



**Walter Andersen  
Nursery™**

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*Garden Talk*

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

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

—• IN THIS ISSUE —•

Cool Plant Finds: Conifers	1
What Does Christmas Look Like?	1
Bareroot Season	1
All About Staghorn Ferns	3
How Gardens Give Back	3
Old Ben: Northern Cardinal	4
Old Ben Specials	4
Bee In The Know	5
To Do List: December	5
Dates To Remember	6
More Bee In The Know	6

## Bareroot Season Is Around The Corner



Why buy bareroot? You get the best selection. You get the best trees. You get the best prices. The downside is that there is a limited supply and that is because we have seen a major wholesale operation close its doors, and there is a higher demand what with the many new or returning gardeners. It seems that everyone wants to grow their own food or needs a hobby because of

[continued p2](#)

## Cool Plant Finds: Conifers

By Ken Andersen



*Araucaria heterophylla or Norfolk Island Pine*

On a recent visit to Driscoll's wharf in Point Loma, I spotted an enormous *Araucaria* on the adjacent Naval installation. That reminded me that this genus of conifers, while once popular in San Diego, has fallen by the wayside in landscapes today.

The most common one seen around San Diego is ***Araucaria heterophylla* or Norfolk Island Pine**, named for the island near Australia where it is indigenous. For many years, they were popular as houseplants and living Christmas trees. Their tall conical shape is easily recognizable and they can reach heights of 100 feet.

The other two that were common in San Diego were ***A. araucana* or Monkey Puzzle tree**, a native of Chile and ***A. bidwillii* or Bunya Bunya**,

[continued p2](#)

## What Does Christmas Look Like?

By Melanie Potter

You may recall a few months ago when students would have returned to school, it was also the time that some stores began displaying Christmas items. At the nursery, we got a later start and it wasn't until nearly Thanksgiving that it started to look Christmasy. Of course, that was during a hot spell with Santa Ana winds and a daytime high in the low 90s which was yet another indicator of what a topsy turvy year this has been.

We know Christmas is imminent when the holiday plants arrive. Here's what Christmas looks like at the nursery:



[continued p2](#)



## Bareroot Season

continued from p1

Covid19. Already available and at both our stores are figs, olives, grapes, caneberries, and pomegranates and they are 'bare root potted'. The true bareroot options that you buy unpotted are due to arrive between the last week of December and the first week of January. Our 2021 bareroot fruit tree list is online at: <https://www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2021-Fruit-Tree-List.pdf>.

If you missed purchasing the fall potato varieties, (they were a hit and sold quickly) more are expected the first or second week of January. •



## Conifers continued from p1



*A. araucana* or Monkey Puzzle Tree

native to Australia. Bidwillii was probably the most commonly planted Araucaria at one time, but it too has fallen out of favor. While beautiful and able to reach towering heights, there is a drawback to araucana and bidwillii.

When they reach maturity, they produce bowling ball size cones that can weigh from 10-15 pounds that have a tendency to fall from the tree. Therefore, mature trees are not a good choice where outdoor activities occur.



*A. bidwillii* or Bunya Bunya

When I left Driscoll's wharf, I took a detour through Liberty Station where there are some magnificent specimens of what appear to be a. bidwillii in the traffic circle just inside of the Lytton St. entrance. Also planted in the area are a number of mature Norfolk Island pines. Next time you are at Liberty Station, take a moment to marvel at the size and grandeur of these giants, just don't do it while standing underneath them! •

## Christmas continued from p1

The most recognizable Christmas plants are **poinsettias** and **conifers**. We have the poinsettia favorites such as the Princetta varieties, Jingle Bells, the reds, and the whites. Conifers include Norfolk Island Palm, Weeping Norway Spruce, Dwarf Alberta Spruce, Monterey Pine, Japanese Black Pine, Bird's Nest Spruce and Australian Black Pine.

Other holiday favorites include **holly**, **Christmas cactus**, **cyclamen**,

**camellias**, and **Amaryllis**. It's also not too late to force **Paperwhite bulbs**.

Sales of **houseplants** have spiked with the lockdown in place. If we had to predict the future, we think Santa will be delivering many to folks who have time to care for them and who want to add beauty to their surroundings. •





## All About Staghorn Ferns

By Ken Andersen



Platyceriums, commonly known as staghorn ferns, are a genus of about 18 species. They can be found in the tropical and subtropical regions of all the major continents. These epiphytic plants thrive in various conditions around the world. A large number of them can be grown in San Diego.

Staghorn ferns are pretty easy to grow, usually mounted on boards for ease of cultivation. Many varieties can be divided into smaller plants, a trait that makes handling the plants easier as the size can be controlled.

Staghorn ferns, like other fern species, do not flower but rather they can reproduce from spores formed on the underside of the fronds. These spores appear as large brown velvety patches with the spores about the consistency of coarse dust. Growing ferns from spores can be done, but it is a slow process, hence most propagation is done by division.

Some varieties like *Platycerium superbum* do not pup, therefore they cannot be divided and must be grown from spores and that makes them harder to find. *P. superbum* is a magnificent

*continued p5*

## How Gardens Give Back

By Justin Hancock, Monrovia Nursery



My garden helps me in a lot of ways. Being among my plants helps me feel less stressed and more relaxed. I also take heart in the fact my garden is good for me, and is good for the planet. Here are six ways beautiful landscapes make the world a better place.

### Gardens Provide for Pollinators

Pollinators and other wildlife find food and refuge in our landscapes. Trees and shrubs provide nesting sites for birds, squirrels, and other creatures. Flowers supply nectar for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. You may find your annuals and perennials attract beneficial insects. Ladybugs, for instance, attack other insect pests. Host plants, like milkweed, offer foliage for hungry caterpillars to feed on before they become butterflies and moths. Even a collection of container plantings on your deck, patio, or balcony can support wildlife in your area.

### Plants Cleanse the Air

Through their breathing process, plants naturally filter the air and produce oxygen. Our gardens are like a miniature version of an Amazon rain forest. Our trees and shrubs sequester carbon as they grow. This decreases your carbon footprint. The more plants you have in your landscape, the more you are contributing to the planet.

### Plants Clean the Soil and Water

Our plants' biological processes improve the environment beyond the

air. Many common garden plants have been scientifically shown to remove pollutants from the soil. Your plants (such as SunBelievable™ Brown Eyed Girl *Helianthus*) may be removing contaminants in the soil you did not even know were there.

Our landscapes also help with water quality. When it rains, a great deal of water can wash off your roof. In cities, if water from the roof goes onto a paved area, such as a driveway, it heads straight into the storm sewers. When runoff goes into a planted area, the moisture is filtered through plant roots and the soil, slowing water loss, and allowing plants to clean it.

### Plants Reduce Light and Noise Pollution

Well-placed plants in our landscape improve the environment by reducing light pollution. This is especially true in urban areas. Brightening the sky at night can affect the natural cycles of plants and animals, especially migratory birds.

Trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, and other plants filter sound, especially in urban environments. Evergreens with dense foliage are among the best landscape plants for reducing street noise and other sounds.

### Plants Can Reduce Home Energy Use

Smart landscaping may lower the use of your furnace or air conditioner. This further reduces your carbon footprint and helps you save money at the same time. In cold climates, an evergreen windbreak on your home's north or east side prevents winter heat loss. Some studies suggest the right windbreak can cut your furnace use by 30 percent or more.

In hot summer climates, plant a tree to shade your home in the afternoon. It will naturally keep your house cooler without as much air conditioning. ●

## Old Ben's Specials

Valid December 1-31, 2020

— OLD BEN'S BRAND —

### Our New Pet Bird Seed!



### Small Animal Food & Pet Bird Seed

Food for your special pet rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats and mice. We now have seed for your feathered inside birds, too! Choose from Cockatiel, Parakeet, Finch and Large Hookbill. Treat your small animal pets to the best with Old Ben's Brand.

### Save \$1.00 OFF Each

Reg. \$8.99 to \$9.99 per bag



### Our Small Animal Food Selection

## Old Ben: The Northern Cardinal

By Old Ben

Anyone who has lived in the Midwest or east coast has most likely seen a Northern Cardinal.

Every greeting card company in North America must use this bird's picture against a backdrop of snow during the Christmas season. And why not, it's one of those birds that even if you're not a bird watcher, you'll for sure notice it.

Northern Cardinals can be found across the Eastern U.S. from lower Canada, south to the Gulf Coast and west to Arizona and parts of southern California. The Cardinals range has expanded dramatically since 1886 when it was rarely seen north of the Ohio River. Cardinals are permanent residents throughout their range and do not migrate.



Female



Male

The male is bright red with a pointed crest on the top of his head. The female is mostly buff brown in color with some red on her head, wings and tail. Both have small black masks on their faces that surround the bill and eyes. Cardinals are about 8 to 9 inches long.

Look for Northern Cardinals in inhabited areas such as backyards, parks, woodpiles, and shrubby forest edges. Cardinals nest in dense tangles of shrubs and vines. The adult's food consists of insects, spiders, wild fruits, berries, grains, and weed seeds. Two types of seed they love are black oil sunflower and safflower. Cardinal's nesting season lasts from March to August. They usually raise 2 to 3 broods a year.

The Cardinal ranks number one with seven states naming it their official bird. The States are: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. Cardinals live up to 15 years. •

### Lowest Price Ever!

### Barn Owl Nest Box

Now is the time to put one up. Nesting usually takes place in January and February. A nesting pair can consume up to 2,000 rodents a year.

**Sale \$89.99** Reg. \$119.99

### 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

### Nyger Seed

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

**Sale \$49.99** Reg. \$59.99

### 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 him your bird photos, or share your birding experiences at

[askoldben@aol.com](mailto:askoldben@aol.com)

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



## Bee In The Know



Thank you to the students of Mt. Carmel High School for providing the fun bee facts in this month's newsletter.

> Crops such as blueberries and almonds depend on the honey bee for pollination. In fact, approximately 80% of the United States' commercial crops rely on honey bees to pollinate them.

> In addition to commercial crops, this bee contributes to other valuable beauty and cleaning products with their beeswax.

—Kirsten Newkirk, Grade 10,  
Mt. Carmel High School •

## Staghorn Ferns

continued from p3

species that given the right growing conditions can get quite large. Our San Diego store has a large selection and both stores offer remounting services where plants can be moved up to larger boards, or divided and mounted on smaller boards. Both stores also sell the boards and sphagnum moss needed to mount the ferns if you want to do it yourself. If you want more information, Walter or Rich in our San Diego store can help or David is available to help in Poway. •

## To Do List: December

### Plant

- > Bulbs: Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms. Last chance for fall bulbs.
- > Color: Don't miss Pansies, Violas, Stocks, and Calendulas.
- > Vegetables: plant onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, carrots, and more.
- > Plant conifers, junipers, evergreens, California natives and drought-tolerant plants.
- > Roses, roses, and roses are due the third week of the month.
- > Potted pomegranates, figs, grapes, and cane berries are here! Selection varies by store. Call for details or [check the website for the list](#).
- > Look for 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. •



*Christmas Cactus getting ready to bloom*



*Look for Cyclamen*



*Plant cabbage, carrots, broccoli and more*



*Pomegranates*



## Dates To Remember



### 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

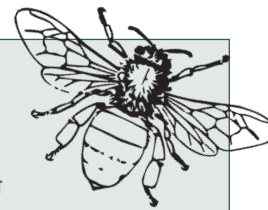
**Jan 1** New Year's Day  
Both stores closed



## Garden Classes

Classes at both stores  
are suspended until  
further notice.

## Bee In The Know



Here are some more fun bee facts  
from a student of Mt. Carmel  
High School.

> Honey bees live in hives and the  
members of the hive consist of three  
types of bees: the queen bee, the  
worker bees, and the drone bees.

> There is only one queen bee per  
hive and her job is to produce eggs  
and guide the behaviors of the  
other bees.

> The worker bees are all female  
and their job is to forage for food,

build and protect  
the hive, and clean  
the hive by beating  
their wings to let air circulate.

> The last type of bee in the hive  
are called drones and their job is  
to mate with the queen; however,  
once winter comes, the drones get  
kicked out of the hive.

—Iris Huang, Grade 10,  
Mt. Carmel High School •

## Vintage Holiday Greetings!



**Walter Andersen  
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*GardenTalk*

### SAN DIEGO

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

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

### POWAY

12755 Danielson Court  
Poway, California 92064  
**858-513-4900**

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

## Visit Our 2 Locations

## Visit Us Online



[walterandersen.com](http://walterandersen.com)



[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/walterandersennursery)



[instagram](https://www.instagram.com/walterandersennursery)



[youtube](https://www.youtube.com/walterandersennursery)



[shop](#)