



**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

—• IN THIS ISSUE —•

Frighteningly Fabulous Plants	1
Firewise Planting	1
A Tropical Find	1
Garden Shed: BioChar	3
2022 Fruit Tree List	3
How To Grow Fig Trees	4
To Do List: October	5
Fun Facts About Birds For Kids	6
Backyard Orchard Culture Class	7
Garden Classes	7

A Tropical Find

By Ken Andersen



Years ago while vacationing in Honolulu, I visited one of my favorite places on the islands, Foster Botanical Gardens. It's a spectacular garden set right in the middle of Honolulu. One specimen that really struck me was found next to the parking lot. It was an

[continued p2](#)

Frighteningly Fabulous Plants For Halloween

By Walter Andersen Nursery



Heuchera

Planning for Halloween at the nursery is just one of the many perks of welcoming fall. Natives come into their time, new color palettes are waiting to be shown off and finally, the plants you can't get until the season changes become available. **Here's a look at our Halloween hacks.**

One of the favorite tricks is to simply

plant, or even just place, some fall color into the **terracotta jack-o-lantern containers** we stock this time of year. You can also take a look at the glazed pottery and imagine putting a black, orange or purple container at your door and filling it with contrasting colors found in foliage or blooms.

[continued p2](#)

Firewise Planting

By Walter Andersen Nursery

The most important aspects of a firewise landscape are creating a defensible space with a thoughtful landscape design, and then routinely maintaining the space to avoid any build-up of unnecessary vegetation. Once you have a firewise landscape design and maintenance plan, it's equally important to **choose the right plants.**

Determining which plants to use can be a big challenge because many homeowners aren't sure what makes a plant firewise, or safe to plant in their landscape.



What Makes a Plant Firewise?

Firewise plants tend to have one or more of the following aspects:

- Low-maintenance, with little need for pruning

[continued p3](#)

A Tropical Find

continued from p1

enormous tree, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, which is a Crape Myrtle on steroids! Not only is the tree huge, it has very large tropical looking foliage that resembles the leaves of tropical guavas. The flowers, though they look like typical Crape Myrtle flowers, are at least twice the size! Some of the individual flowers were nearly the size of the palm of my hand. Fast forward a few years and I was able to acquire a couple of these plants. Since they are tropical, I have kept them in containers so that they can be moved to a protected area during the winter to keep them from freezing. Earlier this year they were replanted in larger containers and when they leafed out this spring they really took off. Several weeks ago, I noticed one with new growth that looked different. Much to my surprise it was sending out hundreds of flower buds. Interesting thing is that even though they are right next to each other and get the same care, only one plant has bloomed this season. Hopefully these plants will continue to thrive and we will get more showings of flowers in the late summers along with great memories of times spent in Hawaii.

For more information about Foster Botanical Gardens, go to [Foster Botanical Garden \(honolulu.gov\)](http://FosterBotanicalGarden(honolulu.gov)) and if you are ever in Honolulu, be sure to visit! •



Plants For Halloween continued from p1



Spilanthes 'Goblin's Eyes'



Capsicum annuum 'Black Pearl'

An **African Mask Plant** can be showcased with some Halloween decor. **Black pansies 'Black Beauty'** are a perfect showpiece for a container. Smaller **Violas "Sorbet Black Delight"** work too. For a ready-to-plant pansy, try **Jack-o-Lantern Mix** which is a 6-pack mixture of pumpkin colored and black pansies. **Spilanthes**, or better known by their descriptive name, **Goblin's Eyes** are a 'must have' in an arrangement. **Carex**,

especially **'Toffee Twist'** is a grass that gives a nice warm, tawny fall color but also might make you think of a witch's broom or even scare-crow's hair. If you like the

look of grass, consider using **Black Mondo Grass** or **Pennisetum rubrum**. Don't miss **Bat Faced Cuphea** and just

use a bit of your imagination

when looking at the flower, sure enough, it does resemble a bat's face. **Heuchera** is a great addition to any container and **Amber Waves** has a nice contrast of lime green and orange foliage.



African Mask Plant



Calibrachoa 'Million Bells'

Other Halloween-like plants are **Capsicum annuum 'Black Pearl'**, an ornamental Pepper plant with black-purple leaves and shiny black berries. **Juncus spiralis** which is an interesting plant has spiraled stems and no foliage. **Acalypha 'Sizzle Scissors'** pairs deep red-orange leaves edged in green, and **Ipomea batatas** is a foliage choice that is almost black. **Persian Shield** may make you think of Dracula's cape with its pointy leaves that are deep purple and black. For good fall color blooms, don't forget to hold up a container of **Calibrachoa 'Million Bells'** next to your other selections. These cute, almost Pansy-looking flowers come in bright colors like purple, red, orange and yellow and can make good additions to your fall containers or they might lend the right spooky color you are looking for. **Geranium 'Vancouver Centennial'** provides Halloween color with its lime green leaves and light orange flowers.

For a really unique look, take a peek at the **cactus** table. Have you thought about using Old Man Cactus in a Halloween container? Put a couple of googly eyes from the craft store on it and 'voila' you have a ghost. Don't forget to add Halloween novelty items to your container, like spiders, skeletons or a witch's hat. Best of all, add light up stakes to your containers! So many glow in the dark or use LED and will cast light most of the night. •

Garden Shed: Seasoned BioChar

By Ken Andersen



We have a new product that many customers have been asking for. It is Earth Juice Seasoned BioChar. This friend to gardeners who compost is found to be beneficial for that purpose since it reduces greenhouse gas emissions and prevents the loss of nutrients in the compost material. It promotes microbial activity, which in turn accelerates the composting process. It also adds carbon back to the media, aerates compacted soil and increases water holding capacity. Plus, it's a cool looking bag! •

2022 Fruit Tree List Now Online



Our 2022 Fruit Tree List is available at www.walterandersen.com/plants-products/#plant-lists The list contains all the bareroot trees that both stores have ordered. Bareroot is scheduled to arrive in December. See [page 7](#) for information on an upcoming backyard orchard class. •

Firewise Planting continued from p1

- Slow to moderate growth
- Does not accumulate large amounts of dead branches, needles, or leaves.
- Low resin or sap content (e.g., deciduous trees)
- High moisture content in leaves (e.g., succulents)
- Low-growing or short habit
- Open, loose branching with a low amount of vegetation
- Self-cleaning

No plant is fireproof, but there are a variety of beautiful plants that look great and perform well in firewise gardens. Look for Strawberry trees, Manzanita, carob tree, pineapple guava, New Zealand Christmas Tree, myoporum, pittosporum, evergreen cherry, pomegranate and cape honeysuckle.

Think twice about planting acacia, cedar, hopseed bush, eucalyptus, juniper, fountain grass or pine trees. These plants are fuel to a fire. Go to www.walterandersen.com/plants-products/#plant-lists and download our firewise plant list pdf.

Need more tips for being savvy in fire season? The San Diego Fire Safe Council suggests these resources:

Defensible Space Assistance Program
firesafesdcounty.org/dsap

Firewise Communities A program of the National Fire Protection Association and a key component of Fire Adapted Communities. Firewise offers information and free resources to help communities protect homes and lives against the risks of wildfire.
www.nfpa.org / www.fireadapted.org

Homeowner's Wildfire Mitigation Guide Embers are a major reason homes ignite during a wildfire. This guide provides guidance on changes you can make to harden your home to improve its chances of surviving a wildfire.
ucanr.edu/sites/wildfire

Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) The IBHS

website features a number of resources pertaining to wildfire, including research, tips for preparing your home, checklists, and videos.

disastersafety.org/wildfire

Ready For Wildfire Learn simple steps you can take to increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire by maintaining defensible space and structural hardening, plus many other resources to help prepare and protect your family and home.

www.readyforwildfire.org

Ready San Diego Resources to help you plan your response in the event of wildland fire, as well as ways to prepare yourself and your home before wildfire strikes. Don't forget to download the San Diego County Emergency Smart Phone App to use on the go. www.readysandiego.org

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Information about brush management and weed abatement requirements, guidance, and policies for City of San Diego residents. www.sandiego.gov/fire/services/brush

San Diego County Fire Authority Information and guidance on brush management requirements for San Diego County residents. www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdcfa/prevention/defensible-space.html

Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide pdf From the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, this guide will help residents and building professionals better understand how to prepare homes and communities for wildfire.

Find your local fire station

CAL FIRE – San Diego Unit Stations Click on View Stations to see a list of stations in the Southern Region service area with contact info for each station. www.fire.ca.gov

San Diego Fire-Rescue A list of fire stations within the City of San Diego. www.sandiego.gov/fire/about/firestations. •

How To Grow Fig Trees

By Monrovia

Is there a more iconic tree than the fig? Those quintessential leaves, the sculptural branching habit, and those sweet-as-honey fruits are the stuff of legends and lore. Cleopatra dished them up to Mark Antony. Adam and Eve found the foliage to be a handy coverall and nations went to war over them.

Figs are also a bit of a botanical oddity as they're not actually "fruits" but a mass of inverted flowers. Wait, what? Yes, the flowers are inside the "fruits" and what you are eating are the blooms. Best eaten lusciously ripe and sun-warmed straight off the tree, figs vary in size, shape, color, flavor, texture, and time of harvest. Figs can be black, green, brown, violet, yellow, or purple. They are self-fruitful so you need only one plant to produce fruit. They are easy to grow, and there's one for just about every size garden.

Choose the Best Fig Tree for Your Space

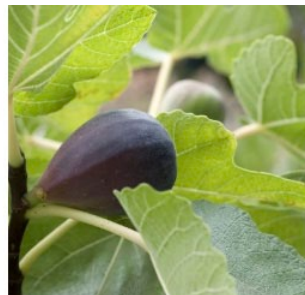
Mature fig trees can be 15 to 30 feet tall and you'll want to space them apart so that you can really see the unique shape of the mature tree. There are several varieties that stay naturally small and fit nicely into large containers. If you have the room, plant several and choose early-, mid-, and late- fruiting varieties to extend the harvest from early summer into early fall. Some figs will produce fruit very early in the season, called a "breba" crop, as well as the main crop.

Where to Plant Fig Trees

Fig trees thrive in full sun and love the reflected heat of walls and buildings. In colder zones, choose cold-hardy varieties such as 'Brown Turkey' and 'Desert King', or consider other selections that are somewhat less cold-hardy that you can grow



Peter's Honey



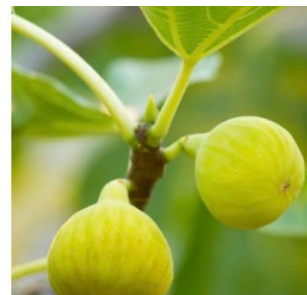
Mission



Black Jack



Brown Turkey



Desert King

in big pots and protect during the winter by storing in a cool garage or basement.

How and When to Harvest Fig Fruit

While fruit is developing, it's important to water regularly. Check daily, and pick just as they begin to soften. Different varieties will be softer or firmer when ripe. Get to know your varieties. You'll be picking the main crop of fruits depending on your climate and conditions, anywhere from June to September in warmer inland areas to October and November for cooler coastal places. In some tropical locations, fig trees may bear some fruit throughout the year, with increased production in early summer and midwinter. Birds and squirrels love figs. The trick is to stay ahead of them by harvesting daily. If you wait too long, they'll get to your harvest first.

How to Care for Fig Trees

Once established, figs can be very low maintenance, as well as drought tolerant. During the first year, as plants become established, water regularly and mulch. It can also be helpful to prune back young trees to encourage strong root growth. After the first 2-3 years, they need little pruning apart from removing weak, diseased, dead branches, or very long branches. If conditions get too dry, an occasional deep watering will keep

the tree healthy. While they aren't too picky about their soil, fig trees enjoy a well-draining loamy soil with healthy organic matter. Adding a layer of compost around your fig trees every year can provide the right amount of nutrients and organic matter to help your fig tree thrive.

Eight Best Fig Tree Varieties

Peter's Honey Fig

Originally from Sicily and is an attractive garden tree. Needs plenty of heat to ripen fruit in cooler areas. Up to 25' tall and wide. Full sun.

Fruits: Soft-skinned, yellow-green with honey-like amber-hued flesh. Great for preserves.

Mission Fig

Cultivated in the western US since 1768 and loved for its tall and wide habit that offers dense summer shade and abundant fruits. Up to 35' tall and wide. **Fruits:** Deep blue-purple with deep-pink syrupy sweet flesh. Lovely dessert fruit.

Black Jack Fig

Wonderful container plant and cold-hardy. Up to 15' tall and wide;

[continued p5](#)

To Do List: October



Plant natives like *Ceanothus*

Plant

- > California natives and drought-tolerant plants are best planted this time of year to get root systems established.
- > Bulbs like Daffodils, Ranunculus, Freesias, Anemones and more.
- > Winter annuals like Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, Violas, and Primrose.
- > Cool season vegetables like kale, lettuce, peas, carrots and more!
- > Shrubs such as Camellias and Azaleas, and trees that provide wonderful fall color such as Ginko, Cotoneaster, and Liquidambar.
- > Overseed Bermuda lawns with Annual Rye. It's a great time to plant Fescue from seed or sod.



Get extra water on plants before Santa Ana winds arrive

Water

When dry Santa Ana winds are expected, make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns before needed, especially container plants.

[continued p6](#)

Fig Trees continued from p4



Corky's Honey Delight® Fig

Semi-dwarf thrives in mild coastal and warm humid areas. Can be grown in a large container. Up to 15' tall and wide. Full sun. These figs are grown from cuttings from a tree found in the yard of a family member of Walter Andersen, Sr. His brother, Corky, thought that these figs were so wonderful, that he began growing them from cuttings in the 1950s. Every year, the tree produced two great crops of figs. The first crop is usually in June with another in August or September. **Fruits:** Greenish with amber-colored flesh, flavorful honey note. Great for smoothies.

It's Our Very Own Fig!



easily kept to 6' with annual pruning. Full sun. **Fruits:** Elongated purple fruit with strawberry-red juicy flesh; sweetest with plenty of heat. Chop and add to salads.

Brown Turkey Fig

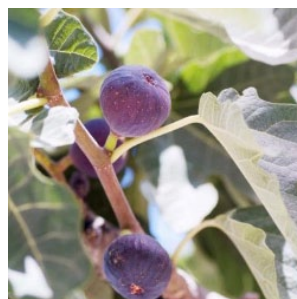
Site where you can easily harvest its two-yearly crops. Medium size, good for screening or as background. Up to 25' tall and wide. Full sun. **Fruits:** Deep-purple with rose-hued sweet flesh. Mild flavor pairs well with goat cheese.

Desert King Fig

Exceptionally productive even in cool climates like coastal regions or high elevations. Up to 25' tall and wide. Full sun. **Fruits:** Large yellowish-green, strawberry-colored flesh, sweet, melting texture. Drizzle with honey and broil.

Celestial Fig

Smaller-sized tree prized for vigorous growth, improved cold



Celestial



Kadota

resistance bountiful early harvest. Up to 10' tall and wide. Full sun. **Fruits:** Violet-brown with pinkish-purple sweet flesh. Perfect for preserves.

Kadota Fig

Treat this fig as a small shade tree or accent if you don't have it in a fruit garden. Its green fruit is not as decorative as other figs, but some say even more delicious. Up to 25' tall and wide. Full sun. **Fruits:** Pert green skin gives way to a heart of pale amethyst. The taste is especially sweet and appealingly complex. Spoon over ice cream or yogurt. •

To Do List: October

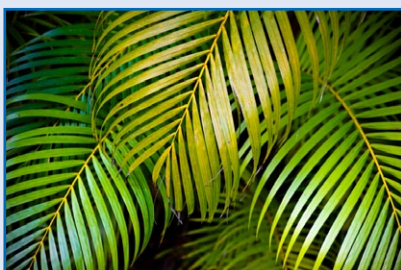
continued from p5



Fertilize lawns

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.
- > Do not feed Camellias until after they are finished flowering. •



Feed palms and tropicals

Old Ben: Fun Facts About Birds For Kids

By Old Ben



Ostrich

- What are birds? A bird can be described as a winged vertebrate animal (having a backbone). Birds are classified as bipedal (they have two feet). They are warm bodied, egg laying creatures. Birds are unique in that they have feathers and winged forelimbs.
- Birds can be found on every continent. There are about 10,000 different types of birds on earth.
- What do birds eat? The food they eat varies depending on the type of bird. It can include: Fruit, plants, seeds, nuts, and meat. Some birds eat mice, other birds, insects, and carrion (the meat from a dead animal).
- The ostrich and penguin are birds that do not fly.
- The largest and heaviest bird on earth is the ostrich. The ostrich with its long legs can run up to a speed of 43 mph.
- Penguins are short legged birds that are native to cold southern regions like the Antarctic. They do not fly but are great swimmers. They have webbed feet and wings that work similar to flippers.
- Owls are birds of prey, types include: Barn Owls, burrowing owls, hawk owls, horned owls, screech owls, and snowy owls to name a few. The neck of an owl can rotate 3/4 of the way around its head.
- The bones of birds are thin and hollow. This makes the bones much lighter and more efficient for flying.
- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly in all four directions. They are also the smallest bird species and can only be found in North and South America.
- There are about 310 different types of pigeons and doves. Pigeons have been used for food for thousands of years.
- In a recent American National Pet Owners Survey, 5.7% of American households were listed as having birds as pets. Pet birds included: Parakeets, canaries, cockatiels, cockatoos, doves, finches, lovebirds, parrots and macaws.
- The most famous of all extinct birds is the Dodo bird. The Dodo bird was native to the island of Mauritius. The Dodo only survived a total of 175 years after being discovered by explorers. Their extinction was due to the introduction of other animals, disease and human exploitation on the island.
- There are over 2,000 birds listed on the endangered bird list, Disease, environmental waste, marine debris, pollution and deforestation have all contributed to the decline in bird populations. •

Ask Old Ben

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

Special Evening Class: Backyard Orchard Culture



Poway | Wed Nov 10

Join us at our Poway store on November 10 for an evening of Backyard Orchard Culture with Tom Spellman. The free class will be held from 6-8pm. RSVP to attend by calling 858-513-4900. In addition to the presentation, David Ross will grill some Farmer John All Beef Franks! •

Garden Classes: October

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/>.

SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

10/2
Organic Pest Control
with James

10/9
Ferns with Jim

10/16
Fall Color with Ryan

10/23
Fall Veggies with Josh

10/30
Dormant Spraying
with James

POWAY | 9:30AM

10/2
Native Plants with Shirley

10/9
Fall Rose Care
with David and George

10/16
Smart Pot Gardening with
Eric Olsen from Smart Pots

10/23
Keep Your Fall/Winter Garden
Thriving with Brijette from
San Diego Seed Company

10/30
Fall/Winter Tree Care
with Richard Wright



**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



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



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



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



[shop](https://www.walterandersen.com/shop)