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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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Common Palm Tree Spotted Doing Rare Thing

By Ken Andersen

Many years ago, Walter Jr. received a call from a customer in Mission Hills who had a multi trunked Phoenix roebellini or dwarf date palm he thought we might be interested in. Walter replied that there are many multi trunk dwarf date palms and it wasn't all that unique. The customer explained that this one had one trunk with multiple growing heads, which is rare.

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Celebrating 95 Years Of Growing In San Diego

By Ken Andersen



In January 1928, Walter Andersen Sr. opened Walter Andersen Nursery on a small lot near the intersection of Juan and Taylor St. in Old Town adjacent to where La Pinata restaurant used to be. When first started, the nursery not only sold plants, but also provided landscaping and maintenance services throughout San Diego. As the

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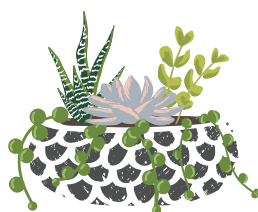
How To Decorate With Houseplants

By Monrovia



Photo: Doreen Wynja of Monrovia

Decorating with large, mature plants instantly elevates the style of a room. Here are a few design tips to keep in mind as you fill your home with plants.



- The most important advice for designing with and growing indoor plants is the same as outdoor gardening. Grow the appropriate plant in the appropriate place.

- Add plants anywhere that needs an instant upgrade. Large, lush plants transform an ordinary space into a luxurious space.

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95 Years

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Walter Andersen Sr. stands by the 1928 Model A pick up he bought new for the company in 1928. In the early 60s Walter Jr. bought another Model A pick up and restored it to look like the original truck. The company still has this truck and puts it on display from time to time—most recently at the 2018 San Diego County Fair.

nursery grew over the years, the location changed several times until the final move from Rosecrans to Enterprise St. in 1969. In the 70s, we shut the landscaping division down and concentrated on the sale of plants. In 1996, it was decided to open a second location to serve customers to the north. A piece of property was located in the Poway business park on Danielson Ct. and soon, construction was underway. The Poway location opened in June of 1998. Still family-owned and operated, Walter Jr. and his wife Jolene still take an active role in the business while day to day operations are handled by their son Ken and daughter Karen.

The Andersen family wishes to thank all of the loyal customers we have served over the years and we look forward to being around for many more to come! •



Common Palm Tree

continued from p1

Sure enough, we saw a single trunk Phoenix roebellini laying on the ground extending to where it had appeared to crest into at least six individual trunks from the original. It had obviously been this way for some time as the new trunks had some length to them and had actually turned upward in their growth habit and were a couple of feet off the ground.

We decided not to take the tree and driving back to the nursery, we noticed at least two more palms in the neighborhood that had split into multiple trunks. Such behavior in these palms is highly unusual and

now that I know that it can happen, I am always on the lookout for it. As a matter of fact, around the corner from my house in Scripps Ranch there is a double split palm. Most recently while visiting Coronado, I walked past another specimen. It is a single trunk that split and then one of the trunks split again into three making for a most unusual combination. If you are a palm aficionado keep an eye out for branched Phoenix roebellinis. As common as the plants are, these mutations are not and are always interesting to see. •

Houseplants

continued from p1



- Use plants as works of art and decorative accessories in your rooms. Have an empty wall or space in a room that needs a special touch? A beautiful plant is a sure thing when it comes to impeccable style.
- Cluster small plants together to make a bigger impact.
- Fill bare spaces with large and small plants. From empty corners to gaps above cabinets, a plant will turn a dull void into a chic living display.
- Surround seating or lounge areas with plants to create a cozy, relaxing nook.
- Bring the outdoors in. Use your favorite garden trends to influence your interior design (and vice versa).

Plants have a place in every style of decor.

- Remember to plant in a container with proper drainage. If the container has drainage holes, use a container tray to prevent water from leaking onto your floor or shelving. Or, you can plant in a plastic pot with drainage holes, and then set that into a container without holes. If you're planting directly into a container without holes (although we wouldn't recommend it), place small pebbles or landscape rocks at the container's bottom. Do so before adding soil to allow for proper water drainage, and be sure not to overwater. •

Strawberries Meet Their Match In Containers

By Monrovia Nurseries



If you come across a strawberry pot, what do you think would grow well in it? This urn-like ceramic or terracotta container has open pockets where you can plant lots of starts. They are good for herbs, annuals, and of course, strawberries.

Below are tips for growing strawberries successfully in containers. Surprisingly, strawberries are an edible that are available through most of the year to grow.

> Any variety of strawberry will produce fruits in pots. However, day-neutral types, which produce berries sporadically throughout the summer are your best bet. Alternatively, try everbearing varieties, which produce fruit two times in a growing season.

> Plant in a pot that's at least 18" wide and 8" deep. Space plants 10" apart with the crown (where the leaves emerge) sitting just above the surface to help avoid rot.

> Ensure 6–8 hours of full sun daily.

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The Three Ds Of Bulbs

By Netherland Bulb Company & Melanie Potter



There are two bulb planting seasons that provide opportunities for some of your prettiest annuals to get their start. Bulbs are so easy to plant and here are the three Ds of doing so:

Dig. Drop. Done. That's it.

Dig a hole three times the height of your bulb, whether it be in a pot or in the landscape. Plant in an area with good drainage because bulbs that stay wet, rot. Words of wisdom and experience, here. While you are digging holes, know that bulbs look better when planted in masses rather than single ones located here and there.

Drop the bulb in the soil with the pointy side up. Cover with soil and follow up with a good dose of water.



Gladiolus

Done, because Mother Nature is taking over now. However, if the weather doesn't cooperate, you may need to help by giving bulbs an occasional drink. If it looks like you may get some frost, you will want to cover your planting area or move bulbs in containers to a frost-free area.

As spring approaches, keep your eyes open for the fruits of fall bulb planting. You'll see tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, iris and allium, just to name a few. Shortly it will time to plant summer blooming bulbs such as dahlias and gladiolus. •

Bird Love

If you need some Valentine's Day inspiration, here it is, courtesy of birds.

> California condors wait until they are 6-8 years old before finding a mate then produce only one egg every one to two years.

> Did you know that male barn owls pamper their partners by delivering food?



> Atlantic puffins flap their wings up to 400 times a minute in order to fly back to their existing burrows each spring. Upon arrival, the pooped puffin pairs rub bills as a sign of affection. •

How To Grow Blueberries In Containers

By Monrovia Nursery



Can berries be grown in containers? They sure can and it's an easy task when you select the right container, variety, and location. Plus, growing in containers gives you more control over soil conditions, moisture level, light, and placement.

Many blueberry varieties are self-pollinating and will produce without a neighboring pollinator. However, planting another blueberry variety nearby will increase their yield.

Available varieties include: Bountiful Blue, Emerald, Jelly Bean, Jewell, Jubilee, Misty, O'Neal, Peach Sorbet, Pink Icing, Pink Lemonade, Sharp's Blue, Southmoon and Sunshine.

> Growing blueberries in containers makes it easy to keep the soil at the low pH blueberries (5.0 to 5.5) require. Plant directly into E.B. Stone Azalea Camellia mix for acid-loving plants.

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Words By Walter: Showy Proteas Provide Spectacular Blooms

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Editor's Note: *If you would like to learn more about Proteas, don't miss the Feb. 4 class at our Poway store to be led by John Clements from San Diego Botanical Garden. The class starts at 9:30am.*

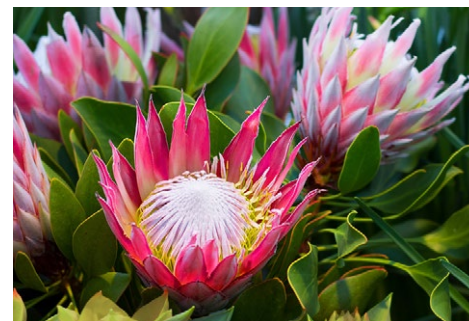
Proteas signify daringness and unpredictability having taken their name from the mystical sea god, Proteus for his ability to change forms at will. These very unusual plants can make magnificent specimens and the blooms are spectacular. They can be enjoyed on the plant or make lasting cut flowers. Many people dry the blooms and use them in everlasting arrangements.

Most are from Africa or Australia so their origin requires a little consideration when choosing the right location to plant them. The most desirable spot in the garden is in full sun. Well drained soil or planting on a slope is essential, with some wind or air movement.

After they are established, they should not be watered more than once a week. Areas that stay wet, like a lawn, are not good planting locations. To plant, prepare a large

hole, approximately 18" to 30" in diameter and about 16" deep. Mix between 1/4 and 1/3 fir bark or coarse redwood shavings. Use this mixture to backfill around the root ball of the new plant, being sure the top of the original root ball in the container is the same height or slightly higher than the surrounding soil.

Make a basin about 2" high and about 24" in diameter. Fill the basin twice with water after planting to allow the water to compact the soil. Water about once a week, being sure to allow it to dry a little between waterings. As the plant grows and matures, water over a larger area but less often. Proteas require very little fertilizer. Gro-Power used at half strength about every eight weeks is all they need. Avoid high phosphorus fertilizers. Protea like slightly acid soils so a pH of 6.5 is most desirable. It is recommended that you do not stake the plants but let them grow naturally. Cut the blooms with long stems and enjoy them indoors. In doing so you are also pruning the plant and it will be bushier. A light application of an iron supplement two times a year will keep leaves a darker green.



If you choose to grow them in containers, we suggest using a well draining potting soil or cactus mix as a potting medium. Container grown plants will also do a little better in partial shade as they dry out faster. ●

Blueberries

continued from p4

- > Provide a pot that's at least 24" wide and deep, with excellent drainage.
- > Blueberries generally love full sun but where summers are unrelentingly hot, afternoon shade is appreciated.
- > Provide consistent water and do not let soil dry out (but don't let soil get too boggy either—drainage is key!) •

Strawberries

continued from p3

- > Long periods of hot, dry weather may require daily watering.
- > Feed with time release balanced fertilizer when planting and once again with a soluble fertilizer high in phosphorous after the first big fruiting.
- > Even with the best care, strawberries are a short-lived perennial. Plants will need to be replaced about every three years. •

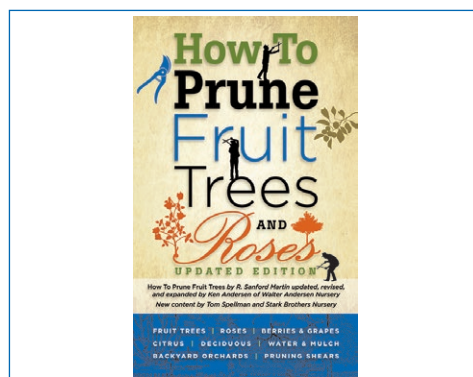
To Do List: February



Check sprinklers and irrigation



Prune Bougainvillea



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" at both of our stores. It's also available online at <https://shopwalterandersen.com/products/how-to-prune-fruit-trees-and-roses-updated-edition>.

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

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. •



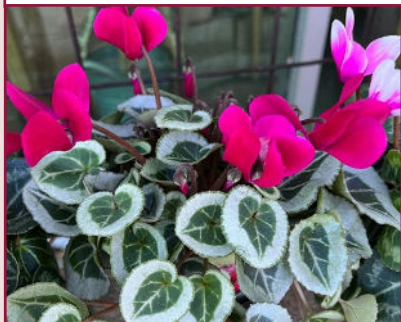
Citrus can be planted now

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Don't Forget Your Valentine



Valentine's Day is February 14th and if you haven't ordered roses, you might start working on Plan B. Both stores have lots of ideas for your special someone. Where to begin? There are **gift cards**, all sorts of **Valentine décor** and **plants**! For the holiday, you'll find **Oriental lilies** and lots of **pink jasmine** whether it be hanging, on a trellis, or upright. There are also sweet **rose** choices, **Bleeding Hearts**, and **orchids**! •



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 STARTS AT 9:00AM

2/4

Rose Care
with Beth Van Boxtel of the
San Diego Rose Society

2/11

Spring Garden Bed Prep
with James

2/18

Spring Seed Starting
with Brijette Romstedt of
San Diego Seed Company

2/25

Spring Gardening
with Constanze

POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

2/4

Proteaceae
with John Clements

2/11

Spring Vegetable Gardens
with Brijette Romstedt of
San Diego Seed Company

2/18

San Diego Spiders
with Randy

2/25

Fruit Tree Grafting
with Richard Wright

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GardenTalk

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