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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

—• IN THIS ISSUE —•

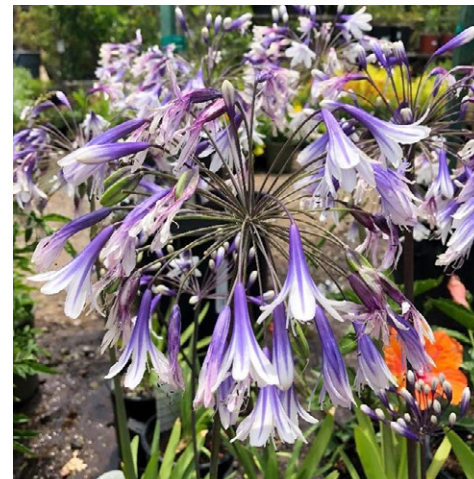
Heat Loving Plants In Summer	1
I Need To Be More Waterwise	1
Tool Shed: It's Back!	1
Make Your Front Door Pop	3
A Letter To Petunias	4
Old Ben: Keeping Birds Cool	5
To Do List: August	6
Recipe: Cauliflower Salad	6
August Garden Classes	7

## Heat Loving Plants Work Hard In Hot Summers

By Monrovia & Walter Andersen Nursery Staff



*Bougainvillea 'Flame'*



*Agapanthus 'Ever Twilight'*

If you ask us how to keep your garden growing in the heat of summer, we will tell you to mulch (that keeps the water in). We will remind you to check your sprinklers to ensure they are working properly and watering the plants that need to grow rather than hardscape. We will most certainly tell you that it is

unlikely you are providing sufficient water to plants trying to survive on drip irrigation. Finally, we will suggest you grow plants that thrive in our climate. We will steer you to some California natives and also show you plants that are adapted to San Diego's climate or from similar

[continued p2](#)

## I Need To Be More Waterwise

By Monrovia



It was a dry winter so water conservation is currently an issue where we live. Selecting plants that require fewer resources is a smart idea for your wallet and the planet. For those regions where waterwise is a way of life, filling the garden

[continued p2](#)

## Tool Shed: It's Back!

By Ken Andersen

Once again, we have Clay Pot Sealer in stock in both stores! It has been several years since we had a clay pot sealer as our original supplier went out of business. As a spray, this new product is easier to apply rather than being brushed on like the old one. This can be used to seal terracotta pots to reduce or eliminate water seepage through the clay. It is intended for unglazed clay pots. Remember, it will stop seepage through the clay but not out the drain hole! •





## More Waterwise

continued from p1



with plants that are showy at different times of the year keeps it interesting.

### Things to Consider:

> One of the keys to waterwise gardening is to add organic material to the soil to increase its capacity to hold moisture and make it available to plants. Rather than using chemical fertilizers with high nitrogen that serve to increase leafy foliage, adding compost will help to ensure that your plants can thrive.

> Concentrating plants with similar watering needs makes your life easier and ensures that plants get what they need.

> When thinking about a waterwise garden, choose plants that are native or adapted to your region. Both Walter Andersen Nursery locations have loads of suggestions for you. •



## Heat Loving Plants continued from p1



*Plumbago 'Royal Cape' by Monrovia*

regions around the world. Those would be plants from areas with dry summers, such as Central Chile, South Africa, the Mediterranean, and regions of Australia that do well in California. ***That list includes:***

### Bougainvillea

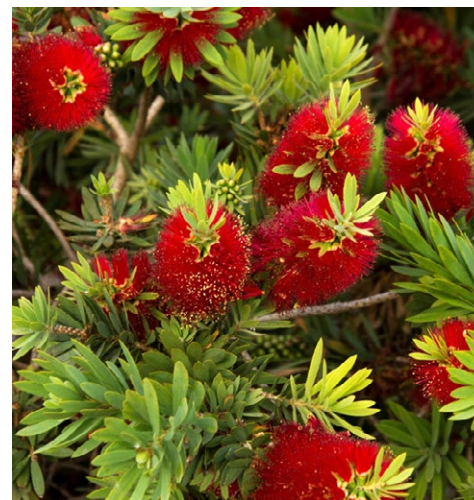
Ken Andersen is loving the brilliantly orange-colored 'Flame'.

### Agapanthus

Short, tall, dwarf, white or various shades of blue! 'Ever Twilight', a new introduction from the Sunset Western Garden Collection, was Winner of the Chelsea Flower Show in 2019 and is eye-catching. It has large bicolor white and violet blooms on 24"-30" stalks.

### Blue Chalksticks

This low-growing, branching succulent creates a carpet of upright, powdery blue-green leaves. Rooting as it grows, Blue Chalksticks is perfect for preventing erosion on sunny, dry hillsides. It's also a great choice for covering any bare spots in a landscape filled with other succulents, grasses, and waterwise perennials. Tuck it in a border, a container, or rock garden and enjoy. It takes very little care, and tolerates poor soil and coastal conditions.



*Bottlebrush 'Little John'*

### Marina Strawberry Tree

Consider the **Arbutus marina**. This tree has it all: attractive bark, rosy pink flowers, strawberry-like edible fruit, it's a habitat for birds, with a low canopy of deep green leaves. It's tough, too, tolerating poor or acidic soil and needing very little water.

### Plumbago

This shrub is an overlooked workhorse in the landscape. It is a fast-growing evergreen that blooms with blue or white flowers. Perhaps one of the best plants to sprawl on banks and slopes in need of coverage and evergreen foliage. With slight trimming, this makes an elegant foundation plant that hides any unsightly utilities. It provides superior filler for tropical gardens and around pool areas, where the green foliage looks bright and lush.

### Little John Dwarf Bottlebrush (Callistemon 'Little John')

Count on the blood red, bottlebrush-like-flowers to cover this small, mounding shrub from spring into summer. In the warmest regions, it will bloom intermittently all year, which is great news for hummingbirds, which find the flowers irresistible. With blue-green leaves and dense branching, Little John is handsome and versatile in the garden.

continued p3



## Make Your Front Door Pop

By Monrovia

One of the best garden designer tricks for creating a stop-and-look moment in the landscape is to install specimen plants in pairs. Maybe you need some street cred that could come by flanking the front door or you have a fabulous view that would be made Instagram-worthy by “framing” it with plants. Gates, entrances, focal points, or paths...symmetrical plantings always work.

### Things to Consider:

- > Once again, the caution here is to be very aware of the height, depth, and width of your available planting space. No one wants to fight their way through overgrown shrubs to the front door!
- > When selecting plants for a symmetrical design, try to purchase what you need from the same type of plants. You want your plants to match as best as possible.
- > If this type of strict symmetry doesn't work in your informal garden, the trick here is to add a second plant of a different height to one side so you have an asymmetrical look that is still pleasing. •

## Heat Loving Plants continued from p2



*Tecoma*

### Tecoma

A showy plant that offers compact varieties, medium-sized shrubs or tall trees and hedges. Beautiful bell-shaped flowers can be bright yellow, orange, red or peach colored. Tecoma needs regular water and you'll be rewarded with a plant that looks stunning in a tropical setting or waterwise garden.

### Santa Barbara Mexican Sage (Salvia leucantha)

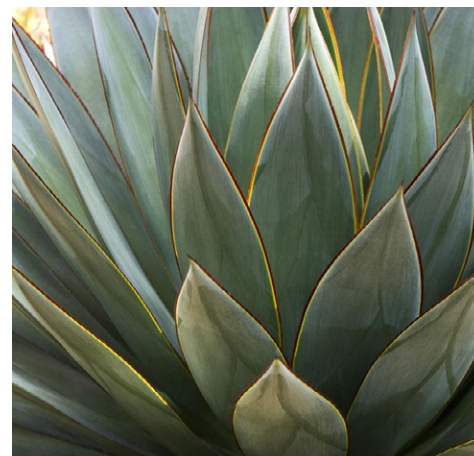
Woo hoo, what can't you use this plant for? This compact selection of the beloved Mexican bush sage is a no-brainer in a warm-climate water-wise garden. Rich purple flower spires top soft, gray-green foliage. Tough as nails, it's suitable for the driest climates in the west and fits in to almost any landscape, from formal to casual.

### Agave

How to select just one?? There are so many and here's a favorite, Blue



*Mexican Sage 'Santa Barbara' by Monrovia*



*Agave 'Blue Glow' by Monrovia*

Glow' with its smooth, blue-green leaves with yellow-edged, red margins that form a single, symmetrical rosette. Keeping it company on any given day out in stock could be: Weber, Durango Delight, Century Plant, Queen Victoria Century Plant, Augustifolia marginata, Agave geminiflora, Agave quadricolor, White Hair or Ivory Curls. •



*Symmetry and repetition make the front door pop by Monrovia*



*Color and containers by Monrovia*



## A Letter To Petunias

By Melanie Potter

Dear Petunias,

I wasn't a fan. My mom planted you when I was a kid and I confess, I thought of you as an 'old lady' flower. I appreciated the wide range of colors you offered, but you tended to look withered and well, ratty. Snails love you and that doesn't help appearances. You are a workhorse, versatile and look pretty good in containers and hanging baskets, but I find that you just don't hold up well.

Something happened to you though. In fact, lots of good things happened and you have redeemed yourself. Last year I oohd and aahd over 'Night Sky' with your deeply colored, velvety petals generously sprinkled with white stars. Nice job. Prior to that, I have steered customers to Calibrachoa or Million Bells because the compact habit and smaller blooms didn't droop and the colors were amazing.

You also started doing what a lot of flowers can't do. You dressed yourself in stripes. Your stripes were selected to pack a visual punch and featured two prominent colors with an equally prominent star-shaped center. You didn't stop there and bred the trailing Thumbelina, with its double blooms and some with fragrance.

Kudos to you for not just upping your visual appearance, but to doing the hard work to get fit. Newer varieties are bred for vigor and Surfinia was the first to be bred to cascade with hundreds of long-lasting flowers in a wide range of colors. Thanks to its breeder, Suntory (yep, the whiskey people), it's another variety that performs well and provides big impact.

Congratulations for being around since 1835, for adapting and remaining one of the most popular patio and bedding plants. You're coming home with me today.

Melanie



'Night Sky'



Calibrachoa  
by Proven Winners



'Lovie Dovie' Supertunia!  
by Proven Winners

Stop by Walter Andersen Nursery and  
check out our fine selection of Petunias!





## Up In The Air



Spinach



Cherry Tomatoes



Lettuce

When Old Ben isn't doing bird things, he is gardening and is eager to share his success with planting vegetables in hanging baskets. Snails can't make a meal of his spinach and lettuce when the containers are up in the air and now there is more room in his raised beds to plant bird-friendly plants. •

## Old Ben: Keeping Wild Birds Cool In Summer

By Old Ben



During the hot summer months, don't worry about the birds keeping cool. They have ways of dealing with heat.

Birds have a rapid respiration rate that allows greater heat dissipation through regular breathing. Bare skin patches on the face, feet and legs allow greater heat loss than if every area were covered with feathers. Just like dogs, wild birds will open their bills and pant to help dissipate heat. Birds will change their activities to suit the climate. Birds are less active during the hottest hours.

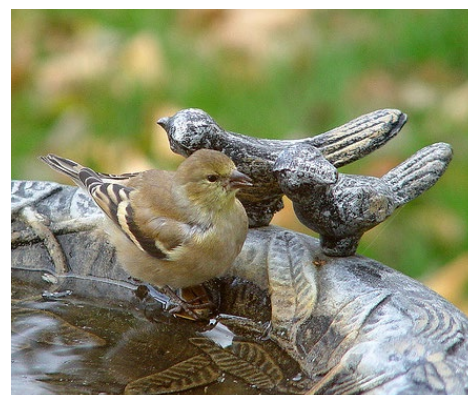
### How You Can Help Wild Birds Keep Their COOL

- > Provide a birdbath with clean, fresh water for the birds to drink from and bathe in. The birdbath should be no deeper than 1 to 2 inches. If deeper, add some rocks for the birds to land on. Add ice on very hot days.
- > Add a solar pump to the birdbath which will create noise and movement
- > Plant native shrubs and trees to create shade at different levels.

> Provide birds a nutritional food source. Old Ben's Seed and Seed Blends have been supplying this for more than 13 years.

### COOL (Or Not So Cool) FACT

> Birds have a higher body temperature than many other animals. Taking all species into account, their average body temperature is 105F. •



### — 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)



## Recipe: Cauliflower Salad with Green Beans & Cheese

By Melanie Potter



Here's a great potluck or holiday salad to serve at barbecues. The dressing can be dressed up with shallots or fresh garlic.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 small cauliflower, cooked and separated into florets*
- 1/2 lb. green beans, steamed*
- 5 oz. Beaufort or Gruyere cheese, cut into matchsticks*
- 2 hard boiled eggs*
- 1 tbsp. parsley, chopped*

### Dressing:

- 6 tbsp. peanut oil*
- 2 tbsp. white wine or tarragon vinegar. (If using white wine vinegar, can add fresh or dried tarragon)*
- 2 tsp. chopped chives*
- Salt & pepper to taste*

### INSTRUCTIONS

Combine all the dressing ingredients and blend well. Divide the dressing in half. Toss the cauliflower with half of the dressing. Combine the cooled green beans and cheese and toss with the remaining dressing. Finely chop the eggs and parsley. Mound the cauliflower in the center of a serving platter and top with the egg & parsley mixture. Arrange the green beans and cheese mixture around the cauliflower. Serve chilled. •

## To Do List: August



Add drought-tolerant plants like succulents and cactus to the garden

### 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.

### Water

> If you will be unavailable, arrange for a neighbor or your gardener to watch your yard to make sure everything gets appropriate water. Adjust sprinklers to make sure they operate properly. Think about switching your existing sprinklers to more efficient types.

> If you are considering removing your lawn and plants, we suggest starting with an irrigation tune-up first. Have someone look at your system. It might be worth investing in your irrigation system rather than incurring the expense of removing existing plantings and replacing them.

> Mulch, mulch, mulch. Topping the soil with a layer of much helps keep the moisture in. Mulch breaks down and enriches the soil, and it makes your plantings look manicured and finished.

### Plant

- > Plant tropicals, ornamentals, trees, and shrubs.
- > Plant late crops of warm-season vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, and beans.
- > Later this month, plant Sweet Peas for early crop of flowers.
- > Add some drought-tolerant plants such as Cactus, Succulents, Lantana, Grevilleas, and Leucadendron.
- > Look for bedding plants, Bougainvillea, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Agapanthus, Citrus, Plumeria, and Avocados. •



Mulch helps keep the moisture in



Plant tomatoes for a late summer harvest

## Food For Thought

by Melanie Potter



Passion Fruit

Strawberry



Asian Pear

Peach

How does your harvest look? We aren't even trying to grow food but some plants are laden with fruit and vegetables. The Purple Possum (*Passiflora edulis*) is nearly ripe. Ready for the picking are Chandler strawberries, 20th Century Asian Pear and Red Baron peach. Isn't it fun to buy plants that are already producing? •

## Garden Classes: August

Saturday classes are **FREE** and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee is served. During inclement weather, classes are held indoors in San Diego and on the covered, heated patio in Poway. Topics are subject to change. See the full schedule at <https://www.walterandersen.com/classes-events/>.

### Garden Classes Are Back!

#### SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

8/7

How Orchids Rebloom  
with Chuck McClung

8/14

Pollinators

8/21

Plant Propagation

8/28

Water Saving Techniques  
with James

#### POWAY | 9:30AM

8/7

Summer Veggie Care  
with Richard Wright

8/14

Staghorn Remounting & Care  
with David Ross

8/21

Cacti and Succulents for the  
Collector with Dean Karras

8/28

Fruit & Vegetable Lore  
with George

*Cacti & Succulents Poway Class Note: Building a cactus, succulent and caudiciform collection: How to choose, care for and display them for your continued enjoyment. This class will be hosted by Dean Karras, owner of Gnosis Nursery in Ramona, and will showcase and sell hard to find specimens.*



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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*GardenTalk*

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**619-224-8271**

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

#### POWAY

12755 Danielson Court  
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