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GARDEN TALK

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Time To Start The Giant Pumpkin Growing Effort

Both locations will host a giant pumpkin growing class this summer. Join us June 6 at 9:30am in Poway, and at 1pm that day in Point Loma. The class in Point Loma will be in addition to their already scheduled 9am class. The classes will be presented by the Pumpkin Kahuna himself, Stuart Shim. Last year, our own David Ross, tried his hand at growing a giant pumpkin. He, unfortunately, lost an enormous pumpkin but did succeed in bringing a 102-pound pumpkin to harvest.

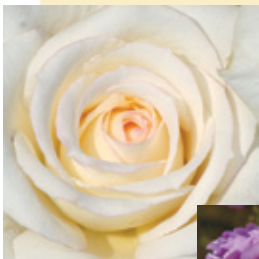


A Sneak Preview of 2010 Roses

It seems we are barely into 2009 and already, we've got a preview of some roses to be released in 2010. You won't have to rely on photographs either as both nurseries will have samples in bloom for you to take a look at.

Here's a few that caught our eyes. **Apricot Drift** is a true dwarf groundcover rose that has exceptional disease resistance and is always in bloom. Small, cup-like blooms are apricot colored finishing to a light apricot. By the end of the season you can expect it to be about 1½ ft tall by 2½ ft wide. **Citrus Burst** is a striped climber with a slight green apple fragrance. This is a seedling of Fourth of July with the same habit and glossier foliage with the softer color of Johann Strauss. It is medium pink striped with light yellow and has a yellow eye. **All American Magic** is another striped rose with what looks like a bolder color. If you are a George Burns fan, don't miss looking at this one. It's a grandiflora with bright red and yellow stripes, finishing medium pink and cream. There's a slight raspberry fragrance. It promises to be less fragile than other striped roses when it comes to disease resistance and hardiness. **Singin' The Blues** is one we'll be anxious to see as its photo shows it to be lavender with a deeper lavender reverse. It's a floribunda, a seedling of Angel Face, and is great for mild, dry climates. The color is fabulous and the fragrance is described as a very strong citrus and verberna scent.

Finally, a pure white hybrid tea called **Secret's Out**. It's a mutation of Secret, with great form and a strong, spicy fragrance.



Secret's Out



Singin' The Blues



All American Magic

Xeriscape Choices & Ideas Are Limitless

by Melanie Potter



Little John Bottlebrush

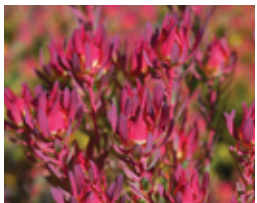
The thought of having a front and back yard that resembles a dry, prickly desert frightens gardeners from properly enjoying a xeriscape garden. Xeriscape doesn't mean zero-scape. The word is a portmanteau of xeros (Greek for "dry") and landscape. Webster's Dictionary defines it as a landscaping method developed for arid and semi-arid conditions that utilizes water saving techniques.

One way to do that is by making careful plant choices so I spent some time talking to one of Walter Andersen Nursery's landscape designers, Maryon Kinsella, about the plants she suggests for clients with this need.

The first thing to do is to evaluate your landscape because you may already have waterwise choices planted. Chances are that you don't realize they fit the bill and you are watering them frequently, just like the rest of the things in the yard.

Some things are clearly not going to do well without frequent watering and maybe the biggest problem for gardeners is what to do with the grass you have. "If you remove the lawn or reduce its size, you can recreate your yard," explained Kinsella. "Mound the soil for visual variety and think about designating some areas for mulch, pea gravel or decomposed granite, and others for colorful groundcovers. She suggested adding rocks and boulders to the design and introducing some new plants.

"You don't have to go with stark plants that have no movement. I like to intersperse succulents with the plants. The look of the succulent is enhanced that way and they work to create architectural interest. There are many textures, shapes and colors and many bloom and have long bloom periods," she explained.



Leucodendron



Leucospermum



Palo verde

and used in boring ways. "Lace out the Pittosporums and Indian Hawthorne to create an airy and different look, and be sure to use the appropriate sized plant for your available space," Kinsella warned.

Now that you have the short (groundcover suggestions) and tall (tree suggestions) of it, what about in between?

"Ornamental grasses can be used to create movement," said Kinsella. There are fabulous colors such as dark purple, gray, and browns and some will need to be cut back in winter". Year round interest can come from Leucadendron (from the protea family), Leucospermum (pincushion flowers), Euphorbias (which come in colors such as lime green, and cream and green), and Euryops. Low-water additions typical to a tropical landscape include Agapanthus and daylilies. Kinsella shared that these are actually drought tolerant and recommends using variegated Agapanthus which is not used as often as its green counterpart. Another favorite used by Walter Andersen Nursery designers is Little John Bottlebrush as it blooms along the stem and if you choose to use it as a ground cover and keep it short, you don't lose the bloom. Grevilleas also make a colorful and interesting addition, and you can consider Grevillea 'Long John', which grows 10 feet tall by 15 wide as a tree option. It has an airy habit and can be easily trimmed to shape. ●

Sustainable Gardening Takes Time And Planning

by Jen Merzigan, WAN Bedding Coordinator



These farmers standing among healthy cabbages have been working with Sustainable Harvest International's local extension workers in Belize. By using organic and sustainable techniques, the farmers don't have to buy expensive and toxic fertilizer or pesticides and can provide nutritious food for their children and for market.

using the natural resources we have at our fingertips to control pests. Observation of your own microclimate and soil is the key to getting what you want out of what you have.

The first step is picking the site. It goes beyond just "Is the area sun or shade?" What time of day does it get the sun? This relates to the intensity of the light. Some so-called "shade plants" can take several hours of direct sun if it's mild morning light. How many hours of direct sun? Many vegetables need at least 6-8 hours of direct sun to produce. Are there walls nearby that are going reflect and intensify heat in the area? Some plant leaves will burn in these kinds of conditions. Is this particular area windy? Young plants that are continually blown over do not grow roots successfully, so you may need to plan for supports or some type of temporary windbreak. How big is the area? Planning for the mature size of the plant will decrease the need to prune especially for vigorous plants, which will save you years of work down the line! It could also prevent overcrowding, which would decrease air circulation, thus turning a recently planted tree into a haven for pests and diseases. Lastly, is there a change of elevation in the area? A plant at the top of a hill is going to have water pulled away from its roots, which is great for plants that don't like wet feet. A plant at the bottom of that hill is going to catch every bit of water and some plants like that too.

The next step is looking at your soil. Investing time in your soil before planting can pay huge dividends as time goes on. We have a "Soil Test Kit" by Ferry Morse that will tell you what amounts of Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium your soil has. Those are the 3 numbers you see on the front of fertilizer packages. These tests are very inexpensive, so go ahead and get a few for other areas in your yard (soil can vary from one area to the next). They even have an easy test for pH levels! (Though in this county, most of your test will come up "alkaline").

Armed with this information, you can choose plants that favor the conditions you find in your yard, which will mean naturally happier plants and less work in the future. If you have a plant in mind, find out what drainage-type and nutrients it needs so you can amend your soil appropriately.

Feeding the soil will help your plants throughout the rest of their lives. Organic compost will improve drainage by breaking down clay soil or retaining moisture in rocky soils. Humic acid, found in fertilizers like Gro Power, will balance out soil pH. Gro Power Plus contains a "soil penetrant" which is immensely helpful in clay and compacted soils, where food often can't make it down to the roots of your plants. Worm castings are a great supplement that will encourage earthworms to inhabit your garden, aerate your soil, and continually fertilize.

Another VERY important element in root-happiness is naturally occurring fungi called Mycorrhizae. Almost every plant on Earth has a symbiotic relationship with Mycorrhizae (my-co-rie-zuh), which capture more water and nutrients than a plant's roots can on their own, thus increasing drought tolerance and disease resistance. Usually this relationship takes years to develop, but you can give everything a head start by adding a fertilizer containing Mycorrhizae when you plant, such as "Plant Success" or Dr. Earth products. Once your plants are in the soil, any additional fertilizing you want to do should just be a top dressing that you water in, so roots and Mycorrhizae are not disturbed. An important note here; chemical fertilizers can kill Mycorrhizae, no matter how established the fungus-plant relationship is. Be picky about your fertilizer, and come on in and ask us what organic and natural fertilizers we have that will work cooperatively with your soil culture.

Companion planting is huge factor in sustainable gardening. Just imagine: if you can plant something that repels the worst enemy of your favorite tomato, you wouldn't need to spray pesticides! Nasturtiums and Hyssop will repel some of the worst bugs, but Hyssop is one of many plants that will attract

Continued on P4

Warm Season Veggies — Surprises & Favorites

by Jen Merzigian, WAN Bedding Coordinator



Artichokes

Having a patch of dirt that gets six hours of direct sun is reason enough to grow vegetables in your garden. For those who have been worried by the contamination issues in store-bought crops over the last couple of years, vegetable gardening at home is an easy and inexpensive way to ease your mind; you control what goes into your plants and into your stomach. And it's getting easier all the time! Aside from planters and strawberry pots, many of you are now more familiar with the "Topsy Turvy" upside down tomato planter. No staking, no prepping, just fill with soil, plant, feed, water, and watch. Gravity does most of the pulling of food and water to the roots, and it's a great space-saver as the plants can take up lots of room crawling up a cage or trellis.

Veggies grown at home are also more nutritious and tasty! Those varieties you find in the grocery store are chosen for their ability to keep through long distance shipping, storing, and lots of handling-not because they taste good or are good for you. Most importantly, produce fresh out of the garden, and not previously frozen or refrigerated, retains more flavor and nutritional value.

Now I know you're all anxious and excited to get your warm season vegetables going early this year—just keep in mind in the beginning of the season that as long as temperatures are still chilly at night, your warm season crops are going to want some protection. Here's some info you're going to want this season:

First, foremost, and most exciting are the Seedless Watermelons! We have been trying for years to find Seedless Watermelons to satisfy the requests of our customers, and our search has finally come to fruition. Pun intended. Do keep in mind that Seedless Watermelons will want a pollinator. The first seedless variety is an unusual one called "Treasure Chest". It's a normal, round watermelon on the outside, with excellent, sweet, yellow fruit on the inside. It gets to be 6-9 pounds, and matures in 80 days. The next is called "Triple Crown", which matures in 80 days. It has crisp, red fruit, is oval and weighs 18-20 pounds. It has a plentiful yield and great quality. We are also trying to find an "almost seedless" variety called "Jenny". It's a red, 8-pound watermelon with high sugar content, and tiny, edible seeds. It's a great pollinator for the other two, compact, disease resistant, and vigorous, and shares a name with yours truly. Keep your fingers crossed and look for this one in the next few months.

Watermelon plants are going to want space to sprawl, typically an area 9 feet long for them to trail (depending on the type), and 2 or 3 feet wide to breathe. "Sugar Baby" is another excellent companion for our seedless varieties, but only grows a vine about 3½ feet long! Prepare the soil with plenty of organic material (such as compost), they want rich soil and good drainage. For the first three or four weeks, water deeply and feed with an all-purpose fertilizer, but cut back on the nitrogen as soon as you see flowers beginning to form. Feed with more Phosphorous and Potassium (I like Gro Power Flower & Bloom) to direct the energy into creating fruit. When the fruit starts to mature, cutting back on the water a bit will prevent the sugar content in your watermelon from being diluted, giving you sweeter fruit.



Treasure Chest Watermelon



Caribbean Red Hot Peppers

Watermelons are heat lovers, but I'd say that Peppers like heat even more. Peppers thrive in hot, stressful situations. Water them deeply, but infrequently without letting them wilt. Sweet Peppers (including "Bell" Peppers) bear fruit more quickly than the hot types, and do so abundantly. I especially love the miniature bells; chocolate, red, yellow, peach, orange, and purple in color. They're gorgeous on the plants as well as in my food. Some notables among the Hot Peppers are "Fatalii", my favorite name among the peppers that out-heat the original Habanero on the Scoville Scale; "Fish Pepper" is very hot but is a beautifully variegated plant, with often-variegated fruit! "Filius Blue" has attractive fruit that begins purple then ripens to a bright red. "Caribbean Red Hot" is the hottest Habanero-type for those who love pain. Pepper plants absolutely must have a well-drained area and plenty of calcium in the soil. They only need a moderate amount of fertilizers, preferably a type with higher phosphorous that focuses on blooms and fruit. If the plant seems stunted or the leaves begin to pucker, add gypsum, crushed eggshells, or some other form of calcium to supplement.

Cucumbers, and all members of the "Curcubit" family (which includes melons and squashes), want well draining soil with plenty of organic matter. Worm castings would be a great help to build



Words From Walter

Getting Ready For Spring

If you have not fed your lawn since the rains, this would be a great time to put down a good lawn food, Scott's Turf Builder or Scott's Turf Builder Plus 2 if you need broadleaf weed control. As the weather warms, most grasses will try to start growing. If there is plenty of nourishment, it will look great with a rich, deep green color. Poorly fed lawns don't perform properly and look kind of yellow or pale green.

April or May is also a great time to feed your Citrus, Avocados, and other fruit trees. We have Gro Power Citrus and Avocado plant food, a great product that will do the trick. You can use this same fertilizer for your Apples, Plums and other deciduous fruit trees. Mark on your calendar to feed again in three months. Here's a good rule of thumb, you should use about one pound of plant food for each inch of trunk diameter. Also this should be applied as close to the "drip line" as possible (the edge of the branching).

Spring and summer annuals are all in the nursery now. The tables are full to overflowing. This is a great time to add some color to your yard, as it should last most of the summer if properly cared for. Check out the Cosmos, Zinnias, Marigolds, Petunias and so much more. Lobelia and Alyssum are great low growing plants to place near walks or borders. Don't overlook the shady areas where Impatiens and Begonias can bloom for months ahead. Geraniums are great for summer color and we have some super nice ones in 4" pots, most are in bloom, so there is no guessing on the colors.

Check the "set" on your fruit trees. If the Apples or Peaches are too close together (others too) you will get a lot of small sized fruit, and some may even fall off prematurely. You'll want to thin out the crop so your fruit should be about 4" to 5" apart. Some Plums form in clusters so try to keep them to

about three per cluster. For varieties that do not "cluster", space about five inches apart for the very best fruit. Thin your Peaches, too, to get nice large ones.

It will be getting warm soon so be sure you have a good layer of mulch around your plants. This will keep the soil cooler, reduce evaporation of precious water, and it also makes everything look a lot better. A two to three inch layer of mulch will keep your weeds to a minimum also.

If you want to change some plantings in your yard, like the old and tired looking ones, early spring is a great time to go scout for new plants. It seems our growers are always coming up with some new species or a new and improved variety of something older. Be sure to amend the soil with a good amount of Black Forest for the new plantings. It is excellent for our hard packed soils and will get your new plants off to a great start. Don't forget to water those new plantings a little more often until they send out new roots to support them. Warm days, and once a week watering, may not be enough until they get better established.

For roses, we usually recommend feeding those monthly with GroPower. It works great and we are sure you will be pleased with the results. Be sure to trim off the old, spent blooms, with a long stem, to encourage new and heavier growth, and avoid thin floppy stems. Our roses are looking great now, so if you need to replace one that is not doing very well, or want a new color, be sure to stop in and see what we have. Mulch and spray to keep down the bugs and fungus problems.

May is a good time to think about a fruit tree. We have a great assortment of Citrus and Avocados now. Also many of the deciduous fruit trees are coming in. Check out the Plums, Peaches, Apples and Pomegranates, which are easy to grow in addition to being a fun and tasty different fruit. ●



by Walter Andersen, Jr.

Unusual Houseplants Are Award Worthy

by Melanie Potter



Piper magnificum

At the time this newsletter was being prepared, it coincided with the Academy Awards weekend and in anticipation of seeing shiny jewels, interesting colored attire, and glossy looks, I noticed some houseplants that were shiny, interestingly colored and glossy that looked Oscar-worthy.

Alocasia cuprea is a member of the Araceae family, often colloquially known as aroids. They can then be further categorized as jewels or big ears. Alocasia cuprea is considered a jewel and may be one of the most unusual of all the alocasias. The shiny dark metallic leaves look as though they were hammered out of copper. The deep ridges in the leaves give it an even more dramatic look.



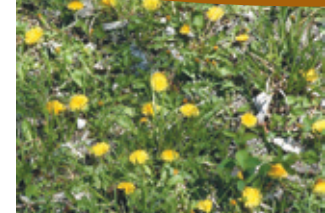
Alocasia cuprea

This plant does require some special care. It likes bright, filtered light. If allowed to get too dry, it may go dormant, and seems to grow better with temperatures slightly cooler. Give plenty aeration to the root zone, light to moderate fertilization during the most active growth period and allow the soil to dry a bit between waterings are tips that will serve you well in your efforts.

A Piper magnificum "Lacquered Pepper plant" is a handsome low-light foliage plant with shiny, dark green leaves. It looks like a large peperomia with corky bark and comes from Peru. The broad leaves can reach 6-8" and the leaves are so glossy they appear to be lacquered. The undersides of the leaves are reddish-purple and add a nice accent. Although a slow grower, Piper magnificum is a truly distinctive specimen houseplant. It prefers warm temperatures and tolerates dry soil conditions. It grows 1-2' in a container. ●

When Weeds Are Tough, You Need To Get Tougher

by Ken Andersen



As have many gardeners, I have been struggling, trying to get Oxalis and a few other nasty weeds under control in my lawn and planter beds. While these weeds are easily eradicated with Round Up or

Remuda in open areas, where they can be spot treated without harming other plants, they can be a real bear in lawns where collateral damage from the spray is a given. Many of the chemical companies have changed their formulations over the past couple of years and some of the old stand-by products have gone by the wayside. The ones that are left don't seem to be as effective as their older counterparts.

After having gone through just about all of the selective herbicides on our shelves, I finally decided to give Turflon Ester a try. We have carried Turflon Ester for a number of years mainly because it will kill Bermuda in tall fescue. It is rare that you can find a selective grass killer that will work in grass like that. After reading the label once again, I noticed that it also indicates that it will control a number of broadleaf weeds in lawns as well.

Armed with this new knowledge I took some home and loaded my trusty Gilmore Sprayer and had at it. While it is not an extremely fast acting product, I did notice that the weeds began to discolor within a day or two and they have since been continuing on their downhill slide to the ultimate demise. For the first time in many, many months, it looks like I am winning the battle against Oxalis in my lawn! Be sure to avoid overspray onto surrounding shrubs.

While it is not the cheapest product on the shelves, the rate that it is applied at and its efficacy save you time and frustration in the long run. If you are struggling with weeds in your lawn and are having trouble getting ahead of them, give Turflon Ester a try. ●

Seasonal Recipe

Vegetable Tian

- Good olive oil
- 2 large yellow onions, cut in half and sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pound medium round potatoes, unpeeled
- 3/4 pound zucchini
- 1 1/4 pounds medium tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves, plus extra sprigs
- 2 ounces Gruyere cheese, grated

Directions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Brush a 9 by 13 by 2-inch baking dish with olive oil. In a medium sauté pan, heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil and cook the onions over medium-low heat for 8 to 10 minutes, until translucent. Add the garlic and cook for another minute. Spread the onion mixture on the bottom of the baking dish.

Slice the potatoes, zucchini, and tomatoes in 1/4-inch thick slices. Layer them alternately in the dish on top of the onions, fitting them tightly, and making only 1 layer. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, thyme leaves, and thyme sprigs and drizzle with 1 more tablespoon of olive oil. Cover the dish with aluminum foil and bake for 35 to 40 minutes, until the potatoes are tender. Uncover the dish, remove the thyme sprigs, and sprinkle the cheese on top. Bake for another 30 minutes until browned. Serve warm.



Vrieseas— Jewels of the Jungle

by Ken Andersen



Vrieseas

Those of you who know me know that Bromeliads are one of my favorites. Of that family, my overall favorite has to be Vrieseas. These beautiful Bromeliads have some of the most striking foliage and brilliantly colored flowers of any plants in the family.

While flowers are the showiest part of many plants, I am always impressed by attractive foliage as well. One of our vendors, who has a growing operation in the Hawaiian islands, has been bringing over some truly spectacular plants. Many of these are hybrids of some of my favorite Vrieseas such as Vriesea hieroglyphica, Vriesea fosteriana, and Vriesea gigantea to name a few. While the exact parentage of these plants isn't known, the results of these hybrids are incredible.

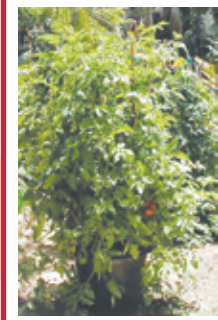
The luxurious, deep green foliage with mottled patterns offers a true feast for the eyes. Easily grown in filtered light, these plants can reach nearly 4 feet across before blooming. As is common with Bromeliads, they are terminal flowering, which means that once the bloom has appeared the plant will slowly die. However, before it expires it will send up pups from around the base. Once these new plants reach about 6-10 inches they can be carefully removed from the mother plant and rooted on their own. One plant can easily generate several pups which are clones of the original.

The flowers on the foliage Vrieseas are not as pretty as Vrieseas grown for their flowers, but do offer an interesting look at how the plants grow. If you can pollinate the flowers as they emerge, you may be able to get them to set seed. Two different

plants are not usually needed to pollinate the flowers, but it can make the outcome more interesting. When the seed is ripe, the pods will split open revealing very small seeds borne on wispy tendrils. This form allows the seed to ride on currents of air in its native habitat and lodge itself on other trees or areas where they will then germinate and grow.

You can try your hand at growing the seeds as well. Collect the seed when ripe and sow it in a flat filled with well dampened peat moss. If you have a greenhouse, this is an ideal environment to get them to grow. If not, a warm window or heat mat will work too. You can even make a mini greenhouse by sliding the flat into a clear plastic bag and putting some supports in to hold the bag off the surface of the planting media. It may take a while to get the seeds to germinate, so be patient. Once they do they can be transplanted when they reach a couple of inches in length.

Feed your Vrieseas with water soluble 20-20-20 fertilizer or one specifically formulated for Bromeliads and Tillandsias. Walter Andersen Nursery staff recommend one of these from Grow More. Usually the plants are pretty pest free; sometimes you will find scale on them, in which case wiping the bugs off with rubbing alcohol works well. For growing medium, on larger plants I have had excellent results using just orchid bark. I typically mix the fine and the coarse 1 to 1, and they seem to love it. Make sure you always keep fresh water in the vases and leaf bases as well. This can be especially important if you grow your plants outside where mosquito larva can form and also plant debris can land in the vases and begin to decay in the water. A good flush with the hose about once a week should keep them on track! ●



Tomatoes The Time Has Come to Grow on Your Own



Now, with the nice warm weather you might like to grow your own tomatoes. Remember last year, you could not even find tomatoes in most grocery stores. If you grow your own, you can be assured they will not only be super fresh and plentiful.

I grow mine in 15 gallon plastic containers because I don't have a good place to grow them in the ground where I live. I use Sunshine Planter Mix (in the green bags) straight out of the bag, no mixing with anything, it works very well. It is amazing how many tomatoes you can harvest growing them this way. I plant three plants at the edge of the container and use 6' tall stakes to tie them to; most often they reach the top of the stakes.

My favorites are: Celebrity, San Diego, Champion, Early Girl and Sweet 100. Of course there are hundreds more to choose but I just find I have had great results from these.

Celebrity is very disease resistant, easy to grow and medium size (7 oz.) with good flavor.

Champion also has very good disease resistance. It's a prolific producing plant with medium size fruit.

San Diego was developed here in our area, and has proven to be a very popular one for growing at home, giving you about an 8 oz. size fruit.

Early Girl is a very dependable tomato and one that produces in a very short time, usually about two months for first harvest. It's meaty and tasty, a little smaller, about 4 to 6 ounces.

Sweet 100 is a super prolific 'cherry type' that is not as sprawling as the common Cherry Tomato. The fruit is formed in clusters, similar to grape production. It has excellent flavor from a small fruit.

Beefsteak has been popular for a long time. This one has a mild flavor with fruit up to about two pounds. If you like large tomatoes, this might be the one for you.

Jubilee is a golden-orange tomato with a milder flavor. This is a low acid fruit, popular with those who like tomatoes but find that many of the other ones bother their digestion.

Heirloom tomatoes have become quite popular in recent years. There are lots of them, some with very unusual names. Most of these have some unique quality to them, often to go along with a unique name. I won't list many, but here is a small sampling:

Black Prince has a deep garnet red fruit. The inside is full of rich flavor and is very juicy.

Arkansas Traveler has made its way from Arkansas with a wonderful flavor. This fruit is medium size (6 oz.) and very easy to grow.

Banana Legs has an unusual shape. It is long (4") and thin (1.5") and has a yellowish color fruit. This is a meaty paste type with few seeds.

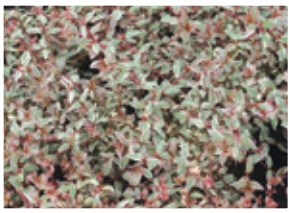
Cherokee Purple is just that, with a purplish-red skin. The quite large fruit has a smoky flavor.

Cousalee is a French "beefsteak" type that is hardy and vey prolific. This is a huge tomato with many reaching 3 pounds. Tiny Tim is a dwarf 'cherry type' that is excellent as a container plant. This would be great for sunny patios or balconies. ●

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

Wow! I love this time of year! Late spring, early summer—everything in the garden has had a chance to recover from winter and the early spring cold. I think I found some items of interest.



Chilean Guava 'Flambeau' or Ugni molinae is an evergreen shrub from, you guessed it, Chile. It is native to southern Chile and was discovered in 1782 by Juan Ignacio Molina, hence its name. It grows

about 4'-6' high and wide so it would make a great shrub to divide a large yard or for privacy around a seating area. It reminds me a little of Abelia grandiflora only it doesn't get quite as large. The leaves are opposite, oval and about 1" long and wide. They are a glossy dark green with a cream and magenta margin. I think they have a spicy sent when crushed. The small drooping flowers are white to pink and consist of about 4 or 5 petals with numerous stamens visible. This plant will fruit, a small red, white or purple berry, and the fruit is edible. In fact, it was used in the production of strawberry flavoring. It is still used today in Chilean cuisine, making the traditional liqueur 'Murtado', and jam. In Australia it is referred to as the Tazziberry and the New Zealand Cranberry in, of course, New Zealand. It flowers in the spring through the summer. Full sun, moderate to no water and well drained soil are the tickets to success with the Chilean Guava.



Brachyglottis is a great substitute for artemesia or dusty miller if you are looking for a silver plant for your garden. Silver gray and pink are a wonderful combination in the garden. 'Silver Dormouse' is an evergreen shrub that will grow about 3' by 3' so it will form a wonderful border, low hedge or fit into a container perfectly. The leaves are a gray-green with a white margin and white underside. They are also on the fuzzy side, giving them a very soft texture in your garden. In summer, it freely produces a cluster of rich golden yellow daisy like flowers. This plant actually came from West Sussex, England. But it will do just fine here in Southern California. Place it in full sun with good draining soil, and it will thrive. It is hardy to about 18°F. It also needs little to regular irrigation depending upon your soil. This plant is a little different than others in this family in that it is a little more compact, has less leaf edge curl and less of a tendency to die or brown out in the middle.

Anthemis is a genus of about 100 species of aromatic herbs better known as Chamomile. How sad that some species are known as Dog Fennel. Anthemis is native to the Mediterranean, southwest Asia, east to Iran. The flowers are used for tea, and the leaves, when crushed, give off a scent of apples. It grows well in light, sandy soil. Nicknamed 'the plants' physician', it seems to improve the health of other plants grown near it. Chamomile flowers make a good rinse for fair hair. The type of chamomile I found is a bit different, of course.



Anthemis tinctoria, or Golden Marguerite and Yellow Chamomile, is a species of chamomile that is also in the Sunflower family (Asteraceae). This popular flower has several common names: Golden Marguerite, Marguerite

Daisy, Dyer's Chamomile, Ox-eye Chamomile, Boston Daisies, and Paris Daisies. It has yellow daisy-like flowers terminally on long thin angular stems, blooming in profusion during the summer. It has no culinary or medicinal uses; however, it does produce yellow, buff, and golden orange dyes that have been used for fabric processing in the past.

Anthemis tinctoria is grown for its bright flowers and lacy foliage; there is also a white flowering form. It will grow about 2' x 2' at maturity. Full sun and regular water in a well draining soil will allow this lovely little plant to shine. The leaves are finely divided and downy on the backside, and are aromatic when crushed. This is a pretty hardy little plant. The only downside is that it is short lived. It is a biennial (two years), just like foxglove, but time well spent in your garden.



I noticed a small flower, the cutest pink, and thought it was a type of twinspur. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the particular variety I was looking at was called 'Mask Flower' or Alonsoa meridionalis. It comes to us

from Peru. I also learned it comes in a variety of colors, pink, red, apricot and orange, but this particular variety was called 'Pink Beauty.' This perennial is a little sub-shrub that is perfect for a sunny border. It will grow about 3' tall and wide but it has a sprawling growth habit so give it a little extra room. The leaves can range from a silver gray to a bright green and are held on dark colored stems that make them stand out. The Mask Flower blooms in summer. This plant prefers a sunny location but it will work in a partial shade situation. It is hardy to 20°F and needs regular water but be careful not to overwater. Tip: prune these little shrubs to keep them bushy.

Well, I'm off to wander around Huntington Botanical Garden, again. You know I'll find something there that we all just have to include in our gardens. Until then, happy planting! ●

WAN to offer exclusive brand of plants

In April, look for a new line of plants known as Garden Elements, available in both stores, that are specifically grown for Walter Andersen Nursery.

Plants will include annuals, hanging baskets, combination planters and perennials. The plants are branded as Garden Elements and will not be available for sale in the box stores or at nurseries that aren't a member of the Master Nursery Garden Center Association (MNGC). Garden Elements is the first green goods brand developed by, and totally owned by, a group of independent garden centers.

Garden Elements is the MNGCs exclusive brand of premium annuals that was launched on the East Coast in 2007 with one grower supplying 27 garden centers. By 2008, there were four growers and 92 garden centers in the program. In 2009, MNGC anticipates well over 100 of its member garden centers will be participating, served by seven growers. Walter Andersen Nursery is pleased to be the only nursery participating in the program so far in San Diego County.



the wee corner



Corona, is for you. It's actually nine tools in one and it comes with a lifetime guarantee. In one small appliance, you'll get a bypass pruner, bottle opener, sprinkler tool, weeder, ruler, flat screwdriver, point blade knife, half serrated knife blade and a pruning knife. Reasonably priced at \$19.99, this is a stainless steel tool that has pullouts that resist rust and corrosion. It's a great gift for Father's Day. Corona has reinvented some of its garden tools, made them better and reduced the price of them. Take a look at what is new with this product line and make the chores of gardening easier. ●

Sustainable Gardening *Continued from P1*

bees into the area to pollinate whatever else is planted nearby too. Garlic planted around the perimeter of your veggies will prevent bunnies from harvesting your crops for you. Lure ladybugs into the area with plants like Dill and Yarrow, and they will keep the aphid population controlled—but Ladybugs are very sensitive to insecticides, and won't stay around long if you decide to use something else to control your pests. If you planted said tomato next to, say, Lupine, which digs deep into the soil and pulls up calcium into shallower areas, you reduce your chances of all-too-common "Blossom End Rot" detracting from your harvest.

Companion planting also involves rotating your crops. Planting Marigolds the season before your crop will defend it against harmful nematodes. Planting something like beans, that takes nitrogen from the air and puts it into absorbable form in the soil, prepares the area for nitrogen lovers. If you can plan a season or two ahead with crops such as these, you will decrease the amount of nutrients that need to be amended back into the soil. I like to add in compost every time I plant.

Don't forget to mulch. Many people don't believe the benefits of mulching exist until they see it with their own eyes. Weeds aren't allowed to grow, roots are insulated from temperature extremes, and very importantly, water evaporation is greatly reduced. All it takes is a couple inches of something like leftover compost, decorative bark mulch, or even grass clippings. There are several choices that can do the job.

While we are talking about ways to use less water, here's a tip that makes both plant and gardener happy: water deeply and infrequently. Any time you come into the store, you'll hear us recommend watering long enough to push the salts in the soil down past the roots to prevent salt-burn on your plants. But the way it ends up saving water is by promoting deeper root growth. Roots grow where water touches them, so if you only water the first 6" of your soil, that's the only place roots will grow, leaving your plants at the mercy of the elements. The entire area could dry up in a matter of hours during a hot day. A larger expanse of roots is going to have access to a greater supply of water and nutrients already in the soil. Water your growing plants deeply and encourage them to go further.

The result of sustainable gardening is an army of beneficial insects and organisms to protect and treat the garden, and plants that can sustain themselves. There are a lot of tips and tricks out there on how to create a sustainable garden. Do some research, or come into one of our stores and we will work with you to find a few different things that might work for you. ●

by Ken Andersen

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!

POINT LOMA 9am

April

- 4/4 Water Gardens
- 4/11 Tomato Care
- 4/18 Azaleas
- 4/25 Cymbidium Orchid – How To Divide & Repot

May

- 5/2 Cactus & Succulents
- 5/9 Gifts For Mother
- 5/16 Grafting & Budding
- 5/23 Tropical Fruits
- 5/30 Attracting Butterflies & Bees

June

- 6/6 Fuchsias – Varieties & Care 1pm: "How To Grow Giant Pumpkins" with Stuart Shim
- 6/13 Shade Gardens
- 6/20 Bromeliads & Tillandsias
- 6/27 Children's Gardens

POWAY 9:30am

April

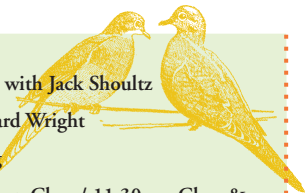
- 4/4 Good Bugs, Bad Bugs with Jack Shoultz
- 4/11 Lawn Care with Richard Wright
- 4/18 Backyard Composting
- 4/25 9:30am–Rose Show Prep Class / 11:30am–Class & Booksigning: High Impact, Low Water Palm Spring Gardens with Author Maureen Gilmer

May

- 5/2 Class & Booksigning; Firewise Planting with Author Richard Halsey
- 5/9 Gardening For Butterflies
- 5/16 Annual Rose Show; No Class Scheduled
- 5/23 Irrigation with Richard Wright
- 5/30 How To Build A Pondless Waterfall, by Advanced Waterscape

June

- 6/6 How To Grow Giant Pumpkins with Stuart Shim, 'The Pumpkin Kahuna'
- 6/13 Worm Composting with Sharon from Sharon's Worm World
- 6/20 Summer Fruit Tree Pruning / Backyard Orchards with Richard Wright
- 6/27 Summer Color



book signing events & classes

This spring, our Poway location will present the authors of two new books we have available for sale. The authors will join us for a special free class they will teach, and sign copies of their books.

Palm Springs Style Gardening by **Maureen Gilmer** makes low-water gardening easy. This type of gardening features a wide

variety of desert plants, trees & shrubs that showers the landscape in candy- bright blossoms, interesting textures, and sculptural forms. Gilmer will present, 'High Impact, Low Water Palm Springs Style', April 25 at 11:30am at our Poway store.

Richard W. Halsey, a biologist and fire ecologist, is the author of **Fire, Chaparral and Survival in Southern California**. He will teach a class about firewise planting on May 2 at 9:30am at our Poway store.



TOOL SHED

Try This Soil Conditioner



We have a number of customers asking for John and Bob's Soil Optimizer®. While Walter Andersen Nursery doesn't carry this product, we have recommended a similar product for a long time.

The product we carry is Gro Power ALL ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER 75/20. Gro

Power ALL ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER 75/20 is 75% Humus (concentrated organic matter) 20% humic acid and 5% Norwegian Sea Kelp and is an excellent source of micronutrients, amino acids, and growth hormones. Gro Power ALL ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER 75/20 also improves soil structure, helps chelate nutrients, enhances root development, improves plant vigor and appearance, adds beneficial soil microbes to the soil, reduces need for chemical fertilizer, and enhances seed germination. One of the best things about this product is the price. An 8.8 pound bag is currently \$12.99 or \$1.48/lb! The 50lb bag sells for \$29.99. We encourage you to try Gro Power ALL ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER 75/20. We think you will be pleased with the results and the savings! ●

Hedge Fund\$ Popularity Continues To Grow



January brought with it the second window for Hedge Fund\$ point redemptions and our customers wasted no time cashing in! Folks immediately began using the points they earned on purchases made between July 1 and December 31 towards things they needed for their gardens. At last look we had redeemed more than 33,000 points for customers!

Getting in on the action is easy, just sign up at either store and you are ready to go. If you get our newsletters but have not gotten a Hedge Fund\$ card yet, just ask for one next time you are in the store. To earn the points, you need to have the Hedge Fund\$ card number attached to your account. The card also speeds the checking out process as the cashiers can bring up your account with it that saves time from having to look your account up in the system.

The next earning period started January 1 and runs through June 30. The next round of redemptions begins on July 1, so get your card today and start earning points for summer savings now!

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, CA 92110
619-224-8271
12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900

www.walterandersen.com

Spring Savings!

COUPON

Valid April 1–30, 2009

Save \$4 OFF
Gro Power or Gro Power Plus
40# Bag Only. Limit 3

#10024513

Limit three (3) per customer. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively. Valid April 1-30, 2009.

COUPON

Valid May 1–31, 2009

Save 10% OFF
Your Next Purchase!
Present This Coupon and Receive 10% Off
Your In-Store Purchase

#104618

Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Not valid for labor, delivery, design or consultation services, previously discounted merchandise and sod. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively. Valid May 1–31, 2009.

COUPON

Valid June 1–30, 2009

Save \$2 OFF
Sunshine Container Mix
1.5 cu.ft. Only. Limit 3

#104574

Limit three (3) per customer. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively. Valid June 1–30, 2009.

Store Hours & Closings

With the move to daylight savings time, please note that the Poway store hours are now **M-F 9am–6pm & 9am–5pm weekends.** Both stores will be **closed April 12** in observance of Easter.

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900



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