

WALTER ANDERSEN'S GARDEN CHATTER

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



WINTER

04

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Monrovia, Proven Winners Give Preview of New Releases



When wandering about the nursery, surely you recognize all the standard favorite plants, but have you ever pondered the new additions to the inventory?

Every year Walter Andersen Nursery receives page after page of new plant introductions from its growers. Some are grown for other parts of the country and won't thrive in Southern California; however, there are many that will and then the dilemma. Our staff loves all new plants and wants to try to grow everything but we have to make choices best for the retail business. What will customers like and buy? How many varieties would they be interested in? What is so appealing about this plant that we think it will sell?

We've made some selections that will be new to our inventory this year and look forward to carrying them. If the grower can provide them, then we will be sharing these new releases with you.

From a premium grower, Monrovia, comes four additions that our purchasing manager is very excited to see.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MONROVIA

Ombrella Mimosa Tree / *Albizia julibrissin* 'Boubri' This very showy and colorful landscape tree has stunning, hot pink flowers that look like fluffy silk powder puffs but also remind me of exploding fireworks. Bees and birds are attracted to the fragrant flower clusters. The tree grows fast, up to 35' tall and wide at maturity. It loves summer heat, does best in full sun, but will tolerate some shade.



Orange Meadowbrite Coneflower / *Echinacea* 'Arts Pride' / PPAF Orange Meadowbrite This is the first-ever orange blooming Echinacea. It is suited for either a formal border or a more naturalistic meadow and prairie design. It is a fast grower; 15 to 24" high and attracts butterflies. It grows best in full sun and well-draining soil.



Shenandoah Mountain Coral Bells / *Heuchera* 'Shenandoah Mountain PPAF' Already available in our stores, it's distinguished by its large size and vigor, and dramatic foliage color. It produces showy, creamy white flowers from contrasting purple buds on upright leafy stems. It is suited to the middle of the perennial border, loves shade and looks spectacular in a woodland or cottage garden. Its flowers are good for cutting.



Icee Blue Fern Pine / *Podocarpus elongates* 'Monlan' Podocarpus has long been a favorite decorative conifer in the Southern part of the country and this introduction is the only with blue-grey, green foliage that stays stunning year round. It has a natural pyramidal shape and looks great as a screen, hedge or in a woodland garden. It does well in containers or as a patio tree. It is a slow grower to 15'-25' feet tall and 10'-12' wide. It thrives in full sun to part shade and prefers sandy, well-drained, alkaline soils.

We'll round out our spring collection with some beautiful additions from Proven Winners. Look for these stunners with their ear catching names.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PROVEN WINNERS

Vanilla Butterfly / *Argyranthemum frutescens* We're very excited with this addition. Its large flowers range in color from soft cream to pure white. It is excellent in large containers and landscapes and has a vigorous habit and is heat tolerant.



Solaire 'Yellow' / *Bidens ferulifolia* A yellow trailing flower that is great for combination planters or baskets, this is a more compact form of Bidens that is heat and drought tolerant with few pest or disease problems. It also performs well in the landscape.

Continued P2

WAN Assists Fire Victims, Visits Damaged Home Sites



PHOTO: KEN ANDERSEN

As we prepare this edition of the newsletter it is with a distracted mind. It is two days after fires began in San Diego County and as we work in our Poway office which is sandwiched between the Poway and Scripps Ranch areas devastated by the Cedar fire, the air is foul and the sky is the unsightly color of nicotine-stained fingers.

Our employees have quickly touched base with us; some to report the sad news that their home was lost, one in disbelief that hers was among only a handful still standing nearly unscathed on a long block devastated in Scripps Ranch; while others were joyous that theirs completely escaped the destruction.

When our telephone rang at 10 a.m. on Monday morning we were touched to hear from our friend Kevin Twohey, owner of Whiting Nursery in St. Helena and the town's fire chief. He was checking to see if our home and nursery were safe. After assuring him all was well, he explained he was just pulling into Escondido with five fire trucks and crew from Dry Creek, Soda Canyon, Angwin, Edgerly Island, and St. Helena. They would be assigned to the west side of Julian where they saved more than 100 homes, losing only one garage-apartment. They worked the fire line three days straight with no relief.

As the community mobilized to help those who have suffered losses from these devastating fires, we wondered what could be done to assist. We felt the nursery had a role in education and to help residents with firescaping. Many calls were made to our stores by homeowners asking how to treat scorched landscaping, wanting quotes for insurance companies, or seeking advice before replanting. From our Poway store we sent three nurserymen into communities to handle assessments. Owner Ken Andersen, store manager David Ross and salesperson Richard Wright were stunned by their finds. At press time, they have made more than 70 house calls and assessed nearly \$1 million in plant damage. Consultation fees were waived so the nursery donated more than \$10,000 of billable time. We also chose to donate \$4 from every 2004 Walter Andersen calendar sold to the California Fire Fund.

Surprise was David Ross's reaction to the fire destruction he witnessed as he began visiting homeowners. Rocks became so hot they exploded and scattered in peeling layers. Never before had he seen so much fire damage and he was amazed by the results. "The groundcover Acacia redolens burns well, even if there is a thick layer of it," he recounted. Ken Andersen was also surprised by the amount of ice plant and gazania that burned. David was stunned to find Pampas grass growing under somebody's deck and recalled the house wasn't lost even with such an incendiary plant near a wood deck. "Surprisingly enough a lot of trees survived and will probably make it although they may not be structurally suitable due to the charring or cuts or gouging they suffered. I'm surprised by how many dead looking trees are sprouting," David said. In fact, most nursery professionals noted that. "The new growth we're already seeing is nothing short of miraculous. I saw lots of Agapanthus melted to the ground and it is already re-sprouting," David reported. What not to do based on the fire results he'd seen, we asked? "Don't store wood or wood items near your house," cautioned David. ●



Tasty, New Avocado Is Hard To Find

We've been promised that never, ever, have you tasted an avocado with the luscious flavor of this new variety. In fact, it is so good and so new, it is patented and in limited supply and available in San Diego County only at our nurseries. Therefore, we are proud to offer it at Walter Andersen Nursery, as an avocado treelet, certified and grafted with the new avocado variety, the 'Don Gillogly'. This dwarf avocado tree produces two distinct crops per year of a green-skinned fruit that turns black upon ripening. You can enjoy your own fruit-bearing avocado tree as a gorgeous tropical houseplant or you may plant it outdoors in temperate climates. We anticipate having our first delivery of 'Don Gillogly' in March. We can take your order any time prior to their arrival, just call 858-513-4900 to place your request. For more information, visit www.avocadotrees.com. ●



PHOTO: NICOLE ANDERSON

Valentine's Day Gift Baskets Will Win Hearts

Tired of giving candy and flowers to your beloved on Valentine's Day? Walter Andersen Nursery has gift baskets all wrapped up and ready to go for the significant other in your life. Priced at \$19.99 and \$29.99 baskets suitable for your lady love are wrapped with a pink bow. Blue ribboned baskets are brimming with gifts for the man in your life. Baskets for ladies contain a selection of TerraNova scents and lotions or candles as well as floral patterned gardening gloves, or glass hummingbird feeders or garden accessories. Men will enjoy garden tools, books, or a kneeling pillow. Baskets can be paired with a gift certificate to Walter Andersen Nursery to give that special one a shopping spree. You can also create your own basket by choosing items to include and we'll wrap everything for you! Don't forget to visit our bookshelves and pick up a copy of 'Plants of Love', a fascinating history of aphrodisiacs. ●

Monrovia, Proven Winners New Releases

Continued from P1



Superbells / *Calibrachoa hybrid* Debuted last year in five colors, four more have been added to include 'Cherry Red', 'Pink Kiss', 'Trailing Blue' and 'Trailing Rose'. The flowers are large and the plant is disease tolerant and has a strong summer performance. The growth habit is mounded and great for mono-crop pots, baskets or combination planters. It will also perform well in landscape plantings.



Flying Colors / 'Trailing Red' / *Diascia hybrid* This line comes from the Netherlands and has won awards for its summer performance. Tremendous flower production with large sized flowers that create a wonderful contrast with the deep green foliage and strong growth habit. 'Trailing Red' is similar to the existing variety 'Trailing Antique Rose'.



Festival Star / *Gypsophila* A new perennial, this is a good cut or dried flower with excellent pot or landscape performance. It is very free flowering with good heat tolerance.



Laguna / *Lobelia hybrid* Blue Sky joins the collection with its soft blue color, free flowering and compact habit to make it a great addition to combination planters. The plants will bloom under the short days of spring and can tolerate cool temperatures and keep performing through the heat of summer.



Sunsatia / *Nemesia hybrid* The addition of this plant has made our purchasing manager very excited. A breeding breakthrough in Germany led to this unique new series. The plants are mounded and then cascade over the edge of the pot or basket. They flower in complete abandon and are often so covered in blooms (red, yellow, white, cream and bi-colors) it is impossible to see the foliage.



Supertunia / *Petunia hybrida* A long time favorite, these are virtually maintenance free and bloom continuously throughout the season. The newest variety is 'Lemon Plume', with its soft yellow color; it will look best in landscapes or combination planters because its habit is slightly more upright than the other Supertunias.



Supertunia Mini / *Petunia hybrida* Similar to Supertunia in vigor and habit, these minis have masses of petite blooms. Mini Rose Veined is the new addition to the line. ●

Rose Apple Deserves Space In Your Orchard

by Richard Wright



A rose by any other name is still not an apple, unless it's a Rose Apple (*Syzygium jambos*). This multi-faceted fruit's origin is found in the East Indies and Malaysia. It has made its way through India, Jamaica, and the West Indies. It traveled across Asia, and the Pacific Islands,

to Peru and Mexico, then into Florida around 1877. From there, it went west to California, and into my backyard in 2001. The Rose Apple is one of the few roses in my orchard.

As its history and travels indicate, it is tropical, and made for full sun. It tolerates our cooler weather just fine, even down to the high 20s in Poway, for a limited time. It is a large bush or small tree that grows to approximately 20 feet high and even wider than that. The branching can be fairly low and weeping. The leaves are 4-9 inches long and about 2 inches wide. To me it looks like a weeping Eucalyptus tree or even a small Willow tree on steroids. In the landscape the tree would make a wonderful addition to any tropical theme, a nice big hedge, or even a beautiful focal point in your yard.

The Rose Apple flowers are a treat in themselves. Two to four inches wide, soft yellow to white in color and full of some 300 stamens. They look like short, stubby paint brushes, and boy do they smell good! If you were blindfolded you would not be able to tell a Rose Apple flower from a true rose. The crisp fruit is from one to two plus inches in size, and has at least one small, hard, brown seed. It has a wonderful Rose taste (it tastes like a Rose smells), although some people think otherwise. The fruit can be eaten fresh, jammed or jellied, even diced in salad as a nice surprise.

Whether through the eyes, nose or mouth, the Rose Apple is a wonderful treat in your garden or orchard. Try it, you'll like it.

Richard provides customer service in our Poway store. A fruit tree expert, when asked by customers what they should do with their landscaping, he has been known to advise them to take out everything and replant with fruit trees! ●



Word From Walter

"New Roses Debut at Walter Andersen Nursery"



January and February are the perfect months to select roses and this year the nurseries have several new varieties to choose from. These additions will enhance our existing collection of about 140 varieties. All of our roses come potted with a special mix in five gallon containers (you can also buy them 'bare root' if you prefer). By this time of year, some will have new growth. There are so many different roses that it may be hard to select which ones you like the best. We also have a large selection of tree roses in several sizes and don't forget the climbers which are great to cover a wall or arbor. One of the most popular climbers is Fourth of July with its bright red and white streaks. An old favorite is Cecil Brunner with its large clusters of pale pink, fully double, small blooms. If you are looking for a truly different climbing variety, check out Sally Holmes, there is really nothing else like it. Don't miss these new varieties making their debut with us.

Be-Bop A single rose, bright red with a yellow center. This shrub forms large clusters of bright color. Glossy green leaves make this a disease resistant rose. It's vigorous and will brighten any yard.

Chichuly A floribunda of multi colored blooms ranging from yellow to orange.

Day Breaker A new AARS awarded rose of pastel peach and yellow. A floribunda with perfectly shaped double blooms slightly darker in the center. Medium size shrub has a full growth habit and glossy leaves.

Disneyland Exciting floribunda that produces wave after wave of blooms. A single cut branch will fill a vase with glowing orange double blooms.

Fragrant Keepsake Glorious colors of light yellow to deep rose. It's wonderful for bouquets and has a strong fragrance. Will grow to about 4' tall.

Heaven on Earth Interesting color of apricot to light pink in an 'old fashioned' rose form. A floribunda that will grow to about 3.5' tall with superior disease resistance.

Home and Family Almost pure white with a hint of pink, it's a hybrid tea rose that produces big, pointed buds on long elegant stems. Height is medium upright, but still compact.

Honey Perfume A new floribunda with a honey hued exciting color and medium spicy fragrance. The glossy green leaves add brilliance to this new introduction.

Lavender Lace A floribunda that's a non-stop bloomer with large clusters of silvery lavender double blooms and a strong, citrus scent.

Memorial Day AARS winning rose for 2004. Lavender pink floribunda that is extremely productive. One bloom has enough fragrance to fill a room. A taller growing rose, to about 5'.

Nancy Reagan A wonderful hybrid tea of deep apricot. It's an excellent recommendation for the cutting garden with a medium sweet fragrance.

Ronald Reagan A hybrid tea of bright red with lighter reverse petals.

Salsa A bright red semi double floribunda that produces masses of blooms on a very disease resistant plant.

Now is a good time to pay attention to the rose garden and pruning and trimming is a good place to start. Roses should be pruned back in January. Cut off all the crossed wood and all the dead branches. Then, cut the remaining canes back to about 12" to 16", leaving between three and five canes. Climbers don't require that intensive a pruning so leave long canes, the newest are best, and remove all the old woody ones. Then from the longer canes that remain, the offshoots should be thinned and the remaining ones get cut back to about 12" long. To make this job easier, be sure to have some good gloves, preferably with long cuffs to avoid getting scratched by the thorns. Be sure your shears are sharp and working properly. For larger canes, you may need a lopper or even a small pruning saw to make things easier. At the beginning of February, start feeding with a good rose food (we recommend and use Gro Power monthly). Twice a year apply "Ada Perry's Magic Formula" which is not really a rose food, but a supplement of elements the roses use in smaller amounts as well as additives to counteract the alkaline water and soil we have in San Diego. ●

Seasonal Recipe (Serves 4)

Honey Roasted Acorn Squash with Wild Rice Hazelnut Salad

This recipe was shared by Mark Adair and The Briquantine Family of Restaurants. Mark is the Corporate Chef for the company. Prior to joining The Briquantine Family of Restaurants, Mark was Executive Chef of the Ihilani Resort and Spa in Kapolei, Hawaii, where he supervised the management of five restaurants, and directed banquet and room service operations. Previously, he was Executive Chef at the Westin Resort and Spa in Vail, as well as The Valley Hunt Club and the Doubletree Hotel, both in Pasadena. Career highlights include cooking for Prince Andrew's 31st birthday at Balmoral Castle and cooking for President George Bush, Sr., in 1991.

Honey Roasted Acorn Squash
2 acorn squash – split in half, stem and seeds removed
4 tablespoons clarified butter
2 tablespoons honey
Salt and pepper – to taste
8 ounces Wild Rice Hazelnut Salad (see recipe below)
2 tablespoons toasted curry oil (see recipe below)
2 tablespoons chive oil (see recipe below)
2 tablespoons hazelnuts, dry-roasted – chopped, for garnish
4 sprigs fresh thyme – for garnish
6 chives – for garnish

Combine butter and honey, and reserve. Split acorn squash in half and remove seeds. Remove a small portion of the bottom of squash so that it sits evenly balanced. Brush liberally with butter/honey mixture and season with salt and pepper. Bake in a 350° oven until nicely caramelized and the squash is tender. Use a fork to check for doneness. Heat wild rice salad with a small amount of vegetable broth and fill cavity of squash. Place filled squash in the center of a warm dinner plate. Drizzle oils around squash and sprinkle with chopped hazelnuts. Garnish with fresh thyme and chive sprigs.

Wild Rice Hazelnut Salad (Serves 10)

1 pound cooked wild rice
2 oz. onion – minced
1oz. celery – diced
1oz. carrot – diced
1/2 cup sun-dried cherries
1/2 cup toasted hazelnuts – chopped
1/4 cup fresh parsley – chopped
1/2 tablespoon fresh sage – minced
1/2 tablespoon olive oil
Saute carrots, onion and celery in olive oil until al dente. Combine rice, reserved vegetables, cherries, hazelnuts and fresh herbs.

Toasted Curry Oil (Serves 16)

1 cup olive oil
1/4 cup Madras curry powder
In a thick-bottomed sauce pot, place oil and curry powder and bring to a gentle simmer over low heat. As soon as oil begins to fry the curry powder, remove from heat and let stand to infuse flavors until oil is cool. Strain and reserve.

Chive Oil (Serves 16)

1/2 bunch chives – blanched and chopped
1/2 bunch parsley – blanched and chopped
1 cup cold olive oil
Place chives, parsley and oil in a blender. Blend to puree herbs into oil. BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER-BLEND OR OIL WILL TURN DARK. Allow herbs to sit and infuse oil for at least 1 hour. Strain and reserve.

Blueberries An Old Standard Gets A Makeover

by Ed Laivo, Dave Wilson Nurseries

Blueberries are new, well not really new but they're improved with new low chill varieties and best of all, I have some new ideas on how to grow them!

For years the blueberry has been mostly a northern grown plant requiring all the climate conditions that southern California doesn't have like high winter chill, mild summer temperatures with high humidity and low pH soils. In the past 10 years there has been a storm of new introductions coming out of the southern states. These more adaptable varieties are called Southern Highbush type blueberries and meet most of the requirements for growing in the southern climates. The O'Neal was one of the first Southern Highbush types introduced in the south and it still is a first choice for home gardeners due to its fine quality berry. Some exciting new varieties include Sharpblue, Sunshine Blue and Misty. These are all great flavored varieties that are well adapted to the low chill south and have a high summer heat tolerance.

A new introduction to be aware of also this season is the Southmoon. This is an early bearing fine tasting introduction and the only blueberry in my collection of 20 varieties not to leaf burn this past hot season. Being early, it is the perfect compliment to a mid or late season variety and, remember that Blueberries will yield a much bigger crop when paired with another variety.

I even find the new Southern Highbush varieties to be tastier than the old Northern Highbush selections. With this great selection of adapted low chill varieties I would avoid the Northern Highbush varieties completely unless you are sure you have the climate to suite them.

An exciting planting idea to make growing Blueberries easier, is to refrain from planting them in the ground. Blueberries make a wonderful container plant. They are very ornamental as well as productive when grown this way. The trick is the soil mix. Blueberries like a low pH (4.5 to 6.0 with 5.5 being optimal). They also like to grow in actively decomposing organic mater. Here is a mix that I have been very successful with: 1/3 Pathway bark (1/4"), 1/3 Peat Moss, 1/3 Leaf Mold (if you can find it) or Forest Humus based potting soil. Mix together and add 2 tablespoons of Soil Sulfur. This will get your container Blueberry off to a great start. In the spring, fertilize with a fertilizer high in nitrogen (sulfate or urea form) and minors. Check carefully when selecting fertilizers, the nitrogen must not be in the nitrate form as this can be deadly to blueberries.

The Blueberry is an ideal fruit to grow. It's a Native American variety, makes a beautiful ornamental and it's easy to grow and one of the healthiest fruits for you containing the highest concentration of antioxidants and lycopine of any fruit. With the new introductions you can have ripe Blueberries in your yard from May to August. ●



Gardeners Are Loyal To Soil

PHOTO: NICOLE ANDERSON



The nursery is proud to carry several brands of soil. Each is an exceptional product, provides good results and is manufactured by professionals who know all the dirt on dirt.

Each brand has its loyal fans. Nursery owner Walter Andersen, Jr. is partial to Sunshine but his wife, Jody, is sold on Uncle Malcolm's. She adores its rich texture and black, earthy look. Other female employees at the nursery are partial to this brand for the same reasons which made me wonder if preference for a brand of soil is based upon a tactile and visual impression.

We weren't alone pondering this issue because one of our vendors was eager to test the soil his company sells against the other choices we have in stock.

At the end of September, Tom Perkins from Sun Gro Horticulture planted 12 pots of snapdragons and tomatoes. He planted four pots using Sunshine, four pots using Uncle Malcolm's and four pots using Dr. Earth. We located the pots together where they got frequent watering, and plenty of sun, but no additional care.

After two weeks, all plants looked healthy with the only noticeable difference being those planted in "A" soil. The leaves of the snapdragons were more compact and the plants looked like they were fuller. We noted that all 12 plants looked healthy and were thriving.

Toward the end of October the plants in "A" soil looked the healthiest. These snapdragons had lost their blooms but the tomatoes were upright and tall. The snapdragons planted in "C" held their blooms the longest, but the tomato looked stunted. All tomato plants had blossomed and had small green tomatoes growing.

We called an end to the test Nov. 10. By that date, all the snapdragons looked good and folks had their favorites. Those planted in "A" soil looked particularly good. They were full and tall and had a lot of new growth and buds. A visiting grower noted the new growth was better looking on these plants. One nursery person felt the 'side branching' on these plants gave them a fuller look and noted a couple of the snapdragons hadn't tolerated the drier weather as well as its competitors. Snapdragons planted in "B" soil were somewhat shorter than "A" or "C" pots but showed a lot of new growth and buds. The grower said these plants looked more consistent than the others. The plants in the "C" soil were as tall as those in "A" soil but grew tall rather than bushy. We did notice that "C" pots had a lot of wood on the top of the soil. All pots retained their volume of soil (remember the more wood, the more breakdown of your soil's volume). When it came to the tomatoes, there was no comparison. Those planted in "A" soil performed the best. They grew tall and upright to about 3' and had three clusters of tomatoes that totaled 16. "B" grew toward the ground, however, if they had been staked they would have been slightly taller than those planted in "A" soil. There were two clusters of tomatoes for a total of 8. The tomatoes planted in "C" soil were visibly the weakest. The plant grew to about 18" with sparse leaves and 7 tomatoes.

When we matched the pots with the brand names we learned that "A" soil was Sunshine, "B" was Uncle Malcolm's, and "C" was Dr. Earth.

Our advice when it comes to making a soil choice is to stick with your favorites, maybe even try a test of your own if you think you want to make a soil change; and take better care of your plants. All we did was water the plants regularly. They got no supplemental help such as food or a stake for support. Chances are, if you ask a nursery professional what soil to use, they'll tell you to try their favorite one and that's good advice because it means the soil has worked well for them in their personal use. ●



PHOTO: NICOLE ANDERSON

Camellias

Camellias are native to Japan, China and Indo-China, where they grow on well-drained wooded slopes under light shade. A natural mulch of leaves accumulates beneath the plants. The plants were successfully grown in Northern California around 1853, and they have been popular ever since.

Camellias need good drainage to do well, so be sure the area you want to grow them does not stay too wet. If your drainage is poor, you might try a raised bed or container. Camellias like a soil mix that is high in humus content and slightly acidic. In preparing the soil, mix ample amounts of redwood compost, peat moss or a good Camellia-Azalea mix, usually using about 1/4 good garden soil, and 3/4 humus.

Find a location that does not get hot sun if you choose the Japonica varieties. Sasanqua varieties can take full sun along the coast, but would look better if they get some shade in warmer inland areas.

Dig a hole approximately twice as large in diameter as the original container (1 gallon plants, a slightly larger hole would be better, such as 20" or so). The hole should be about 1.5 times as deep. Use your prepared mix in the bottom of the hole and tamp firmly so the top of the root ball, when placed in the hole is 1" above the soil surface. Fill in around the sides of the root ball with the same mixture as above. Tamp it down firmly to get rid of any lumps and air pockets. When the hole is full, it is wise to form a berm around the plant with soil to hold water and fill with water two times to be sure the plant is thoroughly watered.

Water your new plant as needed, but be sure it does not get dry, they should be moist at all times but be sure they do not stay soggy wet or the roots will rot.

Fertilize camellias with a good balanced fertilizer as soon as new growth appears in the spring. Follow the directions on the package and be sure not to overfeed them. Cotton seed meal is a favorite of many growers. There are other mixtures of fertilizers formulated for camellias, just follow the label directions. A supplemental feeding of iron will keep the foliage a deeper green. Do not fertilize a dry plant; instead water thoroughly the day before you feed the plant. Stop feeding in November. If you keep feeding the plants, the flower buds will drop and you will get no blooms.

Insects are usually not a problem, however, occasionally scale or mites are a nuisance. Aphids on the new growth can usually be washed off with a strong stream of water. Spraying may be necessary and a good systemic insecticide will control most problems.

Camellia Japonica, C. Reticulata and most of the hybrids need protection from the hot sun. Some of the deep pinks and reds will do well in full sun if you are less than five miles from the coast. Inland, shade or filtered sun will keep the plants looking better. Light pinks and white blooming plants should not get direct sun. Camellia Sasanqua is able to stand full sun, even in warmer inland areas, but they will do well in shade also. Generally speaking, Sasanqua varieties bloom earlier usually starting in November and the Japonicas usually start about the first of the year. Sasanquas have smaller leaves and blooms, generally with the Japonicas and Reticulatas having the largest. Reticulata varieties and hybrids tend to have a little more rangey growth habit. ●



We Proudly Carry Top-Quality Plants from Monrovia

Easy-To-Grow Staghorn Ferns Find Fans

by



David Ross, our Poway store manager remounts a staghorn fern by holding the plant in place with monofilament line laced back and forth across the shields.

Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway location held a class in August on staghorn ferns and the staff was surprised by the large number of attendees. More than 30 people turned out to learn more about these graceful ferns and to participate in remounting existing plants. It was one of our best attended classes.

'Staghorn' is the common name used for most varieties of this fern family. They are

well suited to the San Diego environment, and are easy to grow. They prefer bright filtered light for most of the day. Only a few of the rare varieties need protection from the cold in this area, however, if you think it might get less than 28 degrees, you might want to offer some protection.

The ferns should be watered about once a week during cooler weather and two times a week during hot weather, but don't keep them too wet. The fern will respond to fertilizer and we recommend using a general purpose type. If you use a liquid type, try to feed every two weeks. Dry fertilizers are usually applied about every two months. We recommend GroPower, dry fertilizers or the tablets about every three months. The foliage will be larger and darker green if they get regular feedings.

If the plants get too large they can be easily divided by removing portions of the older clumps and mounting them on new boards

or planting them in wire baskets, although P. Suberbum and P. Grande can not be divided. It is best if the divisions are not too small, about 10" to 12" diameter divisions are almost foolproof. Use a saw or knife to cut into the base, about 3" deep and remove as much of the rooted area as possible. As a general rule, the mounting board should be about two times as large as the plant being mounted. Redwood or cedar boards last the longest. Place a little green moss behind the division and more around the edge. This will help hold moisture and give it something to root into. In most cases, we recommend holding the plant in place with monofilament line (15# to 20# fish line) laced back and forth across the shields. Small nails at the edge of the board are the easiest way to hold the crisscrossed line in place. Use ample amounts of line to keep the plant firmly in place. On some very large plants, it may be necessary to use a stainless steel strap to keep it from falling off. Wire baskets are ideal if you want the plant to grow into a ball. Place a few divisions through the side of the basket and perhaps one on the top and in a few months it will be very presentable. Thrip and scale are infrequent pests and are easily controlled with a systemic insecticide. Do not spray when temperatures are more than 80 degrees, and be sure the plant is moist. ●

Tips from the PROS

The Folks at Proven Winners Answer your Fertilizer Questions

Fertilizing Your Plants...As Easy as N-P-K!
There's no need to get nervous about fertilizing your plants. The benefits are dramatic and there's no special trick involved to providing your plant with the nutrients they need to thrive.

What Do All Those Letters and Numbers Mean?

All fertilizers are labeled with three numbers. These numbers represent the ratio of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P) and potassium (K). In basic terms, nitrogen promotes foliage growth, phosphate encourages healthy root growth and flower production and potassium promotes the overall health of the plant by building disease resistance.

Which Fertilizer Do I Need?

For general needs, we recommend a fertilizer that has high amounts of nitrogen and low amounts of phosphate, such as Proven Winners-branded Water Soluble Fertilizer and Controlled Release Fertilizer. A ratio of about 24:12:17, or something close to that,

will work well for healthy plants and flowers. Periodic feeding with iron will also help to prolong plant life and enhance performance.

I Bought Some Fertilizer...How What?

Apply the fertilizer according to the method described on the package. In the case of fertilizers, more is not necessarily better, so be sure to measure accurately. We recommend applying a nitrogen-rich fertilizer every two weeks. Look for one with an N:P:K ratio of about 24:12:17 and a fairly high amount of iron.



C A T C H W A L T E R & K E N O N T H E A I R W A V E S

INTERNET WWW.WALTERANDERSEN.COM

RADIO TUNE IN TO GARDEN TALK WITH KEN AND WALTER ANDERSEN AND MARK MAHADY 760 KFMB-AM RADIO SAT FROM 6-8AM

TV KNSD GARDENER WITH DAVID ROSS NBC 7/39 SAT@8AM / GREEN SCENE WITH KEN ANDERSEN TUES & THURS FOX CHANNEL 6 MORNING NEWS

Arbor Day Celebrates the Goodness of Trees



Celebrate Arbor Day on March 7 by planting a tree. Each tree planted in your garden or park makes an impact on the environment. Remember that all of the 35 pounds of oxygen that you breathe everyday is created by trees and other green plants. Not

only do green plants filter out dust and dirt particles from the air, but they reduce noise as much as 50%. In California, Arbor Day has been celebrated on March 7 each year since 1909 to honor Luther Burbank's birthday. Burbank was a California horticulturist who was famous for his work to improve plant varieties of all kinds: flowers, fruits, grains, grasses, vegetables and trees.

Arbor Day ~ March 7th

Winter Class Schedule

All classes are FREE and begin at 9:00am in Point Loma, 9:30am in Poway. On rare occasion we may need to make a last minute change. If you have any questions, call 619-224-8271 (Point Loma) or 858-513-4900 (Poway). Show up early if you don't like standing (some classes get crowded) and have coffee on us!

POINT LOMA

January

- 1/3 Pruning Plum & Apricot Trees
- 1/10 Bare Root Fruit Trees & Vines
- 1/17 Pruning Roses
- 1/24 Spring & Summer Bulbs
- 1/31 Camellias & Azaleas

February

- 2/7 Cymbidium Orchid Care & Culture
- 2/14 Spring Vegetables
- 2/21 Native Plants
- 2/28 Citrus Care & Culture

March

- 3/6 Containers & Hanging Baskets
- 3/13 General Orchid Care & Culture
- 3/20 Spring Lawn Care
- 2/27 Water Gardening

POWAY

January

- 1/3 Pruning Roses / Bare Root Roses
- 1/10 Fruit Tree Pruning / Bare Root Fruit Trees
- 1/17 Rose Pruning
- 1/24 Fruit Tree Pruning
- 1/31 Spring Bulbs

February

- 2/7 Blueberries - How to Select, Grow & Enjoy!
- 2/14 Garden Railroading - An Intro, First of a Four Class Series
- 2/21 Grafting
- 2/28 Protea / Special Guest Speaker: Ben Gill, California Protea Management

March

- 3/6 Garden Railroading Class 2 - Getting Started, Planning the Line
- 3/13 Proven Winners Potting Day / Special Event
- 3/20 Spring Rose Care
- 2/27 Organic Gardening / Special Event with Vendors

Bring Them Back!

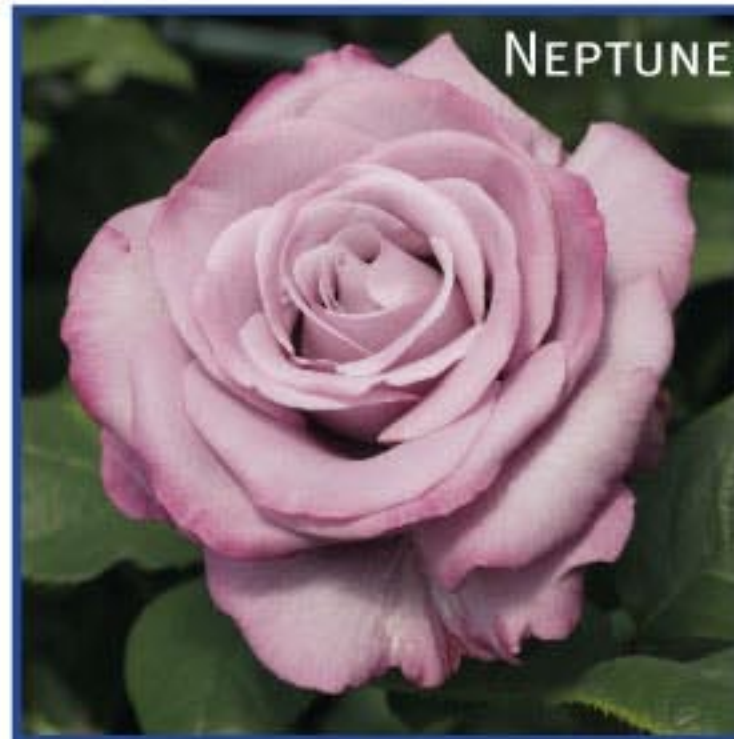
Did you know that if you return the carry out box used to transport your purchases, you'll get money back? Each returned box is worth 25¢ in store credit! The boxes must be returned in clean and reusable condition and not crushed or torn.

4 = \$1.00...Wow!

25¢



PHOTO: NICOLE ANDERSON



NEPTUNE

cv. WEKhipurnil PPAF
Fragrant Lavender Blend
Hybrid Tea

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY IS PLEASED TO CARRY NEPTUNE, A HYBRID TEA ROSE INTRODUCED BY WEEKS ROSES. WE THINK ROSE ENTHUSIASTS WILL LOVE ITS BIG LAVENDER KISSED WITH PURPLE COLORED BLOSSOMS, ADDICTIVE SCENT, AND DEEP GREEN FOLIAGE. NEPTUNE IS HARDY AND MUCH MORE NATURALLY DISEASE RESISTANT THAN MANY LAVENDER ROSES ON THE MARKET.

- PLANT HABIT:** Medium height
- GROWTH HABIT:** Upright & bushy
- STEM LENGTH:** Medium to long
- FOLIAGE COLOR:** Large, dark green & glossy
- DISEASE RESISTANCE:** Very good
- FLOWER COLOR:** Lavender blushed purple on the very edge of the petals
- BUD FORM:** Pointed & ovoid
- FLOWER FORM:** High centered, sometimes in clusters of 2 to 3 flowers
- FLOWER SIZE:** Large (about 4 to 5 inches diameter)
- PETAL COUNT:** Over 35
- FRAGRANCE:** Powerful sweet rose
- PARENTAGE:** (Blueberry Hill x Stephen's Big Purple) x Blue Nile
- HYBRIDIZER:** Tom Carruth

We Carry Premium Soil Products from Sun Gro



Did You KNOW

Scientific studies suggest bromeliads can help improve indoor air quality as you sleep. In the photosynthetic process, most common indoor plants remove carbon dioxide while emitting oxygen and water vapors during the day. But research indicates that bromeliads behave differently during the day/night cycle, releasing oxygen and removing air pollutants at night. Data collected by the Plants for Clean Air Council suggest that when combined with foliage plants, bromeliads can help provide around-the-clock indoor air purification. Thanks to the folks at Kents Bromeliad Nursery in Vista for enlightening us with this fact. See our great selection of bromeliads and tillandsias all from Kent's. Bromeliads are a great way to add color during the winter because they will bloom for up to 4 months.

Make a Note!

Holiday Closing
Both Nurseries will be Closed on **Thursday, January 1, 2004** to be with our families on New Year's Day.

COUPON
Valid January 1 - 31, 2004
FREE
Bird Feeder & Bird House!
With Purchase of \$50 or More
(\$18.99 Value!)
While Supplies Last
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 February 1 - 29, 2004
\$3 OFF
Bayer Lawn Food Plus
Crabgrass Preventer
Limit 2

#10025965

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.

COUPON
Valid March 1 - 31, 2004
\$2 OFF
Any Sunshine Potting Soil
1.5 cu.ft. or Larger
Limit 5

#10025759

Limit Five (5) 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 **Thursday, January 1, 2004** to be with our families on New Year's Day.

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900
Open Daily 9am-6pm



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