

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

WINTER

09

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Battery Recycling Program Offered at Poway Store

Are used rechargeable batteries and cell phones piling up in your home or office? If you are reluctant to throw them away, bring them with you the next time you are coming to WAN's Poway location. The store is participating in Call2Recycle, a program that offers the opportunity to help you preserve the environment and make your recycling effort easy. Just look for the collection box in the store and drop the eligible items into provided plastic bags, then into the box. We'll take care of the rest. What could be easier?



Walter Andersen Nursery Once Again Scotts Lawn Pro Dealer!

After many years the nurseries are once again carrying the Lawn Pro line of lawn fertilizers from Scotts. This complete lawn care system includes everything you will need for a lush green lawn all year round! With formulations containing up to 20% more essential nutrients and minerals than Scotts' standard line of lawn foods, the Lawn Pro line will give you excellent results for your lawn care needs all year long. Scotts Super Turf Builder, Super Turf Builder with SUMMERGUARD and Super Turf Builder Plus 2 also contain Scotts Water Smart Formulation that allows healthy lawns to more efficiently use water, especially important in our dry climates. The Lawn Pro line is only available from independent Lawn Pro dealers and is not sold in the box stores. Look for the Lawn Pro logo on these great lawn care products:

Super Turf Builder with WINTERGUARD – Formulated to insure viability, healthy roots and growth during the winter months.

Super Turf Builder plus Halts – Lawn food with pre-emergent crabgrass control to control weed growth in the spring and summer.

Super Turf Builder – With Water Smart Formulation, the perfect general purpose food for your lawn.



Super Turf Builder plus 2 – With Water Smart Formulation, lawn food with post-emergent control of broad leaf weeds during the warmer season.

Super Turf Builder with SUMMERGUARD – With Water Smart Formulation, lawn food plus insect control to keep your lawn looking green and lush and keeping lawn-damaging insects under control during the summer months.

Check the coupon page of this newsletter for savings on the Scotts Lawn Pro family of fertilizers now! Prices will increase this spring as new shipments arrive, so hurry in and save!

From Free Advice To Fee Services—WAN Is Your Plant Partner



WAN designer Michael Waters designed the store's 2008 San Diego County Fair Manager's award-winning display.

Walter Andersen Nursery prides itself on having knowledgeable employees who can help you with your gardening decisions. Most customers can find the answers they need just by walking into the store, but some have needs that require home visits. Fortunately, the nursery has two levels of service to meet your needs. From a simple yard doctor call where an experienced horticulturist will visit your property to answer your plant questions, diagnose plant maladies or make some general planting suggestions, to a full landscape makeover at the hands of our experienced landscape designers. Here's a more detailed look at the services.

A yard doctor visit is when an experienced horticulturist makes a home visit to diagnose plant maladies, identify plants, make minor planting recommendations and assess the quality of your landscaping, as well as provide watering and feeding advice. The time starts at your door and costs \$125 an hour (1 hour minimum); \$75 per hour each additional hour.

Our landscape designers make site visits to survey property and mutually exchange design ideas with homeowners. Sometimes, the ideas the homeowner receives at that consultation are enough to start their redesign efforts and they require no further service. Simple projects may require a hand drawn sketch that is not based on accurate measurements but provides sufficient detail to enable you or a contractor to implement. Sketches can range from just a few hundred dollars to \$500. More complex designs may require the designer to take measurements, photographs or make sketches. In most cases, a design will not be accomplished at the initial consultation. After the designer returns to the office and reviews the scope of the project, the client will receive a written estimate of the design cost. The design can include CAD drawn plans, a plant list, a quote for the cost of plants, installation and contractor referrals, and a plan presentation at the nursery to review and make any changes to the plan as well as see the plants used in the design. Designs can take 4-6 weeks to complete and typically range in cost \$500-\$2000 or more. The landscape design consultation costs \$75 an hour (1 hour minimum; usually lasts 1-2 hours). Designers can also be scheduled to design custom containers for your home.

Our customer service staff is always available to help you select plants for containers. Buy your plant and container at either WAN location and while you are at the store, we'll even put the plant in its new container. If you have several plants to pot up and don't want to bother doing it yourself, custom potting is available at \$45 an hour with a 15 minute minimum. If time permits, some projects can be completed while you wait.

To schedule any service, call Melanie at 858-513-4900. ●

New For Your Book Shelf & A Chance To Meet An Author

by Melanie Potter

Two new books have found their way into the Poway's store literary offerings that we think will appeal to most homeowners. Both are from local publisher, Sunbelt Publications, and are written by San Diego county residents.



When we had two inquiries for a Palm Springs type of landscaping from clients within one week, then got the offer to carry 'Palm Springs Gardening' by Maureen Gilmer, we jumped at the chance.

This book makes low-water gardening easy. And it's not all cactus and palms as it features a wide variety of desert plants, trees, and shrubs that shower the landscape in candy-bright blossoms, interesting textures, and sculptural forms. You'll find "top ten plants" and style guides that show how outdoor desert gardens may be designed to enhance the appeal of many diverse architectural styles, like those found in the neighborhoods of Palm Springs. It offers a unique blend of succulent plants tolerant of high heat, plus desert-adapted trees, shrubs, and

Turning Over A New Leaf

by David Ross



The reality of New Year's resolutions is that they often don't last more than a couple of weeks. We start out with good intentions, but then we get off track. Maybe it's because our goals are too far out of reach.

With that in mind, I'd like to help you kick off 2009 with a simple resolution that will pay dividends throughout the year. Repeat after me: "I resolve to spend more quality time in my garden". Polls indicate gardening is one of the most popular hobbies. Whether you have a large yard, a small yard or just a few potted plants on the balcony, all would benefit from a little consideration during New Year's resolution time.

With water a tremendous concern here in California and throughout much of America, a resolution to use water more wisely and efficiently is another worthy—and not too difficult—goal. Of course, weather and soil type dictate overall irrigation needs, which will change from day to day and week to week. So, instead of having the automatic sprinklers go on every day for a few minutes, water less frequently for a longer period of time. Deep soaking will encourage roots to grow deeper, allowing a greater number of days between watering. Lawns will generally need only two or three waterings per week during summer. Established trees and shrubs may need only one soaking per week during summer and perhaps as little as once a month or less during winter.

However, always check your plants in the afternoon when you begin a "proper" watering regimen and give them a little more water if they are begging (wilting!). There are irrigation controllers that use daily weather information to dictate irrigation needs and can save 30 percent or more on your water usage. Also adjust sprinklers so they water plants; not sidewalks, driveways or the house.

Whew, that was a long resolution! Here is a shorter one: "I will remember to feed my plants. No longer will I buy fertilizer, take it home and just leave it sitting in the garage. If it is a water-soluble fertilizer, I will apply it at least twice a month. If it is a granular type, I will apply it as often as the label tells me to". Remember this: Plants need more than just water to grow and thrive.

OK, those were the easy ones. Here is one that may take you from your comfort zone: "I resolve to grow something this year that I can eat. Whether it is an orange tree, a patch of zucchini or a few herbs in a pot, I will eat something that I grow". Try it! It can be as simple as a lettuce plant in a small pot, which will be harvestable from a transplant in as few as four weeks.

Finally: "I will learn how to prune properly and not butcher my plants". Attend a seminar or ask someone at a local nursery who knows, but resolve to stop chopping this year.

This should give you something easy to follow through on this year. A little more exercise and a healthier diet might be good, too. Good luck and happy New Year!

Editor's Note: Look for these pruning classes in January: 1-10 Pruning Fruit Trees & Learn about Bare Root Fruit Trees with Richard Wright; 1-17 Rose Pruning & Bare Root Roses with David Ross; 1-24 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright; 1-31 Rose Pruning with David Ross. ●

perennials. The book brings these often overlooked species to communities desperately in need of new plant material better adapted to these trying conditions.

You will have the chance to meet Gilmer as she will teach a class, High Impact, Low Water Palm Springs Style, on March 7 at 9:30am at our Poway store. She will also be available to sign copies of her book.



Not to be missed is from Richard W. Halsey, a biologist and fire ecologist, who has authored Fire, Chaparral and Survival in Southern California. This book weaves together the crucial elements of fire behavior, land management, and knowledge of the natural environment to help Californians better protect their families, and form vital connections with their surroundings. The book is illustrated with local and regional landscapes, as well as the 64 most common plants, birds, and animals. It covers the 2007 wildfires. ●

Simple Sprinkler Test

by Ken Andersen



properly. Water that sprays onto sidewalks, over fences, onto walls and other areas where there are no plants wastes water. Very often these situations can be easily fixed. However, to determine if there is indeed a problem, the operation of the system must be evaluated.

Let's start with the landscaping first. Get to know your irrigation's controller. If you have manual valves (ones that are turned on by hand and not a clock) you should have a pretty good idea of when they turn on and off since you do it yourself (or tell someone else to). If you have a clock, figure out when the system turns on and off. Once you know this, check the areas covered by the system. See if they are bone dry, moist, wet, soaking wet or swamp like. Ideally, the soil should have the moisture content of a wrung out sponge. If it stays much wetter than that you can have problems with overwatering some plants, if it is much drier some plants can go into drought stress. Make a note of the moisture levels in the planters and let the sprinklers cycle through. Check the heads to make sure they are all spraying evenly and cleanly. Make sure the spray stays within the confines of the beds. It can overlap a little into other beds but look for areas where it hits walls, walkways, driveways, streets, etc. This can be wasted water. Try adjusting the angle, direction or volume of spray to keep it in the beds. If the spray pattern is grossly out of whack, you may have to change the sprinkler nozzle itself to keep the spray where it needs to be. Try to adjust heads to get more water to drier areas and less to wetter areas. This will improve the efficiency of the system and should allow you to cut back your usage either through shorter durations or decreased frequency of operation.

Lawns can be a bit trickier but they can also use A LOT more water! They can be a bit more fun to check though, especially if the weather is warm. First thing you need to do to check the lawn is to go to the grocery store. You shopping list will be short, your favorite beverage (adult or otherwise) and some disposable clear plastic drink glasses, the short kind with the wide mouth work the best. Bring these items home and you are ready to get started! First, take one of the new glasses and pour yourself a drink, remember it's warm and you might need it! I prefer gin and tonic but it's really a matter of taste. Then take the extra glasses and head outside, don't forget your drink! Take the empty glasses and set them out in a grid pattern over your entire lawn spacing them about 3 feet apart or so. If you have lawn areas that look bad or discolored, make sure you put a glass in that area even if it falls out of the pattern.

Once your grid is set, manually cycle your sprinklers for the amount of time they usually come on during their normal operation. While they are running carefully, observe the operation of all sprinkler heads to make sure they are all working properly and spraying in the proper direction. Adjust the ones that you can. If some are clogged, note them for later cleaning or replacement. After you have enjoyed your drink and the sprinklers have shut off, it's time to do two things. First, get another drink if you need it and second check the cups. Sprinkler systems, in theory, are designed to distribute water evenly over a given area. If yours is operating properly, each of the cups on your lawn should have the same or nearly the same amount of water in them. Pay particular attention to the ones you set in problem areas. If there is significantly more or less water in these there is a problem with the sprinkler heads for those areas. You may have to run the system again to check out the specific heads in those areas. Clean the heads as needed and make your adjustments and you should be ready to check your work.

To do this, run the system again. If the problem areas have evened out you are good to go. If it hasn't and you are stumped as to why, you may want to call in a professional landscaper to take a look. It may be an inherent design flaw in your system that a professional can detect and fix. The bottom line is that once your system is operating at peak efficiency you should be able to reduce some of the water you are using as more of it will be distributed properly over a given area. Over time this can add up to significant savings on your water bill and our water system in general! ●

Seasonal Recipe

Chicken Pistachio Salad

4 cups cooked rice
2 cups chopped, cooked chicken
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup scallions
1/2 cup chopped pistachios
1/2 tsp. chopped dill weed

Mix the chicken and rice together. Whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, chopped scallions, nuts and dill (adjust seasonings if necessary). Add salt and pepper to taste. Mix well. Serve warm or chilled.



Words From Walter

by Walter Andersen, Jr.

Well another year has passed. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that you are you are looking forward to a great 2009. We are! This New Year brings great promise to prosper and GROW in your gardens. Here at Andersen's we are always trying to grow something exciting.

This time of the year is a wonderful time to plant more veggies. If you come in to the nursery you will find many great 'starter plants' (six packs and 4" pots) of Broccoli, Cabbage, Lettuce, Onions, Spinach and Chard. You will also find Strawberries, Artichoke and Asparagus, if you manage to come in the first part of the year. There are many other things you can plant from seed as well. Beets, Carrots, Radish, and Turnips are root crops you must plant from seed; these usually are not available in small containers, but super easy to grow. Peas can be planted from six packs or seed, the same with Onions. It is always a great joy to go to your own vegetable garden and harvest your own home-grown food. It can't get fresher than that.

When you plant, be sure to add an ample amount of nice rich compost to your soil. If you do not make your own, "BUMPER CROP" is one of the very best you can use. It is formulated specifically for vegetables. It can be used for many other types of plantings as well, so if you have some left over you can use it for planting new roses or fruit trees.

Speaking of those, our NEW roses are in, also we have just received our new bare root fruit trees. The fruit trees are all

healed in, in moist wood shavings to keep the roots damp. This is probably the best time to plant your Almonds, Apricots, Figs, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears and Plums. We also have a good selection of Persimmons and Pomegranates, too. A few other varieties as well so be sure to check them all.

The rose selection is wonderful. We have over 200 varieties to pick from, something for everyone. Some of the new roses for 2009 are "Care Free Spirit", "Cinco de Mayo", "Enchanted Evening", "Pink Promise" and "Rock & Roll" and many more. We also have many of the old standbys and the more recent introductions as well.



Talk about fun things to grow! Here's a giant pumpkin grown by Jim Stevenson who attended a giant pumpkin growing class held at our Poway store last May.



For sure this is the best time to buy your roses. Ours are all in containers, planted in the best soil mix, raring to grow.

We have handouts of the list of roses and fruit trees available at the nurseries, and also on line at our website, www.walterandersen.com ●

A Ficus That Surprised Us

by Melanie Potter



At this time of year, when the newsletter is being written, we don't have as many houseplants in the store as we are preparing for holidays and the Poinsettias you saw in November and December displace many of those suitable for indoors. So the pickings were slim and predictable as I poked around to see what was in stock. Tucked away with the Aralias, though, was a tall plant that had a leaf that looked sort of like a Ginkgo biloba.

The plant, a Ficus triangularis is unusual and even Walter Andersen Jr., himself was curious about it. The little available intelligence reveals information that would make you think this is an outdoor only plant; do take note that when you buy plants from Walter Andersen that you have found indoors, they are best suited for that location. The growers we buy from have raised the plants in indoor conditions and the plants haven't been acclimated to the outdoors.

This member of the Ficus family is most commonly found as a standard tree or a bush type. It has large dark green, shiny rounded triangle-shaped leaves on woody branches. They make an excellent specimen plant in the right environment, which is in the house or in a container on a patio where frost will not threaten it. It is not advised to be planted in the ground outside. If the plant is put outdoors, it may perform better on the coast.

One of the most important needs for the Ficus is bright light. Not enough light will cause leaf loss. An east, west, or southern window with a sheer curtain is ideal. Some leaf loss is normal as your plant acclimates to its surroundings. Once placed, refrain from moving this plant unless you see that it needs more light.

Provide average household warmth with a minimum of 55 degrees in the winter. You can mist occasionally to increase humidity in dry environments.

Allow soil to dry to the touch before a thorough watering. Do not allow plant to stand in water. With a larger plant you must make sure you give it enough water to reach the bottom of the pot. If you do not, the plant will lose leaves. A suggestion is to give it enough water until you see it run out the bottom of the pot. Don't overwater or let it remain saturated.

You can prune the plant and the grower who provides these to the nursery reported that he had seen one pruned to create a cascading effect. He also cautioned that on outdoor specimens, the roots can be invasive, but not as much as Ficus benjamina. ●

Finding Ideas In Strange Circumstances

Ideas for newsletter articles can come from the strangest of circumstances. I was asking our green goods buyer if he could suggest any plants to profile for this newsletter. He was drawing a blank when we looked up for inspiration and found ourselves looking into the back of our delivery truck, where a pretty flowering vine, that looked unusual, was ready to be driven to its new home.

It was quickly identified as Bignonia capreolata or Cross Vine and sure enough, it is a rare find in our area.



It gets its common name from having its cross section of stem reveal a marking resembling the Greek cross. It isn't quite the season for this plant to be more readily available, but worth sharing its story.

This is a fast-growing, high-climbing vine with opposite, compound leaves having just two leaflets that are 3-5 inches long with a long slender tendril between them. Some research on the plant indicates it can grow anywhere from 30 to 50 feet. It can be pruned, which should be done after it blooms. The showy and sweet scented flowers appear in late winter and early spring (although we were looking at one in early November that was laden with blooms). The trumpet-shaped blooms will appeal to hummingbirds and are orange to reddish-orange to red and borne in clusters. The fruits are flattened pod-like pendants. Foliage will turn red-purple in winter.

The plant is native to southeastern North America, from Maryland to Florida, and west to Missouri and Texas. It occurs widely in uplands, lowlands, forests, and clearings.

Be forewarned the vine can be invasive. It will flourish under a wide variety of conditions, and spread by root sprouting if not managed. Plant along a back fence, or provide a trellis. The vine will climb to find sunlight and normally prefers light shade to part to full sun. There are no pest problems, and best of all for San Diegans, it is drought tolerant. ●

by Melanie Potter

Winter Color Is At Your Fingertips

by Jennifer Merzigian



Heavenly Bamboo

Ah, winter. Your roses and deciduous trees are dormant; many of your spring perennials are out of bloom or have died back for the cool season. The grasses and groundcovers along the hillsides are hibernating. Floral Poinsettias are fading. So what do you do for visual interest if you're craving the vibrant colors of spring and summer during such a drab time of year?

During the winter I begin to miss the pristine look of new snow on the ground and rooftops, reflecting the light, and giving off a silvery sparkle; so during this time of year, I try to emulate that a little. Here are some plants I like to use for this color palette:

Teucrium fruticans, with its silvery leaves, and icy, powdery blue flowers is one of my favorite plants to use as a centerpiece in my winter planters. I love Grevillea, with its grayish Rosemary-like foliage, and light to deep pink blooms which remind me of berried-shrubs layered with snow, and would make a great border around any garden. Matthiola incana 'Vintage' series have soft, gray foliage, and the lilacs, whites, and apple-blossom colors are beautiful against it. Licorice Plant (Helichrysum), Snow-in-Summer (Cerastium), and Silver-leaf Thymes are great trailing accents, as well as Lamiastrum 'Jade Frost' and many Lamiums. Dusty Miller (Senecio cineraria) and Lamb's Ears (Stachys) have large, silver leaves, with the added benefit of being soft and fuzzy to the touch. Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' is appropriately named because of its airy white flowers floating above the foliage. Silver Bush (Calocephalus) has unusual silver foliage. Acacia baileyana purpurea is a truly silvery tree, as many Acacia are. For some blue-tinted shrubs, check out Colorado blue spruce and Junipers. Variegated Myrtles are cute, and Pittosporums (especially 'Silver Sheen'!) are gorgeous and easy-care choices. And don't forget ornamental grasses! Carex 'Blue Zinger', and Blue Fescues, especially 'Elijah Blue', Liriope 'Silver Dragon', and Ophiopogon 'Silver Mist' are excellent examples.

To bring some of those beautiful outside colors in, snip some stems of Snapdragons. The flowers stay fresh for a long time. Stock is a nice touch to any bouquet. In late January, budded branches from the Forsythia can be forced to bloom in a sunny vase. Sweet Peas look best in big bunches. Holly berries can be used as a clever filler.

Every season has bright color to offer, so don't give in to dull, dormant yards. Take advantage of the plants available this time of year, and keep your yard as colorful as you want all year-round! ●

Why, we just need to go in search of some Winter Color!

Annuals are an easy choice given their striking color this time of year. Snapdragons (Antirrhinum majus) have a huge variety of seemingly neon colors to make ANY garden pop. Calendulas give Marigold-lovers a substitute for their dearly beloved orange and yellow warm-season friends. Freeway Daisies (Osteospermum) are in heavy bloom right now, though they will flower lightly just about year round. Stock (Matthiola incana) give you some loud AND soft colors to choose from, as well as a sweet fragrance. Pansies and Violas are obvious choices with their never-ending supply of color combinations, and Primroses (Primula), which need that extra chill each night to flower their best, will be happy to fill any little shady space you have with their gentle scent.

As for trees, you'll get a nice show of burnt orange flowers on bare branches with the Coral Tree (Erythrina caffra specifically). Camellias will be blooming anywhere from October through May, depending on the variety. Western Redbud (Cercis occidentalis) has reddish pods that add an interesting touch to a bare plant. Holly and Osmanthus heterophyllus will keep going all winter long, with waxy and often variegated foliage, as well as those famous Holly berries. Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina domestica) will color up very nicely all through any cool season, and still give you a touch of fall the rest of the year! Golden or silvery variegated Euonymus give you the option of another easy care plant that you can even use as a hedge. Don't forget Sweet Peas (Lathyrus odoratus) are annual vines or little shrubs in a multitude of colors with a pleasing scent.

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

So sorry I missed you by not having an article in the last newsletter. But, I think I've found some things that were worth the wait.

Most of you know that I love natives so I had to add this one to my collection. California Lilacs, or Ceanothus, are some of our most fragrant and colorful shrubs here in California. Ceanothus arboreus, or Fernleaf Ceanothus 'Cliff Schmidt' is the newest in my garden.

An evergreen shrub, it was found in the Channel Islands on Santa Cruz Island, so it should be quite tolerant of salt spray and coastal conditions. It has glossy dark green leaves which are leathery but felt-like on their undersides. It is a spreading shrub that will grow 15-18' high and 12-15' wide so give it some room to grow. This would make an excellent hedge. The blooms are a medium blue which grow in plentiful bunches of tiny five-lobed blossoms. Like most natives, it will flower spring and fall.

As with all Ceanothus, good drainage and full sun are optimal. Water needs are moderate to infrequent, diffuse watering is best. No fertilizer or amending the soil, which should be well-draining, when planting. This cultivar is hardy to 10°F. Of course, the butterflies love it and the birds are hiding in it so it is a welcome addition to that habitat garden.

I love attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to my garden. Asters are a great addition to this end and the Lessingia filaginifolia 'Smart Aster' or California Aster is one you should try. This is a perennial aster and is a native species.

Also found on Santa Cruz Island in the Channel Islands, it will tolerate coastal conditions. It is found in dry sandy washes, floodplains, rocky slopes, coastal bluffs, coastal scrub and grasslands so like most natives it requires well-drained soil. Unlike most natives it will need regular, moderate water.

Its daisy-like flowers are lavender and yellow and will show their best from summer to fall. The leaves are a soft gray and are toothed. The butterflies love them almost to a fault. This Aster is the larval food for the Calcedon Checkerspot Butterfly so expect a little chewing. The California Aster will grow to about 3' x 3' in full sun and is hardy to about 20°F. This looks great planted next to blue or lavender colored flowers.



Calothamnus quadrifidus 'Australian Pine' or 'One sided Bottlebrush' is so named because the flowers are on one side of the stem. This is sometimes also referred to as 'net bush' because the one-sided flowers resemble a net but you probably won't find it

under this name. I also found out it can be called 'claw flower.' It is a native to Western Australia so it should adapt to your garden very well.

This shrub is in a genus of more than 40 species, all of which are related to Melaleuca. This particular species has needle shaped leaves that are a soft green in color. The flower is a red or reddish-orange on one side of the stem and it will show its best in mid-winter to early summer. The flowers contain nectar and are attractive to honey eating birds. Flowers are followed by woody seed capsules which retain the seed for many years and can be quite attractive as well as being food for the birds.

The Australian Pine is a very attractive shrub for a sunny position in well drained soils and would make a great hedge or a planted to soften a fence or wall. The foliage is great for use in flower arrangements. It can have sparse foliage with age but responds to hard pruning and will tolerate extended dry periods once established, so in general water use is low. Let this shrub grow to its prescribed height and it becomes low maintenance as well.

Editor's Note: All plants subject to availability. ●

A Look At The '09 New Roses

by Walter Andersen



Rock & Roll

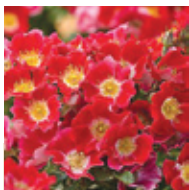
Now is best the time to select and plant your new roses. For 2009 we have over 20 new roses. This is a brief description of some of them. If you have some old roses that are just not performing, or you are looking for something different, take a look at a few of these.

California Dreamin', a beautiful pink blend Hybrid Tea. The petals are light pink to near white at the center, shading to deep pink edges. The foliage is deep glossy green and fairly disease resistant. Not only that, it has very strong fragrance.

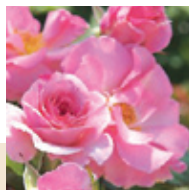
Carefree Spirit is a new deep pink shrub rose that grows to about five feet tall. This is a new AARS rose that forms it blooms in large clusters of deep 'Cherry Pink'. It is quite disease resistant and heavy blooming.

Cinco de Mayo has a 'chocolate' sort of color. It is similar to "Hot Cocoa" but a floribunda. The blooms are in clusters and smaller. "Hot Cocoa" was very popular when it was introduced a few years ago, and we think this will be similar. It is an unusual color, with almost continuous bloom early on.

Enchanted Evening is an excellent new lavender floribunda. They say "one of the best in quite a while." The blooms are born in clusters as with most floribunda roses, so you get 'bundles' of blooms from each stem. The plant is about 40" tall and rounded in shape.



Carefree Spirit



Kimberlina



Pink Promise

Kardinal has been a 'Florist Type' rose, bred for the cut flower industry. It is a beautiful red that grows to about 36" tall. This one is a Hybrid Tea type rose.

Kimberlina is a new floribunda with soft pink blooms. The foliage is glossy green and this new rose is one of the healthiest, toughest floribundas to come along. It should be easy to grow in most areas.

Lady Bird is a 5' tall growing Hybrid Tea. The blooms are deep orange, fully double with about 35 petals per bloom. The warm colors of this make great cut blooms with a light spicy fragrance.

Light My Fire is a dark orange Floribunda. They say "Flaming Hot" colors on this one. Large clusters of blooms on a 'rounded' bush. Good for containers on a patio too!

Paradise Found is described as a "Nearly Perfect Hybrid Tea Rose". It has color (pink blend) shape, vigor and fragrance. It is a wonderful rose but subject to 'black spot', which may or may not be a problem in our area, especially where it is not so hot.

Pink Promise comes with AARS certification. Elegantly shaped buds on long stems open to perfect pink blooms. This has been selected to represent the National Breast Cancer Foundation.



Cinco de Mayo



Light My Fire



Shockwave

Rock & Roll has blooms of burgundy and cream. This is a striped bloom, splashed with the deeper colors. This Grandiflora rose also has a wonderful strong fragrance that is missing in many other roses.

Shockwave is neon yellow. This 4' Hybrid Tea is a well-formed plant, and the blooms tend to last longer than many other yellow roses.

Spanish Sunset pretty much describes this wonderful orange color. It is a new rose from New Zealand with excellent resistance to mildew and rust. It is a Floribunda about 3' tall.

Tequila is a new shrub rose to about 4' tall. It produces lots of bright orange-apricot blooms on and off throughout the season.

White Out is a shrub rose to about 3' tall, or so. When it blooms with its smallest single flowers, the plant nearly turns white. It's extremely disease resistant and easy to grow. Blooms a lot; as soon as the old blooms fade there are more to replace them. ●



Walter Andersen Nursery's 10th Annual Poway Rose Show
Coming in April or May! Watch for Details.

the

wee

corner

by Ken Andersen



A Wee Answer Clears Up: Is It A Fruit Or A Vegetable?

That is a question often asked and not always answered. The truth is there is more to it than a horticultural or botanical answer. According to Dennis R. Pittenger, editor of the University of California’s Retail Garden Center Manual, any edible plant part containing the seeds is technically a fruit.

However, from a use standpoint, the term ‘fruit’ generally refers to any plant part that is consumed for its dessert qualities. Parts of the plant that are consumed during the main portion of a meal are considered herbs or vegetables. Tomatoes for example, while technically a fruit, are rarely consumed during the dessert portion of a meal but are common in salads and main courses.

That’s the clearest answer to this long standing question I have seen to date! ●

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 9am

January

1/3 Pruning Apples, Pears & Figs

1/10 Camellia Planting & Care

1/17 Pruning Roses

1/24 Spring Bulbs

1/31 Composting to Improve Your Garden

February

2/7 Spring Color

2/14 Cymbidium Orchids

2/21 Citrus & Avocado Varieties & Care

2/28 World of Orchids

March

3/7 Spring Vegetables

3/14 Ornamental Trees for San Diego

3/21 Herbs: Care & Uses

3/28 Epiphyllum “Orchid Cactus”

POWAY 9:30am

January

1/3 No Class

1/10 Pruning Fruit Trees & Learn About Bare Root Fruit Trees with Richard Wright

1/17 Rose Pruning & Bare Root Roses with David Ross

1/24 Fruit Tree Pruning with Richard Wright

1/31 Rose Pruning with David Ross

February

March



TOOL SHED

by Walter Andersen, Jr.

Rediscovering Ada Perry, the Gardener and the Product



Ada Perry packaging is changing and we’ve developed a new brand for Ada. Here’s a peek at the new logo!

Ada Perry isn’t just the name on a highly touted bag of rose amendment that Walter Andersen Nursery sells. In the 1930s, Ada worked at Dunning’s Seed, a ‘true seed store’ where they mostly sold all sorts of seed for homeowners as well as crop seeds for the farmers in the county. She was an accomplished gardener and was a long time employee of Walter Andersen Nursery. She first worked for the nursery in the early 1940s, hired by Walter Andersen Sr., because she was a ‘true plant person’. She was a great asset to our nursery, her knowledge was remarkable and the customers liked her. We started doing ‘garden classes’ in the nursery every Thursday and Saturday mornings. Ada was the one who arranged the classes and most of the time she was the speaker. Occasionally she would invite a guest speaker to talk about plants or professionals explaining how to use their products safely and effectively. Most classes were held under a giant rubber tree at the nursery. At one time, she was the host of a weekly radio ‘garden show’ which was most likely the first show of its kind in San Diego.

Ada wrote a weekly column for the San Diego Union Tribune for their Sunday edition which had a fairly extensive ‘Garden Section’ at that time. The newspaper always had a caricature for her articles; a different one each week drawn by the staff cartoonist. She was also a contributor to California Garden, the magazine printed by the San Diego Floral Association, the oldest garden magazine in print.

She was known for the large hats she always wore and changed about two or three times a year. I don’t recall ever seeing Ada without a hat. She also had a distinct high pitched voice. You always knew when she was talking to someone despite not being seen if hidden by vines or other plants.

In the ’40s, there was a large pond at the nursery where water lilies and other aquatics were sold. One day I fell into the pond, I guess I was about 8 or 10 years old. Ada pulled me out by my suspenders! Maybe saved my life, not sure as I don’t recall how deep the pond was, perhaps two feet or so, but I bet I thought it was twenty feet deep.

Ada loved roses, probably more than most other plants. She was always there to sell them at ‘bare root time’ and would always pick out the best one for whomever she was waiting on. She would check each cane to see that there were no breaks, or crossed branches. At her classes on roses, she told the audience,

“always be sure to feed your roses monthly,” to grow the best plants and largest blooms. Ada realized that everything roses need to do their best was not in most commercial rose foods. She came up with ‘her formula’ to promote the best growth and blooms, using products on the shelf. She had roses at her home and would do tests to see what worked the best. Then she would tell everyone you need to add a cup of gypsum, a half cup of soil sulfur, and so on, two times a year to each rose. “If you do this, and also use a good rose food, you will have the best roses anywhere,” she would explain.

About 1970, she had a stroke and did not come to the nursery for more than a year. Then one day she and her sister came into the nursery and she was wondering if she could come back to work for us. She was rehired but she worked fewer hours though she resumed teaching most of the garden classes again. About 1979, she became ill again and had to stop working. She puttered in her garden in East San Diego and would call to have us bring her plants and roses and the items she needed for her ‘Special Formula’. She died in her home in 1983.

There is a miniature rose named after her, and it is one of the very highest rated miniatures ever hybridized.

About 12 years ago, Ken Andersen got the idea of pre-mixing and bagging her formula so customers did not have to buy all of the different ingredients to make it on their own. It just made things a lot simpler. “Ada Perry’s Magic Formula” is now in bags, and has been a huge success. ●

Next Round of Hedge Fund\$ Available Now!



January and February are the first chances during the New Year to redeem Hedge Fund\$ points earned over the 2008 summer. This popular loyalty program continues to pick up momentum after its July 08 debut. Points can be redeemed for up to 50% of the purchase price on qualified merchandise! Remember the more you spend, the more you earn! Last summer over \$17,000 in points were redeemed by customers!

Not a Hedge Fund\$ member? No problem! It’s easy to join and FREE! Just ask to sign up at either store and you can start earning with your first purchase! Already have an account with us, but not a Hedge Fund\$ card? Just ask for one at the register next time you are in the store! Remember you don’t have to bring your card into the store with you (although it can make looking up your account faster!). But remember; to earn points you must have your purchases rung up on your account!

There are a few restrictions that apply to the use of Hedge Fund\$ points, check with the stores for details.

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, CA 92110
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Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900 / Fax 858-513-4790

www.walterandersen.com

Lawn Care Savings!

COUPON

Valid January 1–31, 2009 Only!

Buy a Bag of **Scotts Super Turf Builder plus Halts**, or **Super Turf Builder with Summer Guard** and

Save \$3 OFF

A Bag of Super Turf Builder OR

Save \$5 OFF

A Bag of Super Turf Builder Plus Weed Control

Prices will be going up in the Spring, so **SAVE now!**
Limit 2 discounted bags per coupon

\$3 OFF #104146

\$5 OFF #104147

The same coupon may be used twice in a sale or one of each may be used. To qualify for the discount, one full price bag must be purchased for each discount redeemed. Limit One (2) per customer. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Limited to stock on hand. Expires January 31, 2009.

COUPON

Valid March 1–31, 2009 Only!

15% OFF

Your Next Purchase!

Good Only in March 2009

Save 15% on your next purchase of non-discounted merchandise in the store.

Savings do not apply to SOD, consulting or design services, previously discounted items, labor and gift cards. Limited to stock on hand, however prepaid special orders are eligible for the discount!

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