

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



SUMMER

04

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SUMMER

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Plants of the Year Named

The Perennial Plant Association has named *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' the 2004 Perennial Plant of the Year. This perennial low-maintenance Japanese painted fern is one of the showiest ferns for shade gardens. It is popular due to its hardiness nearly everywhere in the United States, except in the desert and northernmost areas in zone 3. 'Pictum' grows 18 inches tall and as it multiplies can make a clump that is more than two feet wide. 'Pictum' produces 12- to 18-inch fronds that are a soft shade of metallic silver-gray with hints of red and blue. This lovely fern, which prefers partial to full shade, makes an outstanding combination plant for adding color, texture, and habit to landscape beds and containers.



PHOTO: PERENNIALPLANT.ORG

Not to be outdone, the National Garden Bureau has named its flower and vegetable of the year. Earning the title of '2004 Flower of the Year' is *dianthus*, of which there are more than 300 species native to China, Russia, Siberia, Turkey, Iran, Greece and South America. Also known as Pinks or Sweet William these fragrant perennials make prized cut flowers.

A must for spring vegetable gardens are peas, a cool season crop, which is coincidentally the '2004 Vegetable of the Year'. Peas are members of the huge legume family, one of our most useful plant families. Garden peas more than 6000 years old have been uncovered in Stone Age pantries in Jericho. Peas probably were first domesticated in Turkey. They have been cultivated for at least 3000 years. The original species from which garden peas were developed still grows wild in the eastern Mediterranean region, including Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. ●

2004 San Diego County Fair



Walter Andersen Nursery is the longest running exhibitor at the San Diego County Fair and this year's exhibit was a culmination of horticulture and engineering experience. In keeping with this year's theme, '100th Birthday of Dr Suess', Richard Wright, Russ Green, David Ross and Dylan Mooney created a railroad experience that captured a train ride through the world of Suess.



Easy-To-Grow Bamboo Offers Many Selections

by Walter Andersen, Jr.

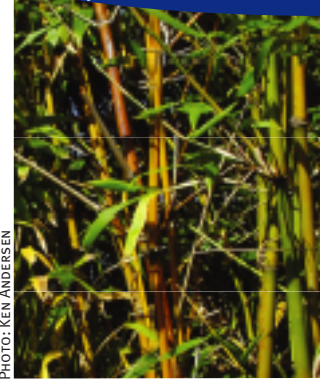


PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

Bamboo has become increasingly popular in recent years in Southern California. Walter Andersen Nursery carries up to 50 different varieties depending on availability as some are very limited. You never know which store will have what in stock so you may want to call first if you're looking for something specific.

Bamboo is in the grass family and grows in two distinct ways. Clumping and running. Clumping varieties are generally the easiest for most of us to live with if planted in the ground. The new culms (shoots) come up right next to the parent plant. Running bamboo sends out shoots or 'stolens' away from the original plant and can come up three feet, five feet even as much as 10 feet from the original plant, depending on the variety, soil, moisture and other things in the area. Usually running bamboo is best contained in a large pot, or isolated area. Some of the low growing 'runners' can be used as a ground cover, but be sure you know what it is capable of so it does not get out of control. They both have beautiful varieties and the heights will vary significantly. There is a 10-page hand-out at both our nurseries describing most that we regularly carry.

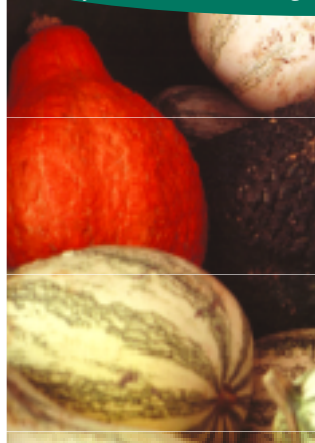
Among the suggestions noted below, I have not listed to cold tolerance for these; most will take down to at least 25 degrees, or less, with no damage. The following is just a sample of some of the more unusual varieties we carry, when we can get them. When planting them be sure to use a mix high in humus/organic matter and keep them well watered as they don't look good under dry conditions. Feed with a high nitrogen fertilizer. We use and recommend Gro Power three or four times a year. They all can be kept about 1/3 shorter by cutting the vertical culm. Keep them MOIST!

Bambusa sinospinosa "Chinese Thorny Bamboo" This is a larger clumping variety that looks kind of 'wild' because it grows in many directions, most bamboo grows pretty much straight up, and this one has arching and crooked stems. It also has thorns on the stems. The foliage is comparatively small. If planted as a hedge, in just a few years it is nearly impossible for anything to penetrate it because of the brambly growth and thorns. The culms get to about five inches in diameter at maturity, which takes several years, eventually reaching about 70' in height. This also make great 'stand alone' specimen if you have the room, it is probably not well suited to smaller yards.

Bambusa tuldoidea "Ventricosa Kimmei" "Variegated Buddha's Belly" Many are familiar with the more common "Buddha's Belly" bamboo which is green and grows in a clumping form. This one is almost identical but has vertical stripes on the culms. It also forms the desirable bulges or 'bellies' on the culms usually more so if the plant is a little stressed by letting it get slightly dry. This variety grows to about 16' with 2.25" diameter culms. It is sometimes sold as *Bambusa textilis* 'Kimmei', depending upon who is growing it. *Continued P4*

Gorgeous Gourds

by National Gardening Editors



In the world of vegetable growing, gourds have earned a secure niche. These members of the cucumber, melon, and squash family are grown for their decorative and utilitarian qualities rather than for their edible ones.

There are four main types of hard-shelled gourds. Basket gourds have large, bulbous bases and no neck. Bottle gourds develop two distinct bulbous ends with a constriction between them. Dipper gourds feature long, thin necks and a small bulblike base at the blossom end. Snake or siphon gourds have long, tubular necks and no bulbous base.

Growing Hard-Shelled Gourds

Plant and grow hard-shelled gourds as you would winter squash. The sprawling plants grow best in warm-summer conditions, requiring 120 to 140 frost-free days to mature.

In cool-summer climates, preheat the soil with black plastic mulch four weeks before your last frost date, when you can set out seedlings. Start seedlings in individual pots indoors at the same time you set out the plastic.

Where summers are warmer and longer, sow seeds outdoors after all danger of frost has passed, in full sun and in soil amended with compost or manure. Sow two seeds in hills spaced 8 feet apart, or sow in rows with plants spaced 4 feet apart. The seeds have particularly thick skins; to hasten germination, nick them with a file before planting to help water penetrate the seed coat.

Cover the seedlings with a floating row cover, especially during chilly spring nights. Keep plants well watered. In warm areas, preserve soil moisture with a 2- to 4-inch layer of hay, straw, or leaf mulch. When the vines begin to run, fertilize with 3 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet of garden, or use fish emulsion. Once the gourds have set, don't apply high-nitrogen fertilizer. *Vine-climbing gourd plants can grow up to 40 feet tall.*

Pruning and Training

Gourds are slow starters, but once the heat of summer hits, the vines grow by leaps and bounds. When vines growing on the ground reach 10 feet long, snip off the growing tip to stimulate the formation of side shoots (laterals). Some gourds, such as the bottle and dipper types, grow best on trellises. Let the vines climb naturally, and position the fruits so they can hang unobstructed. Be sure the trellis is sturdy, especially in windy areas, since an individual plant can be huge, vining up to 40 feet.

Some of the heavier basket-type gourds may need to be supported with a sling; old pantyhose are an inexpensive means of support.

On a trellis, remove all the side shoots, and train the main stem up the trellis post. Once it reaches the top of the trellis, clip the main stem and allow the laterals to form and fill out the top of the trellis. *Continued P2*

Tips for Creating a

Bird & Butterfly Garden

by The California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers

Your garden can be much more than lovely, serene or a place for family and friends to gather. It can be a bird and butterfly oasis. Creating this oasis doesn't take much more than planting the kinds of plant material which will attract birds and butterflies. To help get you started we've listed some of the annuals and perennials that will woo these critters into your garden. Remember that birds need to feel protected before they begin to gather so try centering these plantings near or around groups of established trees and shrubs.

Annuals

Impatiens Red and orange colored varieties are especially attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

Lantana Flowers in reds and yellows provide a good nectar source for butterflies.

Phlox Butterflies and hummingbirds take nectar from the white and purple flowers. Other birds feed on the seeds in the fall.

Zinnias Flowers provide nectar for butterflies while birds eat seeds in autumn and winter. Single flowering varieties are best.

Perennials

Basket of Gold Attract butterflies for nectar.

Blazing Star (Liatris) Purple flowers provide nectar to butterflies.

Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) Hummingbirds favor the scarlet tubular flowers. Blooms from July to September.

Columbine Hummingbirds are attracted to the flowers.

California Fuchsia (Zauschneria) One of the favorite flowers of hummingbirds.

Lavender Fragrant purple flowers attract butterflies for nectar.

Stonecrop (Sedum spectabile) Butterflies take nectar from the small pink flowers that bloom from August to September.

Sweet William (Dianthus) Red, white, rosy purple flowers provide nectar for butterflies.

Gorgeous Gourds *Continued from P1*

Hard-shelled gourds produce large white flowers that open at night. It's not clear which insects pollinate these flowers, but if your baby gourds are shriveling and dropping off the plant, you may need to hand-pollinate the flowers in the evening shortly after they open.

Pests and diseases that affect gourds are similar to those afflicting other squash family crops; they include downy and powdery mildew, cucumber beetles, vine borers, and aphids. Generally, the techniques and products recommended for controlling these pests on cucumbers and melons will also be effective on gourds.



Harvesting

Harvest hard-shelled gourds only after they mature on the vine. They are ready when the stem and tendril next to the gourd have browned, and the gourd's skin has begun to turn an ivory color and feels firm. Cut off the gourds, leaving at least 2 inches of stem on the fruit.

It's best to pick the gourds as soon as the vines are dead (especially on trellised vines that may not be able to support heavy fruits), and to move the gourds indoors to a dry, well-ventilated place for curing and drying.

Curing and Drying

Bring harvested gourds into a cool (50 degrees to 60 degrees F), well-ventilated room. Clean away any soil from the surface, and wipe the gourds with a mild bleach solution (1 ounce liquid bleach to 2 quarts water). Don't try to save any gourds that have cracked or broken skin, since they will rot eventually. To cure the gourds, place them, not touching, on a wire-mesh or slotted tray out of direct sun.

Depending on the gourd's size, shape, and skin thickness, it can take up to six months to completely dry inside. As gourds dry, they may develop a fuzzy white growth on the shell which can be removed by periodically wiping the shell with the mild bleach solution, or leave the mold to form interesting patterns on the skin. The gourd is finished drying when it feels much lighter and the outer skin peels away to reveal a brown or tan inner shell. You will also hear the seeds rattle inside.

To hasten the drying process, slice off the top of the gourd right after harvest, and scrape out as much of the seedy pulp as you can without harming the shell. Then fill the inside with water, and let sit for a week. The remaining flesh will turn gelatinous and mucky but will be easier to scrape out.

Surface Treatments for Creating Decorative Gourds

Transforming an ungainly gourd into a graceful ornament is easier than many gardeners imagine and requires only a few basic hand tools and some supplies, available from a craft or hardware store. Before applying any surface treatment, be certain that the gourd is properly cured.

The National Gardening Association is a great source for planting information. Find the organization online at www.garden.org

Seasonal Recipe

Zucchini Casserole

1 package chicken Rice-A-Roni
2-3 sliced zucchini
3-4 sliced tomatoes
1 pint sour cream (can use light)
1 lb jack cheese, grated
1 small can of diced green chiles
Dried onion flakes

This recipe is a great way to use two of our most prolific summer vegetables – zucchini and tomatoes.

Prepare the Rice-A-Roni as directed using 3 cups of water. Spread Rice-A-Roni in a 9"x13" pan. Layer the following on top of the rice. Green chiles, 1/2 grated cheese, zucchini slices, tomato slices, sour cream, season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with onion flakes and top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Allow a few minutes for the casserole to set before cutting into squares and serving.

Word From Walter

“The Warm Days of Summer”



The warm days of summer are upon us and color is everywhere. Have you noticed that Daylilies are in full bloom? Both nurseries have a really good selection of exciting colors of these easy-to-grow plants. They are available in one and five gallon sizes and most are labeled as to color if they are not in bloom.

Check out the Agapanthus too, beautiful blues and whites. Some are short to about 2' others to almost 5' tall. The blues come in many shades from light to very deep.

Hibiscus, a tropical favorite is blooming now along with Bougainvillea, and there is a good selection at both stores. They do seem to attract white flies but I suggest you try this easy solution. To keep white fly from attacking your Hibiscus and a few other plants, put a generous amount of worm castings under them and the white fly will no longer be a problem. No more spraying and it is easy.

Water gardening is becoming more popular every year it seems. Water lilies are blooming in the ponds, some with blooms as large as 6". We have bright colors of red, pink, yellow, white and more.

Some of the tropicals varieties come in blue, but they are not always available. There are also some dwarf varieties for smaller ponds or you can use them in a very large pot or wooden tub. The Poway store sometimes has some water lotus, though they are often difficult to find.

Another summer favorite is gardenias. They bloom all season with fragrant blooms that range from large doubles to small single flowers on compact bushy plants. If you have had trouble growing gardenias try the grafted varieties as they are much more forgiving with our difficult soils. Grafted gardenias are only available in five gallon sizes and the larger blooming varieties.



Tired of putting on your old shoes to go out and garden? Have you tried "Sloggers"? These are so popular. They just slip on, no laces, and they stay on! They are impervious to water, so they are easy to clean. They slip on and off effortlessly so you don't even have to bend over. They are great for working out side and almost indestructible.

Composting Organic Waste Makes Great Soil Sense

Composting is basically turning organic waste and household scraps into fresh, usable soil conditioner which contains some fertilizer elements. It also eliminates throwing away these trash materials and reduces needed space in landfills. There are no secret tricks and it is easy to do, but requires some labor.

The benefit is you do not have to fill trash barrels and you generate a lot of free organic material that is an excellent amendment to your soil. You will use grass clippings, soft leaves and soft stalks. Harder limbs and branches will take much longer to break down unless they are run through a shredder first. Household fruit and vegetable scraps are also used, but no meat products or animal waste should be mixed with your compost matter.

If your compost operation is in a warm, sunny spot, it will work a lot faster and you can have ready-to-use compost in 4-8 weeks. It is important to turn the compost frequently for optimum results, usually every 4 to 7 days. Turning the pile acts to get all aspects of the compost rotated. The middle usually heats up faster than the outside. By rotating with a pitchfork, it speeds the process and keeps the heat (which can reach 120-140 degrees) in. To increase speed, use steer manure in about 2" layers as you refill the bins. Moisture is important, too. Never keep the pile soggy wet, nor let it go too dry. It should feel like a moist sponge.

Compost bins may be many different things. Commercial (usually plastic) bins are available and easy to assemble. There are many different models, from very simple cylinder types to heavy square structures. You can build your own using other materials such as chicken wire bins, square bins made from fencing wood or even discarded pallets.

One of the easiest and simplest methods is to take a circular bin made out of chicken wire or plastic and fill it with layers of leaves, grass, stalks, household waste, etc. Remove the outside bin about every 7 to 10 days and place the empty bin next to the pile and refill with a pitchfork. Every time you work on a pile, it will get noticeably smaller. Finished compost usually takes about 4 to 6 weeks depending on temperature and contents of the bin.



We Carry Premium Sunshine Soil Products from Sun Gro

Hedges Make Good Neighbors

by California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers



Eugenia myrtifolia 'Monterey Bay' *One of our favorite hedges, this is an excellent tall evergreen that provides an instant screen. New growth remains bronze-red over a long season. Creamy-white brush-like flowers are followed by rose-purple non-edible berries. It requires full to partial sun and is a moderate grower to 15 to 20 feet tall, 8 to 10 feet wide.*

Are you planning to build a fence one of these days? And if so, wouldn't a hedge serve just as well? Certainly you can save some money, time and effort by planting your fence instead of building it.

It's true that a living fence requires some upkeep over the years. But initial cost and effort is so much less, and the future result is so much more pleasant to look at. Members of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers say that the same thought and care should go into choosing plant material for a hedge that you would give to choosing material for a fence. Look around your neighborhood for examples that please you.

Privet is beyond a doubt the most widely used of hedge materials for the very good reason that it is so satisfactory. Different varieties available make it possible to use privet for hedges from two to ten feet tall. Trim it to your liking for formal effects or leave it untrained for an informal effort seldom attributed to the species.

Try another old favorite, Glossy abelia, where frost threatens. Abelia is more graceful as an informal hedge, but stands shearing in summer if you prefer the clipped look. Tubular white or pink flowers are abelia's best known asset.

For tall and mild formal hedges, English laurel, viburnum, euonymous, and pittosporum, are some of the recommendation plants. Any of the above will make a full, wide screen when left untrimmed.

you use a variety of sizes, styles, colors, and textures, you'll get a busier look.

3] POT TYPE. Terra cotta pots are porous and heat up, so the potting mix will dry out quickly and you'll have to water more frequently. Plastic pots hold water longer. Metal pots, especially if dark colored, absorb a great deal of heat so they shouldn't be placed in the hot sun. Hanging pots, especially if made of wire lined with coir fiber, require the most maintenance.

4] PLANT CHOICES BY PREFERENCE AND USE. Choose colors and textures you enjoy. Do you want a woodsy look, something always in bloom, or vegetables? Do you want everything at one height or on trellises? If you put more than one plant in a container, get one large enough to allow for their mature growth.

5] PLANT CHOICES BY AMOUNT OF DIRECT SUN. In shade or bright indirect light, choose ferns, impatiens, begonias, lamium, pink polka dot, coleus, and fuchsia. In areas receiving 2 to 4 hours of direct sun, choose gardenias, pansies, violas, impatiens, coral bells, camellias, lobelia, and dianthus. In 4 or more hours of direct sun, choose roses, salvia, petunias, marigolds, ivy geraniums, bougainvillea, succulents, and cacti.

6] PLANTS BY LOCATION. Place the largest plants and pots at the back, with smaller trailing plants in front and hanging from above, so you can enjoy a whole wall of color and texture.

Provide for easy watering, especially of heavy pots. It's better to bring the water to the pots than to have to lug the pots to the water source and then back into place! During hot summer months, you may have to water every day -- and perhaps twice a day for hanging containers!

Be sure to save space for a chair and small table so you can enjoy your new Eden!

In My Garden: Container Garden Inspiration

by Yvonne Savio, National Gardening Assoc.



Container herbs look beautiful, taste wonderful, and attract beneficial insects for the whole garden.

Container gardens can begin with just about any container—an old wheelbarrow, bathtub, bird cage, "distinguished-looking" shoe, child's wagon, or even just a camouflaged bag of potting mix. If it'll hold soil and a plant, it's fair game. Mounds or cascades of color can come from begonias, petunias, ivy,

geraniums, campanulas, impatiens, succulents, fuchsias, azaleas, or vegetables (patio or cherry tomatoes, strawberries, and herbs).

Whether you have only a small patio or a huge garden space, containers are perfect for highlighting individual specimens or providing year-round enjoyment. Some vegetables and colorful ornamentals thrive in a container's confined root space, and you can easily add visual art to your garden by your choice of containers.

Here are some considerations to help you determine how much maintenance your container garden will require:

1] DAILY SUN PATTERN. Does the space get direct sun in the morning (east), midday (south), or in the evening (west)? Or not at all (north)? This will determine the choice of plants and the amount of water you'll have to provide.

2] POT STYLE. If you use the same style or size of pots for all your containers, you'll achieve a more formal, calming look. If

With Walter Andersen, Jr.

Walter Andersen Nursery anticipates the imminent arrival of Lady Lucille and Chorus Line, the two 2004 All-American daylilies so named by the All-American Daylily Selection Council.



We Proudly Carry Top-Quality Plants from Monrovia

Realizing the Beauty of Xeriscape Gardens Conserves Water, Offers Low Maintenance

PHOTO: CAROL FULLER



By Kelly Fore Dixon, ASLA

Hate Xeriscape gardens? Me too. Yet, we live in a desert, our water is precious and our time is more so. The rockiness of our soil, lack of rain, and real and present threat of fire, is the landscape of San Diego. Yet we continue to request, plant and buy plants that require more of our time and natural resources than we're willing to admit, and at the same time we request 'low maintenance.'

Xeriscape has a very basic definition. It's the selection of water conserving plants to fit local soil conditions with community characteristics. No inorganic materials are needed. No pH to adjust. No fertilization necessary. Now, that's low maintenance.

I'm amazed that many of the homes I visit as a landscape designer experience mold problems right here where rainfall doesn't amount to more than a bucketful each year. Usually this occurs on the north side of houses, always in over-irrigated planting beds. It's not so much that the plants need the water, it's often our nervousness to 'do something' to protect our landscape investment. In the end, what seems to be a well-intended effort causes more problems than it solves.

If your landscape is more than two years old, try this; turn off your irrigation system! Then every day when you walk in the front door, take a moment to check in with your plants. They will tell you when they are thirsty. It's at this time, not before, that the irrigation system should run. If you determine the irrigation schedule on whether the soil looks dry, you will be deceived. Wait for the wilt! By the next morning, after a good soaking, they'll perk up and

be revived. Again, turn the irrigation off and wait for the wilt. Now reset your timer to this cycle of demand.

If you're in the planning stages of your landscape, here are a few things to consider. Focus on hardscape and the illusion of water. By creating waves of color, waves of paving, or waves of gravel -think Zen garden- you can create movement. Use wind chimes or selected trees as your 'white noise.' Try Koeleruteria paniculata, (Golden Raintree), Agonis flexuosa (Peppermint Willow), or Leptospermum petersonii (Lemon-scented Tea Tree). Focus on softscape and select plants for texture and seasonal color. Use at least three of each for emphasis. And yes, gray-green, yellow-green and blue-green count as different colors. Then visit your local nursery and ask for low-water plants. This Xeriscape planning technique is no different than any other landscape planning process, with a twist towards drought tolerance.

Irrigation should always be a focus, in all gardens. Whether you're planning on hand-watering your garden or using an automatic system; consider low volume precipitation systems vs. traditional spray systems, rain barrels and cisterns vs. water wells. Wells were intended for areas that weren't accessible to city water. Instead of installing a well, how about installing a cistern to collect water at guttering downspouts, and recycling and storing our home's 'Brown Water.'

In the land of 'covenants, codes and restrictions,' do we really need more? Are we really waiting for our neighborhood association, or worse - the city to restrict our plant palette and water-use, before we decide that gray-green is beautiful? Let's change our minds about Xeriscape. Let your Buffalo grass lawn grow to its mature height. Move your hydrangeas to pots, water them from your cistern and enjoy the garden as a mature, self-reliant adult, with very few of the needy, costly maintenance needs of the past.

Kelly Fore Dixon is a landscape designer employed in our Poway office. ●

Showy Proteas Provide Spectacular Blooms



King proteas, just one of some 150 species in this family, can grow to 3-5' high and their blooms can be up to 1' wide! Proteas are widely grown in Hawaii and Southern California for the cut-flower trade.

Proteas signify daringness and unpredictability having taken their name from the mystical sea god, Proteus for his ability to change forms at will. These very unusual plants can make magnificent specimens and the blooms are unusually spectacular. They can be enjoyed on the plant or make great cut flowers. Many people dry the blooms and use them in 'everlasting arrangements'.

Most are from Africa or Australia so their origin requires a little consideration when choosing the right location to plant them. The most desirable spot in the garden is in full sun. Well drained soil or planting on a slope is essential, with some wind or air movement.

After they are established, they should not be watered more than once a week. Areas that stay wet, like a lawn, are not good planting locations. Prepare a large hole, approximately 18" to 30" in diameter and about 16" deep. Mix between 1/4 and 1/3 fir bark or coarse redwood shavings. Use this mixture to backfill around the root ball of the new plant, being sure the top of the original root ball in the container is the same height or slightly higher than the surrounding soil.

Make a basin about 2" high and about 24" in diameter. Fill the basin twice after planting to allow the water to compact the soil. Water about once a week, being sure to allow it to dry a little between waterings. As the plant grows and matures water over a larger area but less often. Proteas require very little fertilizer. Gro Power used at half strength about every eight weeks is all they need. Avoid high phosphorus fertilizers. Protea like slightly acid soils so a pH of about 6.5 is most desirable. It is recommended that you do not stake the plants but let them grow naturally. Cut the blooms with long stems and enjoy them indoors. In doing so you are also pruning the plant and it will be bushier. A light application of an iron supplement two times a year will keep leaves a darker green.

If you choose to grow them in containers, we suggest using a well draining potting soil or cactus mix as a potting medium. Container grown plants will also do a little better in partial shade as they dry out faster.

Enjoyable Water Wise Ideas for Any Garden

So many times the words drought tolerant or Xeriscape bring to mind "desolate looking". Not true! I like to use the words "water wise". In thinking this way it can, and will, open up your plant palette. We live in a desert climate. No two ways about it. If you live on the coast you get the sea breeze, but most of us live east of Freeway 5. And the more east you go the hotter and dryer it gets, fast. So let's look at ways to plant in our dry climate by looking at some ways to be water wise.

watering

The most important thing to remember is that you have to water your newly planted, water wise plants for the first 6 to 9 months, to get them established! It's best to plant Natives from November through February. Drip irrigation helps a lot with saving water. As long as you keep in mind the idea that it's not how long you water, but how deep you water. And coverage is just as important. Get the water 360 degrees around the plant to cover the roots.



mulching

Another important word that is over-looked a lot of the time is mulch. It's not just for keeping weeds out. Much of the time we dismiss its usefulness in a water wise landscape, but it keeps moisture in the ground, near the roots, where it belongs, not running over the sidewalk, into the gutter and down the street, lost forever to the plants we love. There are all kinds of mulch you can use including ground up trimmings from your yard, small rocks or pebbles, or prepared mulch. As the mulch breaks down it adds humus to the dirt, making it soil, and much better for planting in. Besides all that, mulch can add another color texture to your landscape.

plants

Now let's look at just a few plants to get you started, down the dry path (TREES) Catalpa speciosa, Koeleruteria paniculata (Golden Raintree), Cercis occidentalis (Western redbud), Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe myrtle). (BUSHES & SHRUBS) Anisodonteia (Cape mallow), Buddleia (Butterfly bush), Cytisus scoparius (Scotch broom), Echium candicans (Pride of Madeira), Nerium oleander (Oleander), Rhamphiolepis (Indian hawthorn), Salvia greggi (Autumn sage). (GROUND COVERS) Achillea tomentosa (Woolly yarrow), Cistus salviifolius (Sageleaf rockrose), Cotoneaster, Sedum, and Thyme.

Now that I've got your feet wet, you can start splashing around your yard with some "Water Wise" ideas.

Till next time, this is **RICHARD WRIGHT "THE YARD DOCTOR"**. Richard Wright is a customer service representative in our Poway store. ●

Tips from the PROS

A Regimen for Roses

by Vice Admiral Edward H. Martin USN Ret.

In each issue of GARDENTALK we highlight gardening and landscaping tips from professionals in the business. This time we are taking a slightly different tack in highlighting rose care tips from one of our retail customers. Vice Admiral Edward H. Martin USN Ret. grows some of the most spectacular roses I have ever seen! What makes his roses so incredible is that they are grown in an environment that is less than conducive to good performance! Admiral Martin grows his roses at his home in Coronado where the combination of the humidity, coastal fog, and salt air would usually discourage most people from trying! Admiral Martin has graciously taken the time to write down his regimen for roses that I can attest has amazing results in less than perfect growing conditions. —Ken Andersen



The following regimen for roses has proved to be very successful in the San Diego area, particularly in the coastal region where cool, moist air is prevalent and the soil tends to be loamy; and like most of the San Diego area, quite alkaline. Choosing varieties that are less susceptible to mildew, rust and black spot is the first criterion for success. In this regard, the advice of experienced nurserymen, knowledgeable of the local area is imperative. Roses like airflow between them and ample sun. Accordingly, choose their location and allow for adequate space between individual plants.



About January 1st, cease all watering of established roses.



During the second week in January, properly cut-back al, except climbing roses, to about fourteen to sixteen inches above the root ball. For climbing roses, cut back much less severely. Ensure all are defoliated.



Immediately after roses are cut back, thoroughly clean up all debris and dead leaves, etc. from around them. (This and the next step is critical to success.)



Thoroughly spray all roses and the surrounding ground with a fifty-fifty mixture of lime-sulfur and agriculture oil, at the rate of eight oz. per gallon of water. This will kill fungi on the plants and in the soil. If the previous growing season was unusually severe with respect to mildew, rust and black spot, a second similar spraying, several days later is beneficial.



About the first off February, work-in about three inches compost or other organic material such as peat moss into the soil around the



roses. Then, for mature roses, work well into the soil, out to the drip line around each rose, two cups of Ada Perry's Magic Formula. For newly planted, or during bare-root planting, use one cup of Ada Perry's Magic Formula. Water well thereafter.



Begin watering schedule to ensure they are deep-watered regularly commensurate with the weather but not allowed to be swamped. Watch them carefully during hot, low-humidity, Santa Ana conditions.



In mid February, fertilize, using a balanced time-release fertilizer such as Osmocote. Use according to label instructions.



When foliage becomes established, begin a regimen of spraying for insects and fungi. Immunox or Bayer Advanced Garden Disease Control for Roses, Flowers and Shrubs have proved highly effective. It is far better to prevent the diseases and insects from becoming established rather than attempting to eradicate after infestation. A regular ten-day spraying schedule is recommended.



Remove dead flowers, rose hips, dead foliage and debris from the roses and surrounding ground on a regular basis. (This is a sine qua non for inhibiting fungi.)



In mid to late May, repeat the application of Ada Perry's Magic Formula and fertilize again as in February.



In late August, repeat the above step.

Enjoy Your Roses
Edward H. Martin



New in the Nursery!

We have come across a neat product called **Dri Water Time-Release Water**. This combination of water, vegetable gum and alum can be used on all plants either with irrigation to help retain moisture between cycles or as the sole source of water until plants are established. It's great to put on plants while you're on vacation. We tested it in home and haven't had to water our dracaena for a month. In a store test, one houseplant using Dri Water looked great after two weeks while the other that got no water was severely wilted. ▶



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

We have a preview of a soon-to-be-released beautiful and unusual rose, **Black Baccara**. Introduced as a florist rose for Valentine's Day 2001 in Europe, the demand for it spread to gardeners and we are pleased to offer this color breakthrough that also boasts good garden performance in mild climates. Walter Andersen Nursery will have them in stock in December but you can order them by calling 858-513-4900 and add your name to our "Want List". All orders must be prepaid, the cost is \$19.99 ▶

Type: Hybrid tea—This cut flower variety is dark velvet red turning carbon black as petals unfurl, especially under artificial light. Under natural light, it is black red for the first spring flush, turning dark burgundy red in the summer when temperatures are higher. This rose is less disease resistant than others but its exceptional color, long stems and cutting quality make it worth the effort.



PHOTO: STAR ROSES

Bamboo *Continued from P1*

Chusquea pittieri This pretty bamboo has no real common name that we can find. It is also a clumping variety with smaller leaves, very lacy and beautiful. The culms grow up then arch over and down. It can reach 40 feet tall with 2" culms. This is one of the few bamboos that will do well indoors if it has really good light. Outside it does best in a little shade if you are in a warm area.

Himalayacalamus hookerianus “Himalayan Blue Bamboo” This bamboo is sometimes sold under the name Drepanostacyum falcatum but it is the same plant. The foliage is medium to small and has a distinct bluish cast. It is a clumping variety that may reach about 20 feet tall. This makes a great container plant with the new shoots often having a hint of maroon. The culms are thin, usually about 3/4" in diameter.

Indocalamus latifolius “Simon Bamboo” This is a smaller running bamboo that reaches to 10 feet tall, often less. The leaves are quite broad and up to a foot long. This is one of the larger foliage bamboo and is lush and tropical looking. This does best in mostly shade; it can burn in the hot sun. It makes a great potted plant in a patio or under a large tree for protection. Because it is running, it is probably best is a container. Culms are only about 1/2" in diameter.

Phyllostachys aureosulata “Yellow Groove Bamboo” Culms of this variety have a groove on the calm which is a yellowish color; most of the culms are green. This running bamboo is very pretty and often the culms have a slight zig zag to them. It can reach 25 feet tall with 1.5" culms. It is a running variety often used as a container specimen.

Phyllostachys nigra ‘Daikokuchiku’ “Giant Black Bamboo” This variety is more difficult to find then the common “Black Bamboo”. It is also running but with larger culms, some larger than 3" in diameter. This variety can reach 50' tall. It is somewhat sensitive to salt, therefore I don’t advise planting within two miles of the ocean as the leaves will have excessive burn. Plant this one with a mix high in peat moss for a lower pH. It’s often difficult to find, but well worth the search.

Pleioblastus viridistriatus “Dwarf Greenstripe” New foliage is a very bright yellow-green. This running variety may reach 3 feet tall with 1/4" culms. The leaves are medium sized, usually multicolored, which make it a very attractive smaller variety. This makes a great potted plant because it is a running variety and it will fill most pots in a very short time in warm weather. This is a real eye catcher. This sometimes is sold as Arundinaria viriegatus by growers.

With summer upon us, all the bamboo should be looking great with many new growth culms. Some may even be able to be divided if the can is fairly full which will reduce the cost of the plant to you. Some 15-gallon containers can be divided into four new plants! Plant them this time of the year and they will grow like crazy. ●

Summer 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

July	
7/3	Water Plants
7/10	Plumeria
7/17	Herbs
7/24	Staghorn Ferns
7/31	Summer Rose Care

August	
8/7	Hibiscus
8/14	Gardenias
8/21	Fairy Garden Workshop
8/28	Children’s Gardening

September	
9/4	Fall Bulbs
9/11	Orchids—General Care & Growing
9/18	Natives & Drought Tolerant Plants
9/25	Garden Design Pointers Working with Landscape Designers

POWAY

July	
7/3	Ferns for the Garden
7/10	Xeriscape Gardening
7/17	Gardening Q&A—Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions
7/24	Heat Lover—New & Old Varieties from Monrovia
7/31	Container Gardening

August	
8/7	Creating Your Own Personal Water Features
8/14	Beginning Bonsai: Techniques & Care
8/21	Urginea, the Giant Sea Squill & Allium
8/28	Fall Rose Care

September	
9/4	Goto Tomato Tasting!
9/11	New Rose Introductions for 2005 with Stu Miller from Weeks Roses! See the New Roses Available this December
9/18	Bearded Iris with a Guest Speaker from Greenwood Garden
9/25	Fall Bulbs

2004 Rose Show Participation Highest Ever

Roses of all sizes, in many colors, with a dizzying array of fragrances stole the spotlight at the 5th Annual Poway Rose Show. More than 260 entries competed in the event held at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway April 24-25. “This was by far the best attended and biggest show we’ve had,” remarked Ken Andersen, Vice President and GM of the nursery. Entries more than doubled from last year and for the first time ever a rose show preparation class was held two weeks prior to the event. The class was created by Walter Andersen Nursery and facilitated by members of the Rose Society to assist exhibitors with preparing for the show. ●



Winners

AWARD Andersen’s Choice Award Section A—Best Hybrid Tea Section B—Best Floribunda Section C—Best Old Fashioned Type Section D—Best Bouquet Section E—Best Miniature/Mini Flora Section F—Best Miniature Bouquet Section H—Most Fragrant Section J—Best Non-classified Rose Queen of the Show	WINNER Doug Kalal Doug Kalal Anna Nowak Yorio (<i>name listed</i>) Doug Kalal Doug Kalal Marie & Ira Fletcher Jennifer Bold Dagmar Yon Marilyn Wojdak	ROSE Priscilla Burton Opening Night Hot Cocoa Gertrude Jekyll (<i>rose listed</i>) Fair Hope Mr. Lincoln Rosa eleganteria “Sweet Briar” Sally Holmes
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TOOL SHED



“What is it?”

It’s the “GIRAFFE” Pruner

There is a GIRAFFE on the lose at Walter Andersen Nursery! Not the four legged kind, but it does have a long neck. A 1', 3', 5', or 7' long neck. Now that can mean lots of tall work can be done around the yard without you ever leaving the ground. You know you hate working on ladders just like I do. Ladders wobble, and you could fall off, and the last time I checked the ground was still hard around here. You can even pick all that fruit way up at the top of the tree. This is the kind of pet every gardener should have. In fact I have all four of them as pets at my house. They do lots of work and I don’t have to feed them. My kind of pet. That’s the long and the short of it.

—Richard Wright “The Yard Doctor”

Richard Wright is a customer service representative in our Poway store.

4)

Super Summer Savings!

Save money all summer with these great products that you use all the time!

Save \$2 on Milorganite Fertilizer 40# bag

Save \$2 on Harvest Supreme Vegetable Soil Amendement 2 cu. ft. bag

Save \$2 on Gardner and Bloome Soil Building Compost 3 cu. ft. Bag

Save 20% on 1, 2, and 3 Gallon Green Thumb Tank Sprayers (*Limited to Stock on Hand*)

Save \$3 on all Dr Earth Fertilizers in 25# Bags

No Limits on purchases. Availability subject to merchandise in stock. Supplies may be limited. No further discounts apply. Prices valid July 1, 2004 to September 30, 2004

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

■ 3642 Enterprise St.
San Diego, CA 92110
Phone 619-224-8271
Fax 619-224-9067

■ 12755 Danielson Ct.
Poway, CA 92064
Phone 858-513-4900
Fax 858-513-4790

Make A Note! Holiday Closings

Both Nurseries will be Closed on **Sunday, July 4th** to be with our families.

COUPON
Valid July 1 – 31, 2004

SAVE \$5
On Green Thumb Tank Sprayers
1, 2 or 3-Gallon. Limit 2

Limit Two (2) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.
#10026714

COUPON

Valid July 1 – September 30, 2004

FREE
Gardeneer Birdie Bed and Breakfast Bird House / Bird Feeder Combo
With Purchase Over \$75
Limit 1

#10025966

Limit One (1) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

COUPON

Valid July 1 – 31, 2004

SAVE \$2
On Shake Away Repellents
20 oz. Size
No Limit

#10026589

No Limit. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

COUPON

Valid August 1 – 31, 2004

SAVE \$3
On Sluggo Slug and Snail Bait
5 lb. Size
Limit 2

#10026590

Limit Two (2) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand.

Make a Note!
Both Nurseries will be Closed on **Sunday, July 4th.**



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