



**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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**Gifts For
Mother's Day**



Mother's Day is May 9th. Both stores have a selection of orchids, indoor plants, garden necessities, giftware, and gift cards, too. •

**1,000 Blooms From Unbelievable
SunBelievable™**

By Monrovia



If you're looking for the feel-good flower of the year, it's here!

SunBelievable™ Brown Eyed Girl Sunflower, exclusively from Monrovia, is the happiest way to

spread sunshine. The National Garden Bureau has named 2021 as the Year of the Sunflower, noting that it's a variety that everyone from first-timers to experienced gardeners can enjoy. SunBelievable offers 1,000 blooms. It's the perfect any-occasion gift plant to spread sunshine. Cheery yellow blooms on an easy-care plant makes SunBelievable a bright gift idea for:

- May Day (May 1)
- National Teacher's Day (May 4)
- National Nurse's Day (May 6)
- Mother's Day (May 9)
- Armed Forces Day (May 15)
- Housewarming gifts
- Get well gifts
- Reconnecting with friends and neighbors
- Any time you want to lift someone's spirits! •

How Does Your Community Grow?

By Melanie Potter

Does seeing a community garden make you smile? Sometimes you stumble upon them where you least expect. This one, spotted at Sun Harbor Marina is actually two garden boxes that are well attended and include some artistic features. Show us your community gardens. Just send photos in a jpeg file to roseshow@walterandersen.com. •



Do Natives Know We're Having A Drought?



Blooming Yucca

We didn't have a wet winter and may be heading for a drought, but some plants aren't deterred by that. What might you see while hiking? This beautiful blooming Yucca had a show-stopping moment. And, nature has impeccable timing as swaths of Ceanothus lit up the day with their lilac-colored flowers



Ceanothus

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Hedges Make Good Neighbors

By Monrovia



Italian Cypress

As lots grow smaller and life becomes noisier and more hectic, the need for privacy from neighbors or to provide a layer between your house and the street is more important than ever. Tall, thick, and dense evergreen shrubs can provide that sense of solitude while still bringing a leafy softness to the landscape.

Things To Consider:

- Pay attention to and believe in the tag description of mature size and plant your space accordingly.
- Be aware of municipal regulations for planting hedges along a street.
- When it comes to privacy hedges, spacing is key to get the dense hedge you want. Spacing guidelines vary by plant. Follow recommended planting or consult with your local garden center for the best local advice.



Monterey Bay Brush Cherry



Podocarpus macrophyllus

- While it is an additional cost, the smart move is to purchase two extra shrubs beyond what you need and plant them somewhere in the yard. That way, if one of your hedge plants doesn't make it, you have a replacement of the same age, height, and overall size.

Good Hedge Neighbors:

Monterey Bay Brush Cherry

Podocarpus

Laurel

Tecoma

Italian Cypress •



Did Natives Know?

continued from p2



Acacia is an Australian native

followed by the bright yellow **Acacia**. Some varieties of **yuccas** are native to the Americas, including California while Australian and African native plants are quite at home here. •



Don't Forget Mom!

Mother's Day

Is Sunday, May 9th

To Do List: May

Fertilize

For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue. 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.

Conserve Water

Mulch under and around plants and open areas with decorative bark to **reduce evaporation**. Water in the early morning or cooler evenings to reduce evaporation. Consider replacing sprinklers with **drip irrigation**. We sell easy-to-use conversion products.

Pest Control

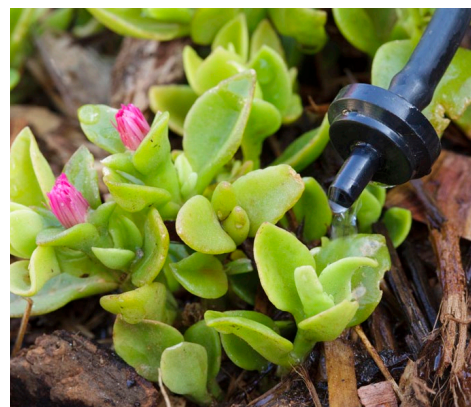
Watch for insects beginning to invade the garden. Pay close attention for **Aphids**, **Whitefly** and **Scale**. Use systemic controls from Bonide for longest control. Watch for **slug and snail damage** and apply Sluggo or Sluggo Plus as needed. Watch for and treat plants attacked by **Citrus Leaf Miner** with Captain Jack's or Pheromone attractant.

Plant

- > Bedding plants for color such as Marigolds, Zinnias, and Petunias.
- > Trees and shrubs.
- > Fruit trees, tropicals, and roses (as available).
- > Look for Ceanothus. •



Fertilize citrus and fruit trees



Save water with drip irrigation



Use Captain Jack's or pheromone traps for Citrus Leaf Miner



Plant classic Marigolds, Petunias & more

A Letter From Old Ben

— OLD BEN'S BRAND —

First of all, I want to thank Walter Andersen Nursery for their support of Old Ben's Workshop. Old Ben's started with Walter Andersen's more than 13 years ago with two products; a single and double jelly feeder.

The nursery has allowed our company to expand over the years and is the largest retail seller of Old Ben's products.

I want to thank all the customers who support Old Ben's Workshop. We have worked hard over the last 13 years to produce wild bird seed and blends that, in my opinion, are the BEST available. No doubt, you have seen the results.

The current climate has seen a large increase in materials and transportation costs. Starting in May, you will see a price increase in some seed and seed blends. We have prioritized holding down the current selling prices for many years.

I am sure you have noticed that we have been out of stock on several items. Our manufacturer has been dealing with overzealous shipping and trucking companies. They are trying to charge outrageous amounts to bring the materials to southern California. So, we have to find truckers who charge a normal rate. This is the cause of out-of-stock items.

I hope you understand. I will not compromise the integrity of our products by using inferior seed.

Sincerely,
Old Ben



Old Ben: Bird Watching At The Salton Sea

By Old Ben

One of the best areas for bird watching in Southern California is the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge was established in 1930 by Presidential Proclamation. Originally, the refuge consisted of 35,000 acres. Because of flooding by the Salton Sea, only about 2,200 manageable acres remain.

The Salton Sea is located in the Sonoran Desert of Imperial and Riverside counties just north of El Centro, California. The habitat contains 35,484 acres of salt marsh and open water, and 2000 acres of pastures and freshwater marsh. The sea is 35 miles long and is one of the lowest places in the United States, about 228 feet below sea level.

The Salton Sea has one of the most diverse bird populations of any national wildlife refuge in the west. More than 375 bird species have been recorded in the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley regions. Heavy migrations of waterfowl, marsh and shorebirds appear during the spring and fall. During the winter and spring, a variety of smaller birds and raptors occupy the refuge. The best months for bird watching at the Salton Sea are November to May.

The primary purpose of the refuge is to provide habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl and endangered species. The refuge is also important in providing feeding, resting and nesting habitat for a large number of shorebirds, and in supporting a diversity of wildlife species throughout the year.

Other animals introduced into the Salton Sea, accidentally or intentionally, include barnacles, pile worms and copepods. Copepods are a group of small crustaceans found in the sea and nearly every freshwater habitat. These animals play an important role in providing food for the fishery.



Thousands of waterfowl and other birds spend the winter here. Canada Geese, Snow Geese, American Avocets, Black- Necked Stilts, Pintails, Green-Winged Teal, Eared Grebes and a wide variety of other species are commonly seen during the winter.

Before the Salton Sea was formed, waterfowl were only found along marshes and delta of the Colorado River (mostly in Mexico). During the 1920s, as more water was diverted from the Colorado River for agriculture, marshes were inadvertently created.

As farming intensified in the 1940s and the Salton Sea expanded, marshland once again shrunk and waterfowl turned to farmers crops for food. Today, crops are grown on the refuge to feed wintering waterfowl and to keep the birds from eating agricultural crops.

Some Interesting Bird Facts

- There are about 8,850 different species of birds in the world.
- Birds walk on their toes with their heels in the air.
- Using energy at the rate of a Hummingbird, a human would have to eat 340 pounds of potatoes every day.
- As many as 2-5 billion birds fly south from the temperate zone each winter. •

— Ask Old Ben —

Send questions to askoldben@aol.com

Leaf Scorch Victims Increase

By Ken Andersen

I have to stop going out and about because I seem to spot floundering plants stricken with maladies. The olive trees I saw on Shelter Island tell a sad tale. Bacterial infections in plants can cause a number of problems and if left untreated can result in the death of the tree or shrub. Fire Blight is one of the most common bacterial infections and manifests itself regularly on Evergreen Pear trees. It is transmitted through the flowers to the tree and shows up as branch die back starting at the tips.

Several years ago, leaf scorch started affecting oleanders in San Diego. This too was driven by a bacterial infection of *Xyella* sp. Once infected, the plants exhibit dying branches that look like they have been burned or scorched. Selective pruning can prolong the viability of the plant but once infected there is no cure and the plant will eventually die.

A few years ago, a leaf scorch started to appear on olive trees with the same outward symptoms. As researchers started investigating, they originally assumed it was a *Xyella* infection as the trees presented all of the classic symptoms, however, they determined that it was a complex fungal problem. While these fungi typically are not strong enough to cause problems in healthy, well grown trees, if trees are stressed, they can get a foot hold and cause a fatal infection. Olives that are grown with proper cultivation and less stress fare much better. Proper irrigation and an unobstructed root zone can be key to this. Mature trees require very little water and care should be taken to plant companion plants that have similar care requirements. •



This olive tree on Shelter Island has become a victim.



Garden Classes

Classes at both stores are suspended until further notice.

• MAKE A NOTE •



Both stores will be OPEN for Memorial Day!



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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

GardenTalk

SAN DIEGO

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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

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