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A New Kind Of Container



With folks staying home due to the COVID-19, there is an increase in home farming. We were stunned to see how many people are starting vegetable gardens as they practice self isolation. In fact, at times we were in short supply of containers which is why the long bed from Smart Pots is pretty cool.

Poway Open | San Diego Opening April 6 Taking Phone Orders | Shop San Diego Store Online

San Diego Store

Starting Monday, April 6, the San Diego store will be open with limited access (reducing the number of people in the building at one time) and social distancing rules in effect. Hours will be 9am-3pm. We are also taking phone and email orders.

The San Diego store also launched an <u>online store</u> selling our top selling vegetables, herbs, and products. Online orders will be eligible for free delivery with a \$50 minimum purchase to neighboring zip codes of 92103, 92106, 92107, 92109, 92110, 92117 and 92037.

- Open to the public *starting April 6* from 9am-3pm daily
- Visit our Online Store
- Order by phone between 9am-3pm at 619-224-8271
- Email your order to
 <u>orderSD@walterandersen.com</u>
- Curbside pick up available
- Credit card & debit card sales only No cash, checks, or COD

Poway Store

The Poway store is open with social distancing guidelines in effect. We are also accepting phone orders for delivery and pick up. **Orders will be eligible for free delivery with a \$50 minimum purchase** to neighboring zip codes of 92064, 92127, 92128 and 92131.

- Open to the public from 9am-4pm daily
- Order by phone 9am-4pm at 858-513-4900
- Pick up on site, or home driveway delivery (Monday-Friday)
- Credit card & debit card sales only No cash, checks, or COD

Thank you for your patience during these challenging and unforeseen times. We will do our best to provide the service you have come to expect from us. The Andersen Family greatly appreciates your support and business at this time. We will grow through this together! •



Gardening In A World On Lockdown By Garden Center Solutions



You can plant zucchini and squash now

COVID-19 has been the source of many restrictions on our daily life, but there are no restrictions on gardening! Growing your own food is one of the safest ways to stay healthy during this trying time.

There are many reasons to grow a garden: the economy, the nutritional value and the challenge. Gardening

continued p2



New Container continued from p1

It's a fabric bag that comes in different sizes. It comes neatly folded up and you pop it open, fill it with potting soil and plant flowers, herbs, fruit or vegetables. It is reusable, provides excellent drainage, has a lifespan up to five years, and is manufactured in the U.S. Smart Pot believes that the right container can help your plants perform. "Smart Pots produce healthier roots by air pruningcreating lots of smaller finger roots. These roots absorb moisture and nutrients more efficiently so your plant grows faster and stronger." Our Poway store has a couple potted up for you to see. •

GardenTalk Radio To Continue But Temporarily On Hold



The new owners of AM 760 KFMB have let us know that programming will continue through the rest of the year! Unfortunately, the show has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19. In the interim, listen to prior podcasts at https:// www.760kfmb.com/article/ entertainment/radio/shows/ garden-talk-podcast/510-64e2864f-028b-4c1f-8e56-770340e8ea8b. Stay up to date with GardenTalk Radio at https:// www.facebook.com/GardenTalk-Radio-by-Walter-Andersen-Nursery-1612389342307392/. •

Gardening In A Lockdown continued from p1



The normally full tables of vegetables have empty space due to the increase in demand. We keep restocking.

begins with a plan. The desired site for your garden should have at least six hours of direct sunlight a day (bigger harvest and better taste!). The soil should be loose for root movement; it should also be welldraining to prevent root rot.

Crops must be spaced properly to prevent overcrowding which actually leads to less production. Without space, plants compete for the sunlight and water, and there is insufficient room to grow. A seed chart can help you make decisions on planting times, harvest dates, and distance between plants which can lead to a successful garden.

What Can You Plant Today?

Tomatoes, peppers, corn, eggplant, cilantro, parsley, rosemary, lettuce and squash are just a few suggestions.

Some Helpful Tips:

> Plant in a sunny location. Vegetables need at least six hours of direct sunlight per day. The more sunlight they receive, the greater the harvest and the better the taste.

> Plant in good soil. Plants' roots penetrate soft soil easily, so you need quality garden soil for needed nutrients.

> Space your crops properly per seed packet instructions. Plants set Plant lettuce in a sunny area

too close together compete for sunlight, water, and nutrition and fail to mature.

> Buy high-quality seeds. A few "extra" cents spent in spring for that year's seeds will pay off in higher yields at harvest time.

> A vegetable garden about 16' x
10' can feed a family of four for one summer.

> Don't have a plot of land but have a sunny patio? **Consider container gardening.** Tomatoes and peppers lend themselves very easily to container growing. Use a high quality potting soil to plant in. You will need to increase the frequency of your fertilizing as nutrients are leached out of the soil a bit faster in containers.

> Here's a tip from Walter Andersen, Jr. himself. Plant seeds several weeks apart so your harvest is extended and doesn't mature all at once. •



Consider container gardening





Are you an organic gardener? If so, you are in luck with this fastworking and effective, all-organic insect control available from Bonide. Bonide's Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew is the answer to many of your garden insect problems. Captain Jack's, with the active ingredient, Spinosad, works two ways; on contact or when the insect feeds. These methods insure that your insect problems are over. Spinosad is a bacteria based insecticide and controls most types of insects including caterpillars, beetles, spider mites, and borers. It is not very effective against sucking insects like aphids and scale. You can use it on vegetables, flowers, berries, trees, shrubs, and fruit. It is very effective against citrus leaf miner as it is translaminar, meaning it is absorbed into the foliage where the leaf miners live. There are limits to the number of times it can be applied each season so check the label for the specific plants you need to treat. Both stores carry Captain Jacks in ready to use, ready to spray, concentrate, and dust. •

Idioms For Gardeners

By Melanie Potter



Violets

Not too long ago, a coworker jokingly called me Buttercup and told me to buck up. I squashed him like a bug. That made me wonder about some of the expressions we use and I realized that many sound as if they have gardening connotations. It seemed like a fun and informative task to track down some of the most popular idioms I've heard and ferret out their meanings. Now you can hear it from the horse's mouth!

Shrinking Violet

The earliest known use of the term was in 1820, in an article written by Leigh Hunt. However, Hunt used it to refer to an actual flower. It wasn't until the end of the 1800s that the idiom came into use. The idea behind the expression is that a wild violet is a flower that grows in shady spots, out of the sun, and more or less hides its flowers under its leaves.

Wallflower

Derived from the plant, wallflower, which grows by clinging to walls or rocks. The idea is that the person in question is clinging to the wall rather than taking part in the activity.

Sow Wild Oats

Wild oats are the untamed predecessor of oats, a valuable cereal crop which is grown in many regions of the world. Wild oats, however, do not produce useful heads of grain, and they are also very adept at infiltrating fields of crops. The only way to get rid of wild oats is to repeatedly hand weed a field, and in some cases a field may be plowed and reworked. Therefore, wild oats are associated with damage and wasted time.

Everything's Coming Up Roses

It originated in the United States in the 1950s, and was used as the title of a popular song from the musical Gypsy. The words to that song give the meaning to this idiom. "Things look swell, things look great, Gonna have the whole world on a plate. Starting here, starting now Honey, everything's coming up roses."

Turn Over A New Leaf

From the 16th century, and one might assume that the word, leaf, refers to the leaf of a tree. In this instance, the "leaf" in question refers to the page of a book.

Thorn In Your Side

This comes from the biblical book of Numbers (33:55): 'those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell'.

Barking Up The Wrong Tree

Likely referring to hunting. This saying explains when a dog would literally bark at the bottom of the wrong tree after the prey in question had moved to the next tree.

Beating Around The Bush

Also associated with hunting. In medieval times, hunters hired men to beat the area around bushes with sticks in order to flush out game taking cover underneath.

And now, it's time for me to hit the road. There's a busy day ahead and I need to try to kill two birds with one stone! •



Old Ben's Specials

Valid April 1-30, 2020

- · OLD BEN'S BRAND ·-



SAVE \$20 On Old Ben's Classic Jelly Feeders

Great for attracting wild birds, Orioles and finches. Fill cups with grape jelly, dried mealworms, special seeds, and put fresh fruit on the fruit spikes. Decorations vary. Jelly not included.

Single Cup or Double Cup Sale \$29.99 Reg. \$49.99

Dove & Quail Seed

A very popular blend. Many other wild birds love this blend too. **251b. bag**

Sale \$19.99 Reg. \$24.99

Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic Mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. NO fillers. **201b. bag**

Sale \$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

Nyger Seed

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

Sale \$49.99 Reg. \$59.99

No Mess Wild Bird Seed

Hulled and chopped, will not sprout, birds can eat all the seed which attracts fewer feeder pests.

201b. bag Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

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

Old Ben: Northern Mockingbirds

By Old Ben



Northern Mockingbirds endear themselves to many people with their melodious song. Mockingbirds can make up to 200 separate sound variations over their life span. They are a welcome sight in most gardens for their singing and because they eat pesky insects like beetles, wasps and grasshoppers. Northern mockingbirds require a mix of open and shrubby terrain to feel safe in, so it is vital to mimic their natural habitat to attract them to your garden.

Size & Shape A medium sized songbird, Mockingbirds have a small head, a long thin bill with a hint of a downward curve, and long legs. Their wings are short, rounded, and broad, making them seem very long in flight.

Color Pattern Mockingbirds are overall gray-brown, paler on the breast and belly, with two white bars on each wing. A white patch in each wing is often visible on perched birds, and in flight these become large white flashes.

Behavior The Northern Mockingbird enjoys making its presence known. They usually sit conspicuously on high vegetation, fences, eaves, and utility wires, as well as run and hop along the ground. Found alone or in pairs throughout the year, mockingbirds aggressively chase off intruders in their territory.

Habitat Look for Northern Mockingbirds in backyards, parks, forest edges, and open land at low elevations.

Kool Fact It's not just mockingbirds that appreciate a good song. In the nineteenth century, people kept so many mockingbirds as caged birds that the birds nearly vanished from parts of the east coast. People took nestlings out of nests or trapped adults and sold them in cities such as Philadelphia, St. Louis, and New York, where, in 1828, fantastic singers could cost as much as \$50.

How To Attract Northern Mockingbirds

1. If you have a lawn, mow it often to create an open space where mockingbirds can swoop down to catch insects, which comprise the bulk of their summertime diet.

2. Grow a mix of native shrubs to provide year round cover and food during the autumn months. Plant species such as California lilac, toyon and manzantias, since they provide evergreen foliage and edible fruit.

3. Install a platform style feeder in your garden. Position it within 10 feet of the shrubs so the mockingbirds have ready access to cover if they feel threatened. Stock the feeder during the winter months when mockingbirds rely less on insects and more of fruit.

4. Stock your feeder with suet, raisins, dried currants, apple slices and rose hips. Do not add birdseed since mockingbirds won't eat it.

5. Provide a source of clean water somewhere in your garden such as a bird bath, reflecting pool or even a shallow pan filled with water. •



Ask Old Ben questions about birds, show him your bird photos, or share your birding experiences at askoldben@aol.com



Dazzling Dahlias By Melanie Potter



Summers are made for dahlias, yet summer is way off and the dahlias are here! They are the most versatile of garden flowers and are available in dozens of shapes, colors and sizes. Choose blooms in pink, white, yellow, orange, red, burgundy or purple that complement just about any garden setting. The diversity of the Dahlia allows you to use them in many different aspects of your landscape design, from low growing border plants to stately background plantings that may reach six feet tall! They make excellent cut flowers and typically last about a week in the house. Plant in full sun and in rich soil and water regularly. •



To Do List: April

Fertilize

Feed Lawns, Palms & More. Use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf to feed grass and control broad-leaf weeds. Feed ornamentals with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Plus. 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.

Pest Control

For edibles & ornamentals, keep insects under control by hitting them early. On edibles, use Bonide Bon Neem or Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew. For ornamentals, use a systemic control like Bayer 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Spray.

Plant

- > Warm-season bedding plants
- > Dahlias, annuals, and perennials
- > Warm-season vegetables and vegetable seeds
- > Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes!
- > Specialty hot peppers are here

Look For:

- > Flowering deciduous trees & shrubs
- > Blooming roses & bulbs
- > Ceanothus
- > Tropicals •





Time to plant tomatoes



Look for Ceanothus



Plant any kind of pepper

Both Stores will be closed Sunday, April 12 for Easter



We will give an update in the May newsletter and social media regarding any changes to the Rose Show. It may be postponed. But in the meantime, keep on growing those roses!





Recipe: Stuffed Mediterranean Tomatoes

Now that we are staying at home more, that means more time to cook and bake. We went through our newsletter archives and found some of our favorite recipes to share!

4 medium tomatoes Sprinkle of salt and pepper 1 cup coarse bread crumbs 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated 2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped 2 tsp fresh basil, chopped or 1/2 tsp dried basil

tsp fresh oregano, chopped or 1/4 tsp dried oregano

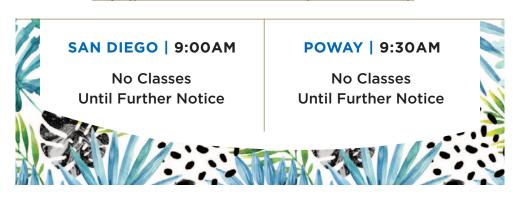
2 cloves garlic, minced

1/4 cup melted butter or olive oil

Cut the tomatoes in half. Gently squeeze out the seeds and juice, and scoop out a little of the centers. Sprinkle the inside of the tomatoes with salt and pepper. Combine the bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, parsley, basil, oregano, garlic and toss with the butter or olive oil. Spoon this mixture into each tomato half. Place the tomatoes in a greased baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes or until tomatoes are tender and topping is golden brown.

Garden Classes: April

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 https://www.walterandersen.com/classes-events/.



Recipe: Zucchini & Feta Casserole

3 small zucchini, grated 3 eggs 6 scallions, chopped Cup chopped fresh mint and/or dill weed Cup chopped parsley Cup grated feta cheese Cup grated mild cheese Cup flour Pinch of salt Pinch of cayenne pepper 4 tablespoons butter

Mix zucchini, eggs, scallions, mint, dill, parsley and cheeses. Add flour slowly, mixing well. Season with salt and cayenne pepper. Grease a 9-inch baking pan with 1 tablespoon of the butter. Pour in the zucchini mixture. Dot with remaining butter. Bake 45 minutes at 450 degrees F*, or until well browned. Cut into squares. Serve hot or cold. Makes 6-8 servings.

*I don't always have success baking at such a high temperature, so I set the oven to 400 degrees.

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

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