

Garden Talk™

San Diego's Garden Resource



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

Plants For Summer

BY MELANIE POTTER

If you need some planting suggestions for summer, here are a few from our friends at Monrovia.



Starburst Evergreen Daylilies

Starburst Evergreen Daylilies are plentiful this summer. We'll have Red (a burnt red color) and Double Gold (a deep yellow-golden color). The original species of cultivated daylily is native to China and considered an edible food crop more than a garden flower.

Cultivation in the west began after a French botanist wrote of them in 1575, but it was not until the 20th century that real daylily breeding began.

These perennials need full sun and a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. For a neat appearance, remove old foliage before new leaves emerge. Divide clumps every two to three years in early spring. Daylilies make great groundcover in masses, drifts and groupings. Spot into pre-existing gardens for an injection of bright color and fill open gaps in the landscape. These are good to plant on banks and slopes that have sufficient irrigation.

Angel Red Pomegranate is a new and improved variety of pomegranate that bears an abundance of soft-seeded, large, bright red fruit in early September. Soft seeds leave little residue and are perfect for gourmet applications. It is high in anti-oxidants and has the most juice per fruit of all the pomegranates. It's also a beautiful landscape specimen with striking orange-red summer flowers on upright, fountain-like branches.

Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth appears in spring. For a tidy, neat appearance, prune annually, in winter, to shape.



Angel Red Pomegranate

Pomegranate is exceptional for Mediterranean style gardens as well as most xeriscape settings. This is an excellent choice for a courtyard specimen. This variety is a good fruit producer in very hot areas with difficult soils. It needs regular water to get established then it becomes quite drought-tolerant. It's a moderate grower to 10' tall.

Raspberry Shortcake™ Dwarf Thornless Raspberry is a new dwarf, thornless red raspberry that has an endearing, rounded growth habit and is perfectly suited to large patio containers. It requires no staking. It's self-fertile, yielding full-sized, nutritious and super sweet raspberries in mid-summer, and is well suited to our mild climate. Raspberry Shortcake™ is a showstopper and will be a lovely addition to the balcony, patio, or garden. It's deciduous.



Dwarf Thornless Raspberry

Water regularly, when top three inches of soil is dry. It's compact, mounding to 2-3' tall and cascades or spreads to slightly wider.

Provide well-drained soil. Fertilize with a balanced liquid fertilizer in early spring and summer. Once fruiting is finished, prune canes that have fruited, leaving new canes to fruit the next season.

Editor's Note: Raspberry Shortcake™ will be in limited supply in each store. ■

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Citrus Trees Are A-Plenty

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

Summer is a wonderful time to plant Citrus trees. This is when the selection of different varieties is abundant and the small trees from last winter have produced new growth and are looking great. The very best selling Citrus is Meyer Lemon. Once they start to bear fruit, Meyer Lemons usually have ripe fruit throughout the year.

When it comes to Citrus, the most popular sizes are the Dwarf or Semi-Dwarf trees. These are ideally suited for urban yards where there may not be enough room for a standard size full grown tree. Most of the Semi-Dwarf Citrus will grow to about 5' to 8' tall and about the same diameter. Extremely older trees may be larger, but not the 15' or more you see in commercial groves. Your Citrus should have good draining soil and full sun.

Other varieties to check are Valencia Oranges, Navel Oranges and another very popular one, Cara Cara Navel which has darker flesh. There are many, many types of Mandarin Oranges. If you select carefully,

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CITRUS TREES

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you can get varieties that ripen at different times of the year. An example might be a Satsuma Mandarin that starts to ripen in November and a Tango Mandarin, which usually ripens in February. These are both seedless varieties. There are approximately 10 other Tangerines to choose from. Limes are popular, Bearss Lime and Mexican lime, especially. If you live inland, you can have Grapefruit as they like heat, which is often lacking in milder coastal areas. Plant these near a wall that gets full sun to increase the temperature.

Many of these can be grown as container plants and would look great in an oak barrel. If you are looking for a 'full size' tree they can be special ordered if not in stock. ■

July 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. ■

Color Bowls Are A Fun Planting Project

BY WALTER ANDERSEN, JR.

Now that summer is here we will be spending more time outside so here is a fun summer project. Plant some color bowls! These are great for a patio or on the front porch, anywhere you might want to have a splash of bright colors. It is a simple and easy project even for young kids, in fact, this could be their first gardening experience.

To start, find a shallow (6-8" deep by 16-18" in diameter) container, usually a round bowl shape but other planters would work too. Color Bowls are most often made of red clay or plastic.

Get a really good potting soil; I think SunShine Container Potting Mix (in the blue bag) is one of the very best mixes. Fill the container about ¾ full with the soil then place the plants. Place the taller plants in the center and lower plants near the edge of the planter. Six to 10 plants should do it depending on the size of the plants and your planter. Fill in the areas around the plants with more of your potting soil. Once you get it all planted, give it a good watering.

Place the new color bowl in a prominent place and enjoy watching it grow. You will be surprised how fast they fill in. Because the containers are small, be sure to water frequently, at least every two days or so. If they are in a shady area, check twice a week if it is not too hot. Just don't let them dry out.

Plant suggestions for sun include: Salvia, Dwarf Dahlias, Petunias, Marigolds (dwarf type might be best), Vinca, and Osteospermum. Near the edges consider planting Lobelia, Alyssum, and Bacopa, which are low growing and cascade over the edges of the planter.



Suggestions for shade: Kalanchoe, Impatiens, Ajuga, Begonias, Coleus, and Lobelia around the edge.

You can create an herb or vegetable planter, too. Check out some of the Basils, Cilantro, and Oregano. As the plants grow, you can pick from them for your cooking needs. You could use Mints, but it's best for Mint to be alone or with other Mints in one container. It is invasive.

Don't forget cactus and succulents: Check out Echeveria, Aeonium, small growing Aloe, Kalanchoe, and Crassula. Some Euphorbia and Sedum could be mixed in as well. If you go with cactus and succulents, a Cactus Mix potting soil would be best as it drains quicker.

To keep everything growing and looking good, a light sprinkling of GroPower applied monthly would be helpful. ■

Tool Shed: Get To Know Ada Perry's

BY KEN ANDERSEN



July is here, so on top of all the things you should be doing this summer, it's time to feed the roses. Just go to the tool shed and pull out your bag of

Ada Perry's Magic Formula, if you have any left over, and if not, come into to either location because Walter Andersen Nursery is the only place you can find this miracle food.

Each 20 pound bag feeds about 30 roses. All

they need is 2 ½ cups of food per rose worked into the soil surrounding the base of the rose.

Ada Perry was a longtime gardener in San Diego. She worked for many years at our San Diego store and you could also read her gardening columns in the San Diego Union-Tribune. She was known, if not for her gardening knowledge, then for the big hats she used to wear.

Inside every bag is a rose-loving mixture of blood meal, bone meal, sulfur, zinc, nitrogen, magnesium and iron. Ada Perry's Magic Formula is a great supplement to your regular fertilizer regimen. In addition to feeding this month, you'll also want to give them another dose of Ada Perry's in January or any time you transplant them. ■

Rats, Why Is My Pittosporum Dying?

BY MELANIE POTTER

It was a mystery of epic proportions. One of our most bullet proof plants in the landscaping, a Pittosporum tobira 'Wheeler's Dwarf', was brown in the center as if it was dying from the inside and spreading to the outside of the plant. A quick analysis of food, water, sun exposure and assurance of the proper soil indicated it should be thriving.

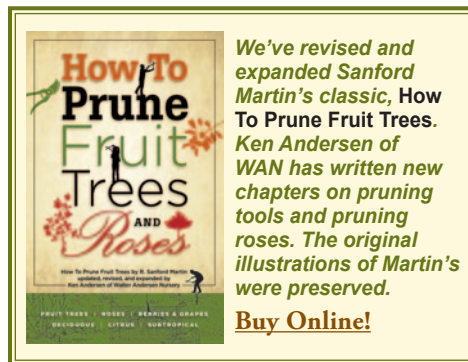
Closer observation after continued decline showed that some branches were broken, which would explain the shrub's demise. Even further inspection showed that the bark had been stripped bare.

Hence the diagnosis, a rat was making its home in the center of the bush and apparently the bark was too tasty to ignore. Just to be sure we were on the right track, and after seeing a rat scurry from the shrub up a pole to the bird feeder, then scurry back down, I marched outside with a big stick and smacked the bush a few times. Sure enough the rat ran for cover, to another Pittosporum.

Now I have seen dying Pittosporums in more landscapes than just mine which leaves the big question, how to rid your yard of the rat? At the risk of inflaming PETA, we believe that the only good rat is a dead rat. This means you'll have to weigh the options of using



poison, which can be picked up by the rat and taken back to the nest. Having poison in such an uncontained way may put other animals at risk. Rat traps are effective if you are up to disposing of a dead or wounded rat and you can choose from snap traps, sticky traps and battery operated Rat Zappers. You can also take steps to discourage rats like keeping the yard de junked and not feeding animals, including the wild birds, outside. ■



July 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
7/7 Grafting Plumeria	7/7 Butterflies in the Garden
7/14 Fox Farms: Growing with Fox Farm Soils & Plant Foods	7/14 Summer Fruit Tree Pruning
7/21 Hanging Plants, Deck & Container Plants	7/21 Summer Rose Care
7/28 Introduction to Gardening	7/28 Plumeria Grafting & Care

Dates To Remember

4TH OF JULY – Both stores closed.

July In-Store Special!

ROSE CLEARANCE!

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

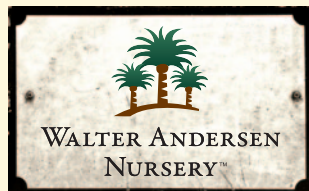
Regular Price \$24.99
Free bush rose must be of equal or lesser value.

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 July 1-31, 2012.

JULY

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