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Nursery™**

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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

Garden Talk

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

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Early Summer Days Pay Off

By Melanie Potter



Basil

We are still potting up the bareroot roses and some of the ones we finished the week of Christmas are already leafing out! Did you notice that in the second week of January, we had basil, tomatoes and peppers available for sale?

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The Meaning Of Flowers Helps You Shop Smart On Valentine's Day

By Melanie Potter



Mini orchids and Polka Dot Plant make a winning combination.

This article should give you ample time to pull a Valentine's Day plan together. You still have time to order flowers from the florist but as for dinner at a romantic restaurant, who knows? If you want to think outside of the box and opt for something more original, you can still say it with roses or flowers.

Tulips

For your Valentine, if he or she isn't a fan of roses, a scarlet tulip represents "perfect love," according to a Turkish legend. Tulips can also help if you're in the doghouse. You can smooth things over with yellow tulips (cheerful thoughts) and encourage forgiveness with white tulips.

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Did You Know?

By Ken Andersen

On a recent hike through Sycamore Canyon Goodan Ranch Preserve in Poway, my wife noticed a small sphere growing on an oak tree. Since it was obviously not an acorn and looked more like a tiny apple, I identified it as an **oak gall** formed by the **oak gall wasp**, *Andricus californicus*. Oak gall wasps are small wasps that lay their eggs on the stems of the new growth on oaks via a hardened tube called an ovipositor. Once the eggs hatch and the larva emerge, the gall forms around them and they feed off the spongy tissue within the gall. After the larvae



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Early Summer Days

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Tomatoes

That is what happens when you have summer-like weather in the middle of winter. Customers were asking for these plants and growers were able to provide them. It is early to plant them given that we may still experience winter weather, so to help them be successful be sure to provide extra care when the temperatures dip or we get rain. Cover them on cold nights and protect them from being overwatered. If you have a greenhouse, move them in. •



Peppers

The Meaning Of Flowers continued from p1

Orchids

A safe choice for any Valentine. Potted orchids are more often given to men, while orchid bouquets are more frequently given to women. Orchids in particular, are delicate and graceful, representing love, luxury, beauty and strength.

Sunflowers

The yellow petals and open face of this big bright flower symbolizes the sun itself. An entire bouquet conveys warmth, happiness, adoration, and lasting love. These are a nice choice if your sweetie is an outdoorsy, or back-to-nature type.

Bamboo Plant

Another good choice for any recipient. Give a symbol of “being lucky” on the special occasion of Valentine’s Day.

Gardenias

Loaded with fragrance, these elegant flowers signify purity and joy, and connote deep, old-fashioned love. Buy a stronger, grafted variety such as Mystery, Veitchii, First Love, or August Beauty.

Gerber Daisies

Daisies typically look innocent, cheerful, and fun, but a red one is a sweet and unexpected choice to express love. Grab a multicolored array to say “I admire you,” “thank you,” “I love you,” and “you make me happy” all at once.

Lilies

Give lilies to let her know she’s a classy lady. Don’t offer white lilies by themselves because they might remind her of Easter, or death. Pink

lilies can look especially romantic. Lilies affectionately depict “refined beauty.”

Irises

Irises convey that you can’t say enough good things about her. Purple irises are often mixed with other flowers in Valentine’s Day bouquets. It symbolizes the best compliments. Grow them with roses or wildflowers and you’ll have your own cutting garden.

Roses

Red is the classic color and the most popular choice for Valentine’s Day. It could be because red roses symbolize love, romance, beauty, and perfection. If the florist is sold out of red roses, you may have to opt for another color or choose a red rose bush from the more than 25 varieties our stores stock. You can’t go wrong with ‘Love at First Sight’, ‘Dark Night’, or ‘Drop Dead Red’.

Rose Colors

Pink - Before making your decision willy nilly, make sure you know what the color of a rose symbolizes. Pink roses are the symbol of admiration and gratitude. Those colors may be better suited for mothers and grandmothers.

Lavender - A good choice on this lovely occasion as lavender roses symbolize “enchantment”.

Yellow - Symbolizes friendship, meaning your friend, of course. In a romantic context, these can mean, “let’s just be friends”. My advice before giving yellow roses is to make sure your significant other knows that you are just friends. •

Did You Know? continued from p1

pupate and the adults emerge, they burrow their way out of the gall to begin their life cycle, leaving behind their spherical home. For information on Sycamore Canyon Goodan Ranch

preserve follow this link <https://www.sdprks.org/content/sdprks/en/park-pages/GoodanSycamore.html>. •



Shears Didn't Make The Cut For Our Shelves

by Ken Andersen



At first glance these pruners look alike but there are some subtle differences. The pruners on the right are our preferred Felco brand. In a test, we found they made sharper cuts for a longer time and busy hands didn't feel fatigued.

The buyers at the nursery are constantly looking for new or better products. Sometimes we replace current ones that have become inferior or we find new products to add to the mix. In October, a new line of garden shears became available and we were excited to try them, despite being loyal Felco fans. While Felco products are not inexpensive, we tell our customers that if you don't lose them you will never have to replace them. That being said, these new shears were hoped to be replacements for some of the Felco shears we carry but at a lower price point.

We ordered samples to test when we prune roses during bare root season. The samples looked great, all the bells and whistles of Felco with replacement parts available too. Then the roses were delivered and we got to pruning. Unfortunately, they did not pass muster. Within a day's pruning

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Words From Walter: Bonsai Care In Southern California

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Bonsai is the practice of growing miniaturized trees or other plants in mature form in containers. This has been a practice in Japan and China for centuries. Bonsai are usually grown in ceramic containers which are glazed or natural terracotta. Often the containers are low and shallow; however they can be tall and thin with a plant cascading down the sides. With proper care, they can be kept this way for many years. In Japan and China, the very old plants are often inherited by children of the older generation as an heirloom. As they age, they seem to take on an even more mature characteristic that makes them look older and wiser!

Most Bonsai plants should be kept **outdoors** and they are generally plants that grow in the sun in their native habitat. Ficus and Schefflera can be successfully grown **indoors**, so take care to choose a variety that you can grow in the area you want.

Outdoors they tend to do best in an area that gets about 50% filtered sun, or perhaps a couple of hours of morning sun. Because most pots are small and shallow, you need to be careful that the soil does not

completely dry out. Ideally, the soil should be moist to the touch, never soggy. If it feels a little dry, it is time to water. Frequency of watering depends on the temperature and humidity at any given time. If it is very warm in summer months, you may need to water every day for awhile. At least check daily to see how much moisture is in the soil. Often the soil is above the edge of the container and water may just run off. You can put your plants in a container of water and let it soak for a few minutes. Another trick is to put ice cubes on the soil and let them melt into the soil.

To keep the plant healthy, you should **fertilize** it about once a month. Use a liquid plant food at half strength and mix it in the water if you use the soak method. Dry granules could also be used, but use a slow release type, something like Gro-Power granules or planting tablets.

Trimming and pinching your tree to keep the look you are after should be done every month or two for most Bonsai. Don't let too much new growth spoil the mature look.

You may need to **repot** eventually, which provides two benefits: fresh soil replenishes nutrients, and there's more room for the tree to grow. This may not be necessary for about two to three years.

Insects are usually not a problem. Check with the nursery to find the appropriate control if you see signs of insect activity.

Both stores carry started plants in Bonsai containers, and we have a good selection of containers and starter plants too. •



Shears

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they began to dull and loosen up, creating ragged cuts and were found to be annoying. We realize that most gardeners would not be pruning the number of roses and plants that we do during the season, but in comparison, the Felco's are the true winner. Many of us who use Felco shears can go the better part of a season of pruning without so much as an adjustment to them, not even a sharpening. While we had high hopes for this new line of shears, you will not find them on our shelves. •

Hummingbirds Are Nesting Now!

by Old Ben



Old Ben's Workshop and Walter Andersen Nursery offer a wide assortment of hummingbird products. Choose from many different feeders, food, nest building kits, brush cleaning sets, ant shields, and many more products to attract and keep hummingbirds coming to your yard! And don't forget about all the hummingbird plants available at WAN. See an associate for more information. •



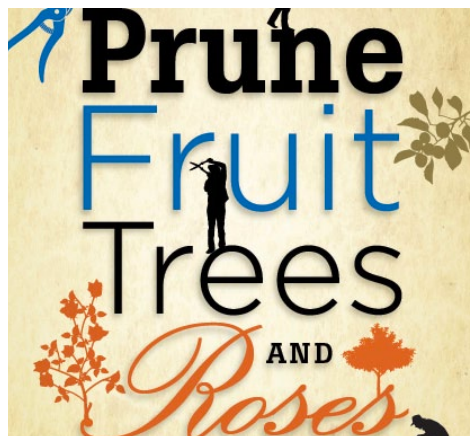
To Do List: February



Prune roses before new growth starts

Prune

Now Is The Time. Finish pruning roses and deciduous fruits and ornamentals before new growth starts. In late February, trim back tropicals like Hibiscus and Bougainvillea after danger of frost passes, to clean up any damage received during the winter.



For pruning help, you can purchase our book "How To Prune Fruit Trees & Roses". It's available online at <https://shopwalterandersen.com/products/how-to-prune-fruit-trees-and-roses-updated-edition> and in both of our stores.

Pest Control

Dormant Spray. Give last applications of dormant sprays such as Liqui-Cop or Oil Spray before buds start

to break on deciduous fruits and ornamentals.

Plant

Last of the bare-root Roses, Fruits, and Ornamentals should be planted. Citrus can also be planted now. Protect from frost if needed. Plant another crop of leaf lettuce, kale, broccoli, beets, carrots, radishes and cauliflower. Look for Camellias and Azaleas, cool-season vegetables, bulbs, potatoes, garlic, and Spring bulbs.

Irrigate & Fertilize

Check Sprinklers. Turn them off during rainy times. If you haven't already done so, sprinkle fertilizer (we like Gro-Power) around before the rain so it can get watered in. Don't forget to take a look at your drains and remove debris from around them. A clogged drain can cause flooding. •



Plant more leaf lettuce and kale



Turn off sprinklers during rainy times

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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.

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

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A blend of seed to feed two of California's favorite birds. Attracts and feeds many other ground feeding birds. **25lb. bag**

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

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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

Old Ben: Rufous Hummingbirds

By Old Ben

Rufous Hummingbirds are migratory hummingbirds which breed from the Pacific Northwest to Alaska. They winter in the Yucatan down in Mexico and in southern states like Florida. This means that they make a tremendous migration every year. Some Rufous Hummers have been found to fly as much 12,000 miles during a round trip migration. Compare that to a Canada Goose, which most of us think as a migratory bird, with some only migrating a few hundred to a couple thousand miles a year. So, who is really the migratory bird? Some people have the mistaken belief the hummingbirds migrate on the backs of geese, but I think they could teach geese a thing or two about long-distance migration.

The Rufous Hummingbird is widely acknowledged as the most aggressive of the North American hummingbirds. Despite being one of the smallest hummingbirds, this tiny copper colored bird will readily attack birds many times its size. Yet even with its territorial attitude, this hummingbird is a welcome and beautiful addition to any backyard.

Feeding Habits

Similar to all hummingbirds, the Rufous will eat nectar from flowers, sugar water in your feeder, and insects for protein. Feeding times are usually less than 60 seconds. They eat many times each day and eat about three times their body weight every day.

Behavior

Rufous Hummingbirds are a solitary species and are very defensive and aggressive near feeders, especially during migration. These feisty little birds will chase and pursue other hummingbirds, large insects, and songbirds and they will even exhibit threat displays at other creatures, including squirrels, pets and humans.



Reproduction

Rufous Hummingbirds will mate with several partners, with males tempting females with oval or J-shaped dives and a figure eight courtship display. The female builds the cup shaped nest of plant down and spider silk decorated with moss, lichen and bark, usually as high as 30 feet up in a tree. She will produce one or two broods of two or three plain white eggs each during the breeding season, and she incubates the eggs for 12 to 14 days. After hatching, the female cares for the nestlings for 19 to 21 days, until they are able to leave the nest. Males have no role in nest building, egg incubation or chick care. Rufous Hummingbirds have been recorded as hybridizing with Anna's, Calliope, and Allen's hummingbirds.

Attracting Rufous Hummingbirds

Rufous Hummingbirds are commonly found in backyards planted with red, tubular flowers and good nectar producing blooms. The birds easily feed from hummingbird feeders, though backyard birders should consider using multiple feeders to minimize the bird's aggression. Having perches available can also attract these hummers, as they will have a spot to rest and watch their territory. Minimizing insecticide use will ensure plentiful protein for feeding hummingbirds. •

What To Feed Staghorn Ferns

by Ken Andersen



People often ask “what should I feed my staghorn ferns?” While they do not require heavy feeding and many people lay banana peels behind the shields (a good source of potassium, which they like), they can benefit from a more balanced fertilizer. Walter has been using and recommending Gro-Power Planting Tablets for years. Their compact size, slow-release fertilizer, and ease of application make them ideal for feeding them. They also work well on container plants and you can put them in the ground when planting trees and shrubs. You can find them in both stores. •

Keeping Hellebores Happy

By Monrovia



Hellebores are hardy and easy to grow in zones 4 – 9. Here are tips for keeping Hellebores happy.

Soil: Hellebores grow best in moist, well-draining soil enriched with generous amounts of organic matter.

(Site them where it's damp, but not wet.)

Soil pH: They also prefer a pH close to neutral, even alkaline.

Light: Prefer full shade to partial shade. NOTE: Designers often plant Hellebores under deciduous trees for a wintery show, then foliage is shaded in summer.

Feeding: Feed in fall with balanced fertilizer.

Pruning: Foliage that emerges before flowers (or that's left over from last season) can look winter-tatty. You can prune this old foliage off as the Hellebore starts to flower, which will leave you with bare Hellebore stems (not a bad thing). Or, if you don't mind the winter imprint on the foliage, prune out the old foliage when new leaves start to come out, about two months after bloom starts. •



Garden Classes

Classes at both stores are suspended until further notice.



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