



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



•• IN THIS ISSUE ••

- Introduction To Fennel 1
- How To Attract Ladybugs 1
- Tool Sharpening 1
- Heat-Tolerant Plants 3
- Swap, Not Shop! 3
- Focal Points Give Garden Pop 4
- August To Do List 5
- What's Wrong With My Tomato 6
- August Garden Classes 6

Introduction To Fennel

By Norann Oleson / Food Gardening Network



Fennel is a part of the carrot family, but it's not a root vegetable because the bulbs, the vegetable part, grow above ground. The stalks, too, are often eaten and can make great munching sticks, just like celery.

At the tip of the stalks are green feathery leaves that resemble dill. These feathery leaves or fronds are an herb and can be used to flavor soups and sauces.

Try thinly slicing fennel and adding it to a salad of arugula, shaved parmesan, and avocado then toss it with lemon and olive oil.

continued p2

Tool Sharpening



Tool Sharpening No Longer Available at the San Diego Store

Effective August 2023, Ronin Sharpening will no longer offer services in the San Diego store. Instead, the first Saturday and Sunday of each month, **services will be offered at the Poway store** from 10am-2pm. •

How To Attract Ladybugs To Your Food Gardens

By Amanda MacArthur / Food Gardening Network

I imagine at some point, most gardeners have wondered how to attract ladybugs to their garden. These gorgeous little beetles, with their bright red wings and black spots, are the state insect of seven U.S. states. (It's tied with the Monarch butterfly as the second most-occurring state insect. The European honeybee is the winner with 14 states.)

Ladybugs, also known as lady beetles or ladybird beetles, are seemingly harmless insects. They don't eat our plants and are harmless to humans. It's a different story for aphids and other soft-



bodied pests. Ladybugs primarily feast on aphids. However mites, whiteflies, mealybugs, and scale are on the menu, too.

continued p2



Fennel stalks growing



Fennel flowers

Fennel continued from p1

Fennel seeds are the dried seed of the fennel herb, but they aren't scientifically "seeds" because they are really the "fruit" of the plant. Fennel seeds have a warm, sweet aroma and an anise or licorice flavor.

When it goes to seed, fennel also produces small yellow flowers among the leaves. Even these flowers are edible!

Here Are Some Other Fun Fennel Facts

> Fennel was first grown in and around the Mediterranean thousands of years ago. Roman warriors thought fennel was a strength-builder, and ancient Greeks thought that Prometheus concealed fire in a stalk of fennel when he brought fire down from the heavens for humans to use. The Greek god Dionysus used a fennel stalk as a wand!

> Roman writer Pliny claimed that fennel had great healing properties

and that it helped improve eyesight.

> In medieval times, fennel seeds inserted into keyholes or hung over doors were thought to protect a dwelling from ghosts, especially on Midsummer's Eve.

> Charlemagne declared in 812 A.D. that fennel was essential for every garden because of its remarkable healing properties and ordered that all gardens include fennel.

> In the 1200s, English people used fennel as an appetite suppressant, to help them get through days of fasting. Some 500 years later, during the late 1700s, fennel became an important ingredient of patented and potent medicinal elixir called absinthe.

> Fennel was introduced in North America for the first time by Spanish missionaries, cultivating fennel in their medicinal gardens. •

How To Attract Ladybugs continued from p1

Worldwide, there are an estimated 5,000 species of ladybugs, and here in North America, we have around 450 species. So even though the "typical" ladybug is red with black spots, you may also see orange, yellow, or black ladybugs. The larvae, which also feed on aphids, have been described as "alligator-like," due to their elongated and "bristly" appearance.

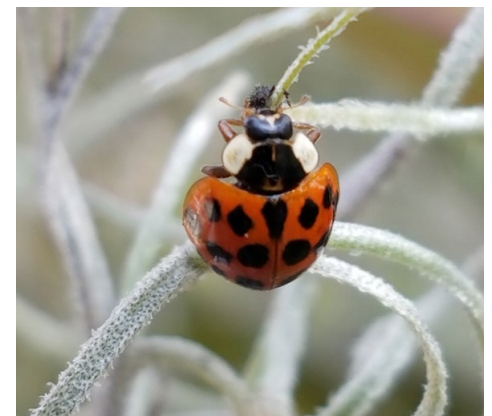
Both the larvae and the adult beetles are highly mobile, and will relocate to find food. Depending on the species, ladybugs will consume 50 or more aphids in a day, and somewhere around 5,000 aphids in their lifetime.

How To Attract Ladybugs

A food garden relies heavily on pollinators like bees and butterflies. Lucky for us, if you're working on attracting these helpers to your

garden, you already know how to attract ladybugs.

Ladybugs, like bees, love native flowers and plants. Flowering herbs such as dill, cilantro, and mint attract ladybugs, as do sunflowers and alyssum. Other flowers, such as marigolds and nasturtiums (delicious in salads, by the way!) attract aphids, which keeps them away from your food crops, and means your ladybugs have a food source.



Additionally, do your best to eliminate pesticides. While pesticides can be effective in ridding your garden of pests, they also kill off predator and pollinator insects, such as bees and ladybugs. Plus, a healthy garden that takes advantage of companion planting, good soil practices, and native vegetation can easily withstand most pests. •

Swap, Not Shop!

By WAN - San Diego



Calling all Green Thumbs! Did your garden explode with a cornucopia of deliciousness this summer? Do you have surplus veggies, fruits, and herbs to spare? Get ready for the ultimate Veggie Vault Swap at our San Diego store!

Mark your calendars for the inaugural Veggie Vault Swap on Sunday, August 27th, from 10am to 11am. We're transforming our classroom area into a lively marketplace where local growers can gather, mingle, and swap their bountiful harvests.

Discover a whole new world of flavors and varieties as you exchange your homegrown treasures. You might stumble upon an exotic veggie or a rare fruit while expanding your gardening circle and connecting with fellow San Diego green thumbs.

This event is FREE and open to everyone who wants to participate. So, bring your homegrown goodies, whether it's an abundance of tomatoes or a treasure trove of zucchinis. We look forward to seeing your bountiful harvests. All participants will be entered to win our ultimate veggie garden giveaway. More details to come!

Get ready for a Produce Exchange like no other, right here in sunny San Diego. See you there! •

Heat-Tolerant Plants For Gorgeous Gardens

By National Garden Bureau & David Ross



←... Holding up in the heat are Tecoma, Butterfly Bush, Rudbeckia and Kangaroo Paw.

Long hot summers and a desire to conserve water might make you think it's impossible to have a gorgeous garden. However, there are ways to beat the heat!

How To Beat The Heat

- 1) *Follow water wise tips to prep your garden for summer's hot days. Mulch more and water longer less often to soak a wider and deeper area each time that you do water.*
- 2) *Choose plants that hold their heads high and laugh at heat.*
- 3) *Increased heat and drought do not have to relegate your garden to a collection of cacti.*
- 4) *All new plants, even drought-tolerant ones, need water while establishing their root systems and during periods of extreme drought. New plantings need a bit of pampering to develop into strong, drought-tolerant, mature plants*
- 5) *Consider the plants listed below to get your summer garden growing.*

Tecoma

The hotter it gets, the more Tecomas stand out. Yellows, oranges, reds and blends all stand out and bloom more as the temperatures increase and use less water.

Buddleia, Butterfly Bush

These low water heat lovers have a profusion of flowers that attract butterflies. There are both compact and tall growing varieties which means there is a type for almost any garden. Blooms from spring to late summer.

Rudbeckia

Everyone adores Rudbeckia. Those classically cheerful, brilliant blooms fill gardens with low-maintenance joy. From blanketing landscapes in vibrant colors to filling cutting gardens for beautiful, bountiful bouquets, rudbeckia makes an ideal addition to hot, sunny gardens. Plus, these pretties attract bees, butterflies, and beneficial predatory insects to your garden, helping to keep aphids, thrips, and whiteflies at bay. If you enjoy backyard birding, keep your eyes peeled for feathered friends enjoying a snack of rudbeckia seeds in the fall and winter.

Kangaroo Paw

With its heat and drought-tolerance, anigozanthos makes a great addition to liven up summer gardens. Clusters of fuzzy flowers add texture to the garden, while the beautiful blooms make long-lasting additions to bouquets.

continued p4

Focal Points Give The Garden Pop

By Steve Harbour



Photo: Adam Potts

You walk into a garden and are struck by one plant that seems to captivate the entire area. The plant is either beautiful, large, or exceptionally striking in some way, and you and everyone else notice it immediately. This plant is a garden focal point, designed to capture attention. Focal points can mesmerize us with beautiful flower displays, exceptionally rich foliage hues, or a dramatic sculptural presence.

The focal point is often the first plant to be penciled into a landscape design, acting as the catalyst around which the rest of the plant palette is formed. It's true that some landscapes are intentionally designed without using plants as focal points, as when creating a naturalistic tapestry of plantings, or when choosing a fountain, statue, or other decorative piece. If we ignore the focal point concept altogether when creating the garden setting, something

[continued p5](#)

Heat-Tolerant Plants continued from p3



Photo by Doreen Wynja



Perovskia, Russian Sage

This heat and drought-tolerant perennial produces a pleasing sage fragrance and attracts bees and butterflies while offering deer resistance to your containers and garden.

Agastache

A great pollinator magnet for hot, dry, sunny climates that hold their color after the plant stops blooming, extending interest into fall. Resistant to deer, these fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Salvia

Also known as sage, is an exceptional low-maintenance choice for attracting hummingbirds to your garden. The vibrant flowers of Salvia produce an abundance of nectar, making them highly appealing to hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Plus, there are varieties of salvia that are well-suited for just about any zone or region.

<... | Perovskia,
Russian Sage

Salvia



<... | Agastache

Lantana



Lantana

Makes a gorgeous addition to hot, dry gardens, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to the pretty clusters of petite flowers. There are tall and compact growers in many different colors. By mid-summer, though, many varieties begin to set seed and need pruning to keep the plant flowering throughout the season.

**Garden
Talk
RADIO**

Listen to the WAN Experts
Saturdays 6am-7am
AM 1170 & 1210 | FM 96.1 & 106.1

Or Listen Anytime on our Podcasts Page
walterandersen.com

Focal Points

continued from p4



unintended may become the focus of our design, whether it is a half-dead plant, the telephone pole looming over the back fence, or some other eyesore.

What makes a good focal point? It can be the impact of a solitary flowering shrub or vine, such as a protea or bougainvillea. Rich foliage color can have as much visual impact as vibrant bloom, which is the case with the burgundy leaf Caribbean copper tree. Plant curiosities and plants of impressive structure also work to highlight garden areas; plants like tree aloe and dragon tree. The size and girth of big trees often capture our immediate attention, dominating specimens like Italian stone pine, cork oak, or our native California sycamore.

More complex designs are often sprinkled with eye-popping plants; a conscious choice on the part of the designer when creating various vignettes throughout the landscape. When

[continued p6](#)

To Do List: August



Plant drought-tolerant plants like cactus and succulents



Plant more warm-season veggies like beans



It's time for an irrigation tune-up

Fertilize

> For lawns, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds. 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.

Water

> If you will be unavailable, arrange for a neighbor or your gardener to watch your yard to make sure everything gets appropriate water. Adjust sprinklers to make sure they operate properly. Think about switching your existing sprinklers to more efficient types.

> If you are considering removing your lawn and plants, we suggest starting with an irrigation tune-up first. Have someone look at your system.

It might be worth investing in your irrigation system rather than incurring the expense of removing existing plantings and replacing them.

> Mulch, mulch, mulch. Topping the soil with a layer of mulch helps keep the moisture in. Mulch breaks down and enriches the soil, and it makes your plantings look manicured and finished.

Plant

> Plant tropicals, ornamentals, trees, and shrubs.

> Plant late crops of warm-season vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, and beans.

> Later this month, plant Sweet Peas for early crop of flowers.

> Add some drought-tolerant plants such as Cactus, Succulents, Lantana, Grevilleas, and Leucadendron.

> Look for bedding plants, Bougainvillea, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Agapanthus, Citrus, Plumeria, and Avocados. ●

Focal Points

continued from p5

adding multiple focal points to a design, each area is a visual treat; when it doesn't work, the focal points fight for attention and the entire landscape gets muddled and loses impact.

Seasonality is another factor to consider in designing focal points. Many plants light up a garden in one season, then fall back into relative obscurity throughout the rest of the year. Seasonality makes it necessary to design other species that come into their prime as the other seasonal highlights fade. This is especially true when showcasing flowering plants, most of which bloom seasonally. It takes more planning to effectively design a landscape with different highlights in each season, but when implemented correctly, adds a look less likely to become monotonous.

Like actors on a stage, the focal point takes the spotlight while the other, less noteworthy plant species work the background in supporting roles. Selecting the right focal point or focal points adds eye-popping beauty to the landscape.

Steve Harbour is a landscape designer working in the San Diego area. •

Garden Classes: August

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

8/5

Staghorn Remounting
with Olivia

8/12

Carnivorous Plants
with Hong of The San Diego
Carnivorous Plant Society

8/19

How to Properly Fertilize
with Richard

8/26

Pest ID
with Kathleen

POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

8/5

Bees with Denise Bienias
(Vice President, San Diego
Beekeeping Society)

8/12

Staghorn Fern Care,
Culture, & Remounting
with David Ross

8/19

Irrigation Basics
with Scott Jones

8/26

Citrus Care & Culture
with John Clements

What's Wrong With My Tomato?

By National Garden Bureau



Problem #1: Blossom-End Rot (BER)

A nasty-looking, black, bruise-like, water-soaked area, typically on the blossom end (the side opposite the stem) of the tomato. The area grows and becomes sunken and leathery. In some cases, the exterior of the fruit looks fine, but the inner fruit is discolored. It often appears on the first fruits of the season. BER also affects peppers, eggplant, and squash.

Causes: Lack of calcium in the fruit. Many gardeners think that it's a lack of calcium in the soil that causes BER—which can be a factor. However, this physiological disorder results from a lack of calcium in the fruit.

What happens when our anxiously-awaited tomatoes disappoint with low yield, funky leaves, weird black splotches, or pre-nibbled orbs? Even the most vigilant gardener may suffer angst over tomato problems.

[continued p7](#)

Date To Remember

Both Walter Andersen Nursery stores will close at 2pm on **August 15** for a special event.

My Tomato continued from p6

Often, there's adequate calcium in the soil, but the plant's ability for calcium uptake and transport to the fruit is impaired. Drought stress and inconsistent watering cause root hair damage. Waterlogged soil, cold soil, high concentrations of ammonium, potassium, and magnesium in the soil...all of these factors can lead to blossom-end rot.

Solutions:

- > Always test your soil before amending it to determine if it needs more calcium. If a soil test shows low calcium levels, add garden lime, bonemeal, or finely-crushed eggshells to the soil. If it does not show low calcium levels, don't add any!
- > Check the soil pH. Most vegetables and fruit, including tomatoes, prefer a pH around 6.5.
- > Avoid planting tomatoes too early, as cold, wet soil can damage roots and root hairs, leading to BER.
- > Do not over-fertilize. Tomatoes are heavy feeders, but follow instructions on fertilizer labels, and avoid too much nitrogen.
- > Irrigate plants evenly. Tomatoes like consistently moist—not soggy—soil.

Problem #2: Blossom Drop



Flower stems turn yellow, and flowers dry up and fall off—leaving a fruitless tomato plant. Blossom drop also affects peppers.

Causes: Blossom drop typically

occurs during extreme temperatures: when it's either too hot or too cold.

Tomatoes prefer daytime temperatures between 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. When summer temps soar over 90 degrees for several days in a row, and nighttime temps remain above 72 degrees, the pollen of self-fertile tomato plants can become non-viable. If pollination doesn't occur within several days of bloom, the flowers dry up and fall off.

When nighttime temperatures fall below 55 degrees, the cold temperatures stress the plant, which can also lead to blossom drop.

Humidity that's too high may make the pollen too sticky, or humidity that's too low may make it too dry, with both extremes leading to a lack of pollination.

Too much nitrogen in the soil increases vegetative growth but reduces flower formation.

Solutions:

- > Wait to plant tomatoes until nighttime temperatures are consistently above 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- > Test the soil before adding amendments.
- > In hot climates, plant tomatoes where they receive a bit of afternoon shade.
- > During heatwaves, cover plants with a 30% shade cloth.
- > Water consistently, using drip irrigation.
- > Select a fertilizer ideal for tomatoes. Avoid excess nitrogen.

Problem #3: Cracked Fruit

Concentric cracks that appear in a circle around the stem-end of the tomato, as well as radial cracks that form perpendicular to the tomato stem. Primarily affecting the fruit

cosmetically, diseases can also develop in areas with open cracks.



Causes: While uneven moisture is the prime culprit for causing cracks in tomatoes, many tomato varieties are simply genetically prone to cracking.

Solutions:

- > Water plants consistently.
- > Mulch tomato plants to maintain even soil moisture.
- > Reduce watering as tomatoes near ripeness.
- > Pick nearly-ripe tomatoes early if heavy rain is forecasted, allowing the fruit to finish ripening indoors.

Problem #4: Sunscald



White or yellow blisters develop on the side of the tomato facing the sun. Sunscald occurs most often on green fruit. The area may become papery, grayish-white, and flattened. Black mold can grow on the damaged area, causing fruit to rot.

continued p8

My Tomato continued from p7

Causes: Much like gardeners exposed to too much sun, tomatoes can also suffer sunburns. Sunscald occurs when the fruit is exposed directly to the sun, especially in hot weather. Over-pruned plants or lost foliage due to disease exposes fruit to the strong sun rays, blistering the fruit's skin and wall of the tomato.

Problem #5: Cat-Facing



Photo credit: UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County

Brown creases and folds that form on the blossom end of the tomato create an unattractive but still edible fruit. The blossom scar becomes enlarged or perforated, and the fruit may become misshapen. Typically affects larger fruit, like beefsteak tomatoes.

Causes: Environmental conditions like long periods of cool daytime temperatures (60 to 65 degrees) and nighttime temperatures (50 to 60 degrees) can cause abnormal development of plant tissue between the style and ovary. Damage from thrips to the side of the pistil may be the culprit and soil that's overly rich in nitrogen can also lead to cat-facing, as well as overly aggressive pruning of the plant.

Solutions:

- > Plant when the temperatures warm to avoid damage to flowers.
- > Avoid excessive pruning.
- > Test soil for excessive nitrogen and amend the soil as recommended.

Problem #6: Yellow, Spotty, Wilted Foliage



Lower leaves turn yellow, or the plant experiences an overall yellowing/wilting of foliage, which can lead to foliage drop.

Causes: Sometimes, despite your best care, you'll notice tomato leaves turning yellow, ugly brown spots popping up, or foliage wilting. It's frustrating because you can't see the culprits behind these attacks: they may be fungal, bacterial, or viral infections.

Early blight (*Alternaria* fungus), leaf spot (*Septoria* fungus), bacterial canker, bacterial pith necrosis, or verticillium or fusarium wilt are some of the nasty nemeses that may be wreaking havoc in your garden.

Solutions:

- > Remove and destroy yellow foliage if it's just primarily on the lower leaves.
- > If the yellowing spreads upwards quickly and is accompanied by wilting, remove the entire plant to prevent the disease from spreading.
- > Do not compost affected foliage or plant.
- > Mulch around the plant to prevent soil from splashing onto the leaves.
- > Rotate crops to avoid planting tomatoes in affected soil.
- > Disinfect/wash containers and

tomato supports to prevent the spread of diseases.

> Select disease-resistant tomato varieties. Look for varieties with multiple disease resistances, such as "Resistant to fusarium wilt (F), verticillium wilt (V), tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), nematodes (N), late blight (LB), and anthracnose (A)." Try Big Beef, or Celebrity.

Problem #7: Leaf Roll



Tomato leaves curl either up or down, instead of presenting normally.

3 Causes: Tomato leaf roll is tricky to diagnose because many factors can cause it.

1) Physiological leaf roll occurs due to cultural or environmental factors, such as excess moisture, too much nitrogen in the soil, insufficient phosphorus, heat, drought, severe pruning, root damage, early planting, and transplant shock. Initial symptoms present on lower leaves, with upward cupping of leaflets, followed by an inward lengthwise rolling toward the mid-vein. Leaves tend to thicken into a leathery texture, but they retain a healthy green color. Over time, all leaves may be affected, but generally, physiological leaf roll has little impact on fruit production.

2) Viral infections are not so kind to your tomato plants.

> Tomato yellow leaf virus, which is transmitted by whiteflies, causes

My Tomato continued from p8

new leaves to become cupped and pale green. The entire plant may exhibit stunted growth, yellowing leaf edges, purplish veins on the undersides of leaves, and a decline in fruit production.

> Tomato mosaic virus also causes leaf rolling, along with the mottled coloring of leaves, small leaflets, and internal browning of infected fruit.

3) Herbicide damage can also cause leaf rolling, but with the leaves rolling downward. It may also cause twisted growth, stems may turn white and split, the fruit may be deformed, and the plant may perish. However, new growth may be normal.

Solutions:

Determine the cause of the leaf roll: physiological, viral, or herbicide.

> Physiological leaf roll: test soil for excessive nitrogen, and amend the soil as recommended based on the test; make sure soil drains well; water consistently with drip irrigation; avoid severe pruning; plant when temperatures are consistently warm; avoid damaging roots; harden off seedlings before planting in the garden.

> Viral leaf roll: remove surrounding weeds, which may host insects that transmit viral diseases; remove and dispose of infected plants, as there's no cure for tomato yellow leaf curl or tomato mosaic viruses; do not compost infected plants; disinfect tools and plant supports; practice crop rotation.

> Herbicide damage cannot be reversed, and the plant may ultimately die. However, if minimal exposure, the tomato plant's new growth may be normal. Remove dead portions of the plant. Protect future plants when spraying herbicides.

Problem #8: Nibbled Fruit



Something sampled the tomatoes in the garden.

Causes: Deer, birds, tomato hornworms, tomato fruit worms, slugs, snails, raccoons, opossums, so many culprits.

Solutions:

> Check plants daily for eggs and pests, then remove them.

> Attract beneficial insects to the garden with companion plants.

> Employ Integrated Pest Management methods to encourage predatory insects, like parasitic wasps, to visit the garden. Parasitic wasps use tomato hornworms as hosts for their eggs, effectively killing them as the larva hatches.

> Erect tall fencing (7 feet or more) around the garden to discourage deer.

> Use motion-activated sprinklers to discourage mammals and birds.

> Apply repellent sprays to discourage mammals. •



**Walter Andersen
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

GardenTalk

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

Visit Us Online



walterandersen.com



[facebook](#)



[instagram](#)



[youtube](#)



[shop](#)