



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

# GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



WINTER

06

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## Kids Can Become Artists At Two-Part Fairy Workshop

Some of the most beautiful fairy garden accessories Walter Andersen Nursery sells are made by local artist Suja Pritchard. Now children can have the opportunity to learn from this talented sculptress in a two part workshop we'll offer Feb. 18 and 25 in our Poway store. On Feb. 18, children accompanied by an adult will be able to make accessories (Suja then takes them to her studio to be fired) and on Feb. 25, come back to the nursery to paint and decorate them. This is a paid workshop and is limited to 15 participants. There is a \$10 nominal materials fee per person. You can RSVP and prepay by calling 858-513-4900. This is a great workshop for parents and children (who must be accompanied by an adult). The materials fee is required for each participant.



PHOTO: MELANIE POTTER



A glass mosaic tiled chair made by San Diego artist John Moore.

## Outdoor Furniture Makes A Splash

Somewhere in the Hamptons a well known celebrity or uber rich mogul type is sitting on a surprisingly comfortable chair set in glass mosaic tiles made by San Diego artist John Moore. Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway store has a very limited supply of these chairs from Splash Furniture, Moore's company. Clients may also shop with Moore ([www.splashfurniture.com](http://www.splashfurniture.com)) and select their choice of tile, grout and fabric colors. The chairs can be shipped anywhere in the world which is why a good smattering of them find their ways to the Hamptons, Palm Springs, Beverly Hills and other tony areas. The chairs are built from stainless steel, ductile iron, chromium, fiberglass, imported travertine marble and American and Italian glass tile. They are built to withstand the wind, sun and rain.

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## Fun With Tubers

Some of the most spectacular plants and flowers come from the ugliest of beginnings – tubers. Tubers are versatile given the wide spectrum of color they provide and shapes, like show stopping dahlias. Some wear a container with eye popping results while others look best when planted en masse. There are neat tricks for planting and storing bulbs or just leaving them in the ground and allowing things to grow over them until they appear again.

Here, we've highlighted some of our favorite tuber selections.



PHOTO: LANGEVELD

**Begonia – Summer Flowering Bulbs** Modern tuberous begonias are not a species of one of the greatest tropical plant families, but are the creation of horticulturalists. No other flower has so many ancestors as these large-flowered hybrids descended from many species native to tropical South America. Begonias prefer moist, well-drained soil with plenty of humus. To start early, plant indoors 4 - 6 weeks before planting them outdoors. In spring, plant them out after the last threat of night frost. Pinch off the first few buds to encourage larger, more vigorous growth. Water abundantly during bloom period. In fall dig up the bulbs before the first night frost and store over winter in dry peat, in a cool dry place.



PHOTO: LANGEVELD

**Dahlia** Dahlias prefer a loamy, well-drained soil. To get earlier blooms, plant indoors six weeks prior to planting them outdoors, after the last spring night frost. Pinch off the first flower buds on the main stems for greater flower production and a fuller-looking plant. Remove faded blooms to extend flowering life. In fall, dig up and bring tubers inside before the first fall night frost. Store in a cool, frost-free spot until re-planting time next spring.



PHOTO: LANGEVELD

**Colocasia 'Black Magic' (Black Elephant Ear)** The Black Elephant ear is one of the most talked about tubers in the last 3 years. The color is spectacular and they are absolutely amazing in a patio pot. They add a little bit of the tropics to your garden. Elephant Ears boast immense, spectacular foliage for planting in full sun to partial shade. They are wonderful additions to the landscape or when planted in large containers. The soil should be fertile and well drained for winter survival. If the soil is tight, heavy clay, amend with 3 to 4 inches of organic matter. While preparing the soil, incorporate 2 pounds of a slow-release 3-12-12 fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed space. Plant the large tubers deep enough so the entire bulb is 2 inches below the soil surface. Feed with light monthly applications of fertilizer and maintain moisture, particularly during prolonged dry periods. Remove tattered and unattractive leaves to keep tidy. Tubers can be dug, separated, dried and stored for winter protection, or they can be left in the ground in warmer zones.



PHOTO: LANGEVELD

**Gladioli Large Flowering 'Far West'** Gladioli are an easy-to-grow summer flower. Each bulb, or corm, will produce an average of 1-2 flower spikes. Gladioli are perfect for combination planting in border gardens, as well as for long-lasting cut flowers. Plant some gladioli at different times during the spring and this will give you a longer and different bloom time during the summer. Glads attract hummingbirds and butterflies and are critter resistant and avoided by deer, rabbits and squirrels. ●

## New Plant Introductions Promise To Be More Available This Year

One of our favorite vendors, Monrovia Nursery, supplies us with outstanding and often unusual plant material throughout the year. We wait with bated breath to see what the new introductions will be. Last year, we waited and got excited but many of the new plants were in such limited availability that we didn't see them. This year, the growers have more so availability will be more generous. Please call 858-513-4900 to check availability or to pre-order your plants. [Here's a look at what's new >>>](#)

## Cactus & Succulents Need TLC Too

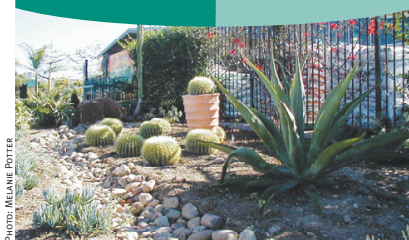


PHOTO: MELANIE POTTER

Walter Andersen Nursery landscape designers favor succulents and cacti and welcome the chance to work with them. With their increasing popularity, the Poway store had a demonstration bed designed using these versatile plants. We also incorporated a dry creek bed, another feature that more and more homeowners want to add to their landscape. We used *aloe arborescens*, barrel cactus, *senecio mandraliscae*, green octopus agave, *euphorbia characias eulfenii* and *euphorbia ingens*.

How's this for a riddle? Cacti are Succulents, but not all Succulents are Cacti.

A succulent plant stores moisture in its leaves, stems or roots. Cacti have a modified part called an areole from which leaves, spines, flowers, and branches are formed. Other succulent plants have leaf nodes that produce leaves, flowers and stems with thorns being produced on the stems or leaves. Cacti and succulents originate from tropical to desert regions, with most found in dry, desert areas.

Most nursery stock plants have been grown in a warm and slightly shaded greenhouse. To prevent possible sunburn, acclimate your plants to full sun by raising them in an indoor location with 24% to 50% shade at all times. If that's not possible, expose only to morning and late afternoon sun. Most plants will survive in full sun. Some plants naturally live shaded by grasses and small shrubs and will burn in full sun. Too much shade causes plants to have a pale narrow growth that is elongated or "leggy". Tropical to subtropical plants may freeze.

To grow, use a well-draining soil such as a cactus and succulent potting soil or a regular house plant soil amended with pumice or perlite added. If you grow them in pots, be sure to keep drainage holes open and never allow the pots to stand in water.

Water them thoroughly when they are fairly dry in the warmer, active growing season. Less frequent watering is required in humid or cooler weather when dormant.

Fertilize with an all-purpose fertilizer at 1/2 the label strength using the recommended intervals to prevent burning. Fertilize during the warm active growing season.

Handle your spiny plants with caution. Use charcoal tongs, rolled newspaper or a short length of garden hose.

Remember that Euphorbias contain toxic latex. Wash your hands with soap and water after handling a Euphorbia to prevent a possible rash. ●

### Lemon Swirl® Variegated Brush Cherry – *Eugenia myrsinites* variegata

*Eugenias* are ideal as a full-branched, tall evergreen screen or hedge. This new variety has striking variegated foliage that is a glossy green, edged with creamy yellow. Small, white feathery flowers followed by rose-purple fruit. Plant in full to partial sun. Moderate grower reaching 15 to 20 feet high by eight to 10 feet wide if left unpruned.

PHOTO: PETER A. MOORE

### Little Emperor™ Dwarf Japanese Blueberry Tree – *Shogun Series – Elaeagnus decipiens* 'MonProud' PPAF

This tightly branched shrub makes a superb hedge, column or foundation plant with bronze new growth and glossy dark green foliage. The slightly shorter and twisted leaves have an eye-catching appearance. The older foliage turns a brilliant bright red before dropping. Scented creamy white flowers develop into blue-black olive-like fruit. Fruit will not stain walkways. Prefers full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. Reaches eight to ten feet, possibly 15 feet with maturity.

PHOTO: PETER A. MOORE

### Mango Meadowbrite Coneflower – *Echinacea*

Here's a drought tolerant native that attracts butterflies. It's fragrant and has showy flowers that bloom in summer.

### Orange Meadowbrite – *Echinacea*

A first for *Echinacea* – blood orange flowers and sweet orange tea fragrance. Blooms over a long season in late summer through fall. Deadhead often to encourage branching and force new blooms because seed cones do not elongate like the species. A widely adaptable native that's disease resistant and stands up to late summer heat. Herbaceous perennial. Full sun, part shade. Fast growth 2 to 3 feet tall and as wide.

PHOTO: PETER A. MOORE

### Pixie Meadowbrite – *Echinacea*


Extremely prolific, snappy pink flowers with an orange center and horizontally held petals can appear 20 or more on one plant! Densely spaced, compact flower stems create a mass of color and reappear when spent stems are removed.

PHOTO: PETER A. MOORE

PHOTO: GAIL

## Combine Annuals & Perennials This Spring

by Home and Garden Showplace Centers



ever-changing display of color. The array of flowers available to gardeners now is greater than ever.

Annuals, which come in all colors of the spectrum, provide brilliant temporary color and last for one or two seasons. You can plant them from seed, but they're also available as "instant color" transplants. Use annuals to fill beds, borders or containers with color. Warm-season annuals such as marigolds, impatiens and zinnias are adapted to bloom even during the hottest weather. When temperatures start falling, choose from cool-season flowers such as pansies and snapdragons. Annuals are a great way to brighten up shady corners, accent sunny parts of the landscape, and tie one area to the next with a progression of color.

Perennials continue to grow and produce blooms for many years without replanting. With a little advance planning, you can create a perennial garden that has some special surprises at all times of the year. Although some perennials are evergreen, most survive by storing food reserves in roots, tubers or bulbs. They're perfect for low-maintenance gardens where they can be planted once and left to grow for years to come. Perennials such as coneflowers, phlox and black-eyed Susans can be the framework of a colorful garden, and they're good companions for their showier annual counterparts. ●

## Viburnum For Large Fragrant Flowers

by California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers



There is a seemingly never ending choice of viburnums and one of those with a fragrant flower might just be the ticket for your garden. As it is, there are nearly 20 species of this marvelous plant spread over the northern hemisphere and while we are

only going to discuss the fragrant viburnums, there are others noted for their berries, evergreen foliage, autumn color, bare branch pattern or almost anything you could ask for in a shrub.

Perhaps best known of the fragrant viburnums is "Fragrant Snowball" (*V. caricephalum*) as it is a medium sized compact, semi deciduous shrub with oval, dull green leaves that are downy on the underside. This shrub displays rich colors in the fall and has enormous clusters of waxy, white long lasting flowers that are seen in spring and early summer and are enjoyed for their delightful fragrance.

Another with a sweet aroma is the Korean spice viburnum (*V. carlesii*) which has 2-3 inch clusters forming from March to May and are followed by blue black fruit. The "Carlotta" is similar though the fragrance is slightly different and the flower clusters a little larger. One of the larger evergreen varieties with a honey like fragrance is *V. cinnamomifolium*. The leaves can be up to 6" long and 3" wide, while the flowers are tiny, almost flat, in 6 inch clusters. Its fruit is also blue black in color but if you want a viburnum with reddish fruit and one that is evergreen, select *V. japonicum*. Its flowers also bloom in larger clusters but are fewer in number.

A delightful deciduous viburnum is *V. farreri* or fragrans. It can reach 15 feet and has smooth leaves that turn a soft russet red in the fall. Yet the white to pink blooming flowers can be found on the plant from November to March. The fruit that follows is red. If a smaller shrub fits your need look for a low growing variety called "nanum" which reaches 2 feet. ●

## Drainage Checking Tip

by Home and Garden Showplace Centers

Though spring is commonly considered tree-planting time, harder species will do just fine if planted now. The crucial issue is choosing a well-draining site. Once you've eliminated obvious problem areas (like pond borders and a low spot at the bottom of a hill), dig a foot-deep hole and fill it to the brim with water. Wait 24 hours and fill it again. Check on it 12 hours later. If the water is gone, you've found a good spot to grow in. If not, you'll have to speed the spot's drainage by mixing in sand, gravel and other non-porous materials. ●



# African Violets

## "African Violets Are Popular Indoor Choices"



*African Violets are plants with heart shaped leaves and delicate blossoms. True to their cousin, the wild violet, a lot of the blooms are purple in color. However, African Violets do come in blooms of yellow, red, fuchsia, white and multi-colored. Their leaves can be dark green to multi-green.*

*Most of the time these plants are kept inside as houseplants. They can be very stingy with their blooms if they are not taken care of properly. When they get the sunlight and nutrition they need they can produce a multitude of healthy blooms year round.*

*The first consideration when taking care of your African Violet is light, at least 12 hours a day. They thrive best with natural sunlight, so if there is a window they can sit in where sun shines through for most of the day, they will be happiest there.*

*There are many types of plant foods available. It is best to buy one that is specifically for African Violets. This way you are sure to give your plant the right amount of nutrients without giving it things it does not need or will harm it. There are different formulas of African Violet food, and depending on the size and type of your plant, you will need to know which one is best for your particular African Violet.*

*One other consideration you have is your plant's home. What kind of container are you going to allow your African Violet to grow in? There are things to consider before you make this decision.*

*For instance, how are you going to water and feed your plant? Watering an African Violet is a delicate procedure. You have to be very careful not to allow water in the base or leaves of your plant, or you could cause fungus to grow or cause parts of your plant to rot.*

*Watering from the bottom is an option. If this is what you plan to do, you must buy a container with at least one hole in the bottom. Then, you need something to place that container in so it will be sitting in the water. Here are some ideas you can use for this.*

*A regular clay pot with a hole in the bottom works well. Use that to house your plant. Then, use a tray with medium size gravel to set your clay pot on. Pour the water mixed with the plant food into the tray with the gravel. Allow the clay pot to naturally soak up the water and feed your plant.*

*Another way is to use a plastic pot with a hole at the bottom. Take thick cotton string and fray the end of it. Place that in the bottom of the pot and then put the dirt and your plant on top of the string. Let the pot sit in its bottom dish and pour your plant food into the dish. The string will soak up the plant food and deliver it to your plant's soil.*

*There are self-watering pots you can buy also. These tend to be expensive and don't always work correctly.*

*Even if you plan to water and feed your plant from the bottom up, you still need to water it at least once a week from the top. To do this, use a watering can with a long skinny spout. Hold back the leaves of the plant gently and make sure you do not get any in the base or leaves of the plant. This is necessary to wash away all the mineral deposits that gather in the top of the soil and can cause your plant to stop blooming.*

*If you make sure your African Violet gets plenty of light, the right food, and keep moisture off the green parts of your plant, you should have a prosperous and beautiful plant. Your blooms will be more likely to become vibrant and plentiful. ●*



## Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER



I wish I could say I found lots of new plants for you, but, it is winter after all...no really. It is a Southern California winter so I did manage to find a couple of things for you.

It is said that things that are old are new again. Like fashion, plants fall in and out of favor. A plant that your grandmother had may not be available now. So thanks to a wonderful nursery that grows some unusual plants here is something old that is new again. It is a large shrub or small tree called Pink Powder Puff or Surinam Powder Puff (*Calliandra surinamensis*). It is native to Surinam in South America. It is evergreen and can grow to a height of 15 to 20 feet. This attractive plant has dense double pinnate foliage and axillary, compound, showy pink flowers that resemble powder puffs. The flat pods, each with 5 or 6 seeds, are first green, then turn brown before curving back to release the seeds. In frost free areas of San Diego it has



the potential to bloom year round. It found a home in my garden with several salvias in complementary colors planted near it (3 to be exact). You wonder why I would plant salvias, which love the sun, so close to such a large shrub. It is vase-shaped in growth so despite the size of the plant it does not take up that much room in the garden nor will it shade these salvias to the point they won't bloom. Hummers will be all over this one.

Speaking of salvias...you name the salvia, I've had it, have it, or will have it. Right now I have one called "Golden Delicious" (*Salvia elegans*). It has great lime green foliage and brilliant red flowers, just what you need to perk up that dark corner of the garden. One more caveat...brush the foliage and it smells like pineapple. Yes! It is a hybrid of the *Salvia elegans*, Pineapple Sage.



Hummingbirds haven't left it alone since I planted it. It loves full sun but will tolerate some shade. It will stay around 3 feet x 3 feet, likes a little more water than most salvias but will tolerate some drought once it is established.

It's time for California Natives. *Trichostema lanatum*, or Woolly Blue Curls is a fragrant 3 - 4 feet shrub known for its showy flowers that bloom May-August. The flowers are royal blue, fuzzy, 12" clusters and make excellent cut flowers. The foliage is like a wide resinous pine needle. Both the flower and foliage has a sweet fragrance like freshly cut cedar with a bouquet of lavender. Woolly Blue Curls is native to very dry slopes. This native needs full sun, good drainage, no water after established. Cold tolerant to 10 degrees with no foliage burn. It will burn to the ground at -5 F. but recover.

More of a problem is its need for perfect, absolutely perfect, drainage. If your soil has high organic matter do not try this. Standing water will kill it, areas of much summer rain will kill it, soil amendment will kill it, and fertilizer will kill it. If you have clay soil, plant it so water cannot stand. It is native on sites that range from serpentine clay to gravel with a rainfall from 14 - 35". Plant in your soil, water well once-a-week indirectly (first year only), put a rock or boulder next to it and get ready for the flower show. ●



## Compatibility Is Key To Winter Windowsill Gardening

by Home & Garden Showplace Centers

Just because it's winter doesn't mean you stop planting. Gardeners can keep plenty busy by nurturing plants on window sills inside the house. But, for best results you need to match each plant with the right conditions:

- North-facing windows favor low-light plants like philodendron, fig and the wandering Jew.
- South-facing windows, which get the most sun, suit plants such as cacti, trailing begonias, geraniums and ivy.
- East and west windows get a moderate amount of light and are ideal for plants like lilies and African violets. ●

# Azaleas

by California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers

## Are In Bloom!



PHOTO: PETER A. HOGS PHOTOGRAPHY

Azaleas are coming into their own now. While they have always been favored, many gardeners have not had the success they should with these beauties. In areas with alkaline soil,

soil preparation is a must. Azaleas thrive in acidic soils. Some soils have just the right amount of acidity but they have too much clay so the soil retains water and "drowns" the roots of the azaleas because there is very little air available at the root level.

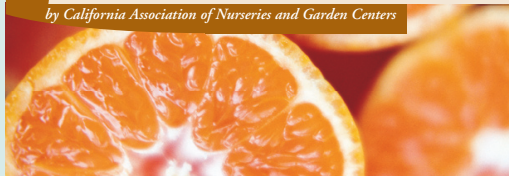
Location is an important factor because some azaleas favor more sun than others. The Southern Indica group of azaleas is one of those that can and do handle the sun the best. These plants grow larger on the whole than the shade types and with few exceptions the flowers are singles. The Belgian Indicas are sold as shade azaleas and have many double flowers. They want the same planting medium as described but want a shady location. This can include a goodly amount of filtered light.

The use of azaleas in the landscaping has become a popular thing. In remembering that the sun azaleas become very large but are not really fast growers, you can either plant them far enough apart to be correct and wait for the bare spots to fill in or plant them close and prune as they grow. Oddly enough, as delicate as the azalea looks and often thought to be, it can be easily transplanted even when in bloom. Another point often overlooked in choosing azaleas is the leaf, its size, color and texture. The difference is more obvious when the plant is out of bloom and has become a "landscape foliage plant." But perhaps the most difficult decision is the color of the flowers. Azaleas have an abundant amount of blossoms when in full bloom. You really can't see the foliage on some varieties. Choose from reds, purples, magentas, salmons and whites. And remember each year the show gets larger and lasts longer.



## Citrus Grow Well In California Include Some In Your Garden

by California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers



There are many varieties of citrus that do well in California. Select a lemon, tangerine, orange or grapefruit tree for home grown citrus. Choose a dwarf variety for a balcony or patio; they do equally well in planters or in the ground; or choose a standard size tree for larger spaces. It will add to the beauty of your landscape as well as produce delicious fruit. Follow these steps to a healthy, productive citrus:

- (1) Select a warm, sunny location. Citrus need heat and sun and they need to be protected from the wind and winter cold.
- (2) Provide a well-drained soil that allows roots to absorb moisture, not stand in it. To avoid root rot, heavy Valley soils need good soil preparations: dig a hole 2 times the size of the container and mix your soil 50-50 with Planting Mix. Add and mix a cup of Bone Meal to the hole, backfill with the soil mix and water. When container planting, plant directly into potting soil. Do not cover the top of the existing root ball and trunk with any soil.
- (3) Fertilize monthly with Citrus Food as citrus are heavy feeders.

Tree	Fruit	Harvest	Tree Size
<b>LEMON</b>			
Eureka	Standard market lemon; good for lemonade/pies	December to March, nearly year-round	Standard 25' / Dwarf 15'
Meyer	Heavy producers, sweeter, less acid, slightly orange	Nearly year-round	Standard 20' / Dwarf 12-15'
<b>LIME</b>			
Bearss	Almost lemon size, juicy, yellow-green when ripe	Fall/Winter	Dense growth 25' / Dwarf to 8'
<b>TANGERINE</b>			
Dancy	Standard market tangerine, heavy bearer	January-April	Upright growth 15'/Dwarf to 6'
Kara	Medium large, tart sweet, adapted to cold areas	March-May	Spreads to 15'
Owari/Satsuma	Seedless, easy-to-peel	November-January	Dwarf to 6'
<b>TANGELO</b>			
Minneola	Large, bright, orange-red, easy-to-peel	February-April	Standard 20-25' / Dwarf 12-15'
<b>ORANGE</b>			
Valencia	Traditional juice orange, sweet, some seeds	July-December	Growth to 20'/Dwarf 8-10'
Washington	Large, easy-to-peel, standard eating orange	December-April	Round growth to 16'/Dwarf to 10'
<b>GRAPEFRUIT</b>			
Oorblanco	White, large, nearly seedless, very sweet and juicy	November-March	Spreading to 20'/Dwarf to 10'
Rio Red	Red-fleshed	June-October	Spreading to 20'/Dwarf to 10'

### Citrus Feeding & Care Schedule

- We recommend the following feeding schedule for optimum growth and heavy fruit set.
- Year around: Feed citrus food monthly. Check directions for specifics.
- March, May and September: Apply Citrus Growers Blend as directed. It adds needed trace minerals.
- For insulation from the cold: Spray the foliage of citrus trees with Cloud Cover in early November.
- Snail, slug and insect bait: Apply this bait as directed to control snails, slugs and other hungry bugs.

We Carry Premium  
Sunshine Soil Products  
from Sun Gro



## Start Thinking About Planting Tomatoes

BY CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSERIES  
AND GARDEN CENTERS

Looking for a family activity that gives more than a moment's thrill? Something you can dig into? Well, pardon the pun but one of the greatest, most rewarding family activities is planting, tending and harvesting a vegetable garden. There's something for everybody in gardening. Besides it will get the kids on more intimate terms with spinach and other good things! It's a rewarding experience for everybody.

First consider the soil preparation. A garden is only as good as the soil it's planted into. Use good organic mulch and dig it into the soil about eight inches deep with a balanced vegetable garden fertilizer. Look for tomatoes to arrive late February or early March.

### For Tasty Tomatoes...Try These!

Everyone enjoys the tangy taste of homegrown tomatoes. VFN represents verticillium, fusarium, nematode. The first two are destructive root fungi; the third, microscopic root attacking insects. Tomato varieties listed with VFN are resistant to these diseases.

**EARLY GIRL:** #1 midsize tomato. Ripens early.

**BRANDYWINE:** An heirloom tomato whose taste reminds you of summer in every bite. Extra large size with a pinkish skin.

**BETTER BOY:** A good midsize tomato. Plant in a warm area.

**BEEFSTEAK, BEEF MASTER:** Large meaty fruit. Needs heat to produce.

**CHAMPION:** Excellent tomato for warm areas. VFN resistant.

**PATIO:** A small to midsize fruit on a compact plant. Great for containers.

**ROMA:** An excellent sauce and cooking tomato.

**ACE VFN:** A good old-fashioned, all-purpose tomato.

**CELEBRITY:** Medium size fruit. Needs heat to produce.

**WHOPPER:** Solid meaty fruit. Plant in a hot area of the garden.

**PEARSON:** Old favorite. Medium size fruit.

**MAMA MIA:** Large, oval firm fruit. Great slicing tomato.

**SAN FRANCISCO FOG:** Produces round medium fruit in cool or foggy areas.

We asked staff from both stores for their favorite tomatoes and here's what the experts like: Better Boy, Black Krim, Brandywine, Celebrity, Champion, Early Girl, Green Grape, Green Zebra, Lemon Boy, Mortgage Lifter, Red Cherry, Roma, San Diego/Otay, Snow White Cherry, Sweet 100 and Tangella. •



## Seasonal Recipe

### Cauliflower with Brown Butter

1 cauliflower, whole, washed  
1 cup butter  
1 egg, hard boiled  
1/2 cup bread crumbs  
1 tablespoon parsley, chopped  
Seasonings to taste

Boil the cauliflower in salted water for about 20 minutes. Remove from water and put on a platter. Season the cauliflower. Chop the egg. Put butter, parsley and bread crumbs in a frying pan and allow to become browned. Add the chopped egg. When very hot, pour the mixture onto the cauliflower.



# the wee corner

by Richard Wright



## Thyme

Did you get every thing you wished for from Santa? The new rake or the Felco hand pruners, maybe that garden railroad train set for under the tree? You know you can play with it outside too. Hint, Hint, Hint... Well, the Big Elf left a little something at my house for all of you, a little Thyme! You can cook with it, use it medicinally, but above all, we could all use a little more Thyme, especially in our "Wee Corner". As I was walking around the Nursery I found over a dozen types of Thyme. This Wee Corner is too small to list them all, but here are some to get you started.

These are some new ones for me, Doone Valley, Orange Balsam and even Hi Ho Silver. How about a peace of English Wedgewood, for you collectors? There is Coconut, Elfin and old Woolly. We can't forget all the creepy ones like Lemon, Lime and Red.

Who could forget Mother of Thyme? Yes, "Like sands in the Hour Glass," there are many other varieties of Thyme you should make time to use.

Just remember you can use ALL the thyme in the World, I mean the Walter Andersen Nursery World, to flavor your fairy garden, miniature landscape or even your old or new garden railroad. Just stop by the Nursery and we'll give you the Thyme of your Life! •

## Winter 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

### January

1/7 Pruning Apple, Pear & Persimmon

1/14 Bare Root Fruit Trees Selection

& Planting

1/21 Pruning Roses

1/28 Spring Bulbs

### February

2/4 Organic Gardening

2/11 Cymbidium Orchids

2/18 Citrus & Avocado Care & Culture

2/25 Container & Hanging Baskets

### March

3/4 Spring Vegetables

3/11 General Orchid Care

3/18 Water Gardening

3/25 Spring Lawn Care

## POWAY

### January

1/7 Rose Pruning

1/14 Fruit Tree Pruning / Bare Root Fruit Trees

1/21 Rose Pruning

1/28 Fruit Tree Pruning

### February

2/4 Mystic Mushrooms of San Diego County, Fun w/Fungi

2/11 Spring Bulbs

2/18 Kids Clay Workshop w/Suja Pritchard - Make Fairy Garden Accessories w/this Talented Artist / Two-Part Class / \$10 Fee

2/25 Kids Clay Workshop Part 2 - Painting & Decorating the Fairy Garden Accessories you Made w/Suja Pritchard at the February 18th Class

### March

3/4 Container Flower Gardening

3/11 Moss Basket Gardening

3/18 Fairy Gardening

3/25 Avoiding Problems with Your Landscape Design

## Plant Experts Are Cooking Muses

When Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway held a customer appreciation event in October, "street tacos" were served. We went to our favorite butcher at Stater Bros. in Poway and Kevin suggested their top sirloin be run through the tenderizer. Stater Bros. then added their special marinade and we brought it all back to the nursery to grill. The dish proved to be so popular that Stater Bros. now has it available in their fresh meat case for all to enjoy, whether WAN is having a special event or not (in their Poway store only). •



### New In The Store!

Weeks Roses has teamed with Walter Andersen to give you a head start on the **2007 rose picks** by releasing one year early a few of their up and comers. These will be in a few stores mid-January 2006 but not available to the general public until 2007.

**We Salute You** - A pink/orange blooming hybrid tea with large well-formed blooms.

**Gentle Giant** - A very large rose, flowering medium pink blooms that are yellow at the base that gives an almost glowing-like appearance to the flower.

**Topsy Turvy** - A red and white combination with recurving petals so you can see parts of the red and white. It is billed as a very different looking rose bush and promises to bloom its heart out!

Unfortunately, at press time there were no photos available of these roses.

### Make A Note! Holiday Closing

Both Walter Andersen Nursery locations will be closed on New Year's Day, January 1, 2006.

### Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

3642 Enterprise St.  
San Diego, CA 92110  
619-224-8271 / Fax 619-224-9067  
12755 Danielson Ct.  
Poway, CA 92064  
858-513-4900 / Fax 858-513-4790

4) [www.walterandersen.com](http://www.walterandersen.com)

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It's a new year and one of your resolutions could or should be to take care of your yard the "Wright" way, with PFA "Proactive Feeding Attitude".

The best way to do this is, to start from the Ground up, by asking two questions:

1. What is soil pH and how do I get it right? And, 2. What is fertilizer and how to use it?

Soil pH is the acid /alkaline content of your soil. A 7 on the pH scale is considered "Neutral". The bigger or higher the number, the more alkaline, the smaller or lesser the number the

## TOOL SHED

"To Grow or How To Grow, That is the Question"

by Richard Wright

more acid. "Alkalinity is very inhibiting to plant's ability to intake nutrients". San Diego County, for the most part, is alkaline, VERY alkaline. The water we use for irrigation is salty / alkaline. Also, all of the chemical fertilizers, you may or may not be using, will leave some amount of salt behind. So if your plants, live in, eat, and drink alkalinity you can't do much growing and/or thriving! How can you start to fix the problem? First add more humus (plant matter). You know, compost to your soil. Even that old bag of peat moss. Any or all of them, will always help with the pH.

Now we need to look at the other part, fertilizer. Lets first look at those three numbers. The Macronutrients. You know the something - something - something or Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, for you chemists out there, or as I like to call them, the Up, the Down and the All-around. The first number is Nitrogen, it helps plants grow UP, and keep them

green. The second is Phosphorus, it makes the roots grow DOWN and charges them with "Flower Power". And don't forget Potassium K, it works on the plants ALL-AROUND health. Let's not forget the Micronutrients, trace elements or as I call them "The 10 Little Indians". Now for the word that you are all waiting to hear, "Gro-Power". That's right, Gro-Power. It is made from humus and it has humic acid ( that's the stuff that makes it work). Humic acid balances the pH, Chelates the trace elements, Superphys the Nitrogen (makes it work the best that it can), and helps keep moisture in the soil. I know it sounds too good to be true, but it works. In fact, Gro-Power works on ALL or ANY of the plants in your yard. Please put your fertilizer down, under the Drip Line, (at the edge of the leaf canopy) and water it in.

Remember as I always say, "Have fun in the yard, or, please stay in the house."

## COUPON

Valid January 2 - 31, 2006

Prevent Crabgrass From Coming Back This Year!

**Save \$2**  
Per Bag on Best Lawn Food & Crabgrass Preventer  
Limit 5

#10029031

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.

## COUPON

Valid January 2 - March 31, 2006

Keep The Weeds At Bay This Season!

**Save \$2**  
on Amaze Weed Preventer  
by Green Light  
8# Bag Only / Limit 5

#10029032

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.

## COUPON

Valid January 2 - March 31, 2006

Get Some Free Help With Your Gardening!  
Receive a Copy of Gardening for the Criminally Negligent  
**FREE!**

with Any Purchase Over \$100  
Regular Price \$9.99 / Limit 1

#10029033

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.

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Poway, CA 92064  
858-513-4900



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