

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



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11th Annual Rose Show Is Set

The eleventh annual Walter Andersen Nursery Rose Show is scheduled for May 15-16 at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway store at 12755 Danielson Court. This popular event continues to grow with last year seeing more than 100 entries.

This year's event will feature 'A Best Child's Under the Age 14' category. This is a fun and informative way to get children interested in growing what could be a prize-winning rose. You'll also be able to find show schedules on line at www.walterandersen.com/pdf/2010-roseshow-schedule.pdf

A rose show prep class will be held May 8 to help participants learn how to prepare roses for the show. The rose preparation class begins at 9:30am, at the Poway location.

Entries will be taken May 15 from 8-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are May 15 from 1-5pm and May 16 from 9am-4pm. You are encouraged to pick up your entries between 4-5pm as they, along with tags, will be unavailable after close of business on May 16.



For Your Convenience...

Would you prefer to receive your newsletter by mail, or look at it online? Send an email to wan.poway@yahoo.com, and note your preference. You may also provide your email address and request to receive regular e-blasts from the Nursery. Unfortunately, we are not able to email newsletters, yet.

Shop Online!

Yes, you can sit in front of your computer and still shop at the nursery. You'll find a variety of dry good products for purchase along with gift cards. Find the online store at www.walterandersen.com. Just click on the Online Store button.

Garden Elements Returns By Popular Demand

By Jen Merzigian
Garden Elements is back for a second season. It is the only brand completely developed and owned by independent garden centers, and is only available to nurseries that are members of the Master Nursery Garden Center Association. This year's program will still feature several lush annual and perennial favorites from last spring, but has expanded to include some gorgeous succulents, great varieties of herbs and vegetables, and new combinations in their already outstanding hanging baskets and container gardens. The container gardens this year will incorporate succulents as well, and others will have groups of herbs and veggies conveniently combined to fit the needs of your kitchen garden. As always, Walter Andersen's customer service representatives are here to advise you on your plants' needs and care, so you can keep them looking as gorgeous at home as they do the day they leave our store!



Grevilleas Top Drought Tolerant Suggestions

by Melanie Potter



'Scarlet Sprite'

There are so many plants to choose from if you are looking to convert your landscape to a more drought tolerant palette. Given that fact, it was ironic that when nursery employees were asked about their favorite drought tolerant plants, some had the same favorites.

First of all, be aware that there is a difference between drought tolerant plants and natives. Drought tolerance refers to a measure of how well plants will survive during extended dry periods. Natives, though they may have low water requirements, are best defined as those that have evolved and adapted to a specific location and have remained genetically unaltered by humans. After becoming established in your landscape, natives thrive on neglect, usually not needing supplemental water or feeding.

Ask David Ross, our Poway store manager and green goods buyer, about his favored drought tolerant plants and with lightening speed his mind sifts through the huge selection and he instantly tells you it's the Grevillea family, native to Australia.

Both he and Greg Steffan, a Walter Andersen Nursery customer service representative, agreed that the Grevillea ground covers, 'Coastal Gem' and 'Mt. Tamboritha' are the groundcovers they prefer. 'Coastal Gem' can be used where you might want a low Juniper. The plants have very tightly spaced small leaves that give it a fine texture and it grows to 2' tall and 3-4' wide. 'Mt. Tamboritha' blooms heavily from December to March and then sporadically the rest of the year with showy bunches of pink and cream flowers resembling large raspberries. The leaves are grey green with hairy undersides, and are smaller and much more compact than others of the species.



Fuchsia flowered gooseberry



Teenie Genie

Groundcover favorites weren't limited to Grevilleas, which by the way, hummingbirds adore. In addition to them, Tom Ferguson's suggestions were Calylophus and Santa Barbara daisies. Calylophus or Texas primrose, is a low and spreading groundcover that blooms with yellow, papery flowers from late spring through fall. Santa Barbara daisy, or Fleabane, can be used in more ways than for groundcover purposes. This evergreen perennial grows to 2' tall and can spread 5' wide. Pinkish-white daisy-like flowers may bloom year round. It can be used in containers, and as a spiller plant that trails from a container.

If you are looking for something taller than a groundcover, David's suggestion is Grevillea rosmarinifolia 'Scarlet Sprite'. This is a mounding, compact shrub to 4-5' tall by 8' wide with soft-textured needle-like leaves. The rosy-pink and cream colored flowers are showy during the winter and spring and it's hardy to 20 F.

Greg did mention that he likes Australian natives rather than California natives. Well them's fighting words and customer service representative Donovan Lewis was quick to take up the cause of California natives. "I like the wilder look of California natives," he said, citing Manzanitas as one of his favorite. He also noted fuchsia flowered gooseberry or Ribes speciosum, a four foot tall nearly evergreen shrub with red fuchsia-like flowers that appear January through May. This gooseberry has spiny stems and fruits and glossy dark green leaves. (The fruits look like red jewels.) This plant likes shade to sun, no water to moderate water with good drainage, but tolerates clay soil.

Another of Tom's favored plants is Salvia greggii (Autumn sage), an herbaceous perennial native from southwest Texas, through the Chihuahuan Desert and into the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi. It typically grows in rocky soil at elevations from 5,000-9,000 feet. This plant can take some shade and best of all, because it has many varieties, there is a size and color that fits nearly every landscape need.

For color, Tom also recommended Teenie Genie Lantana and Mexican Bird of Paradise (Caesalpinia). Teenie Genie comes to us from Monrovia Nursery. An evergreen, it is a dense and compact shrub with a continuous display of multi-colored flowers which open chiffon yellow and transition to fuchsia pink. It can be used in containers, mass plantings and borders.

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Big Results In The Small Garden Space

by Jen Merzigian



'Mohawk' Bell Peppers

The past year has shown a huge trend toward growing edibles in the garden. In addition, people are gravitating toward plants that take up less space without sacrificing the quantity and quality of production. This spring, in addition to the old favorites, we're going to be bringing in some new, great space-saving varieties from Burpee Seeds.

'Pickalot' pickling Cucumbers will be an exciting newcomer to Walter Andersen Nursery. In addition to the plant only growing to 4', it begins fruiting early, and continues throughout the summer. The fruit can be used at any size, and best of all, it's resistant to Powdery Mildew, which has been one of the greatest difficulties for Cucumber growers.

'Purple Blaze' Eggplants have a gorgeous, purple and white-streaked fruit, borne on a 20" plant. The 4", almost-round fruit are tender with great flavor.



'Purple Blaze'

'Hottie' is a pungent Hot Pepper on a compact plant. The smoky flavored fruit grows from green to orange, and is ideally harvested at 2-3" Also check out 'Jalapeno Gigante' and 'Ristra Cayenne' for improvements to old favorites that fit just as nicely into a large patio container.



'Sugar Baby'

If you prefer your peppers sweet, 'Costa Rican Sweet' Red Pepper is described as having more flavor than most Sweet Bells! And speaking of Bell Peppers, another surprising addition to our stock will be a Pepper that can be grown in...wait for it...hanging baskets! The 'Mohawk' Bell Pepper can be harvested green, but has more vitamins when fully ripened to orange. The large, orange fruit will be a tasty and attractive adornment to any sunny patio. 'Red Delicious' Bell Pepper is so named due to its apple taste when fully ripe. The 3" fruit is ready to harvest two months after planting!

If your horizontal space is limited, start growing vertically! Many vining crops will do just as well growing up a sturdy trellis as they would creeping along the ground. 'Jack-Be-Little' Pumpkins are small enough to not weigh down the vine (which can grow up to 10').

This season, more varieties of your favorite veggies are going to be coming out with a "bush" option. In particular, rambling vines will no longer interfere with your desire for Squash. 'Butterbush' is a Butternut Squash on a 4' bush, and 'Bush Table Queen' is the containable version of the 'Table Queen' Acorn Squash.

Continued p2

Going Ga Ga Over Polygalas

by Melanie Potter



Polygala 'Portola'

I think the word is getting out about Polygalas. This attractive shrub works in a variety of landscapes, is hardy and blooms with pretty purple sweet pea-like flowers and makes a great hedge. I'm seeing more and more of them in landscapes and it always seems to be blooming.

After taking a look at what was available for sale at the nursery, it turns out there are several varieties to choose from, all with their sweet looking flowers, and one with longer, lance-like leaves (Polygala dalmaisiana) that grows tall and gets leggy.

Polygala fruticosa 'Petite Butterfly' is a compact shrub that grows to almost 3 feet tall with a rounded habit. It is has gray-green foliage. It is very free flowering with the purple sweet pea-like flowers, composed of two winged petals

Continued p2

Summer Flowers Are Good Cutting Flowers, Too

by Jen Merzigan



Ozothamnus 'Rice Flower'

As the weather truly warms to herald the arrival of summer, you will notice the arrival of one of my all-time favorite flowers: Lisianthus. It is sometimes known as "Blue Lisa's" (though they come in many more colors) and "Texas Bluebell". Lisianthus herald in the season of cut-flowers. So many bouquet-worthy plants

become available that it is hard to resist dedicating a section of your garden to cut-flowers alone.

The wide variety of Lisianthus could take up a large portion of a garden by themselves: 8" to 4', white, pink, pale orange, blue, bicolor, single petaled or double and triple petaled to look like roses. But, there are some other notables that you may not have known that have great vase-life.

Angelonia comes in a variety of colors as well as heights for your choosing. Its common name is "Summer Snapdragon", resembling mini Snapdragons, but loving the heat of the summer. You are probably already familiar with giant Zinnias. 'State Fair Mix' is a staple in the cut-flower garden, as are the 'Benary Giant' and 'Dahlia' or 'Cactus-Flowered', though they are not always as easy to find. A variety of Asters called 'Matsumoto' becomes available in the heat of summer, and offers rich pinks, blues, and purples. Many tall Celosia create a really eye-catching display with their fuzzy texture and electric colors. Cosmos have delicate petals in varying shapes ('Seashell' has an interesting spoon-like edge); some varieties come in shades from white to dark pink, some come in yellow and orange, and 'Chocolate Cosmos' show up later in the season with a rich and unique burgundy color.

Tall African Marigolds such as the 'Inca' series hold gorgeous yellow and orange pom-poms atop sturdy stems, and are worthy of a bouquet just by themselves. Carnations are an obvious choice, and come in many more interesting colors and variations than you often find at a florist shop! Dianthus "Sweet William" comes in white, corals, and reds. Gerbera Daisies are a must-have as well, coming in so many colors, and occasionally available in a frilly 'Spider' form.

As far as fillers go, "Baby's Breath" isn't your only option! There are many easy to grow alternatives. One in particular worth having is Limonium (Statice). The typical Limonium perezii has a large mass of purple bracts that last well in a vase, but there are varieties that come in pastels and whites. Ozothamnus "Rice Flower" is a shrub that comes in various heights, and the flowers are usually pink or white. Trachelium have white flower clusters above delicate, green stems, or purple clusters above purple stems, which add an airy feeling to the bouquet. Flowering stems of fruit trees should not go unnoticed, particularly if the flowers are fragrant!

Coleus surprised me, lasting longer than all other flowers in the same vase. After several months of heat, Coleus can get leggy and unattractive in the garden, but clipped Coleus gives great texture and color to a floral display. Some Coleus are especially bred to be leggy and bare of leaves at the bottom of the stem to be clipped for your vase!

Summer brings so many cut-flower possibilities, and we've only touched on them. Come in this summer to see what's in bloom! Join us on May 29th in Poway for our class on using cut flowers in arrangements. ●

Polygalas

Continued from p1

surrounding a whitish purple lacy crest, found on the plant nearly year-round. It can be planted in full sun or part shade with regular to little irrigation. It is hardy to 15-20 F and makes a good cut flower that lasts well in arrangements. It is also grown in the nursery trade as Polygala myrtifolia 'Mariposa' - mariposa is the Spanish word for butterfly, which the flowers resemble. These can be trimmed as a hedge or left untrimmed for a more natural look.

Polygala virgata 'Portola' is a fast growing shrub that can grow up to 6 ft. tall, and has long, narrow leaves and spikes of purple sweet pea-like blossoms. Whereas Polygala fruticosa grows in a more compact habit, this one is very upright growing and bare at the base. It tolerates dry conditions and frost once established. You can plant in sun or part shade and it is a little more cold hardy, to 10-15 F.

Polygala x dalmaisiana is thought to be a cross between Polygala oppositifolia and P. myrtifolia. It is also a fast grower that reaches 3-5 feet tall with narrow 1 inch long leaves, more wider than Polygala 'Portola' and flowers that are a purplish pink. In coastal climates this plant can bloom throughout the year. Like the other members of this family, you can plant in full sun or part shade with regular to little irrigation. It is at least as hardy as the other two profiled. It also tolerates a wide range of soil types but not heavy wet soil. The trunk and lower stems are often bare so trim or shear to keep compact. ●



'Petite Butterfly'



Give Peace Lilies A Chance

by Melanie Potter

Spathiphyllum is known to be hardy, and easy to grow, but it can be temperamental and likes everything just so. Think of it as a bit eccentric or quirky.

Their deep green and lush foliage is center stage for the white calla lily-like blooms that give the plant its nicknames, Spath, White Anthuriums, Snowflowers or Peace Lily. It's best known as a Peace Lily and in the 1990s it rocketed to popularity by being grown in a vase of water that was home to a male betta fish.

These tropical plants are found on the floor of the rain forests. As a result they can grow in very low light. They do prefer bright light, but not direct sunlight which will cause the leaves to burn and yellow.

When watering the plant, remember its tropical origin and you'll realize that the plant likes to stay moist, but not overly wet or soggy. It shouldn't be allowed to dry completely out between watering. If you don't water it just so, it will let you know with its drooping leaves that will eventually yellow due to too much or too little water.

The plant is not a demanding plant. It should be planted in a good potting soil. Peace Lilies age like we do; they grow wider and not taller! When the flower has died, remove it as you'll get additional blooms intermittently throughout the growing season. Flowers first appear when the plant is mature enough and consist of a large white spathe with a



white or pale yellow spadix. In warm weather, flowers from some varieties emit a sweet fragrance. Yellowed leaves can be gently stripped from the stalk.

Fertilizing the Peace Lily is easy and if you don't get it right, the plant will let you know. Because it is a house plant and grows slowly, it won't require much fertilizing. However, if you wish to feed, use a 20-20-20 fertilizer monthly. Just like in most plants, over fertilizing will cause the tips of plants and the roots to burn. ●



Words From Walter

With Walter Andersen, Jr.

Spring is here! It is my favorite time of the year. The cold weather is past, probably the heavy rains also. Everything is sending out lots of new growth, many plants are starting to bloom. This year our hills and canyons are velvety green, something we don't see that often.

Easter is April 4 this year. There are many beautiful blooming plants in the nursery now. Check out the Azaleas, Roses, several kinds of Lilies, and don't forget the many different Orchids that are in bloom now. Orchids tend to last several weeks, generally outlasting most cut bloom displays. Flowers always brighten up a home, and this is a special time for them.

Many things are going on in our gardens and yards the next few months. Some Cymbidium Orchids are still blooming. As the blossoms fade, it is time to think about repotting them into larger containers. For those that are getting too large, this is the ideal time to divide them (after the blooms die). This way you have a head start for the warmer weather and lots of fresh new growth. If you do repot, check out the Coconut "Coir" in the cubes. This is a great potting medium for Cymbidium; mine are doing great with this. I use it 'as is' from the small bale, which fluffs up to almost 2 cu. ft. We have all of the pots or containers you may need for your replanting. The orchids should be fed with a high nitrogen plant food this time of the year. Check out Grow More 30-10-10. This is especially formulated for Cymbidium Orchids for this time of the year. If you think repotting is more than you care to take on, we can repot your plants for you, just bring them into the nursery. (A fee may apply, see store for details.)

Drought Tolerant Suggestions *Continued from p1*

Andy Shearer is our walking plant encyclopedia at the Poway store. He said the first place he takes customers who want to add drought tolerant plants to the landscape is to look at Leucadendron, from Australia, which is a relative of the protea family. "I like the different varieties, the leaf shapes, sizes and foliage color," explained Andy. "It's half way between a shrub and a succulent." Andy reported that most get about 5' tall and all need good drainage.

Grevilleas made his list as did Phormiums with their wide choice of sizes and colors. He was quick to praise California natives too, "They have incredible diversity", he said pointing to a Catalina Ironwood. This is a sub species of Ironwood trees and now is native only to Catalina Island but used to grow on the mainland. It can be a shrub with several crooked stems or a tree growing up to 60' tall. Also called a Lyontree, the leaves look delicate but are as rough as sandpaper and were used by Indians who made the tough wood into spear handles and shafts, and European settlers used it for making fishing poles and canes.

Andy's final thought on California natives was to give a shout out to Manzanitas (another of Tom's favorites) which he said he prefers over Ceanothus. "It's a better texture, easier to grow and can have nice, red bark." With that he took a customer to the native bed to show her the plant she requested - a Manzanita.

Editor's Note - While these plants tend to be regularly stocked, the economy has forced growers to have less inventory available. Some will be available in limited supply so it's best to purchase them when you see them. ●

Spring Is The Best Time

This is probably the ideal time to freshen the garden and plant your veggies. Last year, many gardeners planted a vegetable garden for the first time, with great success. The nursery has a wonderful selection of all kinds of vegetables, in stock and ready to plant. We don't have just two kinds of lettuce, instead, there is probably at least five or six varieties to choose from. The Tomato selection is amazing. We have all of the most popular ones, and the Heirloom Tomatoes are starting to come in as well. I grow most of my Tomatoes in large plastic tubs to avoid the terrible soils, and I can have some great looking Tomatoes on my patio, just outside my back door. This plan is especially good if you have a balcony, or you have had problems with root-knot-nematode. You can grow some amazing Tomatoes in a squat 15-gallon container. I use Sunshine Planter Mix in the green bag and the tomatoes love it. Other mouthwatering vegetables to consider include Peppers, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Squash, Corn, and Broccoli.

April and May are also one of the very best times to plant your root crops. Radish, Beets and Carrots all thrive this time of the year. To improve your soil in the veggie area, try our own special Ada Perry's Redwood Blend Compost®. This is a great product to improve your soil and add much needed organic material. It is also a great value, large 3 cu. ft. bale for only \$6.99. When you plant these, veggies, don't sow the whole packet of seed (they are tiny) but make several plantings about 2 weeks apart so you don't have too many develop at one time. This spreads out your harvest for many weeks or even months. ●



Cymbidium Orchids

Small Garden Space

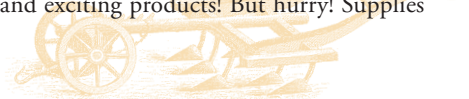
Continued from p1

'Sugar Baby' Watermelons have been a favorite of mine for a long time, because it is a compact plant with perfect 6-10 lb fruit and lots of flavor. Though the inside is your typical orange-red (with very few seeds, I might add), the outside is a surprising glossy-black.

Saving the Tomatoes for last, you will find 'BushSteak' (a bush Beefsteak) and 'Bush Early Girl' (early and prolific on an 18" plant) as compact alternatives of two of the best-known Tomatoes. 'Steak Sandwich' is a prolific and compact slicing Tomato, and 'SuperTasty' says it all in the name, with the added benefit of needing minimal staking for support. And once again, we are surprised to find a hanging basket variety. 'Tumbler' makes a gorgeous and full hanging basket, dripping with sweet, Cherry Tomatoes. This plant produces extra early, and is very productive.

In addition to Burpee's fantastic varieties, Garden Elements is coming back this year with a 'Bush' Slicing Cucumber, 'Bush' Pickling Cucumber, and 'Window Box Roma'. Feel free to come by our small-space experimental garden and see how some of these new veggies are shaping up!

Compact varieties are not all that's new in the vegetable section this season, so please come in and let us introduce you to some of our new and exciting products! But hurry! Supplies will be limited. ●



Bedding Plants

by Melanie Potter

Getting Left Out of Some Landscapes



Nemesia



Mimulus



It dawned on me one weekend not too long ago, when I was walking through the neighborhood, that I'm seeing fewer and fewer homeowners using bedding plants in their landscape. The shopping center had beds full of color from impatiens, begonias and poppies that get changed out seasonally. Homeowners though seem to be resorting to planting flowering shrubs and not bothering with blooming flowers.

Impatiens are always a favorite but what about some of the less used flowers? Here's a look at some to consider:

ARGYRANTHEMUM – This is a new daisy to replace the Marguerites of yesteryear. Most of these floriferous daisies are compact growers, getting only 1-3' tall and 2-4' wide depending upon the variety. Because they are profuse bloomers, they always have new flowers coming, naturally hiding the old, spent blooms. Best of all, you don't have to deadhead them to encourage new blooms. They come in white, pink, yellow or red and in single or double types. These plants like full sun (some varieties will take partial shade) and average water. You can use them in the landscape or in containers.

Argyranthemum



NEMESIA – Another sun lover is Nemesia, a South African native. This is a flower that comes in colors such as white, blue-violet, and pink and is a good choice for containers, borders or as bulb covers. The flowers are also fragrant and slightly resemble Snapdragons, having two lips and a spur. Plant in well draining soil that is enriched with organic matter and water regularly. These are frost hardy.

MIMULUS – Not all garden spots provide the sun needed for many plants, but a shady spot will be a good home for these. Mimulus, or monkey flower, nicknamed for its monkey-looking face, resembles Nemesia and it also is colorful, blooming with pink, red, orange, yellow or purple blooms. It can also be called a musk flower as some varieties will produce a musk scent. There are many varieties of Mimulus so check the variety's care instructions as they can differ. Another plant, commonly called Monkey Flower is Mimulus aurantiacus or Sticky Monkey Flower. This California native likes full sun or partial shade and requires little water and good drainage. With regular water, you may be able to see it flower repeatedly throughout the year.

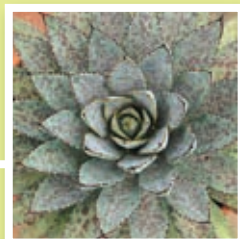
Campanula or Bellflower has about 300 species that will provide you with choices that trail, clump or creep. Flowers are either star or bell shaped and have five petals. Most varieties come in shades of blue/lavender or white but there are a few pink types available. They grow best in well drained soil and need moderate to regular water. Slugs and snails like Campanula and some varieties can be invasive. Grow in containers, in rock gardens or as a border. ●

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

You have no idea how much I love looking for new plants and sharing what I have found with

you. When I started gardening with my grandfather, and then my father, I was limited to what "they" wanted to grow. When I moved away to an apartment it was whatever I could grow in pots, which is a lot, but limited when my roommates began missing the use of the balcony. Now I have a whole yard and I can't wait to try these out.



There was a time when I was not fond of succulents but a friend of mine showed me his yard, which was featured in San Diego Magazine, and he supplied me with my first cuttings. Now, I can't get enough. I came across an Agave that really looks more like a succulent.

Mangave 'Bloodspot' is a compact succulent type agave that forms a rosette. What is interesting is that it is a non-suckering form. It will grow about 12" by 15" wide and has upright 8" long by 1" wide leaves. What is cool is that the gray-green leaves have a toothed margin that is edged with maroon and has speckles, some of the same color. It is drought tolerant like most succulents and loves the full sun, but will tolerate light shade. Well-draining soil is a must and some regular irrigation to get it started is suggested. This is a fairly new cultivar so cold hardiness is unknown at this time, but due to its parentage (Manfrada maculosa – Japan, Agave macroacantha – Mexico) it will likely be most hardy in coastal gardens with little to no irrigation.



I started off with an all native yard but found that during the summer the yard wasn't as great as I wanted it to look all year long, so, I started adding a few non-natives here

and there and now I have color all year long. Salvias are great for this but so are Bromeliads. There are some that take full sun, part sun, or shade. They are not just an indoor plant any more, and they are pretty easy to grow. There is a beautiful display of outdoor bromeliads at the Huntington Botanic Garden. In addition, San Diego's Bromeliad Society is a great source of information and getting a few cuttings from now and then. This next plant is a succulent in the bromeliad family. Puya coerulea, aka Puya, is a bromeliad from Peru.

This is a plant that has apparently been in Southern California for quite some time, about 30 years and has had a couple different botanical names. (I hate it when they do that).

It has beautiful silver-white leaves that will form a plant about 2 to 3 feet across. The leaves form in rosettes that develop spikes in spring bearing dark purple flowers in summer. Plant this succulent in full sun in well-draining soil or on a mound of soil (Huntington did it this way) so the soil drains well. It has very low water needs. In fact, in a coastal garden you will probably not have to water this at all after the initial planting. Also, it doesn't prefer any particular soil type. However, if the temperature in your area drops below 20° F, then make sure to keep it in a pot or cover it during times of frost and freeze. You will have to wait until the mother plant has no green left before you remove it from the pups but you can always put a companion plant next to it to diffuse the brown leaves until you can remove them without damaging the pups. See, you can have a low-water garden that doesn't look like a desert.

Okay, this next one is a water hog so be sure to plant it close to the house, near the hose bib, or in a pot that you attend to regularly because high water is one of this plants needs. I know we are in a water crisis. I've been warning you all of this for years. But crisis or not this plant is beautiful and a wonderful addition to a tropical garden. You can yell at me later.



Showy Asian Grapes, also known as Medinilla speciosa, is a small woody shrub that will grow 3-4' tall. It has square stems, another unique attribute, and has 8" long and 6" wide leathery leaves that

have very distinct veins. When it gets warm, late spring to fall numerous small pink panicle flowers appear on dark pink (almost burgundy) stems. These flowers mature to a blue fruit. Be aware the fruit is not edible and is listed on the poisonous plants of the Malay Peninsula. I found a mystery plant that looks very similar to this species growing in a client's yard. We think it migrated (thanks birds) from another area because she certainly didn't plant it, and it is also in her neighbors' yard. I have a similar looking plant that I got from Tom Piergrossi that is also a Medinilla. So I'm still on the hunt for the mystery plant and I think I'm getting close.

Medinilla should be planted in a shaded or morning sun only spot, and if water pools in the same spot, this could be the perfect location. This plant is native to the mountainous regions of Indonesia so it does not like to dry out for too long. Sensitive to temperatures below 30 °F, it can grow in gardens in frost free coastal California locations, but can also be used as a house plant unless you have fur children that like to chew on plants. Remember it is considered poisonous.

I'm always looking for plants that show other plants off. Since I became interested in floral design I've added some plants to my garden just for the texture and the unique design it brings to flower arranging.

Garden Railroading Steaming Back To Life



Now that LGB has gone through its throes of bankruptcy reorganization, we are starting to see a return of the garden railroad market. For more than two years the entire industry was in turmoil as LGB sorted out its financial situation. The savior appeared to be Marklin but they too went into bankruptcy shortly after their acquisition of LGB. Once the Marklin situation settled there was still the question as to who would become LGB's U.S. distributor. That final question was settled a few months ago when William K. Walther's Company was granted distributorship for LGB products.

Once that was established, new product began to roll into the U.S. and we were finally able to stock some items we had not been able to get for some time.

While there are still some kinks in the supply line, the amount and variety of LGB product that is becoming available is increasing on an almost daily basis. What has been slow to bounce back are repair parts. While some are becoming available there are still some big gaps in what is currently in inventory. We have been told that some repair parts may no longer be available for some models. We have also been trying to find alternate sources of parts for LGB products and we have had some success there as well. We were told that they uncovered a huge cache of repair parts in Germany in storage and Walther's had a man in the field cataloging and inventorying the load prior to shipping it to the U.S.

Garden Railroading is a great hobby that is fun for the entire family. We stock virtually everything you will need to start your own layout, from starter sets, to rolling stock, track, buildings and accessories we have. We also stock a good selection of plants that are perfectly sized for Garden Railway layouts. If you haven't seen the layout in our Poway store, it is worth the trip. It is in operation, weather permitting, daily from 10:30am to 4pm. ●

Seasonal Recipe

Spaghetti Squash with Jalapeno Cream

Ingredients:

1 spaghetti squash (about 3 lbs)

2 cups milk

2-3 jalapenos, stemmed, seeded & chopped

2 tbsp butter or margerine, plus more for pans

1 tsp salt

3 tbsp flour

1 cup shredded jack cheese

Directions:

Cook squash so it is soft and once it has cooled, scrape the strands out and into a large bowl. In a medium saucepan, over medium heat, warm the milk and jalapenos until bubbles form along the edge of the pan. Remove mixture from heat and let sit 15 minutes. Strain & discard the jalapenos. In a medium saucepan, over med-high heat, melt the 2 tbsp of butter. Whisk in flour and salt and cook to make a roux. Slowly pour in the jalapeno-milk mixture while whisking. Reduce heat to medium and continue whisking until mixture thickens slightly. Pour the mixture over the squash and stir to combine. Top with jack cheese and bake until bubbling and brown on top, about 30 minutes.



Rhodocoma fruticosa (restios family) is a grass-like plant from South Africa. It has thin, almost reed like, arching stems that end in paniculated seed heads. So if you're looking for a controllable grass that will look great next to a

pond or water feature, this is it. It is an evergreen and does not have a significant bloom. I like the shape; it grows in a tussock like most grasses. I also love the stems and graceful nature of this plant. Also, in a floral design the stems stand on their own. It will grow about 2-3 feet high and will spread, but a yearly dig and divide will take care of that. It loves the full sun and has medium water needs. Being from South Africa, frost and freeze is not good for Rhodocoma. But, they are hardy to about 30° F

Be careful about watering, the highest death rate in the restios family is usually caused by overwatering. With that in mind, these plants are not the best for growing in containers.

To learn more about using flowers and plants from your yard in flower arrangements, come to my class on May 29th at 9:30am at the Poway store. ●

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

the wee corner



Pumice Rock Planters

Succulents planted in a bowl make a terrific little planter. We've also got some small, medium and large pumice rock planters that provide those plants an interesting home. Pumice is a type of volcanic rock that is mined. It is an extremely lightweight rock. The nursery sells these rocks in different sizes; all have a hole in the center of the rock where you can put a plant. These planters are ideal for cactus and succulents because they are very porous and allow the soil to dry well. Cactus and succulents also have small root systems so they don't need a lot of space. Even the smallest of the rocks sold at the nursery provide room for at least two cactus or succulents. The rocks are easily planted and only require you put some cactus mix in the hole, then your cactus or succulent, backfill the hole. You can top with colored sand or decorative rocks. ●



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

- 4/3 Herbs Care & Uses
- 4/10 Epiphyllum Orchid Cactus
- 4/17 Azaleas
- 4/24 Tomato Varieties & Care

May

- 5/1 Cactus & Succulents
- 5/8 Gifts for Mother's Day
- 5/15 Grafting & Budding with Kurt Peacock
- 5/22 Artificial Turf: Questions, Information & Installation with Special Guests from Precision Landscape
- 5/29 Attracting Butterflies

June

- 6/5 Tropical Plants with Kurt Peacock
- 6/12 Shade Gardens
- 6/19 Xeriscape Efficient Water-Use Gardens
- 6/26 Children's Gardens

POWAY 9:30am

April

- 4/3 Spring Rose Care
- 4/10 Water Conservation through Sprinkler Efficiency with Chris Ewell, Superior Irrigation
- 4/17 Citrus Varieties & Care
- 4/24 Nan Serman, 5-Minute Low-Water Gardener

May

- 5/1 Lawn Care with Richard Wright
- 5/8 Rose Show Prep Class; How to Prepare Flowers for Show
- 5/15 Annual Rose Show
- 5/22 Veggies for Containers with Jen Merzigian
- 5/29 Floral Arrangements with Flowers from Your Yard with Carol Fuller

June

- 6/5 Summer Flowers with Jen Merzigian
- 6/12 Growing Giant Pumpkins
- 6/19 Summer Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright
- 6/26 Herbs with Carol Fuller

New! In The Stores



Here's a product we're anxious to try because it comes from one of our favorite vendors – Gro Power.

It's not a fertilizer like the Gro Power products we tout but an organic, non-toxic snail and slug control. Look for Pure 'N' Natural Snail & Slug Away. This product is easily sprayed directly on plants or the area around them. It can be used on vegetables, fruit, citrus, annuals, perennials and herbs. It is safe to use around humans, pets, wildlife, and on the soil. An application lasts up two weeks and needs 30-40 minutes to dry.



We now stock above ground redwood planter boxes that are perfect for creating an instant vegetable garden that requires only the addition of soil and plants. These attractive boxes are 4' x 4' x 1' and have an open bottom. Find a clear section of ground in the full sun, set and level the box and then fill the box with a mixture of 50% Bumper Crop and 50% Sunshine General Purpose Planting mix, add some Gro Power Flower and Bloom Fertilizer, and then plant your favorite plants. The boxes will take eight 2-cubic bags of potting mix to fill. Plant your larger plants like Tomatoes in the center and shorter plants and herbs around the edges. The box's convenient size allows you to reach for your crops without having to step into the box. Need more room to garden? Put another box close by the first for additional space. The boxes retail for \$79.99 and made of long lasting redwood.

You would have thought that Christmas came early for dry goods manager Chuck Carpenter. He was nearly jumping up and down with joy because his Circle Hoes had come in and he has been waiting for a couple of years for them to be available. Chuck doesn't usually get this excited unless he is talking about fishing, horse racing or bowling so Circle Hoes are something to write about.



These hoes come in three sizes to cover all your needs and the cutting tool is a round blade made of forged carbon steel for durability. The circles on the hoes range in sizes from 2" to 3" and are on handles reaching 11", 15" or 59". You can use these as a hand tool or like a regular, long handled hoe. The front of the blade is sharp to cut away weeds while the dull sides of the blade prevent plant damage and lift under the plant. The blade is sharp enough to cut through hard, rocky soil. The smaller circle sizes allow you to work between plants and tight rows very effectively.



Stop by the WAN Flower Show Exhibit at the San Diego County Fair June 11th–July 5th!

PLANTS & VEGETABLES

COUPON
Valid April 1 – 30, 2010
Bedding Plants & Vegetables
4" & Color Packs
Reg. Price \$2.99
Now \$2.49 with Coupon
Limit 1 Full Flat of Each

Limit one (1) per customer of each. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.

#104915

GRO POWER SAVINGS!

COUPON
Valid May 1 – 31, 2010
\$3.00 OFF
20# Gro Power Citrus and Avocado Food
With Purchase of Any 5 Gal. or Larger Fruit Tree
Limit 3

Limit three (3) per customer. Purchase of tree required for discount. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.

#106280

SPRING SAVINGS!

COUPON
Valid June 1 – 30, 2010
\$5 OFF
Purchase of \$50 or More
OR
\$20 OFF
Purchase of \$100 or More

Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.

#104861

#104382

TOOL SHED

Citrus & Vegetable Insect Control



Here's a new product for your tool shelf that will make caring for many of your edibles easier. From Bayer Advanced comes Fruit, Citrus and Vegetable Insect Control.

One application gives you season long protection from pests such as foliage feeding thrips, aphids, leafhoppers, and white fly that ruin your vegetables.

Best of all, you'll get year round control against citrus leaf minor which has been a prevalent problem in our county for several years with no easy control method. This product also controls the Asian citrus psyllid which spreads citrus yellowing disease (a bacterial infection that kills the trees) which decimated parts of Florida's citrus industry.

This easy-to-use product is a soil drench that you mix with water and pour around the plant base. It is sold with its own measuring cup. ●

Holiday Schedule

Both stores will be closed April 4th for Easter and on July 4th.



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

4) www.walterandersen.com

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