



WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



WINTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

Backyard Orchards	1
Hedge Fund\$	1
Rose Show Set For 2010	1
Online Nursery	1
Frost Damage	2
Succulent Gardening With Kids	2
Careful Where You Put Your Hands	2
Words From Walter	2
Sowing Seeds	3
Appreciating Persimmons	3
Fuller's Finds	3
The Wee Corner: Kids & Trees	4
Winter Class Schedule	4
Tool Shed	4
Seeds	4
Coupon Savings	4



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 2009 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.



11th Annual Rose Show is Set

The eleventh annual Walter Andersen Nursery Rose Show is scheduled for May 15-16 at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway store. This popular event continues to grow.

A rose show prep class will be held May 8 to help participants learn how to prepare roses for the show. The rose preparation class begins at 9:30am, at the Poway location (12755 Danielson Ct.).

Entries will be taken May 15 from 8-10:30am with judging taking place from 11am-1pm. Show hours are May 15 from 1-5pm and May 16 from 9am-4pm.

This year's show will have a new class that will encourage kids to participate. Look for the category, Best Child's Entry Under the Age of 14.

Backyard Orchard Culture Made Easy

by Dave Wilson Nursery



fruit trees. A commercial grower would never consider using his methods on a 90 ft. x 100 ft. parcel, so why should a homeowner?

Backyard orchard culture is high density planting and successive ripening that maximizes the length of the fruiting season by planting several fruit varieties with different ripening times.

Because of the limited space available to most homeowners, this means using one or more of the techniques for close-planting and training fruit trees of which planting two, three or four trees in one hole, espalier, and hedgerow are the most common of these techniques.

Four trees instead of one produces ten to twelve weeks of fruit instead of only two or three. Close planting offers the additional advantage of restricting a tree's vigor. A tree won't grow as large when there are competing trees close by.

In many climates, planting more varieties can also mean better cross-pollination of pears, apples, plums and cherries, which increases consistent production.

Backyard orchard culture means accepting the responsibility for tree size. Small trees yield crops of manageable size and are much easier to spray, thin, prune, net, and harvest than large trees. If trees are kept small, it is possible to plant a greater number of trees, affording the opportunity for more kinds of fruit and a longer fruit season.

Most kinds of deciduous fruit trees require pruning to stimulate new fruiting wood, to remove broken and diseased wood, to space the fruiting wood, and to allow good air circulation and sunlight penetration in the canopy. Pruning is most important in the first three years, because this is when the shape and size of a fruit tree is established. Pruning at the same time as thinning the crop is strongly recommended. By pruning when there is fruit on the tree, the fruiting wood (one year-old wood, two year-old wood, spurs, etc.) is apparent, which helps you to make better pruning decisions.

There are several reasons why summer pruning is the easiest way to keep fruit trees small. Reducing the canopy by pruning in summer reduces photosynthesis (food manufacture), thereby reducing the new growth.

Fruit tree planting and pruning needn't be complicated or confusing. When planting, be aware of air circulation. This is important in reducing diseases. If poor-draining soils are suspected, consider a raised bed to protect the trees from starving for oxygen in heavy soils. Up to 4 trees can be planted in a 4'x4' bed raised up at least 12 inches. Larger beds can accommodate more trees.

Look for trees on either a Mariana 26-24 rootstock or Myroblan 29C rootstock. Both of these rootstocks are very shallow and are much more tolerant of wet, heavy soils.

In the first year of your orchard, at planting time, bare root trees may be topped as low as 15 inches from the ground to force very low scaffold limbs or trees may be topped higher than 15 inches (up to four feet) depending on the presence of well-spaced existing side limbs or desired tree form. After the spring flush of growth, cut the new growth back by half (late April/early May in So. Calif.). In late summer (late August to mid-September), cut the subsequent growth back by half. Size control and development of low-fruiting wood begins now. Some trees grow more vigorously than others.

Do not allow any tree to dominate and shade out the others. Plant each grouping of 3 or 4 trees in one hole at least 12 to 15 inches apart to allow for adequate light penetration and good air circulation.

Hedgerow plantings are easiest to maintain when spaced at least 3 or more feet apart. Make sure that the placement of the hedgerow does not block air circulation and light from other plantings.

To conserve water for single trees, apply at least a 4-inch layer of mulch up to 4 feet from the tree or from the center of the planting of 2, 3, or 4 trees in one hole.

During the second year, prune the same as the first year, cut back new growth by half in spring and late summer. Pruning three times may be the easiest way to manage some vigorous varieties: Prune in the spring, early summer and late summer. Thin to an open center beginning in the second season. Prune single-tree plantings to vase shape.

When pruning multi-plantings, thin out the center to allow plenty of sunlight into the interior of the group of trees. Remove broken limbs as well as diseased limbs well below signs of disease.

In the tree's third year, choose a height and don't let the tree get any taller. Tree height is the decision of the pruner. When there are vigorous shoots above the chosen height, cut back or remove them. Again, in late spring/early summer, cut back all new growth by at least half.

When limbs cross one another, one or both should be cut back or removed. When removing large limbs, first saw part way through the limb on the under side ahead of your intended cut. Do this so it won't tear the trunk as it comes off. Also, don't make the final cut flush with the trunk or parent limb and be sure to leave a collar (a short stub). Apricots will require more pruning in the summer to control height. Prune as needed (2 to 3 times in the summer) to keep the tree from experiencing too much growth. Be careful not to cut too much at one time, this will cause excess sun exposure of unprotected limbs, which can cause sunburn to the interior limbs and fruit.

To develop an espalier, fan, or other two-dimensional form, simply remove everything that doesn't grow flat. Selectively thin and train what's left to space the fruiting wood. Don't let pruning decisions inhibit you or slow you down. ●

New Selection Of Natives Available In Poway



There's a new supplier of native plants that are being carried in our Poway store.

There you will find a selection of natives from Moosa Creek Nursery which is home quartered in Valley Center. The company, which

was founded in 2004, has 20 acres of growing grounds situated in the midst of riparian and chaparral habitat.

In stock you'll find five gallon plants such as California fuchsia, Catalina Cherry and Western Sycamore. One gallon selections include Incienso, Toyon, Tree mallow, a variety of manzanitas, Blue eyed grass, Our Lord's Candle, dwarf Coyote brush and edible California wild grapes.

Each plant is marked with helpful signs that provide information regarding light and watering requirements along with a wildlife friendly rating. ●

Online Nursery Now Open



Walter Andersen Nursery is happy to announce that its online store is now open. We have listed some of our most popular dry goods and tools (sorry, we aren't selling plants online) for sale in the virtual store and will be adding more as time goes on.

You may purchase gift cards online as well. Go to the website, www.walterandersen.com, and browse around to see what is available. If you have suggestions of what you would like to see available online drop us an email at wan.poway@yahoo.com. ●

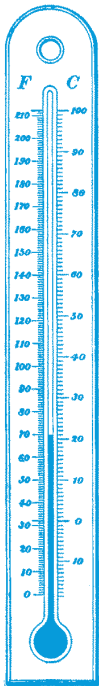
Defense Against and Treatment of Frost Damage Is Easy

by Ken Andersen



Frost Damage

One of the great features of San Diego is our varied topography. With lots of mountains, hills and valleys it gives San Diego one of its unique characteristics. This same topography can even mean the difference between having frost damage and not having it. This aspect is very apparent in my neighborhood of Scripps Ranch. We live near the top of a hill and have constant breezes flowing up from the coast and suffer very little in the way of frost damage each winter. However, my neighbors who live down the street at the bottom of the hill are subject to damage of some extent or another every year because the cold air flows down hill and settles in the lower areas and valleys. This is true wherever you live inland in San Diego. It will always be a bit warmer near the tops of hills and on the sides of valleys rather than in the bottom.



Protecting your plants from frost is pretty simple. The first step in protecting your plants from frost is knowing when it is going to hit. Try to keep an eye out for weather alerts on the news, in the newspaper or from an online news source. If frost is forecast, it's time to start planning. For potted plants, the easiest way to protect them, if they are moveable, is to move them under a covered patio, entryway or even the garage. Having a roof over their head will hold the frost at bay through the coldest night. If the plants are not only sensitive to frost, but sensitive to cold in general, drape a few old sheets over them during the cold nights. This same trick can be used in your landscape as well.

For the vegetable garden, or larger areas, consider purchasing Row Cover to keep the frost from settling on your plants. This inexpensive fabric is water and light permeable but will protect your plants from damage. It is so light permeable that it can be left on for extended periods if it is impractical to remove it before the next frost cycle hits. Bed sheets, while they work very well for frost

protection, block too much light to be left on for a long period of time. Hot hats are a favorite of hardcore winter vegetable gardeners. The ones that are available now are no longer the wax paper hats of old but rather clear rigid plastic with room for more than one plant in each. The ones we stock today even have adjustable vents. These will actually act as a greenhouse for your vegetable starts and give them a head start going into spring.

Should your plants suffer frost damage, which usually manifests itself as burned or blackened foliage, don't rush to prune it back too fast. For instance, Hibiscus can suffer from frost damage in areas prone to it. You will see it typically hit the tops of the shrubs while the lower part of the plant is unaffected. This is because the upper exposed areas actually can shield the lower parts from the cold enough to prevent them from being damaged. If you rush out and cut the damaged part off too soon and another round of frost hits, another layer of the plant could get damaged, meaning you will have to trim it back even more. Wait until the cold passes before you trim back frost damage if at all possible.

New soft growth will suffer more damage than older mature foliage so try not to feed your frost-sensitive plants during the colder parts of the season. If you do cut your damaged plants back while the weather is still cold, refrain from feeding them to encourage new growth until the weather begins to warm. This will discourage new, softer growth from forming during the colder seasons and risking more damage. Applications of Dyna Grow Pro Tek may help reduce frost damage by infusing the plant and its foliage with silicon making the cell walls stronger and less susceptible to damage. Applying "Cloudcover" will help as well.

If you have questions about plants that may be susceptible to frost in your yard or in your area come into either of our stores and speak to our experts who can give you specific advice for your garden and neighborhood. ●

Be Careful Where You Put Your Hands

by Melanie Potter



A few weeks before Halloween last year, a customer came into the Poway store with a baggie of citrus leaves. In the middle of it all was a thick spider's web, with some rather large egg sacks that were white, fluffy, and resembled cat-of-nine

tails, instead of being smooth balls. Walter Andersen Jr., was in the store and identified the home and budding family as belonging to a brown widow spider, Latrodectus geometricus.

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We're all familiar with the black widow spider and the brown widow is similar in appearance. The spiders vary from

Succulent Gardening With Kids

by Melanie Potter



Last year I bought an annual pass to what was then called the Quail Botanical Gardens (in September it was renamed San Diego Botanic Garden). At the time we were overloaded on annual passes but my eight-year old son so enjoyed the visit that I knew we would return frequently enough to pay for the pass.

The highlight of his first visit was going to a kids potting area where each child can take a free succulent home to plant. Not content with one plant, we've added to the collection and he is now working on his second succulent bowl.

Planting a succulent bowl is great fun for kids. By including miniature statuary and colorful rocks to the bowls, accessories can be changed to look more seasonal. Here's a quick look at some great starter succulents for children's gardening. All can be planted in full sun, in well drained soil and require little water. For best results plant several different varieties in one bowl.

Senecio serpens – This small succulent hugs the ground, branching from the base and rooting along the stems. The prostrate stems hold short powdery blue-green finger-like fleshy leaves. Small white flowers will bloom in summer.

Adromischus cristatus – Also called the crinkle leaf plant, this plant looks like a head of lettuce. It's a slow growing succulent from South Africa with 1 to 2 inch long branching stems that arise from the clumped foliage. Interesting, yet inconspicuous green tubular flowers, have reddish white flared out petal tips on 8 inch long stems in spring. This is one of the easiest of the *Adromischus* to grow and can actually be grown in the ground in coastal San Diego, unlike others in the genus that are necessarily restricted to growing in pots.

Haworthia retusa – Here's a native of the Cape Province of South Africa. It is a rosette forming plant with stubby, deltoid pale green leaves up to 2 inches long. The terminal area is translucent with pale lines. Individual plants reach up to 4 inches across. Of interest to botanists are the translucent windows that illuminate the interior photosynthetic areas of the leaves. These are called "window leaves" and represent a xerophytic adaptation. In late spring, the small white with green striped flowers appear.

Crassula muscosa – This small succulent plant's interesting looks have been likened to that of undersea corral. It is also called Watch Chain plant for its delicate interlocking leaves that are much like the tight jewelers links that were used to attach a pocket watch to the vest. It grows to 6 to 12 inches tall and a little wider with a spreading habit of branching stems having tightly overlapping stacked narrow light green leaves. These leaves completely hide the stems, which start off erect but then trail over from the weight of all of the leaves. There are small pale yellowish-green flowers that appear along with the leaves tight along the stems in spring to midsummer. The specific epithet "muscosa" is Latin for mossy, in reference to this plants moss-like looks. ●



Words From Walter

With Walter Andersen, Jr.

The key to bare root rose success is to find good plants in order to get everything off to a great start. We buy only number one grade roses, but there are sometimes those that are just a 'cut above'. We also know not all new roses that you will buy come from our nurseries. So look over the plant carefully and try to find the ones with no broken branches and good strong canes. We put all of our new roses in containers so they get off to a faster start; also you will be getting the best mix to plant your roses with. We use Sunshine Rose Planting Mix for all of our roses in containers. If you buy your roses early, they will more or less fall from the container as a bare root plant. Most of the mix may fall off, which should not be a problem. Use this mix in the hole when you plant. Ideally you should have more mix or soil amendment on hand to put in the new planting hole. We recommend Sunshine Rose Planting Mix for most rose planting applications.

The best way to have success with your roses is to plant them properly. If they are truly bare root, there won't be any soil on the roots at all. First, start with 1-2 cups of Ada Perry's mixed into the bottom of the hole to act as a buffer between roots and the soil. Then, add the Sunshine mix in the hole as is or you might mix some of the soil removed from the hole with the mix at about 1/3 soil and 2/3 Sunshine mix. Using mix straight from the bag is fine also, easier too. The hole should be about 18 to 20 inches wide and about 14" deep for most roses. Form a mound of your new mix in the bottom of the hole, so it is more or less pointed at the top of the mound. Most roses have roots that spread out in all directions at about a 45 degree angle

Bare Root Rose Success

downwards. Spread the roots as evenly as possible over the mound, being sure the bud union or graft is above the surrounding soil by an inch or two. Try not to plant them too deep. Then back fill the hole with the same new soil mix. It is often recommended that you form a berm of soil about 3" high in a circle about 3' in diameter to form a basin to water in. If your rose has already leafed out with new growth, try to keep the entire root ball intact, but the rest of the procedure is the same, just no mound in the planting hole, but fill in with the Sunshine mix.

After planting, give the rose a good deep watering to be sure all of the roots are moist. In most cases a good watering about two times a week is right, unless it rains, then water less. After two weeks in the ground, you should start fertilizing your new roses. We recommend, and use, GroPower plant food. We have found this really works great on roses. When you start feeding, try to schedule it for about the first of the month. Then feed monthly, at the beginning of each month. This way it is much easier to keep track of when you last fed your roses. Also early in the year, like now, use some Ada Perry's Magic Formula on each plant. Two cupfuls per plant, is about right. Ada Perry's has lots of micronutrients that are lacking in our soils, also pH adjusters to keep the alkalinity down. You only use Ada Perry's two times a year, now at the beginning of the year, and later in June or July, for the best possible roses. Keep feeding with GroPower monthly until the last feeding in October. In the next few months you should have really great looking roses, with lots of new growth and the first blooms appearing around the month of April. ●

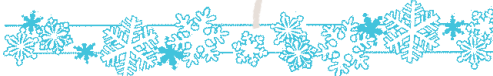


light tan to dark brown or almost black, with variable markings of black, white, yellow, orange, or brown on the back of their abdomens. Brown widows are not as easy to recognize as black widows. The underside of the abdomen, if you can see it, does have the characteristic hourglass marking. Unlike the black widow, the hourglass is orange to yellow orange in color.

Although the bite of a widow spider is much feared, the widow spiders are generally non-aggressive and will retreat when disturbed. Bites usually occur when a spider becomes accidentally pressed against the skin of a person when putting on clothes or sticking their hands in recessed areas or dark corners. According to Dr. G.B. Edwards, an arachnologist with the Florida State Collection of Arthropods in Gainesville, the brown widow venom is twice as potent as black widow venom.

However, they do not inject as much venom as a black widow, are very timid, and do not defend their web. The brown widow is also slightly smaller than the black widow. The brown widow spider became established in Southern California in early 2000 and has become well entrenched as part of the local spider fauna in urban Los Angeles and San Diego.

Do be careful poking around the nest area if you spot a web. We had the customer's sample for several hours before, to our surprise, the female emerged from the cluster. Use care too, if reaching into a wood pile or areas that are spider friendly including your garden shoes that may be left outdoors or in the garage. You can rid yourself of this spider just as you would a black widow spider. ●



Sowing The Seeds Of Enjoyment

by Melanie Potter

Four o’Clocks



Sweet Peas

As a kid, I’m sure I helped my parents in the garden. I vaguely remember trimming and weeding but the one memory that has stuck with me is when I grew 4 o’Clocks from seeds. These shrubs grew quickly and were full of colorful flowers which provided a great sense of accomplishment for a child.

A few years ago, I planted some again and despite having been pulled out of the planter to make room for vegetables, they keep coming back because they are self seeding so they can be a nuisance.

Four o’clocks, or *Mirabilis jalapa*, are members of the nightshade family, so they are poisonous if ingested. They are also known as Marvel of Peru due to having been exported from the Peruvian Andes in 1540.

The shrubs will grow 24” to 36” tall and will be loaded with fragrant blooms of pink, yellow, red, magenta, white, and sometimes may have more than one color on a plant. They are tubular in shape so they attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The blooms open during the late afternoon and wilt the next morning, lasting only the one day.

The plants are accepting of nearly any soil; they prefer full sun but can perform well in partial shade and will need regular water. These will bloom prolifically from spring through fall.

Last year we planted Sweet Peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*). Lured by the sweet fragrance, lovely colors and the memory of our young son running through a Sweet Pea maze at the Carlsbad Flower Fields, we gave in to the temptation to add them to the garden.

Sweet peas are twining vines that will grow 6’ to 8’ and will need support so be prepared to plant them on a fence or trellis of some sort. Before planting the seed, soak them in water for 24 hours to soften the seed coating. You can plant in the ground now. A rich soil is preferable. Sweet peas grow quickly and will emerge within about 15 days.

The ruffled flowers come in many colors such as red, blue, lavender and pink and white. Depending on the cultivar, they can be solid colors, bicolors or streaked. Most are fragrant and will attract butterflies and bees. If blooms are not cut regularly, deadhead the plant as soon as flowers fade. Allowing the plant to produce seedpods will reduce overall flower production. Removing spent blooms will ensure more blooms.

Water regularly and feed with a fertilizer high in potassium. You can also add blood meal to the soil to help keep the stems long and suitable for cutting. ●



Fuller’s Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

Have I found some great new plants for you this time!



I actually saw this first plant in the yard of an employee of Euro American, where all the Proven Winners plants come from and just had to have one. *Ptilotus* hybrid “**Platinum Wallaby**”, also known as **Mulla Mulla**, is a very drought and heat-tolerant plant from Australia.

It will grow about 18” high and wide in a very upright manner. It does look a little twiggy, but the soft, delicate flowers are what really drew my attention, which were lavender in color and very feathery. There was a flower on just about every stem. The leaves look a little like a *Salvia clevelandii* but more green and without the musky scent.

Once established, it needs little to no supplemental water when planted in the ground. If you want to keep it in a container you will have to give it supplemental water. In a container you would use it as a mid-ground plant to fill in a space. It will bloom from spring to the first hard frost which means it just may bloom all year in a temperate garden. It is hardy to 20 degrees. *Ptilotus* grows as a perennial in zones 9-11 but as an annual everywhere else. Deadheading of the flowers is not necessary as it is self-cleaning. How great is that?

Plant this in full sun. It is not particular about soil so that means our alkaline soil will be just fine. It is found in calcareous soils—caliches, in other words. So it should be able to handle anything we can dish out. Also, if you’re wondering how to pronounce *Ptilotus*, just ignore the P. It’s silent, as in Ptolemy.

I think I have mentioned before that I didn’t start off liking succulents, but I’ve got a bunch now! There is a new one out that is really a stunner, Aloe ‘**Rooikappie**’ or **Little Red Riding Hood Aloe**. You can tell by the cultivar name that it was originally from South Africa. If I was to choose the ideal landscape aloe, this might be it. First, its 3”-4” rosettes are large enough to make an impact in a small landscape or massed for larger-scale displays, yet are small enough to be easily handled and transplanted as needed. Second, its foliage is not prone to the tip die-back



or other blemishes that plague aloes. Third, it blooms, and blooms, and blooms. It has been known to flower all year.

Little Red Riding Hood Aloe is a clumping aloe that grows to less than 1 foot tall with many densely clustered rosettes of medium green spotted leaves that arch outward then downward at the tips. It will grow about 3’ wide. This aloe produces orange, pendant flowers which open to show a pale yellow interior, and are borne on 2’ spikes. As with most aloes, it is an evergreen and is one of the few that will tolerate light shade but prefers full sun. Watering needs are occasional to infrequent and it is hardy to 20°- 25°F.

It would make a great accent plant in a small garden or massed as a ground cover, especially if you love aloes.

Since I started arranging floral displays, I’m always looking for something to add to my garden that will enhance my floral arrangements. I found **Lomandra confertifolia**



‘**Seascape**’ or **Seascape Mat Rush** works as great filler foliage, sort of like bear grass. This plant is considered to be a cultivar of *Lomandra confertifolia* spp. *rubiginosa*, a subspecies from open forest areas near Newcastle in New South Wales, south near the border with Victoria.

Seascape Mat Rush has very attractive foliage that will grow 1-2 feet tall by 2-3 feet wide with dark blue-gray leaves that weep gracefully back to the ground. It is noted for its elongated stems and channeled leaves. This low-growing, low-maintenance, grass-like plant makes a remarkable container or groundcover display. In summer, very fragrant small yellow flowers emerge from reddish-brown buds on spikes that rise up through the foliage. Flowers on this selection are all male, so it won’t seed freely.

This plant loves the full sun but will also tolerate part shade. Well-drained soil is necessary. You need only water occasionally to infrequently and that will depend on whether you are inland or on the coast and if you have planted it in sun or shade. This plant is somewhat hardy as it will tolerate a moderate frost. Each spring, cut back to the ground to renew foliage.

Soft gray leaves gracefully weeping over the edge of its container making it a great plant for a planter or large pot where the foliage can arch over to hide an edge. It’s drought-tolerant, has a graceful, weeping appearance, and is easy to grow; what could be better?

Hope you enjoy growing the new plants as much as I enjoy looking for them. Until next time... ●

Appreciating Persimmons

Many years ago I ate a persimmon only to have a nasty surprise that left my mouth all puckered up. I never looked at persimmons again until last month when store manager, David Ross, brought some to share at the nursery. These were much different, not astringent but crisp and tasting of honey. Fortunately, David has been



very generous with his harvest and I’ve developed a fondness for this fruit.

This year the nurseries will stock two bare root persimmon selections. One is a *Fuyu*, which is a favored variety in Hawaii, and the other is a *Hachiya*. *Fuyu* is what David grows and these fruits are round but look as if it has been flattened. The fruit has reddish-orange skin and most importantly, it is non-astringent and is best eaten like an apple, when crisp and firm.

It bears well as a young tree and is a heavy producer. It ripens in November and is self-fruitful. Because it does not have male flowers, it will have fewer seeds unless planted with other persimmons.



Hachiya is astringent so be warned that you will need to eat it when it is very soft or else you’ll get the pucker of a lifetime. The fruit is large and oblong with a short point. The skin is also bright red-orange and it will have dark blotches. The fruit is good for cooking and baking with and like the *Fuyu*, it is self-fruitful and ready to be harvested in November.

These two varieties are Japanese or ornamental persimmons (*Diospyros kaki*) rather than American persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*) and bear bigger fruit. They will do well in many soils as long as there is good drainage. Trees can grow to 30 feet but can be kept much smaller (see Backyard Orchard article on page 1) and you’ll get a show of colors with the foliage which will turn vivid yellow, orange or red in fall. When the leaves drop, you’ll have orange-red fruits in the trees that will last through winter unless they are harvested.

Prune trees when they are young and thereafter, prune just to remove dead branches, or to retain shape or lighten up the canopy. Remove any suckers that shoot up from below the graft line. Avoid fruit drop by watering regularly and feed once in late winter or early spring with our recommendation, *GroPower Citrus & Avocado Food*. Be consistent with water and fertilizer for healthy growth of the tree and fruit. Too much or too little of one of the other will cause fruit to drop early or have excessive growth. ●

Seasonal Recipe

Curried Split Pea Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup chopped onion
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic
- 12 ounces dried green or yellow split peas, picked over and rinsed
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon curry powder

Directions:

Place the butter into a large (4 to 6-quart) saucepan over medium-low heat. Once melted, add the onion and a generous pinch of salt and sweat for 2 to 3 minutes. Add the garlic and continue to sweat for an additional 1 to 2 minutes, making certain not to allow onions or garlic to brown.

Add the peas, chicken broth and curry powder. Increase heat to high and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook at a simmer until the peas are tender and not holding their shape any longer, approximately 45 to 50 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Using care and a stick blender, puree the soup until the desired consistency. Watch out for hot splatters.



By Walter Andersen, Jr.

the wee corner



Kids Grow, So Do Trees

In the summer of 2008 a young boy came into the Poway nursery with his Dad (see summer 2008 newsletter online at www.walterandersen.com/newsletters-archive.html). He told me he had some ‘seedlings’ in very small cups he wanted to sell. I asked him what they were; they were so small I could not tell what he had. He told me they were “Kaffir Plum Trees”. Well then I knew what he had in the tiny cups. We ‘negotiated’ a price for the seedlings that he had (there are a few Kaffir Plums in front of the nursery on Danielson Ct., if you want to see what a mature tree looks like).

I took the small plants to the back and planted them in one gallon size pots. Most grew, and then they were moved to five gallon size containers. Well now there are just a few of these trees left. They turned out to be nice looking plants; they have a redwood stake to be sure they are nice and straight. If you are looking for an ‘unusual tree’ you might stop in at the Poway store and take a look. They are now about 5’ tall and look fine. I’m sure the young boy is nearly a teenager now. Sorry I did not get his name or address to tell him that ‘his trees’ are now for sale. ●

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

- 1/2 Pruning Apples, Pears & Figs; Misc. Q&A
- 1/9 Choosing the Best Bare-Root Fruit Trees for Your Area
- 1/16 Pruning Roses & Planting New Roses
- 1/23 Camellia & Azalea Care
- 1/30 Cymbidium Orchids—Selection & Care

February

- 2/6 Spring Bulbs
- 2/13 Winter & Spring Color
- 2/20 Interior Plants—Selection & Care
- 2/27 Citrus & Avocado—Varieties & Care

March

- 3/5 Spring Vegetables
- 3/13 Trees for San Diego
- 3/20 Container Plants & Hanging Baskets
- 3/27 General Orchid Care

POWAY 9:30am

January

- 1/2 No Class
- 1/9 Fruit Tree Pruning
- 1/16 Rose Pruning
- 1/23 Fruit Tree Pruning
- 1/30 Rose Pruning

February

- 2/6 Container Gardening
- 2/13 California-Friendly Color
- 2/20 Moss Baskets
- 2/27 Staghorn Ferns, Remounting & Care

March

- 3/5 Xeriscape
- 3/13 Spring Veggies with Richard Wright
- 3/20 Spring Color
- 3/27 Garden Design Principles: Planning & Construction



TOOL SHED

By Richard Wright

To Grow, Or How To Grow Is The Question



It's a new year and one of your resolutions 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 do I 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 more acid. Alkalinity is very inhibiting to plant's ability to take up nutrients. San Diego County, for the most part, is alkaline, VERY alkaline. The water we use for irrigation is salty and 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 will work. Soil sulfur works well too.

Now we need to look at the other part, fertilizer. Let's first look at those three numbers which represent 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, which helps plants grow UP, and keeps them green. The second is Phosphorus, which makes the roots grow DOWN and charges them with “Flower Power”. And don't forget Potassium, 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 recommendation 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. 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.” ●

SEEDS

To Beautify & Feed

Every year inspectors make their ways into nurseries across the country to look at the seed packets that are still in stock. At this time, these date-sensitive seeds get their pink slip and are packed away in boxes as they can no longer be sold past their expiration date.

The seeds are fine and are actually good indefinitely, sort of like a Twinkie. Nurseries would be stuck with boxes of seeds and not enough ways to be rid of them. Walter Andersen Nursery was no different although a few hundred packets were given as donations, but it seemed impossible to get the seeds into the hands that would make good use of them; those who are hungry and impoverished.

That's why we were excited to find an organization called America the Beautiful Fund. The organization collects seeds so that they can be distributed to schools that include enrichment programs that teach kids to garden. The harvests are given to senior citizens on fixed incomes, food banks, and homeless shelters. Some seeds are sent to organizations wanting to beautify communities and others find their ways to community gardens.

In May, First Lady Michelle Obama visited a school to help them plant the 200 seed packets they received from America the Beautiful Fund. Also that month, and closer to home, First Lady of California, Maria Shriver, planted donated seeds at a garden at the California state House.

You can find out more about this association and its programs at www.america-the-beautiful.org.



ADA PERRY SAVINGS

COUPON

Valid January 1 – February 28, 2010

Save \$2 OFF

On Ada Perry's Redwood Compost when you purchase any bare-root fruit tree or rose.

Limit 4

Limit four (4) per customer. Hedge Fund\$ points not redeemable on this item. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.

#105753

FERTILIZER SAVINGS

COUPON

Valid January 1 – February 28, 2010

Save \$2 OFF

On Citrus Growers Mix when you purchase a 20# bag of Gro Power Citrus and Avocado Food (or) Dr. Earth Citrus and Avocado Food.

Limit 4

Limit four (4) per customer. Hedge Fund\$ points not redeemable on this item. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.

#105754

SPRING FEEDING SALE!

COUPON

Valid March 1 – 31, 2010

Save 20%

On the purchase of Two 20# or Larger Bags of any Gro Power Fertilizer—Mix & Match!

Limit 4—To receive discount, purchase must be made in multiples of two.

Limit four (4) per customer. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be redeemed retroactively.

#105755

Holiday Schedule

Both stores will close Sunday, April 4 in observation of the Easter holiday. Remember to set clocks forward March 14. Effective March 15, the Poway store hours will change to 9am-6pm Monday–Friday. The store closes at 5pm on weekends. The Pt. Loma store is open from 8am-5pm daily.

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

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San Diego, CA 92110
619-224-8271
12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
858-513-4900



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