

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



WINTER

07

WWW.WALTERANDERSEN.COM



IN THIS ISSUE

Jewels Of The Night	1
Andy's Winter Bloomers	1
2007 Plants Of The Year	1
New Rose Releases	1
Bromeliads	2
May In The Garden	2
Fuller's Finds	2
Seasonal Recipe	2
Avoiding Transplant Trouble	2
Creating An Asian Garden	3
Succulents	3
Fertilizer	3
Wee Corner: Terrariums	4
Winter Class Schedule	4
Tool Shed: Rat Zapper Rat Traps	4
A Look Back	4
Coupon Savings	4

2007 Plants of the Year Named

What is a well kept secret and not usually available until well into the first quarter of the new year appears to be out of the bag and early.

The Perennial Plant Association is already promoting its 2007 Plant of the Year and the winner is Persian catmint, *Nepeta x fassenii* 'Walker's Low'.



Persian Catmint



Celosia



Vinca



Petunia



Pepper

Persian catmint is herbaceous with aromatic, gray-green foliage that produces long-lasting spikes of lavender-blue flowers from spring to fall. The plant attracts hummingbirds and butterflies and has multiple uses as a container or landscape plant. It grows 12-18 inches tall with a spread of 18-24 inches.

Not to be left out is the All-American Selection which also announced their picks in three categories for 2007. The flower winner is Celosia 'Fresh Look Gold' which is a season long performer that requires low care and offers high visual impact. The bedding plant winners are Vinca 'Pacifica Burgundy Halo', the first Vinca with a burgundy halo surrounding the large white center and Petunia F1 'Opera Supreme Pink Morn', a vigorous trailing petunia with iridescent pink 'morn' blooms. The vegetable winner is Pepper F1 Holy Mole, the first hybrid pasilla type pepper used to make the famous mole sauce. ●

Watercolors

Falling In Love



PHOTOS: WEEKS ROSES



It's always exciting to see new roses and how they stand up to gardener's old favorites. Among the 2008 new releases are:

Falling in Love – A pink and white blend hybrid tea that is medium tall and fragrant.

Watercolors – A mutabilis like shrub that is multicolored and growing to a medium height.

Wing-Ding – An orange-red Polyantha that is medium low and spreading.

Candy Land – A rose/white striped climber that has colorful clusters. Photo not available.

Wing-Ding

Jewels Of The Night

by Ken Andersen



PHOTO: ROBERT FOVELL

There is a group of plants frequently overlooked by San Diego gardeners that offers elegant beauty and stunning fragrance. Those are Night Blooming Cereus. Since the plants themselves are less than spectacular looking and they produce their beautiful flowers at night many people either do not know of them or are reluctant to put them in their gardens. The common name of Night Blooming Cereus can actually be linked to a number of different plants. The common thread to all of them is a spectacular giant white flower with an intoxicating fragrance that is very short lived.

I recall as a small child accompanying my Grandfather, Walter Sr. and my Dad, Walter Jr. on a late night trip to our San Diego store in hopes of catching a specimen of Epiphyllum oxypetalum we had there in full bloom. I remember walking up to the large mass of thick fleshy leaves growing on a trellis in our shade house and seeing the numerous 5-6 inch white flowers hanging like a Dutchman's pipe (another common name of this plant), wide open in the cool night air. The fragrance was incredibly strong. I do not know what ever became of that plant but the memory of its flowers and fragrance live on in my mind.

Another plant known by this common name is Hylocereus undatus (also known as Queen of the Night). This wonderful plant can be spotted growing around San Diego and resembles a climbing cactus. Its succulent tri-lobed branches produce massive flowers up to 12 inches in diameter and 15 inches long, again with an incredible evening fragrance. The plants' aerial roots will allow it to climb on stucco and softer materials like fences that will allow these roots to take hold.

Another group of plants known by the name Night Blooming Cereus is Selenicereus. About twenty species of this plant exist but they are not commonly found in commercial cultivation. The other common name for these plants is Moon Cereus or Queen of the Night again in reference to their night time blooms.

These plants will all thrive with the same care as a regular Epiphyllum. Regular feeding with a 20-20-20 fertilizer is perfect for them. Make sure to control snails and slugs around them to avoid unsightly scarring of the plants. They will grow nicely in morning sun or filtered sun all day. For more information you can pick up a tip sheet in our store or email me at wan.poway@yahoo.com.

I have started to root some cuttings of Hylocereus from Walter Jr.'s collection and hope to offer some of these rooted cuttings in both stores sometime in the spring. I am also on the lookout for a source of Epiphyllum oxypetalum and hope to have that available in the future as well. In the mean time, keep your eyes open for these wonderful night time jewels and look to see where you can put one in your garden! ●

New Rose Releases Sure To Please

It's always exciting to see new roses and how they stand up to gardener's old favorites. Among the 2008 new releases are:

Falling in Love – A pink and white blend hybrid tea that is medium tall and fragrant.

Watercolors – A mutabilis like shrub that is multicolored and growing to a medium height.

Wing-Ding – An orange-red Polyantha that is medium low and spreading.

Candy Land – A rose/white striped climber that has colorful clusters. Photo not available.

Andy's Winter Bloomers Provide Cool Weather Interest

by Melanie Potter



PHOTO: MARTIN FLETCHER

Coastal Gem



Red Hooks



PHOTO: DAVES GARDEN

Carmines Bells



Ivory Bells



Butterfly Weed

PHOTO: G.A. COOPER

Leptospermum

Correa, or Australian fuchsia, with its tubular to bell shaped flowers is another favorite. We'll have Correa 'Carmines Bells' which grows 12" to 24". This plant prefers partial shade or partial sun to full sun. Soil should be kept moist by watering regularly, but not overwatering. The blooms will be orange, red. Also available is Correa 'Ivory Bells' which grows to 5 feet tall and wide and blooms with ivory white bell-shaped flowers which are semi-pendulous. These plants are attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds.

Just when I thought I'd heard all of Andy's favorites he couldn't help but point out Asclepias or butterfly weed. This plant is favored by butterflies and I'm told that even the caterpillars, that will eventually be Monarchs, are beautiful. It is an extremely hardy, long-lived perennial native to North America. The magnificent bright orange flowers are concentrated in compact clusters at the top of branching stems. It requires a very well-drained sandy or gravelly soil in full sun and will grow to be between 12"-24" tall. ●

Holiday Closing!
Walter Andersen Nurseries will be closed January 1 – New Year's Day

1)



If It's Not Moss & It's Not Spanish, What Is It?

by Ken Andersen



You may ask that same question as many people do about the common Tillandsia known as Spanish Moss (Tillandsia usenoides). It is, actually, a relative of the Pineapple, Annanas comosus sp., probably the best known but least recognized bromeliad in the world.

The Bromeliad family is a diverse group of plants nearly all neotropical, meaning they come from the tropical and subtropical parts of the new world. One species is endemic to the western coast of central Africa but the rest range from Argentina and Chile in South America north to the southern edges of the state of Virginia. They can grow at altitudes from sea level to as high as 10,000 feet or more. There are terrestrial varieties but many are epiphytic, meaning they grow on trees. Epiphytes differ from parasites in that they only root onto the host plant for anchorage; they obtain no nourishment from the host plant. There are a few saxicolous varieties as well; these species anchor themselves to rocks.

One characteristic of all Bromeliads is a small structure on the leaf known as a trichome. These small scales look like a small flower when dry but swell up and lay down flat against the leaf when moistened by rain or humidity. It is through these structures that many bromeliads gain the moisture that they need to survive. As a loose rule of thumb the grayer the plant is the drier the climate in which it grows. Tillandsias seem to show the best examples of these structures with some of the most prominent on Tillandsia tectorum which grows in a very dry climatic area.

Two more common traits in all bromeliads are the growth habit of the foliage and the number of petals in the flowers. In both cases these similarities may be hard to see at first but upon close inspection it becomes clear. In the case of the foliage, Bromeliads send up their leaves in whorls. While in the case of Aechmeas, Vrieseas, Neoregelias and Guzmanias, this can be quite obvious as they create a reservoir to hold water for the plant. For these vase-like plants it is very important to keep clean water in the centers so they do not rot. This is especially true of Neoregelias which can become quite rancid very quickly when the flowers emerge. A good rinsing once a week should do nicely. In the case of Tillandsias, especially ones like T. albertiana, and T. usenoides, the cup is not as obvious but it does show, however, they do not hold water like their larger cousins do. As for the flowers, they are all three petaled. While Neoregelias and Cryptanthus open flat with three petals clearly showing, others like Tillandsia ionantha have tube-like flowers that look round and pointed. However, close inspection of the flower reveals that it is actually three petals rolled into a tube.

Nearly all Bromeliads can be propagated from divisions or pups. Since Bromeliads are terminal flowering, meaning the plant that flowers dies after blooming, the pups insure that the plant will survive should the seed it sets not germinate. To grow a bromeliad from division wait until the pups are about 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the mother plant. They can then be safely removed by cutting them loose from the trunk with a sharp knife or shears.

Many growers have differing potting formulas for Bromeliads, many containing peat moss, leaf mold, and other ingredients. I have found that if you start with coarse orchid bark for the more epiphytic plants and add a combination of fine orchid bark and New Zealand sphagnum moss you can vary the amount of moisture the mix contains. The more terrestrial the plants the more fine bark and sphagnum I add, the more epiphytic the less I add. I have used this basic premise for many years with very good results. The true epiphytic species can be mounted on branches, cork slabs, or even rocks in some cases. Hot glue works well and you can also use plastic coated small gauge wire or fish line. Make sure you put some moss near the base to encourage root growth for anchoring the plant as it matures.

For fertilizing you can use Osmocote 14-14-14 for most of the terrestrial or semi - terrestrial varieties. All Bromeliads will benefit from light foliar feeding. Gro More 20-20-20 or Gro More Urea free water soluble fertilizers work very well. Mix them according to the label directions and spray or water it over the plant. It is very important to foliar feed Tillandsias as they take little to no nourishment through their root systems which are in place merely to hold them to whatever host they are growing on.

There are thousands of Bromeliads in the world and many are available from small growers. For bright vivid long lasting color you can find Vrieseas and Guzmanias in our stores. You will also find some of the more unusual species grown for their beautiful foliage. Tillandsias are very plentiful and are the true gems of the Bromeliad world. Next time you are in the store, pick up a tip sheet on Bromeliads or print one online at our website www.walterandersen.com. If you have any questions you can feel free to call me at the Poway store or email me at wan.poway@yahoo.com. If you want more in depth information check out the International Bromeliad Society's website: www.bsi.org.



by Sharon May



Landscaping A Slope
Sharon is Director of Marketing & Sales at Agri Service, Inc.

May in the Garden



As winter draws to a close and we anticipate spring, we often take a new look at our slopes and wonder why they “suddenly” look so barren! Slopes are a significant part of San Diego's landscape but are often viewed as an undesirable necessity rather than an opportunity for marvelous beauty and interest that they can easily become.

Quick Fixes Often, an existing slope was landscaped years ago and now shows significant signs of wear and tear. If you're after a simple fix, look for several things before you begin. The first cause of landscape failure on a slope is usually due to irrigation. As the watering system ages, the heads clog with mineral deposits, lines break, and heads get blocked by plant growth. Turn on your system and watch carefully. Chances are good that those bare spots are no longer getting the water they need. For ice plant slopes, a second common reason for decline is that, as the ice plant grows, it becomes heavy enough to break the stem from its own weight. Clear out the dead plant, fertilize, replant, water and wait until it fills in again. Using a good quality, composted mulch (not bark) will keep the weeds under control while the new plants fill in. It also helps to retain the water on the slope and adds substantially to the health of your soils and your plants.

Reliable Slope Covers When choosing a groundcover for your slope, look for something that is drought tolerant. Often, irrigation water will run down the slope before it has a chance to soak into the ground so even regular watering may not be enough on a slope. If you're after a fail safe ground cover for your slope, try Myoporum parvifolium, “Pink”. Drought tolerant, it grows more rapidly than any other groundcover, often filling in a hillside within a season or two, and stays low (9" - 12" x 6 - 9' wide). Although the white flowered version is also attractive with slightly larger leaves, it often gets quite woody within a couple of years and tends to look more straggly than its pink flowered cousin. Another good option is Trailing Rosemary (Rosemarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'), with a grayish Mediterranean look and sky blue flowers in the spring (2' tall x 4' - 6' wide). If you're seeking more color, Lantana montevidensis is an excellent choice, blooming profusely for most of the year in white or lavender (2' tall x 3-6' wide). Both Lantana and Trailing Rosemary tend, over time, to crawl up over themselves, growing much taller than 2'. Subsequently, it's a good idea to plan to trim them down to a foot or so every other year.

Create A View & Invite Exploration A slope can actually become one of the most beautiful and enticing parts of your yard if you are willing to design the slope. By adding a meandering trail, moving side to side, you can add a sense of mystery, leading the eye into the distance, inviting exploration either vicariously or in person. Include switchbacks, a small bench, and a variety of well chosen trees, shrubs and ground-cover, and you've extended the size of your yard, both visually and functionally. The trail also makes maintenance a breeze. If you're lucky enough to have a view from your slope, you can enjoy it from the top. Otherwise, create a view to enjoy from below, allowing your imagination to do the traveling!

Seasonal Recipe

French Bean Casserole

Here's a casserole that is great for potlucks, buffets, holidays or served as a side dish at dinner. The recipe comes from the Los Angeles Salad Company, the purveyors of French Beans. Get these from Costco but use shortly after buying as they don't last long in the refrigerator.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In medium sauce pan, add 1 tablespoon butter, olive oil, garlic and sliced onion and cook 2 minutes. Add mushrooms, salt, pepper and keep stirring until soft (about 5 mins.). Add cooked beans, 1 tablespoon butter and mix well. Pour mushroom soup into pot with Thyme, Parmesan cheese and mix well. Season to taste. Pour into a baking dish, mixing everything together, then sprinkle bread crumbs and cheddar over the top. Bake 25-30 mins.

1 large onion, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 teaspoon minced garlic
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper
8 oz. crimini mushrooms (button will also work)
1 lb. French beans, halved, blanched or microwaved for 3 minutes
1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
1 tablespoon Thyme, chopped (dried is fine)
2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
½ cup Bread crumbs
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

Well, one of our suppliers finally did it! They invited me to their growing grounds. I brought food and made friends with all the nursery technicians by doing so. I brought dog treats so the guard dogs know me too. Now, I can visit whenever I want and no one will chase me off! They have no idea what they have started. I was left to wander on my own and saw a couple of things I thought you might find interesting.

I have seen this plant before and so have you, perhaps, but it looked great so I just thought I would mention it. Ceratostigma plumbaginoides or “Dwarf Plumbago” another common name for this is “Leadwort”. It is a member of the Plumbaginaceae family so, yes, it is a cousin of the large blue “Cape Plumbago” you see all over San Diego County. However, it is a low spreading 12" ground cover, not an 8' x 10' shrub. It is a perennial that blooms a deep gentian blue in late summer. The leaves on this cute little shrub are about 1-2" long and are attached to the stems by very short petioles which makes it look very dense. These same leaves turn a beautifully bronze-red in the fall which is what drew my attention. It prefers full sun, but afternoon shade results in a more open plant. This plant is from China so it has a higher tolerance to cold and extreme heat. It is also a drought tolerant plant but as with most low-water use plants will need regular water until it is established. Items of note for this great plant, there are no serious diseases or pests that are attracted to it and the leaves emerge late on this plant...so be patient.

Remember the Orange Lion's Tail (Leonotis leonurus), well now there is a white one. Like its red-headed (ok, orange) sister it is a perennial with a very upright growth habit to 6' tall. The lightly felted leaves are dark green and the flowers are a creamy white which grow in upright whorls (verticillaster is the term for this type of growth). A native of South Africa, it prefers light to medium, well-drained soils in an open, sunny position, and is drought and frost tender. However, it will survive occasional mild frosts. Deadhead this plant to encourage more blooms. An interesting side note on this plant, most species of Leonotis have some traditional use as medicinal smoking herbs. The leaves and flowers are dried, or crushed to make a resin which can be smoked. Traditional internal uses included treatment of coughs, cold, influenza, chest infections, diabetes, hypertension, eczema, epilepsy,

intestinal worms, constipation, spider bites, scorpion stings and as an antidote for snakebites. Externally L.leonurus has traditionally been applied for the relief of hemorrhoids, eczema, skin rashes and boils. I do not suggest, however, that you try this out. I've just become very interested in ethnobotany lately and find that a number of our “regular old plants” have had an interesting medical history.

Got butterflies! Want more! Who doesn't? Asclepias linaria aka. “Pine Leaf Milkweed” is a relative to the Asclepias tuberosa. This type of Milkweed has very fine needle-like leaves and



nodding white flower clusters. It is an excellent food source for butterfly larvae. In fact, when I looked at this drought tolerant perennial, I noticed chrysalis' attached to the sides of the nursery pots as well as in the foliage (Monarch's, I believe). This perennial is native to Southern Arizona and Mexico so its tolerance to heat is very good. In fact, you can see it at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix if you happen to be in the area. It is a bit shrubby and will grow up to 3' tall and as wide. The needle-like leaves are about 1.5 inches long. Remember, it is that type of leaf that indicates it is, more likely than not, a drought tolerant plant. It has decorative flowers and seed pods over a long period of time. The flower clusters are about 2" wide and are a greenish white with a trace of burgundy. It will require moderate water and good drainage to keep its good appearance but it is a drought tolerant perennial. I really love the texture of the leaves on this Asclepias. It creates a very soft and delicate appearance in the garden, despite its tolerance of desert heat.

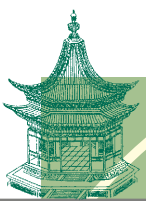
Pretty...Pretty...Pretty...is the best way to describe this Dwarf Thunbergia (Thunbergia natalensis). It is similar to the Thunbergia batescombii, but with light mauve colored petals that blend to a yellow-white throat. The flowers are tubular in shape with spreading lobes. Flowering takes place all summer



long. The leaves are a dark green, oval in shape with toothed margins and are arranged opposite to one another on the stems. It is about 2' in height and is a little floppy. It is from South Africa and will go dormant in dry winters. The best results for this plant are achieved with a light, well-drained soil with plenty of compost. Water regularly during the summer. Cut back old stems to ground level to rejuvenate. It is a pretty fast grower and well suited to mass plantings under trees where it will form a dense cover. In Anne Hutchings' book “Zulu Medicinal Plants” it is reported that a Zulu bride would be given an infusion of the roots on her wedding day to ensure that her marriage would be a happy one. I know it has certainly made a happy marriage in my backyard.

Well, I'm off to my garden to make room for new plants. Until next time, Happy Plantings! ●

CAROL FULLER IS A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER.



Learn To Create

by Nikki Phipps

An Asian Garden



by integrating essential elements. These customary elements include stones, water, plants, bridges, and ornaments. Each one of these particular elements is placed in the garden for a reason and each has a specific meaning.

Stones are used to symbolize mountains and islands. They express the human emotions of strength and endurance. The stones are generally the first element you will place in your garden. Most are positioned in odd numbers (3, 5, 7, etc.) and are grouped together in a triangular arrangement. You will want to use at least two similar rocks along with other smaller sized stones in your assemblage. They can be used as sculptures or given a function such as stepping stones for paths and walkways. Pathways are typically designed to guide others through the garden and are symbolic of a person's journey through life. Most are made up of either groupings of stones, gravel, or sand. These can be set in raked gravels or a mossy surrounding.

Water plays a significant part and is actually going to be the heart of your garden. It entices the feeling of serenity and symbolizes purity. The water source should appear as part of the natural setting. For instance, ponds should have a natural shape, waterfalls should depict those seen in nature (not fountains), and even streams should twist and turn in a natural way. Water symbols can either be actual water or gravel representations. Dry ponds are every bit as important as the actual features they resemble. You can tightly pack flat river rocks together for a rushing stream or use raked gravel or sand to represent water. Water basins may be placed throughout the garden or you might simply wish to invoke a piece of hollow bamboo from which water can drip into a basin or pond below. The use of koi (fish) makes an attractive decorative element in an actual pond as well.

Plants are another element of a Japanese garden. Nearly any type of plant can be used as long as it agrees with the basic design of your garden. However, you should be aware of their growing conditions beforehand. Typically, plants are chosen for their short bloom time and how they appear throughout the year. Minimal color and soft leaf tones are preferred. A single floral effect at a time usually works best with at least three times the foliage to balance it out. The key element in your Japanese garden is going to be emptiness. There is no need to fill up every space or to see everything at once. Flowers in a Japanese garden are used sparingly and are associated with their place in the calendar. A true Japanese garden should display the passing of all the seasons. For example, spring should be full of vivid greens, developing buds, and blossoms of such flora as crab apples and azaleas. Summer holds contrasts of abundant foliage, and plants such as Japanese iris or cattails. Fall maintains the beauty of bush clover, chrysanthemums, and brilliantly colored leaves of trees and shrubs. During winter the interest is focused on snow-piled creeping juniper and tree branches as well as intriguing shadow displays of various trees. Some other popular varieties include asters, morning glories, dahlias,

camellias, bellflower, ferns, hosta, rhododendrons, and hydrangeas. Trees placed into your Japanese garden might include pine, conifers, bamboo, cherry, and maple. Most plants in a Japanese garden are skillfully pruned. The shape of the plant is important in maintaining a clean garden. The Japanese art of dwarfing trees and shrubs, known as bonsai, is commonly used to create replicas of their mature counterparts in nature. Generally, you should prune your shrubs every few weeks while trees can be pruned around three times yearly.

Bridges symbolize a journey. They represent the movement from one world into another and are a common Japanese theme. A cedar bridge can make an exceptional accent either crossing a small stream or a gravel river. Bridges can also be placed as a path through a deep bed of plants.

Ornaments should be passive in your garden. These can include the use of lanterns, basins, statues, or religious artifacts. Generally, ornaments are used for architectural emphasis and only when the point of interest is necessary to the overall design of your garden. Lanterns are the most common ornaments and should be located where a path turns or near an entrance or gate. Another element to include in your garden is some type of enclosure. The purpose for this is to remove any outside distractions. Reed fencing or hedge type plants can be used to achieve this effect and provide a harmonious background.

The formality of your garden may fall into one of three styles: formal, intermediate, or informal. The intermediate style is normally more appropriate for use in residential areas. There are basically five types of Japanese gardens to choose from. A Flat garden consists of sand that is raked in a circular shape to symbolize happiness. Rocks are usually set up in a creative manner in a mix of evergreen plantings, moss, flowering plants, and grass. Natural gardens are similar to the Flat gardens but may include wildlife, waterfalls, and/or ponds. Sand and Stone gardens are generally rectangular in shape with white sand that is carefully raked and is enclosed by a wall of some sort. Stones are arranged in clusters of twos, threes, and fives. These gardens give off a sense of emptiness and space. Strolling gardens provide views from different angles. Tea gardens can have both inner and outer sections. The inner space is a more private area surrounding the Tea House. The outer section is a waiting area for invited guests.

Japanese gardens maintain respect for nature and an appreciation for everyday objects. There is great attention to detail and they can be enjoyed at all times of the year. ●

©2001 by PageWise, Inc. Used with permission.

Simplifying

Fertilizer

Makes Feedings Easier

by Heaviland Enterprises
Professional Landscape Managers

According to the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, a fertilizer is any substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients. Fertilizer is a blanket term that encompasses countless varieties and brands.

You want your yard to look its best and fertilizer can help. Too much fertilizer will promote overgrowth, produce excess waste and require extra pruning and may even burn plants. It is important to balance the amount of fertilizer necessary to keep a landscape thriving without over fertilizing and creating more work and waste for your yard.

Plants require primary and secondary macronutrients and micronutrients. These are the essential elements that can be found in fertilizer. Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen are the essential elements available from air and water. Some nutrients are already in the soil and some are created by decaying organic material.

The primary nutrients, or macronutrients, are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The percentages of these three nutrients are highlighted on the front of fertilizer packages. If you are using Triple 15, you are applying a balanced formula that contains 15% nitrogen, 15% phosphorus and 15% potassium. Nitrogen promotes vegetative growth and green colorization, phosphorus promotes root growth and seed development and potassium encourages root growth, and increases disease resistance and winter hardiness.

The secondary nutrients are calcium, magnesium and sulfur. Calcium is essential for cell wall structure, magnesium is used in chlorophyll which is essential for photosynthesis and sulfur acts with nitrogen in the manufacture of protoplasm for plant cells. These nutrients are labeled secondary because they are less likely to be deficient in most soils.

Fertilizers can also contain micronutrients or trace elements. Micronutrients are required in very small amounts. Too much of any one can be toxic. The micronutrients include: iron, zinc, manganese, copper, molybdenum, boron, nickel and chlorine.

Typically you will need to fertilize turf areas four to six times a year; groundcover about four times a year and trees and shrubs will benefit from two applications a year. Some circumstances require additional applications but it is important to be on a program to avoid problems and to maintain a dependable appearance. Most importantly, follow the label directions for the product you use. ●



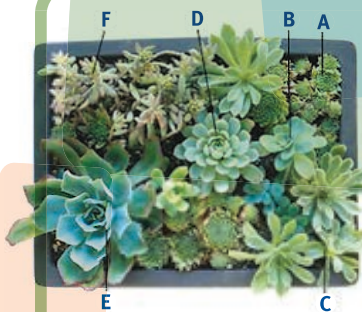
Fall Color in the Tropics

Liz Sorenson in our Poway store created this container. Needs full to partial shade. We recommend Uncle Malcolm's Potting soil.

One 1-gallon Fatsia japonica
Three 4-inch Acalypha 'Bourbon Street'
Four from 6-pack Vinca major 'Maculata'

Succulents

by Melanie Potter



- A. Sempervivum
- B. Sedum
- C. Aeonium urbicum
- D. Aichryson
- E. Echeveria elegans
- F. Sedum rubrotinctum 'Aurora'



It was suggested by a Walter Andersen employee to include an article about succulents in our next newsletter. Looking for inspiration I visited the succulent area of the Poway store and started poking around. As I looked at labels to identify what I was seeing, it occurred to me how unappreciated these worthwhile plants may be. Very few warranted a name and were just labeled as 'Succulent Assorted'.

Not fair I thought as I saw foliage colors from bright green, to blue-green to gray-green then some that were a red-black on unusual and bizarre shaped plants with some actually looking like they came from the bottom of the ocean.

Succulents are xerophytic plants and have fleshy leaves or stems or both. Through evolution, these plants have adapted to dry habitats reducing their body surfaces to lower loss of water through transpiration. Their fleshiness gives them a natural capacity for water storage which enables them to survive periods of drought. Their root systems are often shallow to take advantage of any short-lived surface moisture.

There are roughly 10,000 species of succulents worldwide. Most are members of six families; the Asclepiadaceae, Asphodeliceae, Cactaceae, Crassulaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Mesembryanthemaceae. Other vast ranges of different succulent plants include the unusual stone plants (Lithops and Conophytum), the Crassula Family, Haya, Ajave, Aloe, Eryshorbia/ Spurges and Yucca. They are not to be confused with cactus. The cactus family consists of plants which are all succulent, whereas, other succulents are members of many other families which also have non-succulent members.

Some of the ones most commonly seen are the sedums or stone crops, hen and chicks, the euphorbias, and the ice plants. The blooms of succulents can be quite attractive, particularly those of the sedums. These look star-shaped, and open in round clusters. 'Autumn Joy' is probably the best known among this group. Portulaca or moss rose, another succulent grown specifically for its delicate, papery, rose-like flowers, is popular as an annual. It is used for annual flower beds and also for hanging baskets. The daisy-like blooms of ice plants or Delosperma come in a range of colors. These plants are perennial

succulents. Depending on the species, most will have yellow, pinkish-purple, or true purple blooms.

Almost any well-drained garden spot is sufficient for succulents. Avoid planting them where the soil is constantly water-logged as such conditions can cause the plants to rot and die. Succulents vary in their need for light. Lithops, for instance, requires full sun to very bright light while Haworthias thrive in shady spots. If succulents start going lanky and pale green in color then they need more light. Be careful when this happens, do not move the plant into too much light as it may burn or be scorched. Rather introduce it gradually into stronger light. If your plants (especially newly bought or seedlings) show signs of discoloration, a reddish-purplish tinge or white blotches, then you need to move it to an area with less intense light. The use of a well-balanced fertilizer (20:20:20) with chelated trace elements is recommended. Do not fertilize plants that are dormant or that are going into dormancy. Plants that are over-fed will grow well but they may become more susceptible to disease and pests. ●

the

wee

corner

by Essortment



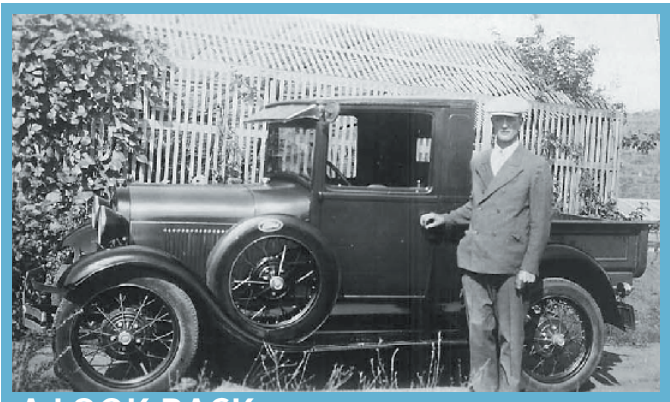
Terrariums Provide Mini & Easy-To-Build Ecosystems

A terrarium can be an attractive addition to almost any room. Whether you choose a brandy snifter with a few small plants or a large 20-gallon container complete with terrestrial animals, your mini ecosystem will be a delight to create and a low maintenance accent in your office or home.

Once you have chosen a container (make sure it has a cover), you should clean it with baking soda and water, and rinse it thoroughly. Next, add the soil. The bottom layer should be sand or small pebbles (for drainage) combined with a small amount of charcoal (the type used in fish tank filters). Place at least an inch of topsoil on top of the sand mixture. In larger terrariums you will be able to add more soil and contour the surface as desired. Try to obtain soil from the same location you obtain your plants. If your container is large enough, including one or more rocks will add interest to your arrangement. For a more natural look, partially bury them in the soil.

You are now ready to add plants. If you have a small container, you may need to use chopsticks or the handle of a wooden spoon to help with the planting. Plants commonly grown in terrariums include various kinds of moss, small ferns, peperomia, partridge berry, trailing arbutus, and some carnivorous plants, like Venus flytrap. Add the mosses last to cover problem spots or provide continuity to the plantings as needed. Water all the plants just enough to settle the soil. Always remember to avoid standing water in the bottom of the container. This can promote bacterial growth and algae, and suffocate the plants’ roots.

It is best not to use chemical fertilizers or other types of artificial nutrients. Your miniature ecosystem doesn’t need to grow rapidly and will thrive quite nicely if occasionally (once a month) misted with a fish emulsion solution. Mist your plants often with plain (not chlorinated) water. Rainwater is preferable, but if not practical, use tap water that has been allowed to sit uncovered for 24 hours. ●



A LOOK BACK

by Ken Andersen

I have been working over the past few months to document more of the history of Walter Andersen Nursery. After 78 years in business, this is proving to be a daunting task! While my grandfather, Walter Sr., was an avid photographer, finding, sorting and identifying his literally thousands of photos and slides is a huge job. From time to time as I come across a photo I think would be of interest to our customers, I will print it in the newsletter along with a brief explanation. I also hear countless stories from long time customers that have shopped with us for literally generations. If you have a story that you would like to share with us, please jot it down in a letter or email it to me at wan.poway@yahoo.com so that we can include these remembrances in our archives as well.

Our first look back is a picture of Walter Andersen Sr. at age 28 taken about the time he went out on his own after working for his cousin Chris Westergaard at Rose Court Floral in Mission Hills. Walter is seen standing beside his brand new 1928 Ford Model A delivery truck, the very first truck the nursery purchased. The reason that we know the truck is new is that the name “Walter Andersen Nursery” had yet to be painted on the side of the truck as it appears in a later photo. In the late 1950s, Walter Jr. purchased a 1929 Ford Model A pick-up, a model nearly identical to the one in the photo, and restored it to look like our original truck. This truck is still owned by the Andersen family and is currently on display in our Poway store. ●

■ **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
www.walterandersen.com

Winter Class Schedule
All classes are free unless otherwise noted. Classes 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 any 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!

Avoiding Transplant Trouble

by Home & Garden Showcase

If you took good care of your houseplants all summer they may have outgrown the pot in which they started growing. But before you repot the plants into a larger vessel, make sure to “cure” any clay pots you’ll be using. You want to do this because clay is absorbent and uncured clay will suck away water that newly repotted plants desperately need. To “cure” them of this absorbency you need to fully submerge the clay pots in a bucket of water. Listen closely and you’ll hear a hissing noise: it’s the tiny air pockets in the clay filling with water. When the hissing stops, the pot’s ready for the transplant operation.

POINT LOMA 9am	
January	
1/06	Bare Root / Deciduous Trees & Shrubs
1/13	Camellias & Azaleas
1/20	Rose Pruning & Planting
1/27	Spring Bulbs
February	
2/03	Preparing Garden Soils
2/10	Spring Color
2/17	Cymbidium Orchids
2/24	Citrus & Avocados
March	
3/03	Indoor Plants for You
3/10	Spring Vegetables
3/17	General Orchid Care
3/24	Spring Lawn Care
3/31	Ornamental Tree for San Diego

POWAY 9:30am	
January	
1/06	Rose Pruning & Bare Root Roses
1/13	Fruit Tree Pruning
1/20	Rose Pruning
1/27	Fruit Tree Pruning
February	
2/03	Spring Bulbs
2/10	Hanging Baskets
2/17	Azaleas & Camellia
2/24	Lawn Care
March	
3/03	Container Gardening
3/10	Orchid Care with Special Guests
3/17	Spring Rose Care
3/24	Spring Flowers
3/31	Citrus & Varieties Care

TOOL SHED

by Ken Andersen

Bigger And Better!

My dad, Walter Jr., and I have both enjoyed tremendous success with the Rat Zapper Rat traps that the nursery started carrying a little over a year ago. These electronic beauties are a clean, safe, humane, and extremely effective way to control rats in and around your home! Well, what was great has gotten even BETTER! We are now carrying the ULTRA Rat Zapper! This larger brother of the original Rat Zapper has some benefits not found in the original. First, it's larger. The entrance and killing zone are bigger than the original allowing for larger rats to enter but still small enough to be safe around cats, dogs and other desirable animals. The larger interior space allows for better placement of the contact plates which activate the trap, thus making it more effective. The large bay also makes removal of the dead rat easier. The Ultra version operates on 4 D Cell batteries giving it more power and more kills between battery changes compared to the AA cells of the regular Rat Zapper. The cost of the Ultra is a little more than the cost of an Original Rat Zapper and the optional D cell conversion pack, but you get the extra size and efficiency of the new model! The Rat Tail remote signal also works in the Ultra allowing you to place the trap in hard to reach areas like crawl spaces, attics and behind appliances and will signal when the trap has activated so you don't have to physically inspect the trap every time you want to see if you caught something. Just look for the blinking eyes on the Rat Tail and it will let you know! At \$42.99 these traps are the most effective and cost efficient Rat control I have found with absolutely no danger of secondary kill or poisoning. Get one today!

COUPON

Valid January 1 - March 31, 2007

\$2 OFF

Any Sunshine Soil Product

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 stock on hand.

COUPON

Valid January 1 - March 31, 2007

\$5 OFF

Any Hand Tool

Regularly Priced \$19.99 or more!

Limit 1

#100384

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

COUPON

Valid January 1 - March 31, 2007

Reduced!

4-Inch Bedding

\$2.49

Regularly Priced \$2.99

Limit 32

#10030084

Limit Thirty-Two (32) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited stock on hand.

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900

WALTER
ANDERSEN
NURSERY

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT #4001

4) ©2006 Walter Andersen Nursery • Design: www.Fuelhaus.com