



**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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## Closing In On 100!

By The Walter Andersen Family



On January 1, 1928, Walter Andersen Sr. opened the nursery doors to the public for the first time. The original location was near the corner of Juan and Taylor streets in Old Town, approximately where the old La Pinata restaurant was located. We have been plying the trade for 94 years under the

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## Vegetable Selections From Our Experts

By Walter Andersen Nursery Staff



Stefany at the Poway location

Are you in a veggie slump and stumped over what to plant? It is sort of in between the seasons time. Too early for Italian basil, cucumbers and edamame (requested by a customer in early January) but still time for winter selections. The best people to ask for suggestions are our employees. Many of them have gardens and love to plant new varieties. Here are some recommendations when planting now.

Arugula and spinach (Bloomsdale) are well established so you'll be eating them very soon. Sticking with your greens, don't miss Bright Lights Swiss chard and Dinosaur kale. You can have salad from your garden

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## Remember Your Valentine

By Monrovia Nursery



Bleeding Heart

The here today, gone tomorrow, fragrance-free, been there, done that bouquet of a dozen red roses, while lovely and traditional, can never truly express the joy, exuberance, passion, and swoony sort of beauty of Valentine's Day that a living plant can. **This year we challenge you to go beyond the bouquet.** Here are some insanely romantic reasons why you might want to walk past the

[continued p3](#)



## Foxgloves For An English & Deadly Garden

by Melanie Potter



Photo: Monrovia

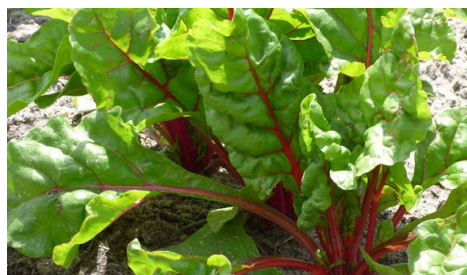
Dead Man's Bells, Witches' Glove, and Bloody Fingers are all names for the foxglove. Native to England and mired in folklore, this flower may have originally been called 'folk's glove' with 'folk' referring to fairies. One story suggests that bad elves and fairies distributed the flowers to foxes to wear as gloves during raids on chicken coops.

As fetching a storybook explanation that is don't forget these tall tubular shows of colorful flowers are also known by the botanical name, digitalis and are very poisonous. Digitalis is a drug obtained from the dried leaves of the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and used in medicine to strengthen contractions of the heart muscle.

Oh, the plots of books and movies that digitalis must have found its way into. You can almost see Bette Davis starring in an old black and white movie that finds her cold, conniving character

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## Vegetable Selections continued from p1



Swiss Chard



Artichokes

with lettuce, endive is very popular right now, Little Gem romaine and mustard greens (Red Giant). Growing them in this cooler weather will prevent them from bolting. Red Giant has a nice, horseradish bite to it. There is still broccoli available (Green Comet) along with cauliflower (Cheddar) and Brussels Sprouts.

It's too late to plant some vegetables from seed so pick up a six pack of Little Fingers (carrots), beets



Brussel Sprouts



Cauliflower

(Golden is a nice variety and you can enjoy the greens). Peppermint Sticks is a fun celery to plant and it is a great time to plant onions of all kinds.

Keep an eye out for bok choy and toy choy (a dwarf Chinese cabbage that is harder to keep in stock). Don't miss asparagus, Green Globe artichokes and micro greens.

If your New Year's resolution was to eat more vegetables—you are in luck, so get planting! •

## Long & Gone

By Ken Andersen

For eight years, the nursery published an annual catalog of plants and products. This image is from the 1968 edition. Eventually the family who owned the publishing company gave up the business and the catalogs stopped. While a lot has changed over the years, while skimming through this edition, I noticed a profile promoting a new rose, Angel Face. Guess what is in stock in 2022? Yes, we continue to sell Angel Face! Rose varieties that are still available from this era include Bewitched, Peace, Cecile Brunner, Chrysler Imperial and Don Juan. •





## Foxgloves

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poisoning the dashing leading man who has wronged her.

Foxglove is a perennial or biennial that puts out a good-sized rosette-shaped clump of foliage the first year and blooms in the second year during the spring or early summer. Flowers are shades of white, yellow, pink, rose, red, lavender and purple that grow on spikes that vary in height depending on the variety.

In colder regions, Foxgloves can take more sun, but in hot areas, they can be planted in medium to full shade. Add organic matter to make a light, well-drained soil, and mulch heavily after the plants emerge to keep the soil moist. These plants self-seed quite freely when given proper conditions. Be aware that since purple is the dominant color, self-sown seedlings may revert to the purple color even if they came from a different colored parent. Cutting the flower stalk after it is finished blooming often causes the plant to send up a few more flower stalks later in the season. Water regularly and feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring.

Foxglove are a 'must have' for a cottage garden. Plant it in groups at the back of the border, against fences, or near tall hedges. They're also useful in the perennial border, providing the height that early perennial gardens often lack. Just make sure to plant them en masse to enjoy their best show. •

## Valentine continued from p1



*Shasta Daisy*



*Shortcake Raspberry*

flower shop to the garden center this Valentine's Day.

**Cut flowers come and go, but plants, given now, will literally grow with your relationship.**

Who wants to hear that giving flowers is "just something we do on Valentine's Day?" This year, resolve to make flowers part of your daily, weekly and monthly routine. Whether enjoyed from your living room window or from snipped blossoms in a vase, live plants truly keep giving.

While giving a bouquet of cut flowers may seem like a nurturing, generous, romantic act, the truth is that giving a live plant is infinitely more nurturing (and dare we say, romantic). Humans need nature, and so nature needs humans to be aware of the environmental impacts of consumer choices. While you can buy local cut flowers, nothing is of more benefit to balancing the planet than growing a plant that helps to clean the air and may provide food and habitat for pollinators.

While romantic pink and red blooms are the obvious choice for this holiday, knowing your Valentine Day sweetheart's floral preferences is even more of a caring gesture. The most meaningful floral treat for your Valentine may not be a bouquet of

roses (or even a bouquet!). Some of us feel a big smile coming on when we see a garden filled with daisies, sunflowers, or lavenders. Picking out that plant (and offering to plant it, of course) shows that you've been paying attention—and that's what really makes your honey happy.

And for some Valentines, floral gifts may not be the best expression of love at all. Go beyond the bouquet in a big way by choosing something deliciously edible. Fast forward to a warm summer day when you pluck some sweet, juicy berries from a plant given on Valentine's Day and feed them (champagne here is optional, but nice!) to your sweetie. Who's a rock star now? •



*Keiko Itoh Peony*

## Valentine's Day Is February 14th



No doubt you remembered that Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 and you know what you are giving your significant other. If that is still on your 'to do' list, we have some ideas. From decorative items to plants to gift cards, you can give the one you love who loves gardening something special. •

## Closing In On 100!

continued from p1

same family ownership and we do not see anything changing going forward! It is our pleasure to serve the communities we have been helping all these years and we look forward to doing so for a long time to come. Thank you all for helping us make this happen! •

## If You Plant This, Plant These

By Walter Andersen Nursery Staff



Did you know that some plants offer support and make good buddies for others? That's why you tend to see roses planted in front of grape vines (the next time you are at a winery, take time to notice and not make a mad dash for the tasting room). If a disease or pest is threatening the grapes, the roses get hit with it first and serve to warn of encroaching doom.

If you are planting any of the herbs or vegetables below, don't forget to bring home a companion for them.

### Plant This:

### And:

<b>Alliums</b> (especially garlic which accumulates sulfur which aids in disease resistance)	Carrots, tomatoes and roses
<b>Beans</b> (these fix the nitrogen in the soil and help the growth of nearly all plants)	Anything <b>except</b> alliums, tomatoes or cabbage, these are not friends
<b>Beets</b> (puts trace minerals into the soil)	Good general companion
<b>Borage</b> (adds potassium to the soil which supports overall plant health and vitality)	Strawberries
<b>Celery</b>	Most vegetables <b>except</b> lettuce and corn
<b>Chamomile</b> (puts potassium and sulfur in the soil)	Pairs well with cabbage and onions
<b>Dill</b>	General plant buddy / Inhibits carrot's growth / Same worm attacks dill and tomatoes so plant away from each other
<b>Hyssop</b>	Cabbage and grapes
<b>Mint</b>	Tomatoes and cabbage
<b>Nasturtiums</b>	Cucumbers
<b>Oregano</b>	Good general buddy especially to cabbage and grapes
<b>Parsley</b>	Another good general buddy <b>except</b> to lettuce and mint
<b>Peas</b> (fixes nitrogen in the soil)	Good companions to most <b>except</b> alliums
<b>Tarragon</b>	Plant with just about all vegetables •



## Very Peri Awesome

by Melanie Potter



*Campanula by Doreen Wynja/Monrovia*



Do you follow color trends? If so, you may already know that the Pantone Color of the Year 2022 is called Very Peri and it is periwinkle! The folks at Pantone read a lot into color and here is why the color was selected.

“Encompassing the qualities of the blues, yet at the same time possessing a violet-red undertone, PANTONE 17-3938 Very Peri displays a spritely, joyous attitude and dynamic presence that encourages courageous creativity and imaginative expression,” said a Pantone color expert.

Adding the color to the garden should be a breeze. Planted pops of Very Peri color can come from lavender, primrose, nemesia, pansies, petunias, periwinkle, campanula, statice, Easter Bonnet Lavender, Alyssum, clerodendrum, and roses such as

**continued p7**

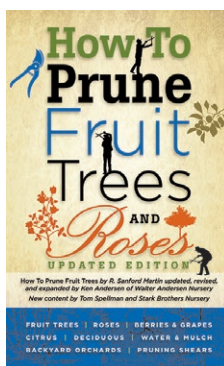
## To Do List: February



*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 to clean up any damage received during the winter after the danger of frost passes.



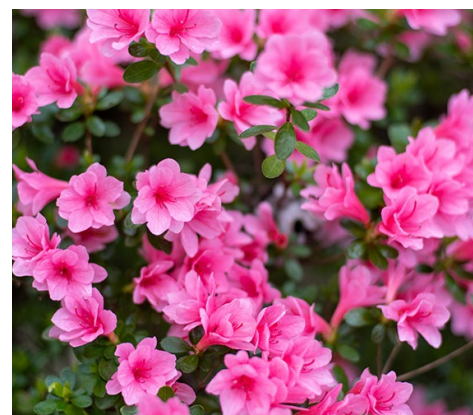
For pruning help, you can purchase our book “How To Prune Fruit Trees & Roses”. It’s available online at <https://shopwalterandersen.com/products/how-to-prune-fruit-trees-and-roses-updated-edition> and in both of our stores.

### 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 carrots, garlic, beets and more*



*Look for Azaleas*

### 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.

### 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. •





## Old Ben: Facts About Burrowing Owls

By Old Ben

Burrowing owls are so named because they live underground in burrows that have been dug out by small mammals like ground squirrels. The owls are covered in brown spotted feathers and have long legs. They also sport distinctive white eyebrows above bright yellow eyes. They are one of the smallest owls in North America.

**Diet:** Burrowing owls eat small mammals such as moles and mice during late spring and early summer. Later they switch to insects, especially grasshoppers and beetles. Burrowing owls are also known to eat birds, amphibians and reptiles.

**Population:** Current burrowing owls population estimates are not well known but trend data suggest significant declines across their range. Most recent estimates place them at less than 10,000 breeding pairs.

**Range:** Burrowing owls are found from the Mississippi to the Pacific and from the Canadian prairie provinces into South America. They are also found in Florida and the Caribbean islands. Burrowing owls have disappeared from much of their historic range.

**Behavior:** Unlike other owls, burrowing owls are active during the day, especially in the spring when they gather food for their large broods. This species of owl prefers open areas with low ground cover. They can often be found perching near their burrow on fence posts.

Burrowing owls make a tremulous chuckling or chattering call. They also bob their heads to express excitement or distress.

Burrowing owls often nest in loose colonies about 100 yards apart.

During the nesting season, burrowing owls will collect a wide



variety of nesting materials to line their nest, some of which are left around the entrance to the burrow. The most common material is mammal dung. At one time it was incorrectly thought that the dung helped to mask the scent of juvenile owls but researchers now believe the dung helps to control the microclimate inside the burrow and to attract insects, which the owls eat.

### Known Populations in San Diego

**County:** In San Diego County, the burrowing owl historically bred at the following locations. San Marcos, Camp Pendleton, Palomar Airport, central and southwest Carlsbad, Batiquitos and San Elijo lagoons, Mission Bay, Lower Otay Lake, North Island Naval Air Station, Otay Mesa, and the Tijuana River Valley. There are currently no known major populations of burrowing owls in the County.

**Kool Facts:** Unlike most owls in which the female is larger than the male, the sexes of the burrowing owl are the same size.

Burrowing owls have a higher tolerance for carbon dioxide than other birds. An adaptation found in other burrowing animals, which spend long periods underground, where the gas can accumulate to higher levels than found above ground.

The oldest known burrowing owl was at least 9 years, 11 months old when it was sighted in California in 2014. •

### Old Ben's Promise

*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](mailto:askoldben@aol.com)

## Very Peri Awesome

continued from p5



*Clerodendrum by Monrovia*

Blue Girl, Neptune, Silver Lining, and Stainless Steel. No doubt you will be able to find containers, cushions or other garden decor in this color.

Check out the Pantone website for styling ideas: [www.pantone.com/color-of-the-year-2022-palette-exploration](http://www.pantone.com/color-of-the-year-2022-palette-exploration). •

## Garden Classes: February

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

2/5

Early Spring Color  
with Ryan

2/12

Garden Bed Prep  
with Richard

2/19

Planting Citrus  
with Chris

2/26

Spring Bulb  
with Kathleen

### POWAY | 9:30AM

2/5

Proteaceae Plants:  
Care & Culture with  
John Clements from the  
San Diego Botanical Garden

2/12

How Orchids Rebloom &  
Book Signing with Local  
Author Chuck McClung

2/19

Staghorn Fern Care, Culture  
& Remounting

2/26

Bonsai Basics  
with Richard Wright

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