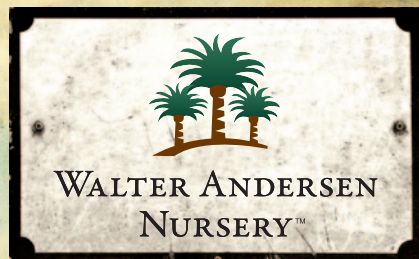


# Garden Talk™

## San Diego's Garden Resource



San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

## New Additions To The Nursery

BY MELANIE POTTER

Here's a quick look at some new plants that are in stock at both stores.

Now available is a new variety of **Acacia redolens** that has a quality we think you'll like. Acacia groundcovers typically grow by mounding on top of itself so it doesn't stay low. '**Desert Carpet**' is a low growing, thornless groundcover that is ideal for covering large spaces and providing erosion control. The Desert Carpet® cultivar is a reliably prostrate form of the Australian native. The leathery gray-green foliage looks good all year, and small, yellow puffball flowers are produced in the spring. It is well suited for alkaline and slightly saline soils and thrives in full and reflected sun exposures. Desert Carpet® needs ample room to spread. It grows 2' high x 12' wide.



**Desert Carpet**

and before buds set. Prune after flowering. Provide winter protection in northern zones. Fertilize in spring. The foliage offers good fall color. It grows 24"-36" tall. Prefers moist, well-drained, amended soils.

Interested in a hydrangea that is a repeat bloomer? The **Let's Dance Hydrangea Moonlight** kicks up the quality with vivid flower coloration and attractive foliage. This new hydrangea blooms on new and old wood, delivering flowers all summer long!



**Hydrangea from Proven Winners**

The plant has large, vividly colored mophead flowers in summer and blooms every year. Soil pH affects flower color so in non-acidic soils, blue blooms can be maintained with the addition of aluminum sulfate to the soil several times per year, beginning in fall, and repeating before leaves emerge in spring



**Cimarron**  
Photo: Richard Shiell

blooms often and profusely and is less prone to root rot. Provide a well drained soil and water regularly during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Once the plant is established, water deeply and infrequently during summer months. Prune during cool months as needed. This evergreen blooms spring and fall with a purple/blue flower, and foliage is silvery gray colored. ■

**Cimarron 'Texas Ranger'** is a smaller growing and more dense than most Leucaphyllum, or Texas Sage. This tough shrub is perfect for mass plantings, low hedges and for mixing with other drought-tolerant trees, shrubs and accent plants. It

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## A Family Fig Can Be Yours!

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.



Did you plant enough fruit this year? Still have room for something? How about adding a **Corky's Honey Delight® Fig** that the Andersen's have been growing for three generations?

These figs are grown from cuttings from a tree found in the yard of a family member of Walter Andersen, Sr. His brother, Corky, thought that these figs were so wonderful, that he began growing them from cuttings in the 1950s. Every year, the tree produced two great crops of figs. The

*continued p2*





# August

## Garden Tasks

### FERTILIZE

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for Tall Fescue or Scott's Turf Builder or Turf Builder Plus 2 to feed and control broadleaf weeds. Feed ornamentals with Gro Power. Feed Vegetables with Gro Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or Dr Earth Organic Tomato and Vegetable Food. Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruit Trees with Gro Power Citrus and Avocado Food. Feed Palms and Tropicals with Gro Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food. Add Ada Perry's Magic Formula to Roses' regular feeding.

### PRUNE

Prune roses for late season blooms.

### PEST CONTROL

Keep an eye out for these summer pests: Rose Slug, Citrus Leaf Miner, ants, flies, and lawn insects.

### WATER

Through October, keep close track on watering to make sure plants do not suffer from drought stress. Adjust sprinkler clocks or provide supplemental watering to avoid stress to plants. Make sure lawn sprinklers are working properly to prevent dry spots. Mulch plants to conserve water and dress up planting beds.

### PLANT

Anything! Just make sure it gets plenty of water when it is hot. Smaller root systems will require more water than established plants. Bedding plants, Hibiscus, Lantana, Plumbago, and Gardenias.

## Backyard Orchard Culture

September 1, 2012 | 9:30am | Poway

Join us as we welcome Tom Spellman from Dave Wilson Nursery. Tom will discuss how the objective of "backyard orchard culture" is the prolonged harvest of tree-ripe fruit from a small space. He'll show how different varieties of fruit trees with different ripening times can be planted close together for smaller, but year-round harvests. Tom will also discuss planting and training techniques, compatible varieties, espaliering fruit trees, hedgerow growing, and other space-saving strategies. ■

## Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER



'Pineapple Popsicle'

If you love yellow, you will love this new **Kniphofia 'Pineapple Popsicle'™** PPAF. It almost looks chartreuse when it first blooms, which is very cool, but as it matures the yellow begins to appear, like the color of a fresh cut pineapple. The flowers open from bottom to top over the course of a few days changing color as they mature. The grass-like leaves are compact and a light green color.

Like most Kniphofia, this variety will take full sun or partial shade (hottest parts of the county) and will need moderate water. The average Kniphofia requires adequate moisture or it may fail to bloom if it is kept too dry. Well-drained soil is essential for this species of plant. The average height for this Kniphofia is 2' to 4', depending upon water and location, location, location! It is rated by Sunset for Zones 2-9, 14-24, or US Zones 6-9; so, it should do well in San Diego County.

It could be used in a mixed garden, in a mass planting or as an accent plant. You could even



'Blue Flame' Agave

keep it in a container on a patio. Plant or pot it close to a window so you can really enjoy the flowers.

For a very long time, I didn't like succulents. Now I can't get enough of them and I recently had to find space for just one more.

Agaves! I love Agaves, and this one is really cool. **'Blue Flame'**, a beautiful succulent forms clumps with rosettes which individually are about 2 ½ feet tall by about 3' wide. However, with maturity, comes size and these can grow in masses up to 5' or more across.

The leaves are very flexible and have finely serrated margins and a terminal spine. Because of this flexibility, the leaves curve up gracefully, just like the flames in a fire. The leaves are a blue-green color which is the result of a glaucous cuticle that covers the surface of the younger leaves. You can promote this look by giving regular water and fertilizer, and avoiding overhead water which will clean the leaf surface.

Plant in full sun except in the hot inland areas and desert where a partial shade will keep it happy and the leaves unscorched. It is hardy to at least 25°F. It is rated for US Zone 9-11 and Sunset Zones 12-24.

This wonderful Agave will be a great addition to any succulent, or desert themed garden where it will be the talk of the town. ■

## Family Fig

*continued from p1*

first crop is usually in June with another in August or September. The figs are medium size, about 1.5" to 2" across with kind of a greenish skin. The flesh is amber in color, soft and juicy. It is difficult to truly describe fig flavors, but this one bears a hint of honey to most who have tasted it.

We used to call this Fig "Corky's Fig" or "Uncle Corky's Fig", but that was a long time ago. A few years ago we decided to change the name to "Corky's Honey Delight" and asked Monrovia to grow them for the nursery.

The tree grows fairly fast, if it is in good soil, and seems to do very well along the coast. The tree, from which the cuttings were taken, is about 40 years old now, and it is about 20' tall. You can easily keep it smaller by doing selective pruning a few times of the year. ■

# Words

## From Walter

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

## It's A Great Time To Plant Avocados

Summer is a good time to think about Avocado trees because more varieties are available. Avocados grow well in most of the San Diego area, just not in the colder mountain areas or deserts, and some do well along the coast too, as long as you are not right on the ocean.



A few things to consider: You need an area that gets full sun for most of the day, at least eight hours. The soil should drain fairly well. You may want to make a raised planter and fill it with good soil like Edna's Best Potting Soil. The raised area should be about 16" deep or more, and 10' x 10' so there is room for the roots to spread.

Avocados are self-fruitful, meaning you only need one variety to produce a crop. Avocado trees are also categorized by the bloom; "A" and "B" types. If you have both an A and B variety, the pollination of the two will increase the yield by 10 percent to 20 percent generally. Most commercial growers plant a few of the alternate variety amongst the grove for better harvests. Another thing to consider is the origin of the variety. Guatemalan types are hardy to about 30 degrees F, Mexican varieties to about 25 degrees F.

Here's a list of what you are likely to find at both our stores:

**Bacon** – "B" type bloom, a Mexican variety, average weight 10 to 18 oz. The fruit has a green smooth skin, ripens about November to January.

**Fuerte** – "B" type bloom, Mexican variety, average weight 9 to 16 oz. The fruit has medium texture skin, green when ripe. Ripens November to March.

**Lamb Hass** – "A" type bloom, and is a hybrid. Average weight 10 to 19 oz. Fruit has a thick skin with a pebbly texture, and a flat bottom. Fruit is black when ripe. Ripening March to September.

**Hass** – "A" type bloom, and is a hybrid variety, average weight 6 to 14 oz. The fruit has medium pebbly skin, unripe is green turning to black when ripe. Ripens February until fall, one of the longest ripening seasons.

**Holiday (XX3)** – "A" type bloom, Guatemalan variety. Average weight 18 to 24 oz. Fruit has medium textured skin and medium thickness. Fruit forms green and is green when ripe, November to February ripening. Smaller growing tree, narrow, sometimes considered a dwarf type, probably smaller than Wurtz.

**Mexicola** – "A" type bloom, Mexican variety. Smaller fruit to 4 to 6.5 oz. Skin is thin and smooth. Skin is black when ripe. Ripens August to October. One of the most cold hardy varieties, to about 18 degrees

**Mexicola Stuart** – "A" type bloom, Mexican variety. Small fruit, 4-8oz, on a very small tree. Very cold hardy to about 18 degrees

**Pinkerton** – "A" type bloom and is a hybrid. Average fruit size 9 to 18 oz. Skin texture is rough and pebbly of medium thickness. Ripens January to May, hardy to about 30 degrees F.

**Reed** – "A" type bloom, Guatemalan variety. Average fruit is larger 17 to 24 oz. Skin is medium thickness and medium texture, and green when ripe. Ripens May to September. Resistant to salt burn, cold tender.

**Sir Prize** – "B" type bloom, Mexican\* hybrid. Newer variety. Average size fruit 10 to 20 oz. Skin is medium texture, and thin. Ripens January to July. Color of fruit unripe green, ripe black. *\*Current tests show it is not more hardy than Hass.*

**Wurtz** – "A" type bloom, Guatemalan variety. Average size fruit is 8 to 10 oz. Skin is pebbly green, smaller growing tree sold as a dwarf also sold a 'Little Cado'. Ripens July to September.

**Zutano** – "B" type bloom, Mexican variety. Average size of fruit is 11 to 14 oz. Skin is smooth and thin. Skin color is green when ripe. Ripens October to December. ■



## For The Birds

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

Attracting birds to your yard can be rewarding and the easiest method I have found is by using a finch feeder. These are very simple items that you hang off of a tree branch or from a patio overhang. Another name for them is Finch Sock. Basically it is an open mesh tube that you fill with niger seed. The finches land on the sock and peck the seeds out through the small openings. After you hang it, it may take a few days for them to find it, but they will. Usually by day four, you will have lots of finches feeding from the feeder. Finch feeders come in several designs. Most have a canopy to keep rain off of the seed. If the seed gets wet it becomes lumpy and harder for the birds to feed on. Check out the bird feeding products from Old Ben's Workshop which has some very sturdy and more durable feeders made of wood and metal. If you want to attract finches, all of them will work, some just last longer than others. We also have finch socks as replacements when the old ones wear out so you don't need to buy the complete feeder kit. Keep your feeder away from areas that might be accessible to pets like dogs and cats as they will be interested in all of the bird activity and scare them away. ■



## August In-Store Specials!

## ROSE CLEARANCE!

# Buy One 5-Gallon Bush Rose, Get One FREE!

Regular Price \$24.99  
Free bush rose must be of equal or lesser value.

Offer applies to 5-gallon bush roses and non-staked climbers.  
Availability limited to stock on hand. No special orders.  
Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.  
Sale Price good thru August 31, 2012.

AUGUST

## STILL TIME FOR MORE SUMMER PLANTING!

# All 4" Bedding & Vegetable Plants \$2.49

Regular Price \$2.99

Availability limited to stock on hand. No special orders.  
Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.  
Sale Price good August 1-31, 2012.

AUGUST

## The Return Of The Unusual Berry Plant

BY MELANIE POTTER

In order to tell you about this plant, we're going to have to do a little name dropping. The first time we saw this unusual plant, *Elaeagnus philippinensis*, aka **Lingaro**, it was growing in the garden of Tom Piergrossi. Piergrossi is well known in San Diego as a landscaper, nurseryman, television host, lecturer, and the grower of more than 3,000 different varieties of plants. The large shrub was covered with nondescript small orange and red berries. One of our managers, David Ross, was prompted by Tom to try these ugly, small berries! They tasted much better than they looked and are nutrient dense, having 19 times the level of lycopenes found in tomatoes!

When Piergrossi closed his nursery and moved to the Big Island of Hawaii in 2009, the source for this plant dried up. A while ago, David took cuttings from the plant in his yard and gave them to our propagation specialist and manager at the San Diego store, Dale Kolaczowski, and he grew the limited supply we currently have available.

Lingaro, native to the Philippines, is an evergreen shrub or small tree that can grow to 10'. It has an arching habit and its foliage is a silver-gray color. In the fall, the plant produces large clusters of cherry flavored red berries that are edible. Those colored the

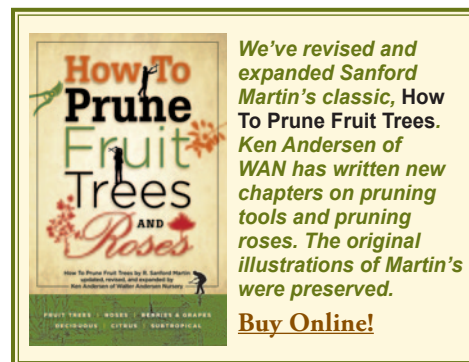


Lingaro

deepest red are the sweetest. The fruit can be eaten raw or in ice cream, sauces, or used as you would a berry. Unripe berries are astringent, and there is a seed in the middle of

them, even when ripe. Humans like the taste as do birds that flock to the fruit and they are a magnet to bees and butterflies which are attracted to the white flowers.

To grow this fast-growing shrub you'll want to plant it in full sun. It likes a neutral to mildly acidic soil and its watering requirements are minimal as it is drought tolerant. ■

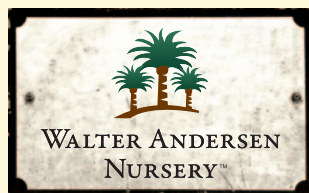


## August Garden Class Schedule

All Saturday classes are FREE and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee is served. During inclement weather, classes are held indoors in San Diego and on the covered, heated patio in Poway. Class topics are subject to change with no notification. You may call for confirmation.

SAN DIEGO NURSERY   9:00AM	POWAY NURSERY   9:30AM
8/4 Summer Color in Your Garden	8/4 Container Gardening
8/11 Herbs for Late Summer	8/11 Staghorn Remounting & Care with David Ross
8/18 'Cool' Shade Plants for Summer	8/18 Blueberries with Richard Wright
8/25 Choosing the Right Citrus	8/25 Natives with Carol Fuller

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{619} 224-8271

**POWAY**

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



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