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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*Garden Talk*

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

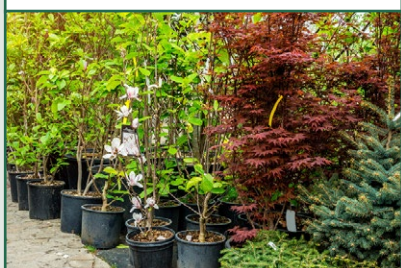


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## Plant A Tree; Get A Rebate!

By SDG&E



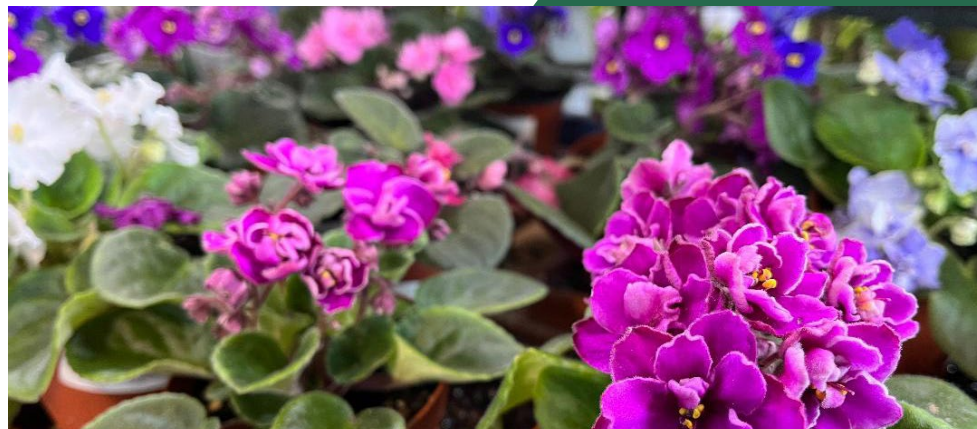
The SDG&E Community Tree Rebate Program for Residential Customers enables residential customers throughout qualifying zip codes to plant trees and other plant species to help provide direct environmental, health, and economic benefits. This program is designed for customers in parts of SDG&E's service territory where trees may be needed to

[continued p2](#)

## Growing African Violets

By MiracleGro

*An Old-Fashioned Favorite!*



The popularity of African Violets refuses to wane. They remain an old-fashioned favorite and are common houseplants because they flower reliably and are easy to grow. Plants have fuzzy leaves

with pink, purple, or white flowers. They grow well in the low humidity and moderate temperature of most home and office environments. With good care, plants can live and bloom for decades.

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## To Do's For Tip Top Tomatoes!

By Chase Smoak, Clemson University Cooperative Extension & WAN Staff



> Your tomato garden needs 6-8 hours of sun a day and should be planted where they will have good drainage. Tomato plants hate wet feet and often succumb to root rot when left in waterlogged soils. They do, however, need regular

watering throughout the growing season, so select a spot with easy access to water. Irrigating deeply but infrequently strengthens plants and encourages deep, healthy root systems for hot summer days.

> Avoid planting where tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, and other solanaceous crops have been grown within the past three years. Many pests overwinter in the soil adjacent to plants and will terrorize unsuspecting gardeners.

> Selecting the right spot. You can plant in containers - use Edna's Best or Recipe 420. Plant in the ground and amend the soil with E.B. Stone Soil Booster. It won't hurt to add gypsum to the soil either.

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## Plant A Tree

continued from p1

help make a positive impact in their community.

### How It Works

Qualifying SDG&E customers can receive a \$35 rebate for planting or potting a 1- or 5-gallon tree/plant species and a \$50 rebate for a 15-gallon tree/plant species. Customers can apply for up to five rebates annually. Customers do not need a yard to qualify. Trees or other plant species can be planted in large containers on outdoor balconies or patio areas.

### How Easy Is It?

Go to [www.sdge.com/trees/community-tree-programs/community-tree-rebate-program](http://www.sdge.com/trees/community-tree-programs/community-tree-rebate-program) and check to see if your zip code is eligible.

- See what trees and plant species are eligible.
- Purchase up to five eligible trees or plant species; only 1, 5 and 15-gallon sizes are eligible.
- Plant the tree(s) or plant species at your home by 10/31/2023. Make sure to keep receipts!
- Take one photo per tree/species planted in the ground or in a sufficient container.
- Upload application with receipt and photos to the tree rebate portal by 11/15/2023.

### Receive Rebate!

This rebate offer runs from Feb. 1, 2023 to Oct. 31, 2023. Rebate funds for this program are available on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. SDG&E or its representative may modify or terminate the program without prior notice to the customer. For more information or for assistance applying for this program, please email: [sdg&e\\_treerebateprogram@clearresult.com](mailto:sdg&e_treerebateprogram@clearresult.com) or call CLEAResult at 1-866-258-4937. •

## Growing African Violets continued from p1

Success in growing them starts with offering them bright, indirect light. Plant in an African Violet potting soil, water regularly and feed with African Violet food.

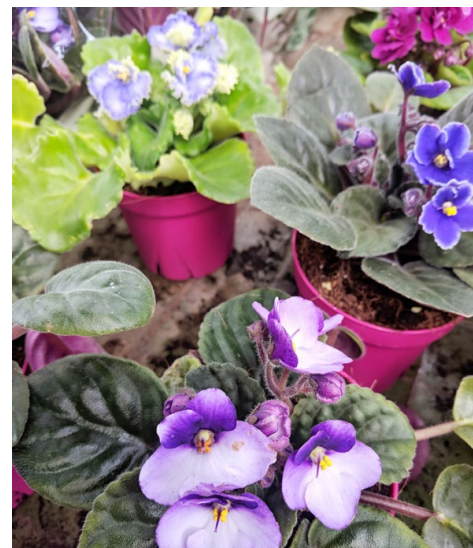
### Where To Grow African Violets

African violets are strictly indoor plants because their leaves need to stay dry. Place African violets about three feet away from a west- or south-facing window. Plants will still grow when situated beside north- or east-facing windows, but leaves will be thin and spindly, and plants are less likely to bloom. If you don't have a good spot near a window, you can grow them under 40-watt fluorescent lights (or grow lights) hanging 12 to 15 inches above the plant.

### How To Plant African Violets

African violets grow best in well-drained, slightly acidic soil. For best results, plant in African violet pots, which are small (4- to 5-inch) ceramic self-watering containers. Growing plants in these pots will provide the proper amount of continuous moisture to the plants because they have a top part in which the plant grows, and a bottom part (or reservoir) that holds water. Ceramic pots are usually glazed on the outside, but the bottom of the planting section is unglazed so that water can easily soak through from the reservoir. Be sure to change the water weekly.

If you are not growing plants in African violet pots, water just enough to keep the soil about as damp as a wrung-out sponge. Take care to use room-temperature water and don't get water on the leaves, as that can cause spots to form on the leaves.



### How To Grow More African Violets

With time, African violets may become overgrown and begin to crowd their pots. Use leaf cuttings from these plants to propagate, or start, new African violet plants. Simply snip off a leaf where it meets the plant stem and stick the cut end in a small container filled with African Violet potting soil. Keep the soil evenly moist. New leaves will sprout in a few weeks. Once plants have 4-5 leaves, they can be repotted into African violet pots.

### When To Repot African Violets

As the lower leaves on an African violet plant begin die back, the lower portion of the stem may become bare (this is sometimes called a "neck"). Remove the plant from the pot, cut off the bottom of the root ball, and repot the plant in the same container with potting mix, burying the stem so that the lower ring of leaves is even with the edge of the pot. Place the plant in a spot with high humidity (or temporarily cover it with a plastic bag) for a week after planting to help lessen the shock from having part of the root ball removed. •



## Crystal Ball Bulb Predictions

By Garden Center Magazine



Garden Center Magazine asked bulb expert Ben Langeveld what the future of bulbs looks like and his crystal ball revealed some surprising information. Langeveld is the owner of Netherland Bulb Company in Pennsylvania.

Langeveld shared that sales of dahlias have increased the most consistently in the past five years, especially during the pandemic. Who knew that dahlias would find their moment during a lockdown? Folks enjoy their versatility as they work in pots, flowerbeds, make good cut flowers, offer many colors and flower styles, and are long bloomers from spring to fall.

If Dahlias aren't your style, the other popular choice has been a shift to a tropical look. That means that bulbs such as Colocasia, alocasia, caladiums, callas, cannas and bananas are in demand to give your yard a resort look.

If you missed bulb planting season, right now both stores have potted bulbs so look for those popular dahlias and tropicals. •

## Tip Top Tomatoes! continued from p1

> Tomatoes are nutrient hogs that require a good supply of nutrients from start to finish. It is important to fertilize before planting and during the growing season. Use Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or Dr. Earth or E.B. Stone Tomato and Vegetable Food.

> Adequate moisture is necessary for nutrient uptake. Drip irrigation works well and doesn't soak leaves, which will help prevent disease issues.

> Don't forget to deal with weeds. They are an often-overlooked source of tomato pests. After clearing the site of any weeds, spread mulch 3-4 inches deep and keep it a palm width away from the bases of tomato stems.

> Monitor and identify. Get to know your garden and what lives in it.

> Make an evaluation. If you do spot harmful pests or damage on tomatoes, evaluate whether real damage is being done as small pest populations can often be tolerated. Choose a wise treatment. If treatment is necessary, use the least toxic measure first. Cultural methods such as proper watering, plant spacing, and fertilization can help prevent or reduce the number of pests. If you have caterpillars, use BT, fungus problems can be controlled with copper spray and other pest problems will be nipped in the bud with horticultural oil.

Both stores have almost 100 varieties of tomatoes! You'll find your favorites such as Better Boy, Husky Red, Health Kick, Green Zebra, Goliath, Celebrity, Early Girl, San Marzano, San Diego and Roma. Due by May 1 are more varieties of heirlooms to keep Mortgage Lifter, Oregon Spring, Japanese Black Trifele, and Jubilee company. Do you enjoy eating the little cherry-type tomatoes, right off the plant? Don't miss Yellow Pear, Indigo Ruby, Green Grape, Tumbler,



Sungold, Red Cherry, Sweet 100, Sunset Torch, and Sweet Treats.

Are you looking for something wild and new? How about Thai Pink Egg? Originally from Thailand where they are valued for their appearance just as much as their sweet, juicy fruit. They produce prolific clusters of grape-to small egg-sized tomatoes. When the fruits are young, they may be light green to pearl white color. However, as the tomatoes mature, they turn a pearly pink to light red. Maybe you'd like Black from Tula which is a robust Russian heirloom and one of the largest of the dramatic blacks, with dark, greenish-black shoulders on dark, brownish-red, slightly flattened fruits that are full flavored with chocolate-brown flesh. Another is Carbon, an award-winning tomato. It is a large, smooth, beautiful fruit that's one of the most gorgeous purple types around. Renowned for its vibrant, smokey flavor that sets them apart from your average tomato. •

## To Do List: May

By WAN Staff



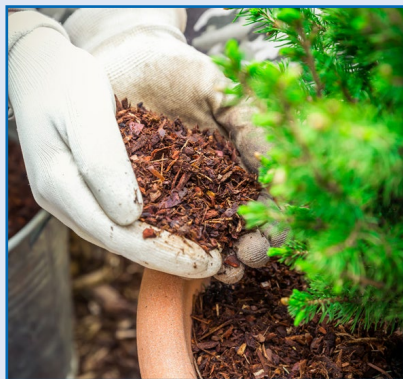
Fertilize vegetables with Gro-Power

### 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.



Mulch around plants to save water

[continued p5](#)

## The Perks Of Planting

By Jack Norton, Breathewell.info



If you're searching for an easy way to improve your well-being, look no further than your own backyard. Planting a garden supports several aspects of your physical and mental health, so picking up a hoe and a trowel is a great way to "rake" in a bounty of whole-body benefits.

### Fools You Into Getting Fit

When you're not a die-hard gym rat and popular fitness programs leave you cold, it's hard to get the exercise you know you need to feel your best. Sometimes tricking yourself into physical activity is the only way to get yourself moving. With a 2019 study of leisure time activities such as gardening reflecting a lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease, it's clear that there are health benefits associated with even modest amounts of exercise.

The improved heart health that results from digging, planting, weeding, and harvesting isn't the sole perk of garden work. Tending crops also strengthens your hand and back muscles, and all that bending and reaching increases flexibility. Gardening in the sunshine also provides a boost of vitamin D, which you might not easily acquire from food sources. Sunlight is

nature's best source of this vitamin which is an essential tool for bone health and immune system efficiency.

### Encourages Healthy Eating

When you have a thriving garden, you have nature's snacks right outside your backdoor, making it easy to prepare nutritious meals with less effort.



Having produce handy simplifies putting the recommended servings of veggies on your plate each day. Because no time is lost from harvest to shipping to arriving at your table, your garden-fresh fruits and vegetables also have higher nutrient density than their grocery store counterparts. Plus, since you are the grower, you will know what, if any, chemicals have been used on your veggies.

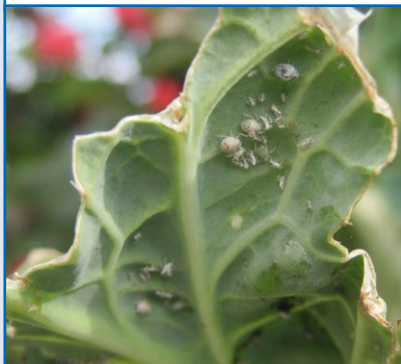
### Boosts Mental Wellness

Beyond its physical benefits, gardening also contributes to psychological well-being by reducing stress, boosting mental clarity, and creating a sense of accomplishment. The focus required while working in the garden allows you to tune out distractions and negative thoughts, freeing your mind of the things that cause worry and frustration.

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## To Do List: May

continued from p4



Use Bonide to control Aphids

### 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 with sticky cards.

### Plant

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



Plant Ceanothus

## The Perks Of Planting continued from p4



Nurturing seedlings through from planting to harvest increases self-confidence and pride, and even a bacterium commonly found in dirt shows promise as a stress-reducer.

If you don't have planting space in your own backyard, participating in a community garden provides the same benefits while adding a collaborative element. Connecting with others in a neighborhood project creates camaraderie and reduces the negative impacts of social isolation. Also, being part of a group exposes you to alternate perspectives that often change your outlook for the better.

### Experience Nature

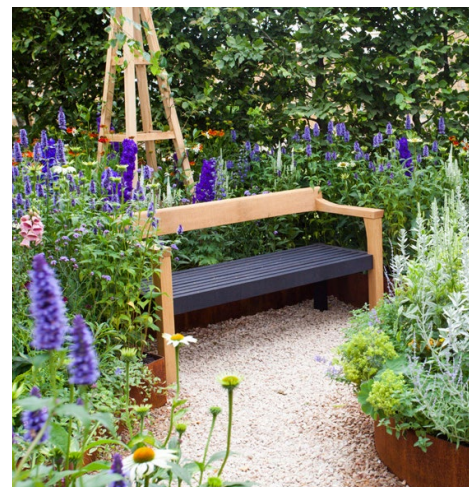
Gardening not only offers recreational experiences, but it also serves as an opportunity to learn about the diversity of wildlife surrounding us. Bird watching has become increasingly popular among gardeners as they cultivate an environment that attracts many bird species. In California, gardeners can spot several species, such as the California quail, Anna's hummingbird, northern mockingbird, and the black-crowned night heron.

What you plant can also bring different birds to your yard. For

instance, plants like California fuchsia or bee balm attract the beautiful Allen's Hummingbird, or fruit-producing native plants, such as dogwood and coffee berries draw Cedar Waxwings.

### Embrace The Benefits Of A Garden

From providing stealth exercise opportunities to adding nutritious options to your diet to improving your mental health, planting a produce garden is a clear winner when it comes to your well-being. It's hard to think of an easier way to achieve so many benefits. So, when you want to cultivate a commitment to better health, get planting! •



## Mother's Day is May 14th!



Both stores have a selection of orchids, indoor plants, garden necessities, gloves, hats, and giftware. Stumped and not sure what is the right gift? How about a gift card and let Mom shop for herself! •



## Garden Talk RADIO

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

Or Listen Anytime on our Podcasts Page

[walterandersen.com](http://walterandersen.com)

## Companion Planting

By Food Gardening Network & WAN Staff

Don't plant your spring vegetables without planting some buddies along with them. Did you know that many of your favorites benefit from having other plants alongside them to enhance each other's growth or protect each other from pests? Follow these suggestions from Food Gardening Network to get started. •

COMPANION PLANTING CHART	
PLANT	PARTNERS
Tomatoes	Basil, Asparagus, Broccoli, Garlic, Carrots, Celery, Onions
Beans	Corn, Squash, Radish, Beets, Spinach, Cucumber, Potato
Peppers	Basil, Onion, Garlic, Spinach, Tomatoes
Carrot	Chives, Onion, Leeks, Tomato, Rosemary, Coriander, Lettuce, Radish
Lettuce	Mint, Chives, Dill, Beans, Beets, Onion, Broccoli
Potatoes	Corn, Cabbages, Peas, Squash, Beans
Onions	Carrots, Parsnips, Lettuce, Cabbage, Beets, Tomatoes, Rosemary
Cucumber	Corn, Cabbage, Beans, Radish, Celery, Lettuce
Squash	Corn, Peas, Radish, Dill, Beans
Corn	Beans, Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Melons
Peas	Cauliflower, Garlic, Turnip, Radish, Potato, Cucumber, Corn, Beans

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[foodgardening.mequoda.com](http://foodgardening.mequoda.com)

### Citrus Pest Reminder:

**Please Don't Bring Any Citrus To Our Stores.** Due to HLB, all citrus sales are final. We WILL NOT accept citrus returns. HLB, or citrus greening disease, is a bacterial disease for which there is no cure. Don't bring any part of a citrus tree or fruit to our stores to diagnose maladies or to identify a variety. Take photos of the issue and overall pictures of the tree, and from that we will do our best to assist you.

## May Special

Valid May 1-31, 2023



**ALL Roses**  
**30% OFF**  
Stickered Price

*Excludes Flower Carpet,  
Lady Banks & Cecile Brunner*

*Limited to stock on hand. While supplies  
last. No rain checks. No special orders.  
No coupon needed. Cannot be combined  
with other offers or discounts.  
Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.*

## 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 STARTS AT 9:00AM

5/6

Tomatoes 101  
with Josh

5/13

Worm Composting  
with Kathleen

5/20

Pest Management  
with James

5/27

Pollinators  
with Ryan

### POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

5/6

How To Grow  
Prize Pumpkins  
with Jim Fredricks

5/13

Aquatic Plants  
with John Clements

5/20

Organic Insect Controls  
with George Allmon

5/27

No Class  
Memorial Day Weekend



**Memorial Day is May 29th**  
**We remember all who gave their  
lives in service to our Country.**  
Both stores are open regular hours.

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



**Walter Andersen  
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

*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

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