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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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Ten Vegetables To Plant Now

By Botanical Interests



Red Sails Leaf Lettuce

Summer-like weather is still here but now you can start thinking about the tasty fall crops you'll want to plant. It's time to plant cool season vegetables. Planting at this time means they will be less bothered by pests and bolting. You may notice that these crops seem to take longer to reach maturity and that is due to shorter daylight hours and temperatures cooling.

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First Case of Citrus Greening Disease Found in North County

By George Allmon



Our August 7 radio show had a number of callers who were very concerned about the dreaded Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease. Currently, there is no treatment for this fatal disease. This increased interest in the disease and its ramifications are due to HLB being found in a citrus tree in North County. While we expected this to occur at some point, we hoped that a cure would

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Squatch Sighting!

By Gigi Thatcher

Have you seen him? The bipedal ape-like creature known as Sasquatch or Bigfoot, has been spotted in our San Diego store! Unlike his shyer forest dwelling relatives, this Sasquatch has no desire to hide and loves having his picture taken.

When we ordered the large (nearly 6 feet) "Squatch", it was only because smaller versions of him had been flying out the store to reside in San Diego gardens. We were surprised to learn that Squatch had such a following! Since adopting our larger Squatch, we notice customers, young and old, snapping photos with him. Some brave dogs even get in on the fun. Next time you are in the San Diego store, if you take a picture with Squatch and post it, make sure you tag us. **Facebook:** Walter Andersen Nursery or **Instagram:** @walterandersens. •



Citrus Greening Disease

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be found before HLB became widespread here.

The disease is spread by the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) which was first found in San Diego County in 2008. However, this is the first time they have found Huanglongbing disease. There are existing Huanglongbing quarantine areas in parts of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, where more than 2,400 trees have tested positive for the disease and been removed. Symptoms may take months to a year to show up.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) website describes an early symptom of disease cycle as a blotchy, yellow, asymmetrical mottling of the leaves. This leaf symptom is different from nutritional disorders which are more often vein-delimited and tend to be more symmetrical. After this mottling of leaves, you may see yellow shoots on single random branches (nutritional disorders generally show more uniform symptom distribution in trees). Progressive yellowing of greater portions of the tree's canopy follows. HLB bacteria do not cause foliar wilting such as that observed in trees infected by other citrus pathogens. More advanced symptoms include twig dieback, stunting, and decline in the tree's health to the point where the tree bears only a few, small, lop-sided fruits that are poorly colored and bitter tasting. Tree mortality usually occurs several

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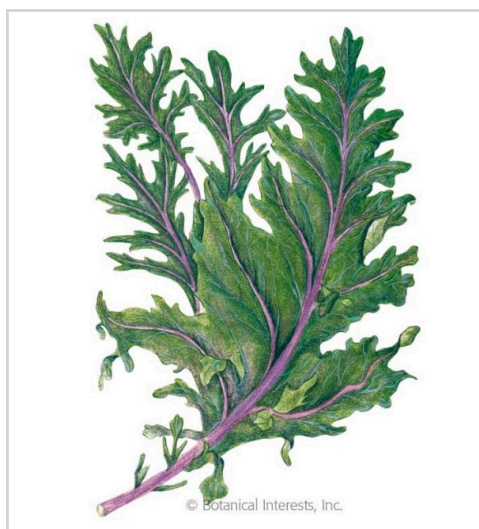
Ten Vegetables continued from p1



Early Wonder Beets



Wando Shelling Peas



Red Russian Kale

Here are 10 favorites to plant now!

- (1) Arugula sown in late summer/fall provides a mellower flavor.
- (2) Beets are silky, earthy, and delicious. Eat them roasted, pickled, or raw.
- (3) Broccoli Raab grows fast, and what a delicacy! You can cut it 2-3 times and keep enjoying the delicate, slightly spicy flavor for weeks.
- (4) Collards are heat tolerant and survive to 20°F.

(5) Kale just keeps on going past first frost, getting sweeter, and adding depth to soups, and diversity to fall salads.

(6) Kohlrabi has the crunch of an apple and is mildly sweet with a touch of a mild radish flavor. Sprinkle it with salt and eat raw.

(7) Lettuce is a staple all summer long. Try Little Gem which forms a perfect, small romaine head. It is heat and frost tolerant.

(8) Peas are for fall, too!

(9) Radishes are always welcome and late summer is the time to sow winter radishes because they only form during shortening days. Try daikon (If you've never tried daikon, you are missing out!). It is easy, great for the soil, and delicious.

(10) Spinach is also sweetened with cooling temperatures. Sow every couple of weeks for plenty of fresh spinach on hand; any extra just blanch and freeze. •



Citrus Greening Disease

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months to years after infection.

The HLB pathogen is moved from tree to tree by ACP feeding on an infected tree then moving to and feeding on a non-infected tree. After gaining entrance to the tree's vascular system, the pathogen takes up residence in the phloem tissue. As the bacterium multiplies and moves within the tree's vascular system, it chokes off the supply of nutrients moving throughout the plant, weakening the plant and eventually killing it. While insect vectoring of the HLB pathogen is the primary means of the disease being spread, the movement of infected host plant material, either in the form of nursery stock or of plant tissue for grafts and buds, can also contribute significantly to the rapid and potentially long-distance spread of the disease.

Although the situation seems and is dire, research being conducted at UCR has identified a peptide found in the HLB tolerant Australian Finger Lime that can kill the HLB-causing bacteria and stimulate the plants own immune system to inhibit infection. Follow this link to learn more: [Researchers find peptide that treats, prevents killer citrus disease | News \(ucr.edu\)](#).

The County of San Diego Newsletter has announced that "The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the United States Department of Agriculture and San Diego County's Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures

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Got Corn?

By Ken Andersen



Did anyone grow corn this season? If so, how did it do?

It may be a bit untimely to think about corn and the summer time treat it is, but you may be interested in my experience.

The trick to **growing corn** with cobs full of kernels is to get **good pollination**. The silks that emerge from the ears as the plants are growing are what collect the pollen and cause the individual kernels to form. If there is not good, thorough pollination of the silks, you will have ears that have scattered or few kernels. The pollen is formed in the tassels at the top of the plants and drifts down and around the plants landing on the silks. To insure the best possible pollination, plant corn in blocks instead of long, individual rows. This allows the pollen from the plants to fall and intermingle with the ears of the other plants close by. As the ears mature, you will feel the kernels starting to form on the cob. When the kernels approach the top of the ear and before the ear starts to dry out is the best time to harvest.

Corn is **susceptible to pests**. It is not uncommon to find some aphids in the husks when you are peeling

them, but that doesn't affect the quality of the corn. To prevent ear worms, you can use Spinosad. I battled rats and found the best way to try to get the upper hand was to place traps amongst the stalks. The rats will strip cobs and pull the stalks down.

If you have the space, growing corn is not only tasty, but fun. **Feed the plants** well. Because corn is basically a large grass, it responds well to higher nitrogen fertilizers and requires a fair amount of water. You can grow corn from seeds or starts, but seeds are by far the most economical way and there are more varieties available.



For a fun trick, try growing your own **popcorn**! Did you know that you can grow popcorn? There is a 'popcorn' variety of corn. Once you harvest it, the kernels need to harden which they will do as the ears mature and dry out. Once they are dry, pry them loose from the cob and cook away!

I think that it may be just in time for a corn article. I'm already drying my corn stalks for **fall décor**! •

Citrus Greening Disease

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(AWM) are working together on the quarantine. Work includes treating the residential location where the disease was found, establishing the quarantine boundaries and notifying businesses and residents within the quarantine area.”

The CDFA has urged residents to take the following steps:

- > Control ACP on home trees
- > Do not move citrus plants, leaves or foliage into or out of the quarantine area.
- > Cooperate with agricultural officials who are placing traps, inspecting trees and treating for the pest.
- > If you no longer wish to care for your citrus tree, consider removing it so it does not become a host to the pest and disease.

To read more about the current quarantine follow this link:

www.countynewscenter.com/citrus-disease.

To read more about the Asian Citrus Psyllid check out the University of California's Integrated Pest Management page at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74155.html>.

We'll continue to update you with additional information when it becomes available. •



Fall Bulb Choices Include Drought-Tolerant Selections

By David Ross



Audrey Hepburn said, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

David Ross said, “Planting bulbs, rhizomes and corms takes a whole lotta faith”!

The fall bulb season is upon us and that means both our stores will soon be well stocked with Bearded Iris, Daffodils, Narcissus, Tulips, Hyacinth, Ranunculus, Freesias, Watsonias and much, much, more.

At first glance, these bulbs don't look like anything we should be wasting our time with. By that I mean, they look brown and dry and certainly don't look like the easy to grow, armloads of flowers they'll turn into in just a few months! But that is exactly what these are, or will be. Planted in containers or in the ground, alone or with existing plants, these bulbs will be blooming in just a few months.

We call them fall bulbs because that is when they are available to be planted, though most of these will bloom during winter and spring.

Many will naturalize here and bring flowers year after year with minimal care.

Look for the following:

Bearded Iris will have many varieties of one of the most durable, drought-tolerant perennials you can plant. These strong, upright bloomers are fragrant and make excellent cut flowers

Watsonia is another durable, drought-tolerant grower that makes an excellent cut flower. It multiplies fairly freely, so give it space, or divide regularly

Freesias are easy to grow, very fragrant, and come in many colors.

Daffodils and **Narcissus** are great planted in groups where they will get afternoon shade.

Tulips and **Hyacinths** will need to be refrigerated in paper bags, not plastic, for at least six and up to 12 weeks prior to planting. They all do great in containers as well. •

Pink-A-Boo® Camellia

By Monrovia Nursery



Photo: Doreen Wynja

This stunning sport from the extremely popular red Yuletide Camellia has large, lightly fragrant, deep pink blooms with bright yellow stamens. Those elements makes it a beautiful addition to the cool season garden. Float blossoms in a bowl to enjoy the fragrance indoors. An excellent evergreen choice for a colorful hedge, espalier, or border shrub. To grow Pink-A-Boo successfully, give it filtered sun and water regularly when top 3 in. of soil is dry. Pink-A-Boo reaches 8 to 10 ft. tall and wide in 12 years; larger with age. •

— Ask Old Ben —

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

Observations From Old Ben

By Old Ben



It's been an interesting year! Supply chain issues continue to plague the world. Gas prices continue to climb, and Covid continues to raise its ugly head. But, birding goes forward.

I hadn't thought much about insects until a week ago. I have been harvesting tomatoes for months and planted my second crop a few weeks ago. Lettuce, green beans, parsley, potatoes, cilantro, herbs of all kinds and many more vegetables. Then I noticed all the wild birds flying from plant to plant looking for something to eat. There were finches, sparrows, orioles, common yellow throat, grosbeaks, house wrens, towhees and mockingbirds to name a few. I have not had aphids of any kind this year on my new rose growth or on my milkweed. That makes feeding the birds well worth it, in addition to seeing these beautiful creatures in person.

Have you ever heard a sharp-shinned hawk just sitting on a branch making what I call a baby crying sound? If you have, you know what I am talking about. My understanding is that they just missed a meal and are crying about it. When this crying is going on, you can't find any other birds in the area. Makes sense. Hide until he is gone. Now here is the twist. While observing orioles and song sparrows eating mealworms from a feeder in Lesley's secret garden, I heard the familiar cry of

the sharp-shinned hawk. The feeding birds departed immediately. I looked for the sharp-shinned but could not spot him. The sound got louder and louder but I still could not spot him. Then I saw the black-headed grosbeak land on the fence close to the feeder. To my surprise he was making the sharp-shinned hawk sound. Has he learned something valuable to keep him at the head of the class when it comes to eating?

I had a section of fence replaced this spring. It was covered with Aristolochia, or Dutchman's Pipe Vine. It had been growing there for more than 30 years. It had to go. So, I planted Passion vine, in hopes of attracting the Gulf Fritillary Butterfly. Growing up in North Park we shared a chain link fence with our neighbor that was completely covered with passion vine. Thus began my appreciation of this beautiful butterfly. It's been several months since it was planted and I am happy to say I have lots of these beauties flying around, laying eggs and reproducing.

We also have a large population of monarchs, skippers, and finally a few swallowtails. I have planted parsley, fennel, dill and anise to attract the swallowtails.

The birds, the butterflies and Old Ben thank you. •

A Cool Way To Save Your Fresh Herbs

By Jolene Andersen



Are your herbs fading faster than your summer tan? Have you snipped, ripped and chopped enough basil, sage and parsley to last you until next summer? Well, just wait a minute. In the deepest part of the winter doldrums, you'll want some tangy basil to add to that pasta gravy or a little smidgen of sage to spark up your chicken soup and a winter cold, so don't ignore the remnants of your leafy herbs.

It couldn't be easier to capture some of the summer magic that is herbs for those winter moments. Oh sure, drying can be tedious, whether you cut the stems and hang them upside down to dry them in some out of the way place, or layer them in newspaper in the laundry room where everyone will rifle through them and scatter them everywhere.

A much more simple method of harnessing summer's goodness for soups and stews is to wash and chop the leaves of your favorite herbs. Put one teaspoon of herb in each cube of an old fashioned ice cube tray and fill the cubes almost full with water. Freeze until solid and pop the cubes out, into a plastic bag. Label the bag with

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To Do List: September

Fertilize

For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Hi-Yield 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. Last feeding for Camellias, Azaleas, and roses for the year.

Plant

- > Plant Sweet Peas, winter annuals like Calendulas, Stocks, Pansies, Violas, Mums, and Snapdragons.
- > Plant winter vegetables. For your veggie planting, don't miss broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, lettuces and greens, potatoes, radishes, and peas.
- > Cool-season tomatoes are here!

Look For

- > Fall bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus and Freesia). For the best selection, buy them early. Most spring-blooming bulbs such as Tulips, Hyacinths, and Crocus will need to be pre-chilled in the refrigerator for 6-8 weeks to 'fake' winter before planting outdoors.
- > We have Crape Myrtle, Arbutus, Bougainvillea, and Agapanthus. •



Fertilize grass to control weeds



Plant winter vegetables like potatoes



Plant fall bulbs



Look for Crape Myrtle trees

Save Fresh Herbs

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the name of the herb in the cube and wow, you have captured the essence of summer in an ice cube to beat those winter blahs! Add to soups, stews, gravies, anything that will tolerate a bit of water and whatever herb is in it. You'll be surprised how flavorful the herbs remain in the cubes.

Editor's Note: herbs can be kept small and are perfect for wee spots. If space is tight, plant several in one container, making sure your selections have similar maintenance requirements. •

Garden Classes: September

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

9/4

No Class

9/11

Composting

9/18

Bulbs

9/25

Azaleas & Camellias

POWAY | 9:30AM

9/4

No Class

9/11

Ornamental Trees
for the Yard
with Brian Robert

9/18

Cool Season Vegetables
with Farmer Roy

9/25

Creating a Shade Oasis
with Chuck McClung



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GardenTalk

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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

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