



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

DECEMBER 2019



IN THIS ISSUE

Poinsettias For 2019 Holiday	1
Not Putting The Garden To Bed 1	
YouTube Video Featuring WAN 1	
Planting Pink Makes Difference 3	
Old Ben: Wild Bird Myths	4
Old Ben's Specials	4
To Do List: December	5
Choosing Holiday Tree To Last 5	
Holiday Open Houses	6
Succulent Topiary Workshop	7
Dates To Remember	7

Poinsettias For The 2019 Holiday Season

By Melanie Potter



Poinsettias arrive in paper sleeves to protect the fragile stems.



Jingle Bells

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? How about one with pink, red, lime green or gold colors? That happens to be just some of the colors of poinsettias we have this holiday season. We'll have many of the old favorites; you know the standard poinsettias most stores carry. We also have a selection of 'new to us' varieties and some that are newish but

oh so popular. The selection includes minis, 4", 6", 8", 10", 12", table top, and hanging baskets. Here's a look.

Jingle Bells

Dark pink spots on medium red bracts, with less contrast between red and pink spots.

[continued p2](#)

Dude, Did You See The YouTube Video Featuring WAN?

By Melanie Potter



What has 1,524,107 viewers and was partially filmed at our Poway store? Since you asked, we can share with you that we spent some time with an exuberant young man who issued a challenge to plant 20,000,000 trees in 24 hours. YouTube vlogger

[continued p3](#)

Not Putting The Garden To Bed For Winter

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Bless this mess! That's how I'm looking at NOT putting my garden to bed for winter these days.

Certainly there is something satisfying about a cool fall day spent armed with pruners and rakes whipping the yard

[continued p3](#)

Poinsettias For 2019 continued from p1

Golden Glow

Compact vigor with unique gold bract color. Color intensifies as bract matures.

Luv U Pink

This is a hybrid and has characteristics different from traditional poinsettias, including numerous small flat bracts. Bract color is a brilliant pink that will be deeper if plants are finished under cooler temperatures. Luv U Pink continues producing new layers of bracts.

Green Envy

The bract color is lime green or chartreuse. The bracts are medium in size with wavy margins and are held slightly up around tight centers.

Valentine

Valentine has dark red, rose-shaped

bracts with huge, long-lasting cyathia. It has dark green, curled foliage.

Marble

Very attractive, mid-size bracts, with a v-shaped growth habit and thick, sturdy stems. Dark green foliage, excellent branching.

Tapestry

Tapestry has the gray green leaves edged in yellow and cherry red bracts of Holly Point, but with much more vigor. The large cyathia are noticeable among the flat bracts.

Renaissance Mix

A 25-year-old sister to the Winter Rose that make lasting cut flowers. •



Valentine



Renaissance Mix



Luv U Pink



Tapestry



Green Envy



Marble



Not Putting The Garden To Bed continued from p1

into shape. I have come to realize however, that my cut-back, raked-up, clean swept, trussed and twined garden is detrimental to the birds, bees, bats, butterflies, beneficial insects and all manner of wildlife that make their home there. Having spent all spring and summer planting a garden that provides food and habitat for creatures and critters, my desire for a neat and tidy winter space is likely running them out of town. It's time for a re-think of what it means to "put the garden to bed" for the winter.

Our yards can be welcome winter havens for wildlife, but only if we provide them with what they need to survive. I do remove and safely discard anything that's diseased along with the worst, most invasive weeds and I top every bed and border with fresh compost. But spent foliage, downed branches, leaf piles, seed heads? I have plenty of all of these vital wildlife necessities; I just have to be okay with leaving well enough alone.

4,000 Species of Native Bees

That's how many species call North America home and we count on them to work their pollinating magic. To do their best work, these hardworking bees need a place to sit out winter and be protected from both cold and hungry predators. Seventy percent of all of these species of bees nest underground, overwintering as eggs or larvae burrowed in the soil and emerging in spring. Others, such as bumble bee queens, nest in leaf litter, hollowed-out plant stems, or even loose soil. By not cutting down every plant or turning every bit of soil, we can provide them with a cool place to chill out.

To Do: Set aside undisturbed patches of habitat allowing leaf litter, standing spent perennials, dead twigs and stems and ground covers to remain. If you are working the soil in your beds or other spots, do not till soil where there might be ground nests (look for conical piles of dirt with a large

hole in the middle that serves as the entrance).

Bird Song

Up to 40 species of birds are likely to be found in our backyards during winter and they have the same needs—food, water, and shelter as they do any other time. Providing a reliable source of berries and seed heads that are prized by songbirds such as finches, sparrows, chickadees, juncos, and jays has been shown to affect breeding success. It's a fact that the more insect-nurturing habitat you have, the greater the bird population will be.

To Do: Think about creating a songbird border next year. But for now, make a cozy nest of a brush pile with logs and larger branches on the bottom and layer smaller branches on top. Rake leaves up under trees and shrubs and leave them there until spring to encourage insects (that birds love to eat) to overwinter there. Also, that post-holiday Christmas tree tossed into a corner of the yard makes a fine place for birds to stay safe and warm.

Pretty Pollinators

The monarchs may have flown south, but many of the butterflies we rely on to help pollinate our gardens can and do remain, settling in to endure the winter weather in a variety of life stages. They need our help to survive the season. Adults, such as the Morning Cloak, will nestle into rock fissures and under tree bark. Caterpillars will bury deep in leaf litter or inside of rolled up leaves.

To Do: Leave leaf litter beneath trees undisturbed when possible. It's likely to contain overwintering caterpillars or eggs. If you find what looks like a dead chrysalis in your garage, garden shed, or even hanging from the branch of a tree in the winter, leave it there! The butterfly inside may emerge when spring comes. •

The YouTube Video

continued from p1

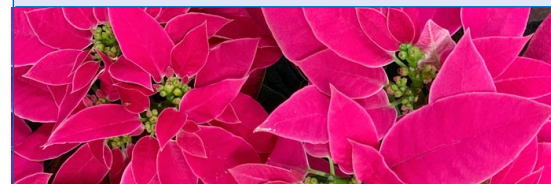


FaZe Rug

FaZe Rug visited the store to film parts of a 10-minute video outlining such a fundraiser in cooperation with the Arbor Day Foundation.

FaZe Rug, formerly oRugrat is an American YouTube vlogger. He is 22 years old and part of the FaZe Clan as well as their director. He has the most subscribers and views in the clan. As of May 2019, his channel gained over 12.2 million subscribers, making it the 118th most subscribed YouTube channel in the U.S.

Want to learn more and be part of planting so many trees? You can see the full video here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itHYQ2wagbl>. We promise that you will learn something, be dazzled by FaZe's energy and you may recognize where the opening shots were filmed. •



Planting Pink Makes A Difference

By Karen Andersen-Thatcher

Thank you to all who shopped with us on Wednesdays in October! Our "On Wednesdays We Plant Pink" campaign raised over \$9000! The funds raised were divided evenly between The Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the Young Survival Coalition (San Diego chapter). We are already looking forward to next year's event with more Pink specials and other ways to help members of our community! •



Old Ben:

10 Myths About Wild Birds

By Old Ben



1. There is NO need to feed wild birds in Summer. **Answer:**

Though there are abundant sources of natural food during most summers, many times, birds need to find food easily. This is because the parent birds also provide for hungry babies in their nest. This can over work the parents. Providing them bird seed will help them to get food without much competition. No matter which season, leave food outside for our feathered friends. This will keep many species returning to your backyard year after year.

2. If you feed birds, they will become dependent upon your handouts, and will forget to search for food on their own. **Answer:**

This is simply NOT true. Birds get only 25% of their food from bird feeders. The remaining 75% comes from natural sources like insects, bugs, sap, spiders, pine nuts, grasses and so on. If feeders are not present, birds will not starve. They will resort to natural resources to gain food. However, during drought and harsh winters, it is very difficult for them to find food. It is always better to provide supplementary food through bird feeders. Rest assured that birds will not be completely dependent on it.

3. It is okay to feed bread to ducks. **Answer:**

This is a false notion. Giving bread to ducks is as good as feeding them junk food. White bread offers NO nutritional value, and can be a source of excessive fats for the ducks. It may even pollute waterways and lead to diseases. Animals and pests like rats, mice, insects, and predators will also be attracted to the bread. Feeding them cracked corn, vegetable trimmings, fresh pears or grape halves is recommended.

4. Bird feeders do NOT require cleaning. **Answer:**

This is a misconception. The fact is that bird feeders should be cleaned from time to time. Without cleaning there is a good chance you will end up making birds sick. Due to exposure, bird feeders can become breeding grounds for bacteria and diseases. It is recommended to scrape off the old bird seed and clean the feeder with soapy water and a 10% solution of bleach. Rinse thoroughly and dry the feeder before putting it back. Clean your feeders a minimum of four times a year.

5. Bird seed NEVER goes bad. **Answer:**

Like any type of food, bird seed can spoil over time, especially if it is stored improperly. Seed can attract pests and rodents or become mildewed. The old seed dries out and is less likely to be eaten. If you store bird seed properly, it can last for weeks or months and still be suitable for your feeders. Choose a cool, dry area to store seed. Use airtight containers that will deter rodents and insects. Many seeds may be stored in your freezer. All seed has insect eggs in it. Warm or hot conditions will allow the eggs to hatch. Freezing kills the insect eggs.

6. Uncooked rice will make birds' stomachs swell and explode. **Answer:**

ABSOLUTELY NOT!! Most birds eat all kinds of grains, including rice, with no ill effects at all. It's part of their natural diet.

7. Don't feed peanut butter to birds, they will choke on it. **Answer:**

NOPE! I have been using peanut butter for many years and have observed that birds take tiny amounts, fly to the nearest tree or shrub, place it under

continued p5

Old Ben's Specials

Valid December 1-31, 2019

Old Ben's Feeders

Both constructed of cedar woods and stainless steel wire. Platform feeder decorated by a San Diego artisan for Old Ben's Workshop. Birdhouse platform feeder is not painted. No two feeders are exactly alike!

Platform Feeder

Ideal for most birds. Stainless Steel mesh bottom allows rain to drain through the seed.

Sale \$39.99 Reg. \$49.99

Birdhouse Platform Feeder

Covered feeder provides protection from rain and wind.

Sale \$29.99 Reg. \$39.99

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic Mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. NO fillers in this mix. **20lb. bag**

Sale \$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

Attracts Lesser Gold Finches and many other small birds. **25lb. bag**

Sale \$49.99 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The No Mess Advantage. Seed is hulled and chopped, will not sprout so birds can eat all the seeds which attract fewer feeder pests. **20lb. bag**

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

All Old Ben's Seed blends now contain calcium for stronger bones and better egg shells.

All specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

TO DO LIST: December

What To Plant

Last chance for fall bulbs. Plant conifers, junipers, evergreens, California natives and drought-tolerant plants. Don't miss Pansies, Violas, Stocks, and Calendulas.

This is the time to plant onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, carrots, and more.



Pansies

Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms. Roses, roses, and roses are due the third week of the month.



Figs

Potted pomegranates, figs, grapes, and cane berries are here! Selection varies by store. Call for details, follow us on Facebook, or check the website for the list.

Look for Sasanqua and Japonica Camellias, Azaleas, Pyracantha, Holly, Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, and Photinia.

Pest Control

Dormant spray for diseases and over wintering pests. Use Liqui-Cop for disease control and Horticultural Oil Spray. •

Old Ben: 10 Myths

continued from p4

a leaf or piece of bark and eat it as though it were a bug they just found. If you are uncomfortable giving high energy peanut butter to your birds, just mix it with some black oil sunflower seeds.

8. Hummingbirds hitch rides on the back of geese. *Answer:* No such thing has ever been documented!

9. This feeder is squirrel-proof! *Answer:* While it is true that some bird feeder designs are more squirrel resistant than others, no feeder is 100% squirrel-proof. Squirrels are cunning and resourceful, and if the feeder has a seed or food they like, they will spend hours discovering a way to get it, causing significant damage.

10. Don't bother to clean the bird bath, birds use mud puddles, don't they? *Answer:* Unclean bird baths are perfect breeding grounds for algae, mosquito larvae and mold. Keep those bird baths clean and filled with clean water on a regular basis. •

Choosing A Holiday Tree To Last The Season

By David Ross

Success with cut Christmas trees can be attainable if you know the secrets to success. The most important is the tree itself. At Walter Andersen Nursery, we discovered that the best trees seem to come from small growers in Washington. When they come from a small grower, cutting can be done later, closer to shipping time, assuring a fresher tree from the beginning.

There are four primary types of trees available each year. They are:

NOBLE FIR

These are our most popular selling tree, with evenly spaced, nicely layered branches that allow ornaments to hang freely. Because they have relatively fewer, heavier needles, these stay the freshest.

FRASER FIR

This tree is short needled, and is sometimes called a "silverback" because of the silver color of the underside of its needles. It is compact and upright, and stays fresh a long time.

GRAND FIR

This tree has a pungent, distinct aroma, and looks like a Douglas fir on steroids. The needles are larger and of more substance, but this tree usually does not stay as fresh as long as the two above mentioned trees.

DOUGLAS FIR

A very full, dense, fine needled tree. Because of this, they dry out the quickest.

[continued p7](#)





Walter Andersen
Nursery™

Shop for holiday décor &
gifts for friends and family!

Holiday Open Houses



Poway ❄️ **December 7**
from 11am-1pm

- ❄️ Special vendors sharing gift ideas
- ❄️ Free photos with Santa!
- ❄️ Hot dogs grilled by our own David Ross

San Diego ❄️ **December 14**
from 11am-1pm

- ❄️ Free photos with Santa!
- ❄️ Grilled hot dogs
- ❄️ Face painters

Join Us!

Garden Classes

DECEMBER

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. Topics are subject to change. See the full schedule at www.walterandersen.com/calendar/.



POWAY | 9:30AM

12/14

Succulent Topiary Workshop

Make a tree-shaped succulent topiary with Bonnie James. Bonnie will teach you how to make and decorate this centerpiece. Class is limited to 15 people. There is a \$60 materials fee. Prepay and RSVP to 858-513-4900. This workshop will be held at 9:30am on Saturday, December 14 at our Poway store.



There are no additional classes scheduled for December.

Choosing A Holiday Tree continued from p5

When selecting a tree, look for trees that are dark green and appear fresh. Ones with firm needles that snap when folded, only drop old, dead, needles from the center when stood and shaken. Not only is freshness paramount, but size matters also. Know the height of the ceiling in the room you'll display your tree and buy at least one foot shorter so you have plenty of room for the crowning ornament. Bear in mind the area the tree will take up and the foot traffic around it to help you decide your tree's fullness. If you are tight on room, the Frasier may make a good selection as they tend to be the most slender of holiday trees.

To care for your tree, always use a stand that holds ample water. A fresh cut tree drinks a lot of water initially. Once a suitable tree has been selected, put a fresh 2" (approx) cut on the bottom to allow water to flow up into the tree. I also put a few vertical slices into the base of the trunk to allow additional water flow up the trunk. When the tree stops drinking, carefully re-slice up the sides of the trunk to allow water to flow again, taking care not to puncture the basin.

Add a commercial tree preservative, get the tree into water immediately, and keep your water bowl filled with a water/preservative at all times. ●

Visit Our 2 Locations

SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, California 92110
{619} 224-8271

POWAY

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

Dates To Remember



December 7 | 11am-1pm
Poway Holiday
Open House

December 14 | 11am-1pm
San Diego Holiday
Open House

December 24
Christmas Eve
Poway store closes at 2pm

December 25
Christmas
Both stores closed



December 31
New Year's Eve
Poway store closes at 2pm

January 1
New Year's Day
Both stores closed



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