



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

# GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



SUMMER

08

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## 2008 WAN Fair Display Wins Manager's Award

As our newsletter goes to press, Walter Andersen Nursery staff is taking a breather from a big effort to design and install our display for the 2008 San Diego County Fair. The nursery is the fair's longest running exhibitor, having provided a display annually since 1937. This year's fair theme, Summer of Sports, was an exciting challenge for WAN landscape designer Michael Waters. Michael studied our display location and designed a lush, tropical back yard that has a beach flavor. The display features bright tropical plants found at both nurseries along with some outdoor living products the nurseries are selling for the first time ever. We incorporated some paraphernalia from some of our favorite beach and back yard activities including a surfboard, bocce ball set and smash ball. Senior store manager David Ross oversaw the installation of the display and has numerous years experience installing exhibits at the fair.

The nursery is pleased to showcase some of its landscape design talent and was fortunate to have assistance from Landscapes to Behold who installed the waterfall and stream, and KRC Rock. ●



## Hedge Fund Points Are Now Here!

Hedge Fund Card holders can now redeem their Hedge Fund points for their purchases in July and August! Hedge Fund Points are earned based on purchases made between January 1 and June 30, 2008. These points can be redeemed for up to 50% of your purchases at anytime during the redemption period. Some exclusions do apply so see stores for details. Points cannot be redeemed for cash and expire August 31, so don't miss this opportunity to save on your summer purchases. Points will accumulate again based on your purchases made between July 1 and December 31, 2008. These points will be available for redemption beginning in January, 2009. Don't have a Hedge Fund Card yet you say? Well, wait no longer! Next time you are in either store pick one up! If you are receiving this newsletter, you already have a customer account. We will gladly add a Hedge Fund Card to that account and you can start earning points now! Hedge Fund Card holders will also get access to special savings on certain items throughout the year. Remember, only Hedge Fund Card holders earn points so get yours today and make sure you use it when you make a purchase! Check our website for program details or stop in either store! Some exclusions do apply. ●

## Water-Wise Landscaping Is Mostly Common Sense

by bewaterwise.com



PHOTO: TOM HAMPTON

The Southern California Friendly Garden combines the beauty of native and California-friendly plants with efficient water use outdoors. Are you following the basic principles of water-wise landscaping in your garden?

1] **Use less-than-thirsty plants in your garden.** Keep

turf grass (the thirstiest plant of all!) to a minimum. Look for plants that are well-suited to regional and local conditions.

2] **Group plants thoughtfully.** When selecting trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials and annuals for your garden, look for those that naturally grow together and use about the same amount of water.

3] **Use water wisely.** Water plants only when needed, not by the clock or calendar. Water at night, when evaporation is much lower and air is calmer. Avoid runoff and overspray.

4] **Improve your soil.** Routinely cultivate your soil, incorporating organic matter such as compost. Doing so improves the soil's ability to resist evaporation and retain moisture. Aerate heavy or compacted soil around trees.

5] **Mulch.** A two- to four-inch layer of mulch also evens out temperature extremes, keep soil cool on hot days and warm on cool days. It also prevents soil from crusting, allowing better water penetration. Take a cue from nature and choose one of many organic types of mulch that add great visual texture to your landscape, such as shredded bark or chips, wood grindings, compost, aged sawdust or even low-growing ground cover. Inorganic mulches, such as gravel or rock, let the most water in and are frequently used with plants susceptible to crown rot.

6] **Plant trees.** Trees help to lower air and soil temperatures, reducing plant and soil moisture loss.

7] **Group container plants.** Arrange containers so they shade one another. During droughts or periods of drying winds, place them in the deepest shade they can tolerate. Wet the entire root ball; double pot by setting small pots inside larger ones with a layer of sand or gravel between. Top-dress pots with a layer of mulch over the soil. ●



PHOTO: TOM HAMPTON

## Bromeliads Are Brimming With Varieties & Colors

by Kent's Bromeliad Nursery



Place a Bromeliad in a room and it turns heads. With its exotic nature, unusual shape and brilliant colors, the bold Bromeliad evokes the mystery of the jungle, where it grows alongside the more well-known Orchid. Deep in the tropical rainforest, Bromeliads paint the forest with dazzling dollops of color and form on the floor beneath, among the

branches and even on top of the dense jungle canopy.

Most of us are more familiar with Bromeliad's less flashy cousins, the juicy Pineapple and air-feeding Spanish moss. With its brilliant colors and enchanting forms, the Bromeliad thrives in tropical rainforests, clinging to trees or rocks or nestled on the ground. Many collect water in the cup formed by tight rosettes of leaves (called tanks), creating tiny ecosystems for beetles, butterflies, hummingbirds and other creatures of the jungle.

Colors range from vivid shades of red and orange to soft peach and pink. Blooms can last from six weeks to four months and are offset dramatically by cool-green, blue-green, striped burgundy and green, speckled or spotted foliage that can be broad or sword-like or thin and grass-like, smooth or, occasionally, spined.

At least one-third of Bromeliad species are air plants that grow on trees or rocks, using only their roots to hold themselves in place. They draw their water from clouds and fog, as well as from rainwater stored in their tanks. **Continued P3**

## Pleased To Meet You

A Quick Look at Some Plants Worth an Introduction

by Melanie Potter



Petrea volubilis

Walter Andersen Nursery employees could spend hours poking through the nurseries to see what plant is new or is doing something interesting. Instead we look forward to our twice weekly meetings when one of our buyers does a show and tell. He provides a fast track approach to what is new, interesting and worth sharing.

One plant made a timely showing as it was in bloom, and is a drought tolerant plant, which is an attribute that gardeners wanting to make water wise plant decisions are looking for. It's a **Swainsonia galegifolia**, which is a shrub that blooms with a white sweet pea-like fragrant bloom. It is a long-lived perennial native to inland New South Wales and Australia. It is easy to cultivate and has a very long flowering season. It blooms from spring to summer and blooms are followed by balloon-like fruit pods. It grows 2-3 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. It takes little to medium water, part shade or sun.

**Acanthus mollis** or 'Bear's Breech' wasn't in bloom yet but has large, bold foliage. I wish I could tell you an interesting story about it somehow having to do with a bear but in reality nothing could be farther from the truth and its common name gives no hint to its origin. Acanthus leaves have a classical appearance and were the source of the Corinthian leaf motif developed and used as a decoration in ancient Greek and Roman art and architecture. It is an herbaceous perennial, native to southern Europe (Portugal east to Croatia) and northwest Africa, and is one of the earliest cultivated species of garden plants. It has basal clusters of deeply lobed and cut, shining dark green leaves. The flowers are tubular, whitish, lilac or rose with spiny green or purplish bracts, and are produced on stout spikes which grow above the leaves. It flowers in late spring or early summer, grows in dry areas, and is tolerant of drought and shade. It isn't picky about soils as long as they are well draining.

**Petrea volubilis** is an unusual tropical vine from the Verbena family that takes full sun. It is an interesting vine for its leaves as well as the flowers. It is sometimes called Queen's Wreath, Sandpaper Vine (due to its roughly textured leaves), Purple Wreath, or Blue Bird Vine. It blooms in the late summer with long lasting strings of purple to white flowers. The grower recommends giving it regular water in summer and warns that this plant does not like cold although it made it through a hard freeze some years ago at their field in Santa Barbara. From afar, this vine looks a lot like Wisteria with the way it heavily covers foundations in blooms.

**Psoralea pinnata** (Scurfy Pea Shrub) will take you for a stroll down Memory Lane. Remember the smell of grape soda? Well, smell the flowers of Psoralea pinnata (The "P" is silent so the name is pronounced as if it began with the "s") and you'll encounter that scent again. This is an African native that grows to about 10' tall. It is drought tolerant and takes full sun. The foliage is soft and has a needle-like shape. Lavender-blue pea flowers bloom on the ends of branches during spring and summer. It needs planting in sun or light shade and watering regularly. This plant is frost tender. It grows best in moderately well drained soils but will survive in heavy soils if summer water is used sparingly. ●



Swainsonia galegifolia



Acanthus mollis



Psoralea pinnata

## Make a Note!

Both stores will close Friday, July 4 for Independence Day. Stores will reopen the following day at their regular hours.

The Poway store will close at 5pm Monday, August 4 for a private event.





# Space Invaders Need Reigning In

by Melanie Potter



Horsetail

Thank goodness somebody invented a drink called a Mojito. Making a pitcher of this thirst-quenching adult beverage has made me glad that mint is one invasive plant we have allowed to flourish in our yard. For those of you not familiar with the Cuban export, a handful of fresh mint is muddled with lime juice, rum and simple syrup. They are addicting, so the mint you need for them along with adding this wonderful herb to marinades and other dishes may exhaust what you can grow in a pot.

*Mints* are aromatic, almost exclusively perennial herbs. They have wide-spreading underground rhizomes and erect, branched stems. Many grow best in moist, rich soil that is slightly acidic and they prefer part shade/sun. Mint will grow 12"-18" tall and can spread over an indeterminate sized area. Due to the tendency to spread unchecked, mint is considered invasive. It is suggested mint be planted in pots. If you put them in the garden, keep them in a container. Don't let the pot tip over as once mint touches the ground, it will put out runners and will be on its way to taking over.



Mint



English Ivy

If you are putting invasive plants in your garden and are using a root barrier, be sure to follow the instructions carefully. The last thing you want is your running bamboo, *horsetail* (Equisetum) or other space invader getting out of hand.

Many plants in the Equisetum genus prefer wet sandy soils, though some are aquatic and others adapted to wet clay soils. The stalks arise from rhizomes that are deep underground and almost impossible to dig out. It is also unaffected by many herbicides designed to kill seed plants. Its tropical appearing, rush-like clumps of dark green, jointed erect slender stems, without leaves or flowers make it a striking looking plant. It is evergreen in warm climates and should be planted in full sun. It is fast growing. Plant it at the edges of waterways and water gardens. They're excellent problem solvers for very poorly drained soils. The most popular use is as a filler of narrow slots in paving of modern and mid-century modern landscapes. Grow in pots for fine textured accents.

*English ivy* plants can act as groundcovers, spreading horizontally and reaching 8" in height. But they are also climbers, due to their aerial rootlets, which allow them to climb to heights of 50' or more. Their ability to grow in shade has made English ivy a traditional groundcover for problematic areas under trees, where most grasses do not grow well. Their vigorous, dense, growth habit makes them an effective groundcover where the object is to crowd out weeds. On slopes, they can be used for erosion control. Some gardeners take advantage of the climbing ability of these vines to use them to cover a wall, while others grow them in hanging baskets, letting them cascade over the sides.

English ivy is evergreen and likes full to partial sun. It needs regular water to become established but once so, can be drought tolerant. ●

## It's the Great Pumpkin, Walter Andersen



In May, our Poway store hosted a class called 'How to Grow Giant Pumpkins'. We got to thinking that it could be fun to plant a pumpkin patch this summer and see what we could grow for Halloween.

Of course, we want to try our hand at growing some giant

ones. Although, if we are successful, we have no idea what we'll do with a 300-500 pound pumpkin, but we'll cross that bridge if we need to.

As we go to press with this newsletter, we are clearing a bed and making way to plant a few pumpkins. You can watch our progress on our special 'Great Pumpkin' page that can be found on our website, [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com)



# Words From Walter

*"Walter Buys From A Budding Entrepreneur"*

With Walter Andersen, Jr.



'Kaffir Plum' is an evergreen tree that you don't see often in nurseries. Harpephyllum caffrum is not even listed in the current Sunset Western Garden Book. It is in the local book, Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates, however. The tree is fairly easy to grow here, in fact there are several trees growing in front of the Poway store.

The seedlings have been transplanted into larger pots in the back of the nursery (in Poway) and perhaps they will be ready to sell in a couple of years. Maybe his folks are reading this story, we can hope! ●



## Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

Despite paying \$4 a gallon for gas, I'm still driving around town looking for plants. I almost caused an accident looking at this first one.

This plant was installed in front of a retail nursery, and with red being my favorite color, I had to stop and find out about this glowing flower. *Cantua buxifolia*, better known as the *Flower of the Incas* was what caught my attention. Incas...South America..., have you made a connection as to where it comes from? Yep, this is the national flower of Bolivia. From spring to early summer, this gorgeous 7'-8' tall shrub produces elegantly arching canes from which large bunches of tubular flowers hang. The flowers for the most part are red, a cherry-red really, but the fun part is that the flowers can be variable in color; ranging from red, to a bright cherry, orange-pink, to a hot pink with a yellow throat. A mature plant can sometimes sport all the colors.

This flowering shrub enjoys a rich soil, so add plenty of amendment (compost) but make sure it still drains well. A sunny, sheltered (inland) spot will do it just fine but it will also tolerate some shade. It may become deciduous during the winter if we have a really cold spell. This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and, of course hummingbirds. It needs average water so water regularly, although, this shrub has been known to become drought tolerant at maturity. Right now mine is in a part shade spot in my front yard (in Poway). I'll let you know how it does.



I saw the cutest little flowers peeking out at me at the Huntington Botanical Garden and had to figure out what this plant was. *Euphorbia xantii* aka 'Baja Spurge' is the name and open and airy is the game. This

plant will grow large and wide, 4-6', so I found it hard to believe that it was suggested for rock gardens. If you have the room, go for it. Mine is in my front yard and will have other things showing up through it as it does have a very open growth habit. Well, so far it has an open

habit. It is an evergreen succulent. The pale pink, sometimes white, daisy-like blossoms are held in clusters at the tips. It prefers full sun so if you have a partial shade area, prepare for it to get a little leggy. Bloom time is from mid spring to early fall, so it should give you some nice summer color. It is not particular about soil or fertilizer, so it would make a great xeriscape plant.

Several things to think about before you plant, it can be invasive. Also, being a euphorbia, parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested and you may have a reaction to the milky sap. I have been told by some gardeners that they consider it an invasive or noxious weed. (You have now been warned). This plant is resistant to deer if you have this problem.

I'm sort of on an orange, pink and yellow kick right now so it is no wonder I became enamored with the next flowering shrub. *Adenanthos* is a genus of about 30 species in the Protea family (Proteaceae) grown in Southwestern Australia for the most part. A few members of the genus can be found in cultivation and *Adenanthos detmoldii*, better known as *Woolybush*, is one of them. Woolybush is an erect shrub to about 8' high and 6' wide. My first understanding of this shrub was that it didn't quite get this large. But, I have learned about several cultivars now and find that the one I have is a biggie. I may have to transplant the one in my garden as I am spending too much time trying to keep it contained, but I like it so much I think it's worth a try.

This pretty shrub has narrow grey/silver hairy leaves that are very soft to the touch which is one of the reasons I like it. It works great in a kid's texture garden. This variety blooms yellow to orange flowers singly in the leaf axils. There is also a red blooming variety. The blooms are seen over a long period between winter and early summer.

It prefers well drained, light soils in full sun or dappled shade. It has been found near the ocean in its native Australia, so this plant will not suffer from salt spray and will do well as a coastal plant. The foliage may be subject to grey mold in humid conditions. If you have a windy spot, it is very tolerant there too. The flowers produce nectar that attracts honey eating birds as well as hummingbirds. It is cold hardy to about 20-25°F although tip damage has been noted around 24°F. Mine is planted near some trees so it is protected from frosty weather. It's a beautiful plant for the garden and great for cut foliage.

Well, I'm off to my garden, until next time, happy gardening.

ALL PLANTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY ●

## Enjoy A Special Class... That Helps You Enjoy The Yard

by Melanie Potter



Nearly every Saturday, Walter Andersen nurseries hold informative gardening classes, but on July 5, the Poway store will deviate from that, just a bit.

Oh, we'll still share with you what you can do in your yard to make you more knowledgeable and teach you how to keep having fun, but this class will have a special twist. First of all, it will most likely be taught by someone who knows very little about gardening, yet this person will appreciate all the garden can offer.

This class will focus on the barbecue grill, especially the ones we sell at Walter Andersen Nursery, and all the good things you can do with it, and you'll learn from an expert.

Join Walter Andersen Nursery for a free class on July 5 at 9:30 a.m. and learn from Marcelino Arroyo, head chef at the Brigantine in Poway, how to cook beef, salmon, and chicken on the grill. Marcelino will be grilling on the Ducane Meridian 5-burner grill.

Space and food is limited to the first 40 attendees. ●





# Low-Growing Plants

## Get A High Profile

by Melanie Potter



Lemon-Scented Myrtle

Low-growing, spreading plants are the perfect solution to covering unsightly dirt. Sure there are enough tall plants and shrubs to give you vertical interest, but down below deserves something eye catching too.

I am determined to put a few Darwinia into a dry, dirt covered spot where the Alyssum has given up growing. Darwinia citriodora ‘Seaspray’ or Lemon-scented Myrtle is a dense, low mounding shrub to 1 to 2 feet tall by 2 to 3 feet wide with aromatic pale green leaves from Western Australia. In winter through spring appear green and orange-red flowers that darken with age. Plant in part sun to dappled shade or in full sun in cooler gardens or where the root zone is shaded. It is best suited for well drained soils with regular irrigation. It’s hardy to frost and tolerant of seaside conditions if protected from direct ocean spray. This is a very durable shrub that tolerates a wide range of conditions. It was introduced in the United States by the University of California Santa Cruz Koala Blooms Program in fall 2005 as Darwinia citriodora ‘Seaspray’.

Calluna ‘Golden Carpet’ is a spreading form of heather, about 4” in height that makes a good carpet. The golden-yellow foliage has pink

tipped young growth in spring that burns orange and red in the winter. Mauve bell-shaped flowers come during August and September. A very forgiving plant, it will grow in poor, well-drained, acidic soil, in a sunny site.

This plant is named for what you get. ‘Emerald Carpet’ is a variety of Arctostaphylos that is bright green and lush looking. It’s a very compact hybrid Manzanita, growing about 1’ tall with dense, small, glossy, deep green leaves that nearly hide the attractive cinnamon red stems with exfoliating bark. Small white flowers bloom in mid-winter. To thrive, this shrub demands good drainage. In hot inland areas, a little afternoon shade is required along with occasional deep summer watering. ●



Golden Carpet

Emerald Carpet



### Bromeliads *Continued From P3*

One of the most popular Bromeliads is the fashionable Guzmania, with its soft, often shiny leaves and tall scene-stealing flowers that bloom in a rainbow of luminous colors. The Aechmea group, another favorite, offers many color choices, too, with flowers that emerge from a water cup formed by upright spiny or spineless leaves.

Low-growing Neoregelias create pink, red or purple rosettes when in bloom. The Tillandsias group of typically smaller airborne Bromeliads has thin, gray-green leaves and exotic, tropical-looking flowers that come in an assortment of colors, including yellow, pink, red and orange. Vrieseas feature soft, upright green or variegated leaves and sword-shaped flowers in red, purple, yellow and orange.

A naturally hardy tropical plant, Bromeliads thrive beautifully indoors, flourishing in low light and with very little maintenance. They love fresh air and do well near a window or doorway, or, placed in a shady outdoor area now and then for a dose of fresh air. Bromeliads rarely need to be fertilized, maybe just once in the spring, twice in the summer and once in the fall with about half the formula required of most house plants. Skip fertilizing altogether during the winter months.

#### *Bloom gone? Make another!*

Bromeliad’s striking color can last up to 16 weeks, and then the plant slowly dies over the next year or two. In the meantime, though, offshoots, or pups, sprout at the base of the mother plant, offering the gift of another mature plant in less than nine months.

- 1) Pups usually emerge from the soil near the edge of the pot. They should be allowed to grow until they are one-third to one-half the size of the mother plant and have several sets of leaves.
- 2) Besides a mother plant with one or more pups, you’ll need a second pot, and some newspaper pages to spread over the work area. You’ll also need soil. For the best results mix bark, wood chips or perlite (a quarter to an eighth of an inch diameter) with an equal amount of peat moss.
- 3) Remove the mother plant and pup from their container.
- 4) Gently pull the soil away, exposing the area where the mother plant and pup are joined.
- 5) The pup may or may not have its own root system. If necessary, pull additional soil away so you can have a clear view of the base of both plants.
- 6) Most of the time, the pup can be pulled off the mother plant without the use of any tools. If it resists, give it a firm but gentle tug. Make the cut near the base of the mother plant. Replant the mother plant – and only the mother plant – immediately.
- 7) Before planting the pup, let it sit in the shade for at least a day. This allows the area that has been pulled or cut away from the mother plant to callous, preventing soil-borne diseases from entering through the soft tissue. Then plant the pup, using one of the recommended mixtures and gently pressing down on the soil around the base of the pup.
- 8) Care for the young plant as you would a mature Bromeliad. ●

### Drunkard’s Dream Won’t Give You Nightmares

by Melanie Potter



Want a houseplant that only needs bright light and occasional water? If that sounds like a dream come true, then the Drunkard’s Dream (*Hatiora salicornioides*) is for you.

Oh sure, it’s not always pretty to look, at but its

name is an attention getter, it’s always green and caring for it is a breeze. This epiphytic cactus is native to Brazil and is related to a pencil cactus. It can also be called spice cactus and I even found it referred to as Dancing Bones. Its name comes from its whiskey bottle shaped jointed segments.

It can grow tall, with profusely branching stems up to 16 inches high, from which numerous leafless and spineless shoots grow. This plant, along with the Christmas Cactus belongs to the Rhipsalis members of the cactus family. Unlike cactus, they rarely have spines and also unlike cactus, they occur naturally as rainforest epiphytes rather than being native to deserts.

If the plant is given bright light, the more slender portion of the joint will be shorter and the shoots will take on a reddish hue. In the spring and summer, numerous small flowers ranging in color from yellow to red are borne at the ends of the shoots. These are followed by translucent white fruits with reddish tips.

Propagating the Drunkard’s Dream is easily done by taking the end of stem cuttings with 1 to 4 segments. Let the cut dry out and heal for 12 to 24 hours, then plant in a cactus mix. This plant prefers humus rich soil that drains well. The rooting process takes two to three weeks. Trim to two segments to encourage branching. And, given its thirst loving name, don’t let the Drunkard’s Dream dry out – give it water before that happens. ●



### Night Time Garden Damage

#### *Not Fun To Wake Up To*

By MELANIE POTTER

Did you go to sleep last night wondering what destruction your yard would be exposed to while you were tucked in bed? You will notice that in the morning the snails are still busily enjoying the dampness that made the plants even tastier, and the rabbits helped themselves to lots of servings of grass, bedding plants and vegetables, like they were at a Las Vegas buffet. How’s your bougainvillea looking? A little chewed around the edges of the leaves, especially the new growth?

From the samples of gnawed bougainvillea leaves we’ve seen lately in the nursery, it appears to be the work of the Bougainvillea looper. This one-inch long brown or green, smooth skinned caterpillar grows to become a Sombre Carpet Moth which lays its eggs on the underside of bougainvillea leaves. Once hatched, the larvae begin eating the bougainvillea and are also partial to plants in the Four O’Clock family.

The damage is not pleasing to look at but at least you don’t have to fear losing your plant. The caterpillars are most destructive from June through September. Recommended treatment is to spray regularly with BT products during the evening when their activity begins. An informative article I saw in California Garden had a hilarious suggestion for doing combat against the loopers which involves arming yourself with a flashlight and braving the darkness to pick off the feeding larvae. Squeamish gardeners might have luck, it was suggested, by setting up a birdfeeder nearby and hoping that feathered friends pitch in with pest control. ●

### Seasonal Recipe

*Just in time for summer harvests when you are overwhelmed by basil and cherry tomatoes, here are two sauce recipes.*

#### *Pesto Sauce*

- 2 cups packed basil leaves
- 2/3 cup fat-free, less-sodium chicken broth
- ¼ cup grated fresh Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp crushed red pepper
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 ½ tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tbsp chopped hazelnuts, toasted

Combine basil and next five ingredients in a food processor. Process until smooth. With the processor on, slowly pour olive oil through the chute and process until well blended. Serve over pasta and top with hazelnuts.

#### *Cherry Tomato Sauce*

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 5 cups quartered cherry tomatoes
- ½ cup thinly sliced fresh basil
- 3 tbsp. drained capers
- 1 tsp grated lemon rind
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper

Heat olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-low heat. Add garlic to pan, cook 3 minutes, stirring frequently so garlic does not brown. Remove from heat, stir in tomatoes and remaining ingredients then toss with pasta.





the wee corner

by Melanie Potter



Watch Out For These Tiny Pests

Sometimes bad things come in little packages. Not too long ago, a couple of customers walked into our Poway store with a little baggies containing rose petals and the small brown, beetle-like bugs that were found in them. The bug baggie was passed around and while some customer service professionals thought it looked like one thing or another, further research indicated they weren't and we were stumped to positively identify them.

Ken Andersen finally identified them as hoplia beetles. A little research showed that these beetles are related to the June beetle but are attracted to light colored flowers, including white, yellow, apricot, and pink roses. They will ruin your roses by and chewing round holes in the petals.

Trying to rid your roses of these pests is no easy task. One way to manage hoplia beetles in your garden is to regularly hand-pick them off the flowers they are feeding on and dispose of them in a bucket of soapy water, or shake them out of the blooms directly into the soapy water. You can also just clip off blooms infested with beetles and dispose of them. Regular hand-picking may be an important way of reducing future beetle populations in the immediate area. Another nonchemical control measure is to fill white, 5-gallon buckets with water and a few drops of detergent to break the surface tension. These buckets are then placed in several locations throughout the rose garden where they attract the beetles, which fall in the buckets and drown. The effectiveness of this method has not been tested by research. Like hand-picking, it may only serve to reduce the beetle population somewhat.

Unfortunately, sprays are not generally recommended. It is very difficult to obtain effective control with insecticides because beetles are protected within the blossoms and they must be contacted directly by the spray to be killed. Chemical control of the larvae in most cases is not possible because they may live in the soil outside the garden or in surrounding landscapes. Systemic insecticides aren't effective against the adults because concentrations high enough to be toxic do not occur in the blossoms where they feed. If chewing damage cannot be tolerated for the 2- to 4-week period that the beetles are present, an insecticide such as carbaryl (Sevin), malathion, or the pyrethroid cyfluthrin can be applied. These insecticides only kill those beetles present at the time of the spray applications. Do not spray blooming plants where honeybees are present because most insecticides are very toxic to honeybees. ●

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 9am

July

- 7/5 Summer Lawn Care
- 7/12 Staghorn Fern Dividing & Remounting
- 7/19 Plumeria Care
- 7/26 Summer Rose Care

August

- 8/2 Gardenia, Varieties & Care
- 8/9 Soil Amendments
- 8/16 Indoor Plants
- 8/23 Shade Gardens
- 8/30 Ornamental Grasses & Grass Like Plants

September

- 9/6 General Orchid Care
- 9/13 Xeriscape (Low Water Use Planting)
- 9/20 Fall Lawn Care
- 9/27 Fall Bulbs

POWAY 9:30am

July

- 7/5 BBQ Class with Marcelino Arroyo, Poway Brigantine Head Chef
- 7/12 Container Gardening with Carol Fuller
- 7/19 Summer Rose Care
- 7/26 Shade Trees

August

- 8/2 Summer Fruit Tree Pruning
- 8/9 Carnivorous Plants
- 8/16 Heat Loving Plants
- 8/23 Low Water Use Plants
- 8/30 Fall/Winter Vegetables

September

- 9/6 Fall Grasses
- 9/13 Staghorn Ferns - Remounting & Care
- 9/20 Fall Bulbs
- 9/27 Fall Rose Care

TOOL SHED

Giving Men A Reason To Cook

by Ken Andersen



My tool shed has no space to contain the three barbecue grills, cookers, etc. that I have, but it does store a nice selection of my wood chips, accessories, and charcoal briquettes. In fact, I have a lot of barbecue paraphernalia for a guy whose grill duties were usurped by his wife. I was told I was no longer the grill master of my domain because I burned everything that touched the encrusted bars of the grill. I am not allowed to get near the gas grill and am only allowed to start a fire in the charcoal grill. As any man knows, if you are outside, with a beer in your hand, you need heat to stand over and meat to flip.

When we brought an Orion convection cooker in with the rest of our outdoor living and grill line this spring, I was intrigued not only by its design, but also by its claims of fast cooking time and that it could cook six full racks of baby back ribs in 1 1/2 hours!

I have always wanted to cook ribs but was leery of the time it took and all the barbecue voodoo that goes with cooking good ribs. Anyway, I decided to try the thing out. I took one home and followed the instructions, placing the water pan in the bottom, lining with wood chips for smoke, filling the ring and topping with charcoal, hanging three full racks of ribs then lighting it off to see what happened.

One of the great things about these grills is that you don't have to be concerned with lighter fluid taste getting into your food as the food is completely separated from the charcoal heat source. This also eliminates flare ups. Once the cooker is lit you just leave it alone for the prescribed cooking time. After the allotted cooking time, I took the top off and was instantly greeted by the great smell of mesquite smoke and barbecued ribs. They were moist, tender and smoky good! I was so impressed that I tried salmon, pork and chicken on the grill to see how it performed. They too came out just as promised within the time frame noted in the cookers' instructions.

The unit comes complete with water tray, two cooking grates, three rib hangers, and a poultry rack that holds a whole chicken or a turkey up to 20 pounds (which will cook in little over two hours!)

For simple and foolproof barbecuing, (I'm a living testimonial for that!) come in a grab an Orion Cooker at our Poway store today! See the coupon page of this newsletter for additional savings when buying an Orion Cooker!



2008

Poway Rose Show Winners Named

The Ninth Annual Poway Rose Show brought out hundreds of entries. Judges worked hard to name the following winners.

Best hybrid tea or grandiflora: Marie and Ira Fletcher for 'Marilyn Monroe'

Best single stem floribunda: Kristi Sutherlin for 'Sexy Remy'

Best old fashioned type: Stephanie Mueller for 'Tradesent'

Best miniature: Stephanie Mueller for 'Green Ice'

Best bouquet: Sandy Campillo featuring 'Sunset Celebration', 'Fame', and 'We Salute You'

Best mini bouquet: Jennifer Bold for 'Mother's Love' and 'Child's Play'

Best floating bowl: Marie and Ira Fletcher for 'Marilyn Monroe'

Most fragrant rose: Jocelyn Scott for 'The McCartney Rose'

Andersen's Choice Award: Marie Cashion for 'George Burns'

Next year, look for a Children's category to be added to the Rose Show schedule.

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

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Mix or Match 4-Inch Vegetables,  
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COUPON

Valid July 1 – September 30, 2008

\$5.00 OFF  
Any Hand Tool  
Regular Price \$29.99 or Higher  
Limit 2

#100384

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.



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