



Walter Andersen Nursery™

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

Garden Talk

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

STORE HOURS: San Diego 8am-5pm | Poway 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

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Words From Walter: Vegetables To Plant Now

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



It's a great time to plant your vegetable garden. At this time of year, there are probably more varieties of vegetables to grow than any other. Everyone knows the 'old stand-bys', Tomatoes, Peppers, and Squash, however, there are many, many more.

Most of the following can be found now as plants in the nurseries, or if you prefer you may choose to start your plants from seed. In fact, some veggies you will need to start from seed as they are not usually sold in six-packs or small pots. The

[continued p2](#)

Mother's Day Gifts Are Plentiful



Mother's Day is May 8 and both stores have gift ideas that any gardening mom is sure to appreciate. Outside there is lots to choose from and inside you'll find houseplants, blooming color for indoors, books, and gift items. Don't forget apparel—we have hats and gloves. Stumped and not sure what is the right gift? How about a gift card and let Mom shop for herself! •

How To Grow Grapes In 5 Easy Steps

By Monrovia Nursery

1) Find the best place to plant your grapes

Basically, you need a large, open, sunny space with good soil. Grapes need about 50 to 100 square feet per vine if growing vertically on a trellis or arbor and about 8 feet between rows if planting horizontally in rows, and seven to eight hours of direct sun each day. While they'll grow in a range of soils, they'll thrive in well-drained, rich, organic soil (grapes cannot tolerate wet feet) that has been mixed deep-down with ample



compost or soil conditioner. Air circulation on all sides helps ward off fungal diseases such as powdery mildew.

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Our Fair Exhibit Returns!

by Ken Andersen



Our 2011 exhibit



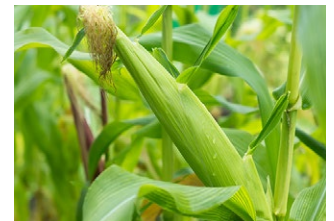
The San Diego County Fair, along with its flower show will return for the first time in two years this June! We are pleased to

announce that Walter Andersen Nursery will retain its crown as the longest running entrant in the flower show having only missed presenting an exhibit when the fair was not held due to wartime or most recently the pandemic. As always, we hope to create an exhibit that is not only aesthetically appealing but also educational. The fair opens June 8 and runs through July 4. The Fair will be closed Mondays & Tuesdays except for July 4. •



Our 2004 Dr. Seuss-themed exhibit

Vegetables continued from p1



following is a list of plants and their form of availability noted as (p) or (s) indicating plants or seed. Generally, growing from seed offers greater variety, but beginning with small plants from six-packs gives you a couple of week's head start (also instant gratification).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beans (p) (s) | Parsley (p) (s) |
| Beets (s) | Parsnips (s) |
| Cantaloupe (p) (s) | Peppers (p) (s) |
| Carrots (s) | Pumpkins (p) (s) |
| Corn (p) (s) | Radish (s) |
| Cucumbers (p) (s) | Spinach (p) (s) |
| Eggplant (p) (s) | Squash (p) (s) |
| Leaf Lettuce (p) (s) | Swiss Chard (p) (s) |
| Mustard Greens (p) (s) | Tomatoes (p) (s) |
| Okra (p) (s) | Watermelon (p) (s) |
| Onions (p) | |

Vegetables do best with at least six hours of sun a day. Well-draining soil and a good soil amendment like Soil Booster by E.B. Stone makes growing conditions even better. This adds organic matter to your soil which enrich your soil and also help hold moisture.

Beets, carrots, and radishes require sowing the seed in a narrow line where you want them and covering the seed to about 1/4" deep with soil. Keep this area moist, probably a light sprinkling of water every day until you see the tiny new leaves (about seven to 10 days). When you plant the seed, don't plant the whole

packet of seed at one time or you will probably have too many that need harvesting at the same time. Plant some now, then in two or three weeks go back and plant some more. Generally, you can get about three plantings from one packet of seed.

If you plan on growing corn, two things to remember: Plant the corn on the north side of the garden so the tall plants don't shade the smaller veggies. You will probably have larger crops of corn if you plant in a square pattern, maybe 10' x 10' or so, rather than in a straight line. Corn is pollinated by breezes that drop the pollen from the tassels down. Planting in a square pattern usually will give better results.

Squash, cucumbers and melons tend to be spreading plants so be sure to give those plenty of room. Most gardeners plant three to five plants close together and let them spread in all directions (allow about 5' diameter area or more if you can).

Have a good irrigation plan, probably two times per week unless it is very warm, then probably a little more often. The simple soaker hoses work great for small plants all in a row. Fertilize with E.B. Stone Tomato & Vegetable (it's organic) or Gro-Power every four weeks while plants are actively growing. •

Grapes continued from p1



2} Choose the best grape variety for your climate

There are three basic types of grapes—American, European, and Muscadine, as well as hybrids made by combining American and European varieties.

American (*Vitis labrusca*) grapes are the most cold-hardy (zones 4-7) and thrive in short-season growing areas such as the Northeast. These are most often used for table grapes, juices, and jellies.

European (*Vitis vinifera*) grapes prefer a warm and dry Mediterranean-type climate (zones 7-10) with a longer growing season. Depending on the variety, these are used for winemaking and as table grapes.

Muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*) grapes are native to North America and grow well in the humid South (zones 7-9). These are most often used for winemaking as well as table grapes.

3} Properly plant your new grape vine

Table grapes don't need a fancy support system, but it is good to get them off the ground and onto a trellis where you can more easily prune and harvest. Wine grapes will require a horizontal structure that gives them the support they need and allows you to train them. In mild winter areas (USDA Zone 7 and

warmer) you can plant your grapes year-round.

Grapevines set deep roots (as much as 15 feet) so dig a planting hole about two feet deep and wide, and enrich with compost.

How Many Grape Vines Should I Plant?

Mature table grapes can produce 15 to 30 pounds per vine. You may only want to plant a couple of vines.

Mature wine grapes produce about 12 pounds per vine, and it takes 40 pounds to make 12 bottles. If you're serious about making wine, you're going to need a lot of vines.

4} Maintain and prune your grapevines

Grapes produce on growth that is a year old, making it important that a pruning schedule is kept to remove older growth and ensure new growth develops. The most common mistake made with grape pruning is not pruning hard enough. Once a grapevine is fully established, you will actually be cutting off more plant than you leave behind.

Grapes can be trained in a couple of different ways, depending on your garden goals and the structure you plan on using for support.

1) Vineyard style. The classic system of two wires strung between posts has the benefits of keeping your grapes where they are easy to harvest, and only requiring a narrow space, such as along a fence or wall. This method has one central trunk and a one-year-old cane with about eight buds going out horizontally on each wire.

2) Onto a trellis or pergola. A great way to incorporate edible plants in a decorative manner. Grapes can be trained onto arches or used to provide seasonal shade on a pergola.

Looking for a simpler, more casual method? Here's how to keep your grapes under control and produce fruit without becoming a pruning expert. Prune your grapes in late winter or early spring. When you are done pruning your grapevine, there should only be two things left—a permanent main trunk or trunks, and growth that is a year old. You won't want to keep all the year-old growth—there might be a lot! Get rid of unneeded older wood, and thin out and shorten the year-old wood. You can leave anywhere from 2 to 8 buds on a cane.

Pruning can be done in summer to tidy up the vines if you find they are getting a little wilder than you like. Thinning can also help the fruit get more sun, and increase airflow to prevent powdery mildew. If you find the fruit is growing in dense shade, you might want to do some thinning.

Common grape maintenance challenges. Powdery mildew is the most common disease affecting grapes but it can be controlled by improving air circulation and by regularly spraying in the spring. Birds? Try covering with netting.

5} Occasionally feed your grapes

Grapevines generally don't require much fertilizer, so fertilize sparingly. In early spring, apply about eight to ten ounces of 10-10-10 or 10-20-20 fertilizer. Adding a layer of high-quality compost to the base of your grapes in early spring can often provide the right amount of nutrients to the soil for your grapes to grow and produce annually.

Editor's Note: As of April 30th, both stores have a variety of selections available. •



Meet Some Australian Natives

by Melanie Potter



'Celebrations Mardi Gras'



'Celebrations Fireworks'

Photos by Brandon Friend-Solis

How beautiful is this anigozanthos 'Celebrations Mardi Gras'? Its green, blue and purple color combination is eye catching. Also known as Kangaroo Paws, these plants grow well in our climate. In the Celebrations collection, you'll also find 'Fireworks' and 'Carnival'. Planted in sandy,

[continued p5](#)

To Do List: May



Plant bedding plants like Zinnias



Mulch to reduce evaporation



Watch for insects like Aphids

Fertilize

For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue. 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.

Conserve Water

Mulch under and around plants and open areas with decorative bark to **reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool**. Water in the early morning or cooler evenings to reduce evaporation. Consider replacing sprinklers with **drip irrigation**. We sell easy-to-use conversion products.

Pest Control

Watch for insects beginning to invade the garden. Pay close attention for **Aphids, Whitefly** and **Scale**. Use systemic controls from Bonide for longest control on ornamentals. Watch for **slug and snail damage** and apply Sluggo or Sluggo Plus as needed. Watch for and treat plants attacked by **Citrus Leaf Miner** with Captain Jack's or Pheromone attractant.

Plant

- > Bedding plants for color such as Marigolds, Zinnias, and Petunias.
- > Trees and shrubs.
- > Fruit trees, tropicals, and roses (as available).
- > Look for Ceanothus. •



Australian Natives
continued from p4



Photo by Brandon Friend-Solis

'Celebrations Carnival'

well-draining soil, they can take full to partial sun. Once established, it will be a low water choice that grows 16" tall and 20" wide. •

Old Ben: All About Western Bluebirds

By Old Ben

Can you imagine eating bugs and berries and living inside a tree? Western bluebirds do just that. They are members of the thrush family, meaning that they are related to robins. Bluebirds eat mostly insects. Grasshoppers, earthworms, snails and beetles are among their favorite foods. They sit on perches and drop quickly to the ground to catch their food or they can catch insects in the air. Bluebirds also eat fruit and berries, especially during the winter when there are fewer insects.

Why Bluebirds Need Our Help

Populations of western bluebirds have declined over the past 50 years. The main reason for their decline is competition for nest holes from European starlings and English house sparrows. Starlings and house sparrows are exotic species, meaning they came from somewhere else and didn't occur naturally in North America. These birds were brought here and have multiplied very quickly. They out compete many of our native birds for nesting habitat.

Creating Habitat

Bluebirds need places to nest. Old trees often have many woodpecker holes that they can use. Don't remove all of the dead trees in your area if possible. They are important for wildlife. Nest boxes have greatly helped increase populations of bluebirds in many areas. Bluebirds will nest in boxes if they are well made and placed in a good location. Building bluebird trails is popular throughout the country. A bluebird trail is a series of bluebird nest boxes along a path planted with berry plants. The path should be near an open area where bluebirds can forage for insects. Small shrubs and trees with berries are important for bluebirds, especially in winter when

insects are harder to find. Elderberry, juniper, red cedar, bayberry, cherry and sumac have berries that bluebirds like. Western bluebirds are mainly insectivorous and can be attracted to feeders if you offer mealworms. Bluebirds need places to perch while they look for insects so tree limbs and brush piles near open areas make great perches. Don't forget a birdbath. Bluebirds like shallow birdbaths lined with flat rocks. Place the birdbath in an open area with a perch nearby so bluebirds feel safe.

Bluebird Facts

- > Nesting occurs from March through August. Only the female incubates the four to six eggs, which she maintains at a temperature of 98 to 100 degrees F.
- > Both sexes defend territories, the males tend to defend territory edges while females primarily defend the nest.
- > A bluebird can spot caterpillars and insects in tall grass at a distance of over 50 yards.
- > Bluebirds can fly at speeds up to 45 miles per hour if necessary.
- > Bluebirds have no blue pigments in their feathers. Instead, each feather barb has a thin layer of cells that absorb all wavelengths of color except blue. Only the blue wavelength is reflected and scattered, resulting in their blue appearance to our eyes. •

Ask Old Ben

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

Botanical Interests Gives Thanks For Support



Together we raised over \$11,000 for Ukrainian humanitarian relief.

Thank you.

We'd like to thank everyone who purchased sunflower seeds during our Ukrainian humanitarian fundraiser in March. With your generosity, we were able to make a donation of more than \$11,000 to Sunflower of Peace. This donation will be used to distribute life-saving medical supplies to help Ukrainians in crisis. We appreciate our incredible customers showing up this month to help plant the seeds of peace, one sunflower at a time.

Judy Seaborn (co-owner), Curtis Jones (co-owner) and the Botanical Interests Team •

Let's Help Bees & Pollinators

By Botanical Interests



Plant natives like Ceanothus

Your garden can be a boon to bees, pollinators and other beneficial insects. Did you know there are things you can do to attract them? Here's how.

Create Diversity and Color

Some creatures may be color blind, but not bees. The more color and the wider variety of flowers in your garden, the better. Zinnias, Lavender, Salvia, and stock are some good choices to start with.

Use Native Plants

Native bees will be most attracted to native plants that they are familiar with. Mix a few in with your favorite ornamentals. Buckwheat, ceanothus, Coffeeberry and California Buckeye are a big hit.

Plant Flowers in Clusters

Larger groupings of flowers (instead of sporadically spaced single plants) attract more bees and pollinators. Even if you only have a small garden area or a few containers to plant in, it will be beneficial.

Plan for a Succession of Blooms

Plant some flowers that bloom in spring, some in summer, and some in fall. That will provide food for the winged friends over a long period of the year.



Lavender

Plant in Sunny Areas

Bees and pollinators prefer to forage in sunny, protected areas where they won't be bombarded by wind.

Put Flowers in the Vegetable Garden

If you intersperse some bee and pollinator friendly flowers with your veggies, it will help increase pollination of your vegetables for a better crop. Marigolds, Lavender, Geraniums, and Rosemary can also deter pests you don't want in the vegetable garden.

Allow Some Vegetables and Herbs to Bolt

Leaving a few vegetables and herbs in the garden will allow them to flower and provide late season food for bees. Let your dill and fennel bolt and the swallowtail butterflies will thank you.

Garden Organically

Use non-toxic forms of pest control. Even organic pesticides may kill beneficial insects like bees and butterflies. •



Mother's Day Greetings



Garden Classes: May

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

5/7
Houseplants
with Ted

5/14
Rose Care
with Constanze

5/21
Summer Color
with Ryan

5/28
No Class
Memorial Day Weekend

POWAY | 9:30AM

5/7
San Diego Spiders in the
Garden: Good or Bad?
with Randy Supczak
San Diego Spider Society

5/14
Building Healthy Soils/
Soil Web with Tyler Trimble

5/21
Citrus Care with David Ross
and George Allmon

5/28
No Class
Memorial Day weekend

Visit Our 2 Locations

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

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