting six packs of bedding plants! Now that the weather is warming up and it is time to replace your fall and winter color bedding plants with spring and summer color, your bulb planter can get a good work out! You can also use this handy tool for planting ground cover. Need a little bit wider hole? Just push it deeper into the soil. You can also use it to cut plugs of dichondra or sod for planting. Not only will it cut a nice round plug it will create the perfect hole to drop it into as well! •

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

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www.walterandersen.com

Spring 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!

Summer Fruits Continued From P1

When trees get too big, they become difficult to prune and most of the fruit is out of reach and goes to the birds! While sharing fruit with birds is nice, I would prefer to eat my fruit and get my backyard birds their own feeder. Waiting until your tree is fruiting makes it much easier to decide which branches stay, and which ones go. Different types of trees fruit on different types of branches, so if you prune "willy-nilly" you could be cutting off all the branches that will produce fruit next year instead of encouraging or preserving them.

Peaches and nectarines produce next years fruit on this year's new growth. Cutting them will not only encourage more branches for next years fruit, but will keep branches from breaking from the weight of too much fruit. Apples and plums are the best. They fruit on spurs, tiny little branchlets that take a few years to develop, but once present, will fruit for a decade or more. This will allow for any type of shaping, and means an especially large harvest in very little space.

Another way to expand your harvest is to plant multiple trees in a single hole. Instead of just a single tree, try planting three or four trees 18"-24" apart in the same hole. Just remove all branches from each tree growing inward toward the center of the group and prune the entire group as a single tree. Not only will this allow you to grow more varieties, but with some planning, you can select varieties that ripen at different times of the year extending your harvest period by weeks or months. This allows for better pollination of your trees as well. For more information on backyard orchard culture, go to www.davewilson.com •

POINT LOMA 9am

April

4/07 Water Gardens
4/14 Herb Class
4/21 Azaleas
4/28 Epiphyllum

May

5/05 Cactus & Succulents
5/12 Tropical Gardening
5/19 Grafting & Budding Techniques
5/26 Cymbidium Repotting

June

6/02 Fuchsia Varieties & Care
6/09 Attracting Butterflies
6/16 Bromeliads & Tilandsia "Air Plants"
6/23 Tropical Fruits
6/30

POWAY 9:30am

April

4/07 Vegetables with Special Guest Steve Goto
Preparing Roses for a Show with Jack Shoultz
4/14 8th Annual Poway Rose Show
4/21 Two-Part Fairy Furniture Class, One Adult/One Child,
\$20 Materials Fee per Person, Includes Both Classes.
First Class - Make Item, Second Class - Paint on 5/5/07
4/28 Staghorn Ferns Remounting & Care

May

5/05 Fairy Furniture, Second of 2 Classes. Painting the Furniture.
5/12 Building Ponds & Waterfalls by Aquascape Designs.
Experts will Build an Actual Waterscape at the Nursery.
Class will Last Longer than One Hour.
5/19 Summer Flowers
5/26 Herbs in the Garden with Carol Fuller

June

6/02 "Healthy Soils, Healthy Gardens", Special Guest
Giselle from Kelloggs
6/09 Xeriscaping with Carol Fuller
6/16 Water Gardening
6/23 Gardenias & Other Summer Pleasures
Special Guest Kathleen Parks from Monrovia
6/30 Plants that Eat Bugs 'n Stuff!

TOOL SHED

"Manage" Nut Sedge

by Melanie Potter



If you have nut sedge, that annoying indicator weed (its appearance is telling you about your poor drainage) that looks like grass but isn't, then good luck getting rid of it. With its prolific reproduction method of growing from tubers, bulbs and seeds, once it takes hold, it thrives in all areas except shade and is difficult to control. Each plant can produce as many as 1,500 seeds!

If you ask Walter Andersen Nursery professionals for a recommendation, you'll be told to 'manage' it. Then we'll show you the product, Manage. It's an herbicide, the only post-emergent herbicide available that shows promising results. Its ability to kill the tubers and bulbs makes it most effective.

The best time to control nut sedge is soon after it appears (June-July), before tubers form. Repeat treatment may be necessary to control the leaf material. Nut sedge plants can also be pulled up quite easily. Mowing at the highest possible setting during warm weather will also help to keep nut sedge from spreading. Close mowing stimulates the generation of new plants.

Coupon Savings

Go to www.walterandersen.com for More Coupons!

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