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Nursery™**

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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

GardenTalk

STORE HOURS: San Diego 8am-5pm | Poway 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

—• IN THIS ISSUE —•

Stop Peeking!	1
In Memoriam	1
GardenTalk Radio Back On Air	1
It's Bulb Season	3
Make A Fire Pit!	4
Ben: Feeding Wild Birds In Fall	5
Old Ben Specials	5
Houseplants For All Locations	6
Did You Order Seeds?	7
To Do List: October	8
It's Good To Be The Best	8
Fall Recipe: Pumpkin Fluff	9

GardenTalk Radio Is Back On The Air



Good news! The GardenTalk crew was able to negotiate a time slot on KCBQ 1170AM/96.1FM and KPRZ 1210AM/106.1FM. You will be able to hear the radio show at 6am Saturday mornings. Your GardenTalk hosts are Ken Andersen, David Ross, Mark Mahady, and George Allmon. The guys will talk about the latest trends they are seeing in gardening, seasonal topics, and more. They can even answer your questions live on the air if you would like to call in. All of the shows will be recorded and archived as podcasts on the podcasts page on our website, and on the [station's website](#). •

Stop Peeking!

By Melanie Potter



Purple Hopseed Bush by Monrovia

Do you ever feel like you're being watched? Sure, you may be in your own yard, but all eyes can be on you. It's a complaint we hear regularly from customers who are looking to add privacy to their yard and divert their neighbor's prying eyes.

Tall hedges and trees can make good neighbors and we'll get to some suggestions in a bit, but you'll need to start with some considerations.

1) Identify your needs and what you want a plant to do. You'd be wise

[continued p2](#)

In Memoriam: Tom Dougherty



If you have shopped in our Poway store, it is likely you are familiar with Tom Dougherty. He was easy to spot, unless he was wearing a hat, because his white hair stood out. There were times when he would come to work with a fresh-looking hair cut and tell coworkers how pretty his stylist was. Tom was a charmer. He also was a fountain of knowledge when it came to plants including his specialties, citrus and water plants.

Tom unexpectedly passed away last month. He worked, which he loved, until his passing. Sure, he was in his 80s but he was quite vibrant.

Tom will be remembered for his quick wit, he was funny. He had wonderful stories about his life in

the Navy and when he lived in Hawaii and Palm Springs. He came to work at the store in 1999 which makes it hard to think of our work lives without him. If you knew Tom, think about planting a tree in his memory. •

Stop Peeking! continued from p1



Carolina Laurel Cherry "Bright 'n' Tight"
by Monrovia



Texas Privet by Monrovia



Pittosporum 'Silver Sheen'
by San Marcos Growers



Eugenia myrtifolia by Monrovia

plant. You'll also want to know how much space you have available for a plant. While a tree might not work, you could opt for vines that provide good coverage. Those include Pandorea, Bower Vine, Star Jasmine, Bougainvillea, Calliandra, Passion Vine, Orange Flame Vine or Thumbergia.

Now that you are focused, here are some recommendations:

Purple Hopseed Bush

Adds a bronze color to the garden; it grows fast to 12' and requires occasional water once established.

Texas Privet

Makes an excellent hedge and can be kept to any height and width with pruning.

Ficus nitida

Looks similar to Texas privet and has a very formal, Italian look to it. Makes a great 'green wall' effect. This also has berries that drop, and an aggressive root system.

Podocarpus macrophyllus and henkelii (fern pine)

Both of these are usually grown as tall trees but can be kept to size with pruning. They grow quickly and make a dense privacy screen. The leaves are soft and look like bamboo without the mess. The downside to the macrophyllus is the superficial root system it develops as it gets older. There is also a shrub version of

macrophylla called 'Maki'. This one takes a long time to grow and needs more water than you'd think to get established.

Pittosporum "Silver Sheen"

This has an open, airy growth habit. It doesn't provide a dense screen but one that you can see through somewhat.

Carolina Laurel Cherry "Bright 'n' Tight"

Grows to 10-12', fills in pretty densely and fairly quickly. They can be hedged well. The downsides are they produce a poisonous berry (though not to birds who love them) which can be messy. So, plant them away from a sidewalk or hardscape where the berry would stain, make a mess, and be slippery. They also sprout and you'll find lots of little bushes springing up. If these shrubs are planted against a fence with other plants in front of them, the litter and the spread are not much of a problem.

Favorite choices also include **Eugenias and Metrosideros**. *Eugenia myrtifolia* 'Monterey Bay Brush Cherry' moderately grows to 15 to 20 ft. tall. It has a lush appearance and makes an excellent tall evergreen screen or hedge. New growth remains bronze red over a long season. Creamy white brush-like flowers are followed by rose purple fruit. *Metrosideros*, or New Zealand Christmas Tree, can have

to stay away from deciduous plants because they will lose their leaves and the privacy they afforded you part of the year.

- 2) Choose plants that are in harmony with your landscape.
- 3) Do you have any hardscape features that could make planting a challenge?
- 4) Does your HOA have any restrictions.
- 5) Since you are trying to be a good neighbor, be aware that a tall plant will affect the sun and shade patterns next door. It wouldn't hurt to share your plans with the neighbor.
- 6) Ask yourself how much maintenance you want to give a



Metrosideros by Monrovia

Stop Peeking! continued from p2



Texas Ranger / Photo: Monrovia



Lavatera by Monrovia



Sweet Olive by Monrovia



Christmas Berry by San Marcos Growers

gray-green or variegated foliage and blooms with crimson flowers that cover the plant. Nectar attracts birds and insects. It's excellent as a mass planting, hedge or specimen plant.

If you aren't looking to provide a fortress and opt for something that grows to 8', here are suggestions.

Texas Ranger

Grows 6'-9' tall and has profuse purple blooms.

Lavatera

Pruned as patio trees, the canopy is full and always in bloom with large purple flowers. It is a shrub so it continues to branch out along the length of the trunk and it is a fast grower so it requires regular pruning

to keep the trunk clean.

Sweet Olive (Osmanthus)

A beautiful shrub that does well in Italian/Mediterranean gardens.

Christmas Berry/Toyon

An awesome native shrub for a background or privacy screen. Its dark green serrated leaves stay green year-round and take less water than most horticultural variety plants. It gets beautiful sprays of delicate, white flowers. Once pollinated, these flowers turn into red berries at Christmas time for seasonal cheer. The red berries are not poisonous to people (unless you eat buckets full) and are food to native birds. •



Stop in to see our selection of bulbs

Lockdown News: It's Bulb Season

By Melanie Potter



Amaryllis belladonna

Here are some hints: the days are getting shorter, some mornings the air is crisp, the calendar says that fall is here so that means?? Bulb season is upon us. That's right, it is time to plant fall bulbs. Fall bulbs are planted in fall for blooms that appear in winter/spring! Here is what you will find at our stores.

Amaryllis belladonna

These fragrant pink bloomers will naturalize in your garden, multiply, and bloom year after year. The other

continued p4

Make A Fire Pit!

By Melanie Potter



Do you know when marshmallows taste best? Right after you take them away from an open flame when they are sort of oozy and brown, just before they become charred. They are also not too bad when sandwiched between Graham crackers and chocolate. Again, you need a flame source so when I saw this do it yourself project in Westways magazine; I thought it needed to be shared.

The project is to make your own fire pit and all you need is a terra cotta pot and saucer, aluminum foil, charcoal briquettes, a lighter and whatever you want to roast over the fire pit.

> Line a terra cotta pot with aluminum foil then place it on the saucer. > Add charcoal briquettes, and a small wad of newspaper to get a flame going. > Light it up and roast your marshmallows.

Editor's Note: I did this project with a 19 year old engineering student who is a big fan of anything with a flame. We used a 4" pot. The briquettes didn't stay lit or heat up enough so we doused them in lighter fluid, torched them and waited for them to turn ashy. The marshmallows roasted nicely over the pot and we had a fun time making and eating s'mores. This is definitely an activity to do with an adult. When you are done with your personal fire pit, let it cool down then spray the coals with water. •

Amaryllis in all the colors are due later this month or early November.

Leucojum

Leucojum will naturalize here meaning more and more every year with more snow-white flowers every late winter. As a bonus, deer, squirrels, and rabbits rarely bother early little leucojum corms.

Freesia

Lots of colors to choose from and fragrant!

Hyacinth

One of the earliest spring bulbs, usually appear after crocus but before tulips and have old-fashioned charm combined with a sweet, strong scent. Their signature fragrance has been used in French perfume and they are used in Persian New Year celebrations.

Iris (Bearded and Dutch)

Although all irises share sword-like leaves and flowers with six spreading or drooping lobes, there are groups that grow from creeping rhizomes while others grow from bulb structures; some iris groups are categorized as "bearded," others as "beardless," and still others as "crested." Japanese, Dutch, and Siberian iris are among those that fall into the beardless category. The bearded iris (*Iris germanica*) is arguably the most popular of the types, and among the easiest to grow. The bearded iris is identified by thick, bushy "beards" on each of the falls (lower petals) of the blossoms. Within the broad category of the popular bearded iris group, there are also subcategories: tall bearded, intermediate bearded, short bearded, miniature bearded, and border bearded. Irises are toxic to cats and dogs, especially the rhizomes.

Narcissus

Jonquils, Daffodils, and Paper whites

are the most popular varieties of Narcissus.

Jonquils: They have dark green, round, rush-like leaves and clusters of small, fragrant, early, yellow blossoms.

Daffodils: Without a doubt, modern large flowered daffodils are the most popular type of Narcissus planted today.

Paper whites: They are the early blooming Narcissus variety with white, powerfully fragrant, clustered flowers. Easily forced indoors.



Ranunculus

Ranunculus

Colorful, tightly packed with many petals, you know a ranunculus when you see it. Did you know this fun fact? The name of this flower is a combination of two Latin words. *Rana* means 'frog' and *unculus* means 'little.' These bulbs were first found blooming in Southwestern Asia. It is believed that its name came from where it grew naturally—along streams in the spring with the little frogs.

Tulips

This bulb may make you think of Holland. Very colorful and wonderful flower shapes, plant tulips en masse (most bulbs look best this way) and as a cut flower, don't display with daffodils because they wilt. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid October 1-31, 2020

— OLD BEN'S BRAND —



Feeder Tree

*Lowest price ever
for these specialty
bird feeders!*



Platform Feeder

Both are constructed of western cedar for long lasting beauty and durability.

Feeder Tree

Great for adding special foods such as oranges, apples, millet sprays etc. It also holds water and seed. *(Does not include treats shown).*
Reg. \$37.99

Platform Feeder

Provides a stainless-steel mesh bottom for drainage and air circulation and a covered top. Reg. \$39.99

Your Choice \$29.99

No Mess Wild Bird Seed

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

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

Classic Wild Bird Seed

A classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix. **20lb. bag**

Sale \$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

Premium Finch Blend

Attracts Finches like a magnet. **20lb. bag**

Sale \$39.99 Reg. \$49.99

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



wide variety of both resident birds and migrating birds to your backyard feeders.

Fall Bird Feeding Myths

The ideas that if the birds have a steady source of food available in the fall, they won't migrate, and that when those feeders are empty, the birds will starve are a total misconception. A reliable food source is only a minor factor that affects how birds migrate. Daylight levels, climate and instinct play import roles in seasonal migration. Feeding birds in fall does not prevent migration, but can help it. Migrating birds require lots of calories for energy necessary to fly hundreds or thousands of miles. Feeders can provide an energy boost to passing migrants as well as help resident birds build up fat reserves for falling temperatures.

It is also a myth that there simply are not enough birds around to feed in the fall. Bird feeders will still see plenty of activity. Your backyard flocks will change as some birds will leave and more northern birds will arrive.

Why Feed Birds In The Fall

Fall is an ever-changing season and it can be a very rewarding time to feed birds. You should always keep your feeders stocked in the fall to help with:

> Resident birds build fat reserves for energy.

Old Ben: Feeding Wild Birds In The Fall

By Old Ben

Fall is a fantastic time to feed the birds. These fall bird feeding tips can help you attract a

> Provide an easy food source for migrating birds passing through your area.

> Offer supplemental food when natural food sources are depleted

> Help birds imprint on the location of reliable food sources so they will return to the same place next year.

Best Fall Bird Foods

To give migrating birds the best nutrition and energy for their long journeys, you should provide foods with high oil content and many calories like: Old Ben's Classic, No Mess, Special Finch Blend, Nyger, Peanuts and Hummingbird Foods. See this month fall bird seed specials.

Tips For Feeding Fall Birds

There is more to feeding fall birds than just providing the right foods. By keeping your backyard safe and meeting birds' other needs, a fall flock will be healthy and active.

> Check feeders for damage and repair them so they are safe.

> Choose fall plants that offer evergreen cover and lasting berries, nuts or fruits for fall and winter food.

> Keep bird baths filled with fresh clean water.

> Allow leaf litter to build up under trees and shrubs to attract insects, fallen seeds and other foods.

> Protect exhausted backyard migrants from predators such as cats.

Feeding fall birds can be a rewarding way to enjoy the changing season. By following these fall bird feeding tips, it is possible to attract a wide range of fall bird species and ensure they are fed throughout the season. •

— Ask Old Ben —

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

Houseplants For All Locations

By Zee Praise

Here is a great article on houseplants by Zee Praise found on *The Greatist*, an informative lifestyle website.



String of Pearls

The plant craze may have taken root years ago, but the pandemic has sent it into full bloom. As uncertainty and confusion run amuck outside our walls, decorating our pads with flair feels like a particularly joyful process. Not only does tending to plants help us feel in control, every room looks better with a plant (read: many plants) in it.

Generally speaking, interior design is not an affordable hobby. While the cost of plants does add up quickly, they're among the cheapest ways to make a room look chic.

To help you achieve all your plant goals, we asked Cloe Thomson, a DIY and design enthusiast who incorporates the use of plants in many of her designs. With her help, we created this guide on all things plant décor. Before we get into the various types of plants and design ideas you can use to brighten up your home, there are a few questions to consider.

Hanging plants: the ultimate jungle feel

It's hard to resist cascading tendrils of leaves in a window or on a shelf. It's a way of bringing color and life to areas of a room that would be bare otherwise and, to be honest,

makes it feel like you're in a lush paradise and not your boring old room. Thompson especially recommends hanging plants if you live in a small space. She finds that by hanging a few together, you'll be able to add height and dimension to a tight corner or an awkward wall. Plus, hanging plants are the perfect way to show off a pretty pot or a macrame hanger (and keeps them out of reach of pets). **Plants that love to hang out:**

> **String of Pearls.** This elegant, draping plant likes indirect light, so avoid putting it in a sunny window. Water sparingly, every 10 to 14 days, and even less in winter.

> **English Ivy.** This hardy vine likes medium to bright light and prefers cooler temps. Water once a week, allowing soil to dry out in between.

> **Pothos.** Arguably the easiest of all houseplants to grow, even if you are a person who forgets to water your plants. This trailing vine has pointed, heart-shaped green leaves, sometimes variegated with white, yellow, or pale green. While pothos likes bright indirect light, it can thrive in areas that don't get a lot of sunlight or have only fluorescent lighting.

Wall plants: the cutest wallflowers

Similar to when you hang plants, mounting plants to the wall adds color and texture to bare space that probably wouldn't be utilized otherwise. Wall plants have a way of bringing the outside in like no other décor style. **Plants that look good on walls:**

> **Adaptable Ferns.** These are a great option for an indoor wall or to add a little life to your patio as they work well in bright and low-light environments.

> **Staghorn Fern.** These unique cuties are a favorite for wall plant



Bird Nest Fern



Spider Plant

designs. They require special care, though.

Show your plants off in a window

Our plant friends look stellar in windows, whether hanging or placed on the sill. While flowering plants may love a window (flowers tend to thrive in direct sunlight), you can't put just any plant directly next to a window. First off, windows are drafty and therefore colder than other areas. So while plants may not react in the warmer months, winter could bring their demise. Plants are also susceptible to sunburn if they get too much direct sunlight and since windows have a magnifying effect, they can exacerbate burns. Be on the lookout for yellowing leaves or brown spots, as this can mean it's getting too much sunlight. Plants that are leggy or look like they're reaching toward something aren't getting enough light. Below are

continued p7

Did You Order Seeds?

By Melanie Potter



Photo by River Reporter

Sometimes we have ordered seeds that are to be delivered via the U.S. mail. You expect them and don't think twice about planting them. Over the summer, CBS News confirmed that residents in all 50 states have reported receiving suspicious packages of seeds. The U.S. Dept of Agriculture said if you receive the packets of seeds, do not plant them and contact your state plant regulatory official. Locally, the San Diego County Agriculture Department asks that you take a photo of the shipping label and send it to Pest Exclusion email: PHPP.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov. Double bag the packets and take them to a sample drop box in San Marcos at 151 E. Carmel St., or the County Operations Complex at 9325 Hazard Way, San Diego, 92123. Seeds should not be put in the trash or planted.

The USDA has identified some of the plant species in bags of unsolicited seeds. Officials have warned the shipments of mystery seeds, which appear to have originated in China, could be invasive plant species. So far, however, the species appear to be innocuous. Some seeds have been identified and include mustard, cabbage and morning glory as well as herbs like mint, sage, rosemary and lavender. He said hibiscus and roses were also found. •



Houseplants continued from p6

two plants that should do just fine in a window. **Plants that tolerate windows:**

> **Aloe Vera.** These hardy desert plants love direct sun and look great on a sill.

> **Spider Plant.** These ultimate beginner houseplants will grow in all kinds of conditions, making them a safe choice for a window.

When in doubt, add an air plant

Air plants look like specimens collected from a different universe. As the name says, they get the majority of their nutrients from the air—that's right, they don't need to be placed in the soil at all. All they need is to be watered adequately and live in good air circulation. They'll do fine under almost all lighting conditions.

Succulents, the easiest and breeziest

If you still haven't jumped on the succulent bandwagon, now's the time. There are so many species of succulents you could spend your whole life collecting them and still find new ones.

Many succulents have intricate leaf patterns, some even look like flowers, making them a no-brainer for decorating. The vast majority of them will tolerate any kind of light, so you don't have to be discerning when choosing where to place them. On that note, brightly colored succulents require more light than their green counterparts. So, if you're a beginner, it might be wise to start with green succulents. You can try arranging a few succulents in pots on a windowsill, or planting succulents with a variety of shapes and colors into one pot to create a bouquet effect. Succulent arrangements make beautiful centerpieces for a table or nightstand.

The 411 on decorating with plants indoors

Pick plants that are easy to care for.

If you're a plant newbie, start with the easy, no fuss stars like spider plants, pothos, and snake plants. Once you have a little fleet of plants that'll do well no matter what, then try your hand at the more finicky species.

Diversify the look of your forest.

Yes, most plants are the color green. But there is SO much variety when it comes to hues, shapes, and textures. According to Thomson, thinking about what vibe each plant brings to a space is a key way of creating a deliberate aesthetic, rather than a hodgepodge of greenery.

Be thoughtful about presentation.

Sure, you can plop any plant into a corner with its original plastic pot and call it a day, but transplanting into sturdy pots keeps your plants happy by giving them more space to grow. You can also mix and match pots to compliment the look of your space.

Take stock of the environment before buying

All plants have a native habitat they do best in. Some plants are adaptable and hardy, while others (looking at you string of pearls) only thrive in certain conditions. Before you spend any money, do your research. **Here are three important questions to ask about your space when deciding which plant to buy:**

> What kind of light does the space get? Low, direct, indirect, filtered? Most plants thrive best in a bright setting but away from direct sunlight.

> What's the temperature spectrum? Think about drafts around windows and doors as many houseplants are sensitive to cold.

> What's the humidity like? Remember, most of the houseplants we keep originated in high humid, jungle-like conditions. While they may not need that much humidity to survive, they also likely aren't going to want to be placed next to an AC or heater unit. •

It's Good To Be The Best



Thanks to the readers of the San Diego Union Tribune for voting Walter Andersen Nursery as the best nursery/garden center in its 2020 Reader's Poll. It has been a trying year for all businesses. We hope you will take a look at the poll and support these and many other companies as they struggle to keep their doors open, employees on the payroll and see their dreams succeed. You can follow this link to see the Reader's Poll: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/bestofferssd/story/2020-09-02/sandiegos-best-2020-for-the-home>. •



To Do List: October



Plant Liquidambar trees for fall color



Look for bulbs like Saffron Crocus

Plant

- > California natives and drought-tolerant plants are best planted this time of year to get root systems established.
- > Bulbs like Daffodils, Ranunculus, Freesias, Anemones and more.
- > Winter annuals like Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, Violas, and Primrose.
- > Cool season vegetables.
- > Shrubs such as Camellias and Azaleas, and trees that provide wonderful fall color such as Coton-easter, Liquidambar, and Ginko.
- > Overseed Bermuda lawns with Annual Rye. It's a great time to plant Fescue from seed or sod.

Water

When dry Santa Ana winds arrive, make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns as needed, especially container plants.

Fertilize

- > For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass 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.
- > Do not feed Camellias until after they are finished flowering. •



Plant winter annuals like Primrose



Fertilize citrus trees

Fall Recipe: Pumpkin Fluff



INGREDIENTS

3 large eggs
1 (1 lb.) can pumpkin
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 can evaporated milk
2 tsps. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. ginger
1 box yellow cake mix
3/4 cup melted margarine
1 cup chopped pecans

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix together eggs, pumpkin, sugar, milk and spices on medium speed in mixing bowl. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Sprinkle the dry cake mix over the batter. Drizzle melted margarine over the top of the cake mix. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle nuts on top. Continue baking for 30 additional minutes. Serve with Cool Whip. •

Photos Of Fall

It feels like fall when we look at the beautiful gourd and pumpkin photos readers are sending. Thanks to Carol Kinney for the cute pumpkins and how about the first gourd of the season that a customer brought us. •



Pumpkins / Carol Kinney



21.5" Diameter Pumpkin / Bryan Evans



Decorative Gourd



First Gourd of the Season

Garden Classes

Classes at both stores are suspended until further notice.



**Walter Andersen
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INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

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