



**Walter Andersen
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

Garden Talk

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

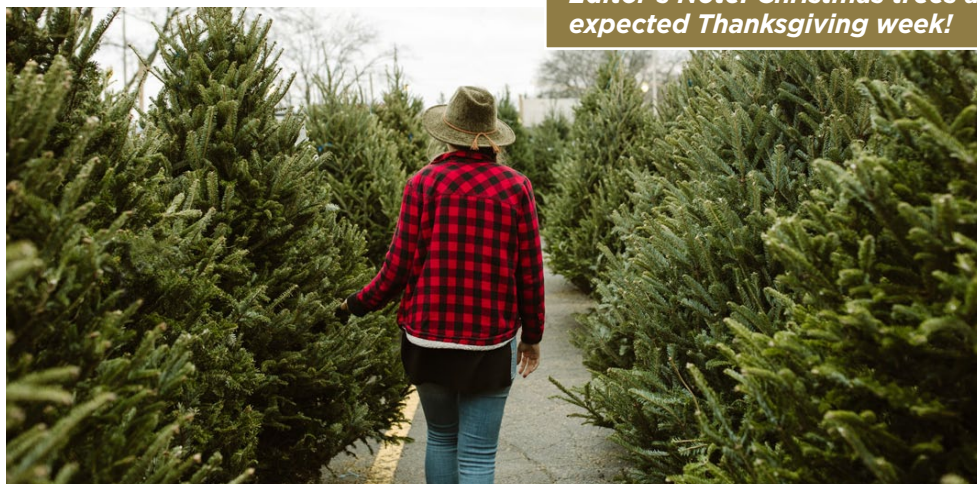
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Choosing A Holiday Tree To Last A Season

By David Ross

Editor's Note: Christmas trees are expected Thanksgiving week!



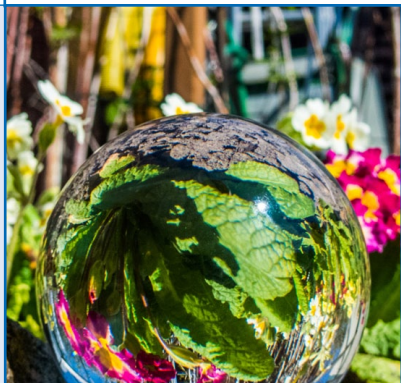
Success with cut Christmas trees is attainable if you know the secrets. The most important is the tree itself. At Walter Andersen Nursery, we discovered a few years ago that the best trees seem to come from Washington, and the best grower

we have found is a small grower in Mossyrock, who grows the finest trees anywhere. Mossyrock, even the name SOUNDS like the right location for Christmas trees to grow up!

Because they come from a small

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Gardens Of The Future



To celebrate its centennial, this year the National Garden Bureau surveyed gardeners to find out what they expected the future to bring to their gardens. Here is what the crystal ball reveals.

Make Room For Edibles

More than half the respondents, despite their age categories, said they will grow edibles. Gardeners are already growing

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Ornamental Grasses Are A Fabulous Fall Find

By Proven Winners

Have you ever thought about adding ornamental grasses to your landscape? If you are interested, there is a grass to fit almost every situation. There are grasses that are perfect for sun, shade, landscapes, and containers for every region of the country. From compact border edging plants, to tall back anchors, grasses come in every size and shape with diverse colors, forms and textures.

Finding interesting new plants for shade is always a challenge. Why not try **Northern Sea Oats** (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) or **Quartz**



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Gardens Of The Future

continued from p1

their own food and the pandemic has inspired more folks to follow that lead. Many cited the desire to have kitchen herbs on hand and others enjoy being able to grow unusual items that aren't readily available in markets.

Mixed-Use Gardens

Respondents shared that while wanting some lawn space, they also want the rest of the yard to be planted with a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits, herbs and vegetables. More than 60 percent of gardeners want to grow pollinator-friendly plants and flowers.

A Thing Of Beauty

As the population ages, more importance on adding beauty to a home moves to the front burner. When asked why they buy plants, respondents under the age of 35 said they plant with food value in mind more than for the aesthetic value. Those over the age of 35, plant for beauty, then for food. At garden centers, look for more 'ornamedibles' and learn how to plant lettuce or Swiss Chard mixed with annual or perennial ornamentals.

Ideas Come From??

Gardening inspiration surrounds us. Gardeners aged 35 and over look to magazines, books and garden retailers for ideas, while those aged 35 and younger browse Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube for information. Interestingly, both age groups talk to friends and family for ideas. •



Choosing A Holiday Tree

continued from p1



Noble Fir

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 longer.

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 as well.

Grand Fir

This tree has a pungent, distinct aroma, and looks like a Douglas fir on steroids. The needles are a little 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.

> When selecting a tree, look for trees that are dark green and appear



Douglas Fir

fresh. Ones with firm needles that snap when folded and 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 Fraser may make a good selection as they tend to be the 'thinner' 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. •

Short Day Or Long Day

By David Ross

But we live in San Diego and the sun is always shining!

While onions that bulb differ in size, color, and flavor, the most important factor in choosing the right onions for Southern California, is the hours of daylight required to produce bulbs. Because of this, we typically define onions as “Long-day”, “Short-day”, and “Intermediate-day” types.

Most onion varieties begin to form a bulb when the temperature and the number of daylight hours reach certain levels. Varieties listed as short-day onions bulb up when the day length is 11 to 12 hours. However, long-day onions begin to form a bulb when the day length is a minimum of 14 hours.

If you were to draw a line across the map of the United States from San Francisco to the tip of South Carolina: gardeners north of that line should plant long-day onions, while gardeners south of the line (hint: San Diego gardeners!!) should plant short day onions in winter for a spring/summer harvest, and intermediate works well for north and south.

Short-day onions are well suited for our southern latitude and are generally sweeter in taste. If you were to plant the “wrong” onion for San Diego you would still have an onion to eat, but generally the long-day varieties won’t bulb up here (but are still edible!).

We’ll have the following super sweet short-day onions starts in both our stores:

Texas Supersweet (jumbo yellow-skin globes)

White Bermuda (white mild, with thick, flat bulb)

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Ornamental Grasses continued from p1

Creek Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus* ‘Quartz Creek’) both of which are fairly tall with showy flowers. For plants with great foliage color but a little smaller in stature (12-18”) try

Dwarf White Striped Sweet Flag (*Acorus gramineus* ‘Variegatus’) or **Evergold Sedge** (*Carex hachijoensis* ‘Evergold’). If you need the perfect plant to edge your shade bed, look into using **‘Miniature National Arboretum’ Lilyturf** (*Liriope* sp.). It sports very dark green to purple foliage and bears blue berries.

Spots that remain constantly damp are a challenge, but there are several grasses that will thrive with wet feet. Northern Sea Oats is excellent in wet conditions as well as shade. **New Zealand Hair Sedge** (*Carex comans* ‘Frosted Curls’) which has beautiful pale-green, fine, curly leaves and **Fiber Optic Grass** (*Scirpus cernuus*) which has leaves tipped with small white flowers are both 8” tall. For a taller plant try **Heavy Metal Switch Grass** (*Panicum virgatum* ‘Heavy Metal’) or **Umbrella Plant** (*Cyperus papyrus* ‘Alternifolius’). Both will grow to more than 3’ tall.

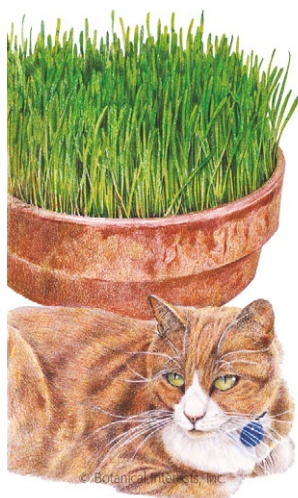
Several of the plants that are good for wet conditions will also thrive in garden ponds. Umbrella Plant, Heavy Metal Switch Grass, and Fiber Optic Grass are all good water garden plants. If you would like to grow a Papyrus, but you don’t have room

for a 6’ tall plant, try **Dwarf Papyrus** (*Cyperus papyrus* ‘Isocladus’) that is only 12-18”. Another fabulous grass is **Leather Leaf Sedge** (*Carex buchanii*), sporting cascading coppery leaves. For that shady pond, try **Quartz Creek Soft Rush** (*Juncus effusus*).

Other great selections include **Slender Veldt Grass** (*Pennisetum spathiolatum*) which is excellent in dry conditions. **Autumn Reed Grass** (*Calamagrostis brachytricha*) is extremely heat tolerant, is beautiful in winter and is great for dried flower arrangements. Heavy Metal Switch Grass and **Dwarf Ribbon Grass** (*Phalaris arundinacea* ‘Dwarf Garters’) are two more grasses with nice winter texture.

More grasses with excellent color include: **Acorus gramineus ‘Ogon’** with yellow foliage, **China Love Grass** (*Eragrostis* sp.), **Ruby Grass** (*Melinis nerviglumis* ‘Pink Crystals’), and two **Fountain Grasses** (*Pennisetum messiacum* ‘Red Bunny Tails’ and *Pennisetum setaceum* ‘Red Riding Hood’) with pink flowers. If you want blue foliage, try **Blue Fescue** (*Festuca ovina glauca* ‘Elijah Blue’) or **Blue Oat Grass** (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*).

Other ornamental grasses which are lovely specimens for containers, rock gardens, and bed edges are available. •



Why Cat Grass?

By Botanical Interests

- > Cat grass is a safe, pesticide-free option to provide the greens that cats crave.
- > Cat grasses provide important vitamins and minerals to keep your feline healthy and frisky.
- > It grows indoors with ease. All you need is a bright window (and indoor cats will be thrilled!)
- > It’s fast! Your feline friend will be enjoying the grass in as little as 10 days from sowing.
- > Plus, it’s perfect for your pooch, too! Cat grass options can be safely enjoyed by dogs. •



Old Ben's Specials

Valid November 1-30, 2020

— OLD BEN'S BRAND —

Now Available at WAN!



Small Animal Food

From Old Ben's Workshop, treat your small animal pets to the best! Rabbit and Guinea pig pellets, tropical blends for hamsters, rats and mice, bunnies and guinea pigs.

November Introductory Offer:
Save \$1.00 OFF Each

Reg. \$8.99 to \$9.99 per bag

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

Nyger Seed

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

Sale \$49.99 Reg. \$59.99

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

Old Ben: Birds And Berries

By Old Ben

Berries are an important food source for many birds during the winter, especially when the ground is frozen or the weather is extremely cold. It is hard for the birds to find worms, snails or insects during this time.

Some birds like thrushes, redwing blackbirds, and cedar waxwings rely on berries for most of their winter food. Ironically, some berries that are tasty to birds are poisonous to humans.

Some plants use berries as a clever way to entice birds and other animals to distribute their seeds. A plant that produces berries surrounds its seed in juicy, fleshy pith, rewarding the birds that eat them with vitamins and energy.

Some berry seeds, like juniper, will actually grow better after passing through a bird's gut, which removes natural chemicals that would otherwise prevent the seed from growing. Other berry seeds, like mistletoe, are sticky, and must cause birds some frustration when the sap sticks to their bills. The birds wipe their bills on other trees, unwittingly sowing more mistletoe plants.

Most berries are red or black which makes the berries easier for birds to find. Evergreens and plants that produce berries when their leaves are still green generally produce red berries, which show up well against a green background. Black berries are thought to show up better against leaves that have turned yellow or brown.

Birds feed in different ways. Thrushes and waxwings feed in flocks. Many other birds will feed by themselves, hoping to keep the berries all to themselves.

Thrushes and waxwings prefer berries with smaller seeds, as they are really interested in the flesh. Other birds, like grossbeaks, can make use of the seed itself and are attracted to berries with large seeds, like hawthorn and cherries.

The winter is a good time to consider planting fruit and berry bearing trees and shrubs in your garden. The following plants are especially good for a wide range of birds: Pyracantha, cotoneaster, berberis, hawthorn, honeysuckle, holly, raspberry, viburnum and many more. You can ask your Walter Andersen Nursery associate for more choices.

Berry Benefits For Birds

Calories: High calorie berries provide critical nutrients, especially when its cold outside and other food is hard to find.

Antioxidants: Research indicates many species of berries that birds enjoy contain antioxidants that help them handle the stress of migration.

Shelter: Many berry bushes provide essential nesting habitat throughout the year while protecting birds from bad weather and predators. •



Old Ben's Promise

Ingredients should come from nature, not a lab. Wild bird food should be made only with ingredients I am proud to share, should be simply prepared with as little processing as possible, and be made with a commitment to quality. Nature has nothing to hide; neither should your wild bird food.

— Ask Old Ben —

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

Keep Your Harvest Fresh

By Botanical Interests



It's harvest season, and our friends at Botanical Interests want to pass on some advice for making the most of your harvest, including some storage tips.

> Harvest in the morning whenever possible. This is especially important for crops that can wilt like herbs, beans, greens, or flowers. Plants drink and refresh overnight and in the early morning they are plump and cool, which will help them keep the longest.

> If you must wash the harvest, dry it thoroughly to keep mold at bay.

> Check your seed packet. Botanical Interests include harvesting instructions in their vegetable and herb seed packets, and also cutting-flower varieties! Look on the inside of your packet for the "Harvesting" heading.

> Storing your harvest. Botanical Interests seed packets have a section inside the vegetable and herb packets that tells you how to best store your fresh harvest. Some herbs include drying information. •



Food Projects For The Fall: Infused Vinegars

By Botanical Interests



We bet you have accomplished a long list of projects in 2020 and may be looking for something else to do. So many of you must have pickled vegetables, because there were times when the nursery couldn't stock enough dill. Have you tried making infused vinegars? Here are some recipes to get you started. We hope to find some as gifts under the Christmas tree on December 25.

It's very easy to make infused vinegars. You fill a sterile glass jar with herbs and spices of your choice, and then add warm, white vinegar. Seal with a cork or lid and label your bottle. After some time, the vinegar will absorb the aromas and flavors of your ingredients and create a delicious alternative to pre-bottled salad dressings. Making your own vinegar bottles will offer a substantial cost savings if you reuse old soda and wine bottles and use fresh herbs and spices from your garden.

Pictured above are three infused vinegars. There are many combinations that can be substituted to achieve unique blends of flavors and aromas. Tailor your choices to your cooking style and family's preferences.

Fennel & Orange Vinegar

Ingredients:

2 tablespoon orange zest
2-3 sprigs fresh fennel

Rosemary, Lemon and Garlic Vinegar

Ingredients:

2-3 sprigs fresh rosemary
2 tablespoons lemon zest
4 cloves garlic

Hot Pepper, Clove and Coriander Vinegar

Ingredients:

2-3 dried chilies
2-3 garlic cloves
1 teaspoon coriander seeds

Directions:

1. Choose your favorite glass containers. Be sure to sterilize and dry them thoroughly.
2. Place your ingredients in the jar. You may need something like a skewer or chopstick to help get them all the way in.
3. Warm vinegar until hot but not boiling. The amount you need will depend on your bottle size.
4. Pour vinegar into jars until full.
5. Label your jars and store in a cool, dry location that is not in direct sunlight for about two weeks before using. Try to periodically shake the bottle to help the flavors infuse.
6. Use within 3 months. •



Rosemary



Fennel



Coriander Seeds

Did You Know?

If you grow edible plants, you are in good company. According to a survey of its readers, Greenhouse Product News, found that more than 70 percent grew vegetables, fruits, herbs, or other edible varieties. The five top crop categories grown are:



Tomatoes

78%



Peppers

75%



Herbs

67%



Lettuce/Greens

57%



Squash

56%

Short Day

continued from p3

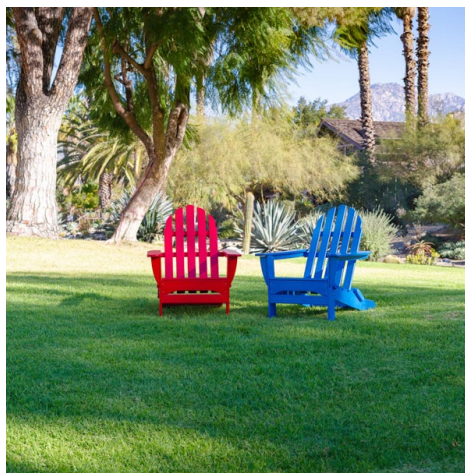
Yellow Granex (exceptionally sweet, mild onion)

Southern Belle Red (sweet globe-shaped, ruby red bulbs)

Sweet, short day onion starts are expected to arrive about November 12th. They are perishable and should be planted as soon as possible. They will be in bundles of about 30 plants.

Call either store to be added to our list for a call back when they arrive. •

To Do List: November



Fertilize lawns

Fertilize

> For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds.

> 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!

> Bermuda Lawn Care: De-thatch and over seed Bermuda lawns with annual Rye.

Plant

> Look for fall bulbs, California natives and drought-tolerant plants.

> Fall color selections include Violas, Pansies, Snapdragons, fragrant Stocks, Poppies, and more.

> Look for Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Camellias, Azaleas, and holiday plants.

> You'll find vegetables as well as potatoes, garlic and onions in mid-November. Looking for more edibles to plant? How about caneberries,

strawberries, kiwi, asparagus, and olives?

> Look for potted bare root trees to arrive—Pomegranates and Figs. We don't have an arrival date so call the store to check. It should be mid to late November.

Pest Control

> This month start dormant spraying with Liqui-Cop and Oil Spray. The wetter the winter, the more crucial dormant spraying becomes!

> Clean up all foliage from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses. •



Plant Snapdragons



Plant Kiwi



Plant garlic and onions

Dates To Remember



Nov 25

Poway store closes at 3pm

Nov 26 Thanksgiving

Both stores closed

Holiday Open Houses

Canceled due to Covid-19



Dec 24 Christmas Eve

Poway store closes at 2pm

Dec 25 Christmas

Both stores closed



Dec 31 New Year's Eve

Poway store closes at 2pm

Jan 1 New Year's Day

Both stores closed

November Special

Valid November 7-30, 2020



Giveaway Starting Nov. 7, 2020

**FREE 1 lb. Bag of
Dr. Earth Pansy Food**
with purchase of
\$30 or more

Reg. \$4.99 | Limit 1 per customer

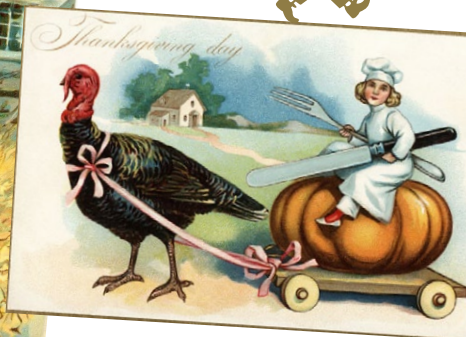
*While supplies last. Limited to stock on hand. No special orders.
Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.*



Garden Classes

Classes at both stores are suspended until further notice.

Vintage Thanksgiving Greetings!



**Walter Andersen
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO

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San Diego, California 92110

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Open 8am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

POWAY

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, California 92064

858-513-4900

Open 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

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