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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

Garden Talk

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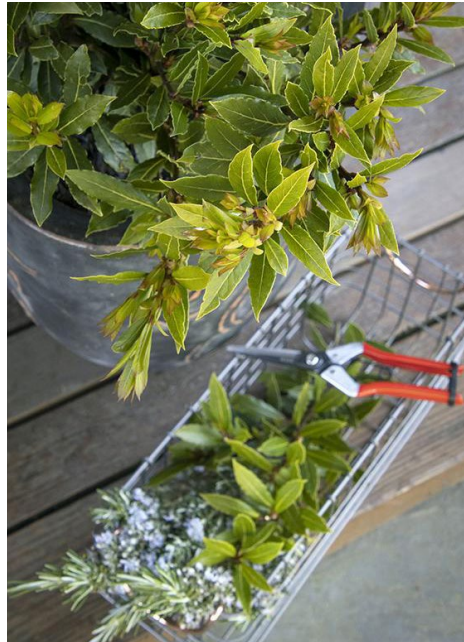


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Growing Waterwise Edibles

By Monrovia



If you are trying to conserve water yet still want to plant edibles, your harvest might be different than you're used to. Instead of tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchinis, it might be figs, persimmons, and artichokes. You'll also need to use and conserve water in ways that you're not used to. The change might take some getting used to. However, with hot, dry weather becoming more persistent, you'll be happy you made some changes.

You can grow food in a drought by using waterwise gardening practices and growing the appropriate, drought-tolerant edible plants.

Here are 10 tips for doing so:

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Fair Display Rakes In Awards!

By Melanie Potter



We had no idea that our "Getting Out There" exhibit at this year's San Diego Fair would earn us so many awards! Our display

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Caterpillar Facts

By Birds & Blooms

Many of the questions from customers that we answer do not benefit caterpillars because it is usually to identify them as the culprit that is eating plants or how to be rid of them. If you are a caterpillar destined to become a beautiful butterfly, the odds are you will be tolerated, hosted, and fed.

- > Here's a caterpillar that gardeners might place on their 'nice' list. *Hyposmocoma molluscivora* is a Hawaiian moth and the only species whose caterpillars are known to eat snails. They crawl inside the shells and eat the snails alive. Let's hear it for the *Hyposmocoma molluscivora*!!



- > The Arctic woolly bear moth spends up to seven years as a caterpillar, eating for just a few days each summer.
- > Caterpillars have six true legs, found toward the front on their

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Fair Display

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featured a tent set in a campground surrounded by drought tolerant trees and shrubs.

We think it looked swell and the judges must have agreed because it was awarded with: [The Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Donated Award](#) from Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Dept., [Watersmart Landscape Donated Award](#) from the San Diego County Water Authority, [Paul Ecke Jr. Garden Show Theme Award](#) (3rd place), and the [Master Gardener Assoc. Earth-Friendly Gardening Honorable Mention](#) by the Master Gardener Assoc. of San Diego County. •

A Winning Combination



Photo: National Garden Bureau

Lately, the weather hasn't offered a summer vibe, but this container garden sure does. Who wouldn't adore a vibrant and vigorous blend of purple, orange and yellow plants to make a statement in your sunny garden? Choose similar colors or create your own color scheme using calibrachoa, bacopa and verbena. •

Waterwise Edibles

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1) Trees, vines, and shrubs tend to be the **most drought-tolerant edible plants**, especially if they are already established.

2) Established **fruiting trees** should be watered infrequently and deeply (once every 2-4 weeks, depending on conditions and water restrictions).

3) Use a thick **3" layer of mulch around plants**. Take care not to build a mound of mulch at the base of the plant. Fire wise choices include compost, large bark chips, and gravel mulch.

4) **Water plants** in the early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler. Avoid the temptation to water in the heat of the day, which will waste water.

5) Pay attention to **when water is most important** — transplanting and fruit forming periods. Once flowering and fruiting have been accomplished, the plant needs less water.

6) Practice **"dry farming"** (cultivation of a crop without irrigation) once the fruit has set.

7) Plant your edible plants in a location that is **protected from strong winds**. Wind can sap the moisture out of the plant quickly.

8) Step back your **fertilizing routine**. Too much fertilizer with too little



water can stress your plants during drought conditions.

9) Established **edible trees and shrubs** (at least 3 years old) are more resilient and drought tolerant than younger plants. When choosing what to water, choose your younger plants.

10) **Grow what you need** for yourself or your family during a drought. When water restrictions are in place, prioritize what to plant.

What to plant: Fruit trees like figs, olives, and persimmons offer a fantastic way to grow fruit in a drought. As do low-maintenance shrubs like pineapple guava and pomegranate. Mediterranean herbs are often drought tolerant, too. Dry gardens will see lots of luck with tough herbs like thyme, sage, oregano, rosemary, sweet bay, and lavender. Artichokes and Zestful Lollipop grapes are also good options. •

Caterpillar Facts

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thorax. The other appendages are known as prolegs, and have suction cups called crotchets that cling tightly to surfaces.

> Silkworm moth caterpillars produce unbroken silk threads up to 1,000 yards long to form their cocoons.

> Move over Hulk! Humans have about 600 muscles but caterpillars have as many as 4,000, with 248 in their head alone!

> Finally, more than 500 species of caterpillars in the U.S. eat oak leaves. •



Don't Overlook Lantana

By Janet Loughrey,
Proven Winners



There are few plants that give more bang for their buck than lantana. Related to verbena, this flowering shrub can be grown as a perennial in frost-free zones or as an annual in colder climates. Lantana is a workhorse in the landscape, with clusters of tiny flowers that bloom continuously from planting until frost, or nearly year-round in regions where it grows as a perennial. Lantana colors include pink, orange, red, yellow, lavender and white, occurring in single, bicolor or multicolor patterns.

Native to tropical regions of the Americas and South Africa, lantana plant thrives in hot, dry conditions, adding bright color to beds, borders and containers. The flowers attract pollinators such as butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

How To Plant: Grow lantana in a sunny site that receives at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight per day. Space plants 1 to 6 feet apart, depending on the variety.

1. Loosen the soil in the planting area. Dig a hole slightly wider and deeper than the root ball.
2. Remove the lantana plant from its nursery container and gently tease out roots if pot bound.

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As Old As Dinosaurs, Meet The Araucaria Family

By Ken Andersen



Many years ago, three varieties of **Araucaria** were commonly available. **Araucaria heterophylla**, or **Norfolk Pine**, was a landscape tree and also grown for use as living Christmas Trees during the holiday season. **Araucaria bidwilli** was commonly grown as a landscape tree along with its cousin **Araucaria araucana**, or **Monkey Puzzle tree**. Today, only Norfolk Pine is available and its availability is sporadic.

On a recent trip to Durham, NC while touring Duke Gardens at Duke University (a must see if you are in the area), I spotted a nice specimen of *Araucaria araucana* in a container outside the visitor center. When I returned to San Diego, I started searching to see if I could find a source for *A. araucana*. Lucky for me the search did not take long and I was able to locate some liners (very small trees) from a nursery in Northern California. I ordered several and on arrival moved them into 1-gallon containers. They have since been thriving!

I was recently browsing the Brooklyn Botanical Garden website (BBG.ORG) and came across an article

about *A. araucana* and I learned a few things!

- > These are ancient trees in the conifer family, often referred to as living fossils.
- > Their native habitat is in the Andes of Chile and western Argentina.
- > Due to clearing of land for agriculture and cattle, they have become somewhat endangered.
- > They are the national tree of Chile and can reach heights of 130 feet.
- > Their foliage is firm and sharply pointed and some think this may have been a defensive characteristic to prevent predation by dinosaurs!
- > The large cones the females produce, up to eight pounds, are a source of food for birds and the indigenous Mapuche people of the region.

Now that we have a source for them, we are hopeful that we will have some available for sale in the near future. If you want to learn more, check out the article here www.bbg.org/article/monkey_puzzle_tree_endangered_parakeet. •

Lantana

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3. Set the plant in the hole with the top of the root ball level with the surrounding soil.

4. Backfill the hole with soil, tamp down slightly to remove air pockets and water well.

5. Keep plants watered regularly until established.

LANTANA PLANT CARE

Soil: Lantana prefer rich, well-draining soil. For lantana in pots, use a high quality all-purpose potting mix. Make sure containers have adequate drainage holes.

Watering: Keep soil evenly moist but not soggy. Lantana is drought tolerant once established. Water when the top two inches of soil is dry, and more often in extreme heat or dry spells. Containers will need more frequent watering.

Fertilizing: Apply a balanced granular fertilizer at the time of planting. For containers, which leach out nutrients more quickly, use a balanced water-soluble fertilizer once a month. Avoid over-fertilizing, which can result in fewer blooms and weak growth.

Pruning: When grown as a perennial shrub, lantana will develop woody growth. In early spring, cut out any dead or diseased branches and prune plants back by up to a third of their size to stimulate new growth.

How To Deadhead: Seed-producing lantana plants will benefit from deadheading to promote more flowering and prevent plants from going to seed. Cut off spent flowers as soon as they finish blooming.

How To Make It Bushy: Lightly prune stem tips to encourage more branching and flower buds and lightly shape as needed. •

What To Know About Hummingbirds

By National Garden Bureau



Because hummingbirds need protein in their diets, avoid using pesticides in your garden. Let these feathered friends take care of tiny pesky pests naturally.

Best Plants For Hummingbirds

Brightly colored, tubular flowers make the perfect hummingbird buffet. The shape of the bloom and its location is just as important as its color: grow hummingbird-friendly plants where it's easy for the birds to hover and savor a sip of nectar.

Hummingbirds' beaks aren't like a straw: instead, they lap up nectar with their tongues—about 13 licks per second! And, to add to that impressive feat, hummingbirds can remember every flower they've been to and know how long it will take for a flower to refill with nectar.

They may be the world's smallest birds, but their tiny brains process amazing amounts of information.

Although nectar-rich plants attract hummingbirds, adding a feeder near the plants also benefits the birds. Just make sure to keep the sugar water fresh and dye-free—there's no need to add red food coloring to homemade hummingbird food.



Use a 4-to-1 ratio when preparing hummingbird food: 4 cups water to 1 cup sugar. Boil the water, slowly pour over the sugar to dissolve it, then cool completely before adding to the feeder. Only use pure cane white sugar.

Great Hummingbird Magnets

Plant any of these plants to attract hummingbirds: cardinal flower, trumpet honeysuckle, salvia, sticky monkey flower, torch lily, butterfly bush, foxglove, and more. To keep hummingbirds happy, you'll need selection of plants that bloom from early spring through fall, ensuring the hummingbirds have plenty of nectar for fuel before they migrate. •



Did You Know?

By National Garden Bureau



cultivar

A “cultivar” is a “cultivated variety”. A plant bred by humans to meet certain desirable characteristics, like color, growth habit, bloom size, fragrance, or hardiness.

native

A “native” is a plant that evolves in a certain region. Adapting to its region in terms of climate, soil, water needs, and interactions with other plant and animal species.

nativar



A “nativar” is a cultivar of a native plant species. A result of selections made by humans from the natural variations found in species. •

To Do List: July



Fertilize tropicals and palms



Plant Gardenias Photo: Monrovia



Mulch plants to conserve water

Fertilize

- > For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue.
- > Feed ornamentals with Gro-Power.
- > Feed vegetables with Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or E.B. Stone 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. Add Ada Perry’s Magic Formula to your regular rose feeding schedule this month.
- > Mulch plants to conserve water and dress up planting beds.

Prune

- > Coral trees and roses.

Water

- > Through October, keep a close watch on watering to make sure plants do not suffer from drought.
- > Adjust sprinkler clocks or provide supplemental watering to avoid stress to plants.
- > Make sure lawn sprinklers are working properly to prevent waste and dead spots.

Plant

- > Plant anything! Just make sure they get plenty of water! New plantings will require more frequent, shallower waterings than established plants.
- > Look for Plumeria, Hibiscus, Lantana, Plumbago, Gardenias, and bedding plants. •



Garden Talk RADIO

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Saturdays 6am-7am
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Or Listen Anytime on our Podcasts Page
walterandersen.com

Dates To Remember



Both stores will be closed on July 4th to celebrate Independence Day. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.



Both stores will close at 2pm on August 15 for a special event.

Garden Classes: July

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

- 7/1
No Class
4th of July Weekend
- 7/8
Milkweed 101
with Ryan
- 7/15
Tea Time
with Kathleen
- 7/22
Container Dos and Don'ts
with Constanze
- 7/29
Seed Saving
with Richard

POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

- 7/1
No Class
4th of July Weekend
- 7/8
Compost
with Tyler Trimble
- 7/15
Backyard Tropical Fruit
with Mike Letzring
- 7/22
Fairy Gardens
with Richard Wright
- 7/29
Carnivorous Plants
with Sydney



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GardenTalk

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San Diego, California 92110
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POWAY

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