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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

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Versatile Verbena

By Melanie Potter



This winning combination gets its good looks from calibrachoa, lobelia and...verbena!!

Name a plant that offers a wide variety of colors, one that is an eye-catching component in mixed combinations, disease resistant and tolerant of heat? Did verbena come to mind?

In recent years, breeders have worked to improve verbena's

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Say Goodbye To Winter With Spring Bulbs

By Ken Andersen



Dahlias

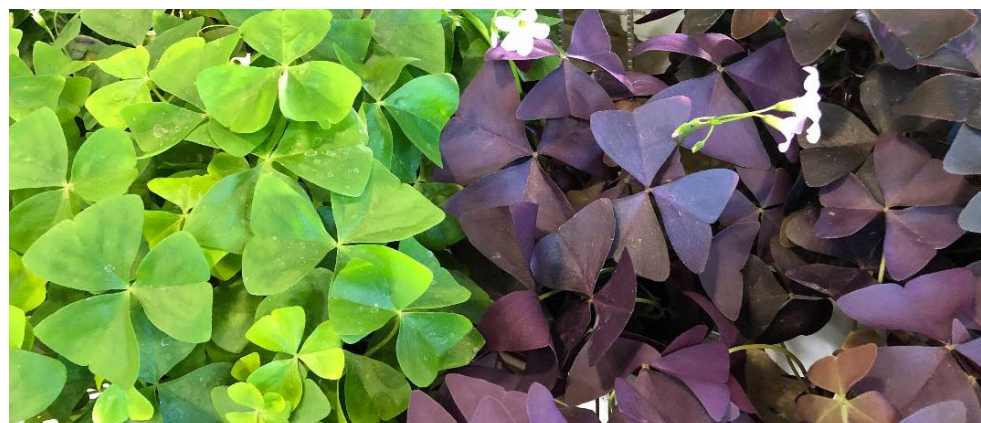
Winter is typically when the spring bulbs start to arrive. These include old favorites like **Dahlias**, **Gladiolus**, and **Oriental Lilies**. You will also find a couple unusual ones like **Sprekelia** with its striking fleur de lis-shaped deep red flowers and **Gloriosa Lily** which is a beautiful climbing lily with red and yellow flowers.

All of these bulbs can be planted in containers or in flower beds with rich amended soil. Be sure to add some Gro-Power at planting time to get them off to a good start. Dahlias, especially the large dinner plate varieties, will benefit from some extra

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Don't Forget St. Patrick's Day

By Melanie Potter



Oxalis

If you're a fan of green beer, leprechauns, pots of money at the end of a rainbow, luck, and shamrocks, then St. Patrick's Day is for you. To mark the occasion, we have loads of Oxalis, the plant associated with Saint Patrick, for whom the day is

celebrated. Saint Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland, credited with bringing Christianity to that country. The shamrock is the national flower of Ireland because it is what he used to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagans.

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Versatile Verbena

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growth habit, disease resistance and colors. They've sort of ushered it into the 21st century so it's no longer your grandmother's verbena. Modern verbena breeding focuses on the plant being compact, fast to flower and requiring no pinching back to keep them blooming through hot summers.

Verbena mounds, it trails, it can serve as edging in a landscape and it is one third of the most tried and true trio combinations when partnered with petunias and calibrachoa.

How easy is verbena to care for? Not much effort at all is required. Plant verbena in full sun; flowering will be much reduced in shady locations. This is a plant that requires eight to 10 hours of sun daily. Verbena like fairly dry soil with an acidic pH, and it must be well draining. •



Say Goodbye To Winter continued from p1



Gladiolus

support from stakes as the flowers truly get huge and weighty. Dahlias, Gladiolus, and Oriental Lilies all make excellent cut flowers.

The most common pests to watch out for are thrips on Gladiolus and slugs and snails on Dahlias. Applying Sluggo Plus to the beds will take

care of slugs and snails and other crawling insects. The Bio Advance 2 in 1 Rose and Flower Care can help keep thrips at bay on the Gladiolus. If you have the time to bring bulbs into bloom, you will get great joy from growing and cutting them to enjoy indoors. •



For slugs and snails



Keep thrips at bay

St. Patrick's Day continued from p1

As luck would have it, this plant is easy to grow and like a leprechaun in Irish folklore, it can be mischievous in that if grown outdoors, it can be invasive and is often looked at as a lowly weed rather than a lucky clover.

We have Oxalis with red or bright green foliage, some are blooming. The charming blooms are white (other varieties may be pink, yellow such as Oxalis 'Zinfandel', or red) with five petals that sit atop long stems. The plant grows by tuberous roots that can spread faster than a rumor, so they make a better indoor plant, or confined in a container outside. Provide lots of light but not direct sunlight. Water when the top of the soil is dry so as not to keep

the soil wet. This is a plant that likes to dry out between waterings.

Unlike most houseplants, the potted shamrock plant goes dormant in summer. When leaves die back, the plant needs a time of darkness to rest. Caring for shamrock plants during the period of dormancy includes limited watering and foregoing feeding.

The dormant period when growing oxalis as a houseplant lasts anywhere from a few weeks to three months, depending on the cultivar and the conditions. New shoots appear when dormancy is broken. At this time, move shamrock houseplants to bright light and resume the usual care. •

It's No Longer A No No; We Can Talk About The Go

by Melanie Potter



Photos: ©Poo-Pourri/Scentsible, LLC

What happened in Vegas didn't stay in Vegas. In fact, it came back to San Diego wrapped in fragrance, fun and beautifully packaged in a new-to-us product. It was there for the winter market that we met the fabulous folks from **Poo-Pourri** to talk a lot about number two and lo and behold, there is a product called **The Turds and Bees** that is a big seller with gardeners. This spray before you go product is labeled with a planting tag made of wildflowers!



Plant the tag and it will grow!

Let us count the ways we love Poo-Pourri. The fragrance selection is vast and they smell really good. It's a hilarious

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Easy Gardening If You're Feeling Lazy

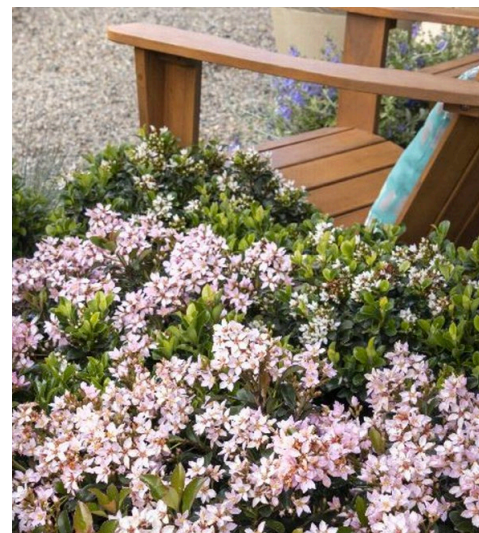
By Monrovia Nursery



A low-maintenance, pollinator-friendly and colorful wildflower garden with Blue Boa Agastache, coneflowers, and coreopsis.



Kangaroo Paw



Indian Hawthorne



Hebe

Photos: Doreen Wynja/Monrovia

Has the new year already left you feeling exhausted? While maintaining your garden and being outdoors brings you joy, how would you like to do less work? Monrovia has some suggestions for low maintenance, colorful plants that might be worth sitting idle and noodling.

Easy-care perennials require less maintenance when it comes to pruning, watering, feeding, or soil conditions. While many perennials do appreciate an annual pruning and deadheading, they they offer dependable beauty year after year, providing colorful interest to borders, beds, and landscapes.

A few hardy perennials worth mentioning that grow in our region include coneflower, coreopsis, Texas yucca, sedum, heuchera, hellebore, salvia, and daylily. More choices include agapanthus, cape fuchsia, kangaroo paw, and bougainvillea.

Dependable shrubs include viburnum, crape myrtle, Indian hawthorn, cotoneaster, myrtle, abelia, pineapple guava, false heather, and hebe.

Now that you have less to do in the yard, why not buy a comfy lounge chair and pledge to spend more time outside doing nothing but watching nature? •

Talk About The Go

continued from p3



Photos: © Poo-Pourri/Scentsible, LLC

product that is practical too. The business is women-owned and the products are made without alcohol, parabens, phthalates, or formaldehyde and are non-aerosol and not tested on animals.

Poo-Pourri is made from essential oils and works by trapping bathroom odor (you know what that means) before it begins by creating a barrier on the surface of the toilet bowl. Simply spray the water before you 'go', then 'go'.

We will have a personal size available in five fragrances, a **Master Crapsman gift set** for the gents, and **Bee Gone**. Because our stores are so dog friendly, you'll find Poo-Pourri **Pet Odor Eliminator** to use on stinky pet areas. We expect that item to be available later this spring. •

To Do List: March



Plant warm season vegetables like tomatoes

Prune

Camellias and Azaleas after done blooming to shape. Cut back frost damaged plants and feed with Gro-Power to encourage new growth and regeneration.

Fertilize

Roses and Shrubs with Gro-Power or Gro-Power for Roses. Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruits with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Citrus & Avocado Food.

Plant

- > Plant Citrus, Avocados, and tropical and sub-tropical fruit.
- > Start to replace cool season bedding plants with warm season plants.
- > Plant warm season vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and squash.
- > Be sure to amend the soil with good organic compost. Big Harvest Bale is great for edibles and ornamentals.

Look For:

Azaleas, Tuberous Begonias, Caladiums, Calla Lilies and Roses. •



Plant citrus



Big Harvest Bale is a great soil amendment for edibles and ornamentals



Look for Caladiums



Listen to the WAN Experts
Saturdays 6am-7am
KCBQ AM-FM & KPRZ AM-FM



Old Ben: Thoughts Of Migration

By Old Ben

The definition of migration is the periodic seasonal movement of birds from one geographic region to another. Migration typically coincides with available food supplies or breeding seasons. Birds may travel hundreds or thousands of miles during migration, depending on the species and the areas they prefer for nesting habitat and wintering grounds. Some species travel separately according to gender, usually with male birds migrating earlier than females in order to secure territories or begin nest building to attract mates.

For a bird to fly hundreds or thousands of miles between its breeding and non-breeding ranges is a difficult journey, that not all birds survive. So why do birds migrate? What reasons send millions of birds into the skies every spring and fall? There is more than one reason for birds to migrate, but it all comes down to survival.

What If No Birds Migrated?

Without a reason to migrate, birds would have even more challenging lives than making these long journeys requires. If no birds migrated, food supplies in breeding areas would be rapidly depleted, and many chicks would starve. Competition for nesting sites would be fierce, and predators would be attracted to the high number of breeding birds and easy meals of nestlings. It is for those two reasons—food and breeding those birds migrate.

Migrating for a Meal: For birds, one of the driving forces behind migration is lack of food. If birds were to stay in the same tropical regions year-round, food would become scarce and breeding would be less successful. As food sources are regenerating in the north each



spring, millions of birds migrate to those areas to take advantage of the bounty.

More Reasons Birds Migrate:

Climate: Birds have evolved different types of plumage to survive different climates, and changes in those climates can affect migration. Many birds leave the Arctic breeding grounds, for example, when temperatures begin to dip and they need more temperate habitat. Similarly, the hottest tropical regions can be a harsh environment for raising chicks.

Predators: Habitats that have abundant food sources year-round attract a greater number of predators that can threaten nests. Birds that migrate can avoid those extra predators, giving their young a better chance to grow up.

Disease: Any large group of birds crammed in one habitat is susceptible to parasites and diseases that can kill thousands of birds in a short time. Birds that disperse to different locations have less chance of spreading a disease to their entire population.

In the end, the reasons why birds migrate comes down to survival, not of the migrating birds themselves, but of the chicks they will raise. Finding richer food sources, seeking safer habitats and avoiding predators are all migration behaviors designed to ensure breeding success, allowing birds to survive for another generation and allowing birders the pleasure of witnessing another year's migration. •

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.



Just a reminder... Orioles will return this month!

Walter Andersen Nursery and Old Ben have everything you need to feed and attract these beautiful birds. Make sure you look at our large selection of products.

— Ask Old Ben —

Ask Old Ben questions about birds, show him your bird photos, or share your birding experiences at

askoldben@aol.com

Snow Didn't Dissuade Daffodils

by Melanie Potter



Last week's snowfall in Julian only enhanced the beautiful daffodils that had begun blooming. Their blooming is just in time for Julian Farm and Orchard to celebrate its first to be annual Daffodil Days. Beginning March 19, you will be able to pick daffodils at the farm (more than 50,000 bulbs were planted) every week-end through April. The farm is located at 4381 Julian Highway, Santa Ysabel. •

Garden Classes: March

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

3/5

Citrus Care
with Tyler Trimble

3/12

Spring Veggies
with Josh

3/19

Organic Pest Control
with James

3/26

Propagation Techniques
with Richard

POWAY | 9:30AM

3/5

Spring Color
with Brian Robert

3/12

Basic Grafting Techniques
with Tyler Trimble

3/19

California Native Plant
Propagation
with Renee Murphy

3/26

Blueberries: Care & Culture
with Richard Wright



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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
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Open 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

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