



# 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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## Onion Alert!

By WAN Staff



Red Creole

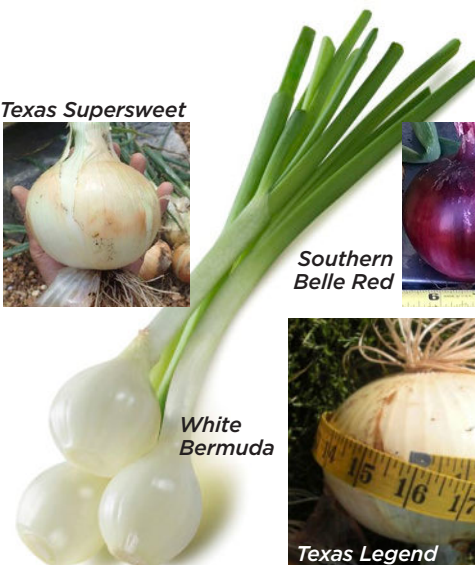
Texas Supersweet



Southern Belle Red



White Bermuda



Texas Legend



**Short day onions** are the best types for Southern California gardens and starts are due to arrive in both stores around Nov. 20. These are perishable and should be planted ASAP.

### Growing Tips

Select a place with plenty of room and full sunlight. Onions will grow quite large if they're given enough space, so keep in mind that the more area they have to grow, the larger the bulbs

you will get. Avoid planting them in a location that is shaded by larger plants or trees. Onions grow best in fertile, well-drained soil. Incorporate plenty of organic matter and a complete fertilizer into the soil before planting. Onion starts should be planted 3-4 inches apart in the row.

Choose from Texas Legend, Red Creole, Texas Supersweet, Southern Belle Red, Yellow Granex and White Bermuda. •

## Poway Has Special Visitor



This red shouldered hawk made our Poway store a regular stop. He was spotted by many employees and proved to be quite the hog for the spotlight as he willingly and patiently posed for photos. •

Photo: George Allmon



## Beautiful Flowering Vegetables & Herbs

By Amanda MacArthur, Food Gardening Network



If you look around your garden, you may already have several types of flowering vegetables. Flowering

herbs and vegetables have the added bonus of attracting pollinators. Growing these will not only give you a beautiful and tasty garden, they will also help bring in the bees and butterflies and ladybugs that the rest of your garden wants.

### 1. Squash (plant spring/summer)

Have you given much notice to the squash blossom? It's a truly stunning yellow flower that opens up during the day and closes as the evening

**continued p2**



## Helping Hands At Holiday Times

By WAN Staff



*Our cashiers, Mina and Kyle, demonstrate how easy it is to donate baby clothes!*

The holiday season doesn't see babies taking a break from being born. Many will be born to mothers experiencing life's challenges. This year, our stores are lending helping hands. We will work with Gently Hugged to collect gently used or new clothing in preemie to 12-month sizes along with blankets and accessories (hats, socks, bibs). **Look for the pink box in our stores and we thank you in advance for leaving your donations in it.** The box will be available from Nov. 1 – Dec. 31.

Donated items are sorted and sized for the first year then placed in a reusable bag. Multilingual educational materials related to SIDS and information on other prevention issues are also included with each package. The completed bags are then distributed by nurses and social workers to low income, military, immigrant, and foster families in need within underserved areas. •

## Vegetables & Herbs continued from p1



*Radish flowers*

progresses. Additionally, squash blossoms are quite tasty. Some restaurants offer stuffed squash blossoms on their menu.

### 2. Okra (plant spring/summer)

This southern favorite is quite the colorful plant. The stem and leaves are green, but the fruit of the plant can range anywhere from a soft, light green to deep burgundy. Some varieties produce flowers that are bluish white and look like they could glow in the dark.

### 3. Peas (plant now)

Did you know that pea greens and the flower of the pea plant are edible? Just be cautious; while edible garden peas are fine, steer clear of ornamental sweet peas, as their flowers are poisonous.

### 5. Scarlet Emperor Runner Beans (plant spring/summer)

These bean plants are easy to grow. Given a solid trellis, they can easily reach the 10-foot mark. The edible flowers are, as you might guess, rich scarlet and quite abundant.

### 6. Lavender (plant anytime)

You're likely familiar with this perennial herb. Lavender flowers and leaves are good for all sorts of culinary purposes and make a perfect addition to your herb garden. Plus, the delicate purple flowers are much beloved by bees.

### 6. Dill (plant spring/summer)

Here's another herb that produces beautiful flowers. They look like tiny yellow and white firework explosions,

and they have a stronger flavor than the dill leaves.

### 7. Dandelion (ever-present)

It's also an entirely edible green! The greens are on the bitter side, but fabulous when you cook them down with plenty of garlic and salt. The flowers themselves are slightly sweet. And you already know that bees and ladybugs love dandelions.

### 8. Radishes (plant now)

We tend to harvest radishes before they flower, but if you get distracted and forget, you can enjoy the radish flower in a salad. The flower is often shades of white or purple, and has a mild peppery taste, similar to the root. You can spend gobs of money on radish flowers at specialty food stores.

### 9. Chives (plant now)

If you haven't seen chive blossoms, you're missing out on one of the most subtly beautiful flowers in the garden. They have a soft pink color and look like a little globe. The blossoms bring a delicate, aromatic presence to salads. You can also blend them into butter or goat cheese. The blossoms attract pollinators and chives may repel some garden pests. Additionally, they're a perennial and so easy to grow that you can literally ignore them. Onions also flower like chives, but much bigger!

### 10. Sunflower (plant spring/summer)

Young sunflower sprouts are great in salads. You can cook the leaves the same as you would most bitter greens. The stalk is very celery-like until it matures and gets fibrous. The petals have a nice bittersweet flavor. The buds are great steamed and served with a little butter, and some people like to shave the roots into a salad. And, of course, you already know how great sunflower seeds are! •



## How's Your Pumpkin Knowledge?

By WAN Staff



Here are a few pumpkin facts that you may want to share with Thanksgiving guests.

➤ In researching these facts, we found information about pumpkins that identified at least 90 varieties including Baby Bear, Bat Wing, Goosebumps and Knucklehead.



*Bat Wing Pumpkins*  
Photo: WxMomvia @Flickr

➤ Jack-o-lanterns were not carved from pumpkins until Irish immigrants came to North America. They were originally carved from turnips to which a lump of burning coal was added, making it a lantern of sorts.

➤ Pumpkins are native to Central America and Mexico and each can have more than 500 seeds.

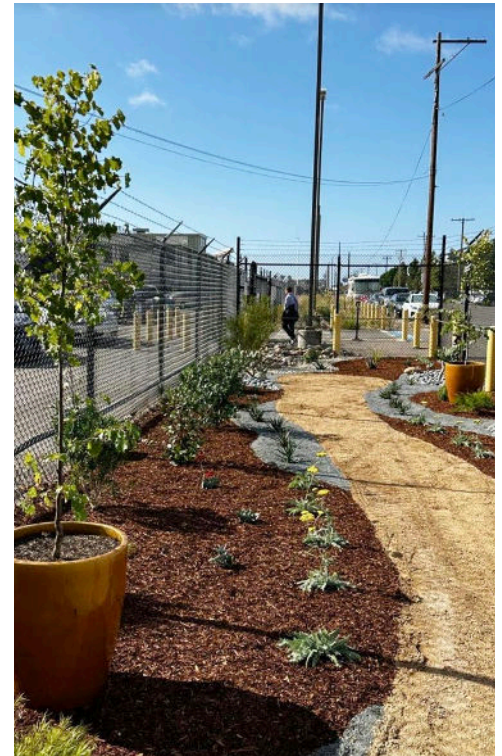
➤ Fact to chew on!! Morton, Illinois is considered the "Pumpkin Capital of the World." Morton is home to Libby's, the producer of 85% of the world's canned pumpkin. •

## San Diego Store's Urban Oasis: A Drought-Tolerant Demonstration Garden

By Karen Andersen-Thatcher



*Before*



*After*

The San Diego store has a new addition, a demonstration garden! Located on a small strip of land secured from the U.S. Navy, this garden has been transformed into a haven, showcasing drought-tolerant plants and sustainable landscaping practices. The initiative aims to beautify the neighborhood and inspire drought-tolerant landscapes, promote water conservation and environmental consciousness.

The garden is a celebration of flora that thrives in San Diego's climate. Drought-tolerant plants, carefully selected for their adaptability and aesthetic appeal, are the stars of this oasis.

The garden's design features sustainable landscaping practices. The use of gravel, rocks, and mulch helps retain moisture, reduce erosion, and prevent weed growth.

These elements also contribute to a visually appealing, low-maintenance landscape that requires minimal water, fostering a sustainable approach to gardening.

The San Diego store is hoping to inspire drought-tolerant landscapes and showcase the beauty of plants that are sometimes overlooked. Some plants you will see in the garden include a variety of aloes, *Acacia cognata* (Cousin It), *Feijoa sellowiana* (Pineapple Guava), *Long John Grevillea*, *Leonotis leonurus* (Lions Tail) and assortment of other drought-tolerant beauties.

Next time you are in the San Diego store, take a look at the garden, it is at the end of the parking lot near the exit gate. •





*Look For...*

By WAN Staff



We are thinking about what's in your stockings. Your Christmas stockings that is, the ones you hang from the mantle with care. Here's a perfect item to tuck into the stockings of gardeners. Both stores will carry a line of Farmer's Defense products (available in San Diego already). The line includes UV protection sleeves that can be slipped on to shield arms from the sun, scratches from prickly plants, or rashes after coming in contact with plants containing irritants. We will also have aprons and hats. Poway expects these products to arrive late November. •

## Fungus Farm Tour Leads To Magical Mushroom Memories

By Ken Andersen



By any chance did you enjoy eating a mushroom dish this summer? If you did, you can thank the race horses from the Del Mar race track. Those pampered equines spend time in stalls that are cushioned with shavings or straw that are cleaned three times a day. The shavings, straw, and yes horse waste, are then trucked (67 loads a day during racing season) to the Mountain Meadows Mushrooms farm in Escondido.

From that dubious beginning, the shavings and straw are processed and pasteurized and put into compost heaps where temperatures reach 140 degrees. After the product is broken down, it is bagged and is where mushrooms will soon grow. Once the mushrooms are harvested, the spent bags are turned into even richer compost.

It's a 'wow' experience of walking into the cool, damp shipping containers and seeing thousands of mushrooms (shitake, gold, pink, blue oyster, lion's mane, king trumpet, pioppino, brown beech and maitake) growing.

Growing mushrooms is a family business that began in 1952 when founded by Bob Crouch. In 2008, Bob's son, Gary, and Roberto Ramirez partnered and bought the farm. In 2019, Gary retired, making Roberto primary owner of the mushroom farm. He was joined by his wife, Olga in 2012.



Owner Roberto Ramirez explains how mushrooms grow

For more information including tours, free compost, and mushrooms/kits for sale visit <http://mmmushroom.com>. •



## *We Love Poway!*

We were pleased as punch to help sponsor the recently held 58th Annual Poway Rotary Parade. Our sponsorship was recognized by State Senator Brian W. Jones who honored the effort with a proclamation. Ken Andersen and David Ross can't help but show it off and are giggling that Andersen is spelled correctly but Walter has been changed to Waltern! Makes us wonder what's going on in Sacramentern?? •



## On A Buying Trip

By WAN Staff



This happy bunch of folks attended the BFG trade show in Reno where they stocked up on your favorite items and some new products. We thank David, James and Ken for walking thousands of steps at the convention, shaking a lot of hands, and hearing lots of sales pitches. BFG is a distributor of nursery, greenhouse, lawn & garden and indoor gardening product lines. •

## Gardens Are Hard Work

By Food Gardening Network

*Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade. —Rudyard Kipling*

*Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized. —Allan Armitage*

*A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself. —May Sarton*

*Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. —May Sarton*

*Gardening requires lots of water – most of it in the form of perspiration. —Lou Erickson*

*In order to live off a garden, you practically have to live in it.*

—Frank McKinney Hubbard •

## To Do List: November



Look for fall color like Iceland Poppies



Fertilize lawns; plant fescue lawns

### Fertilize

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

> 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 tropics with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food. Lightly feed Camellias!

> Bermuda Lawn Care: De-thatch and over seed Bermuda lawns with annual Rye.

### Plant

> Look for fall bulbs, California natives and drought-tolerant plants.

> Fall color selections include Violas,



It's the season for fertilizing



Plant strawberries and so much more!

Pansies, Snapdragons, fragrant Stocks, Poppies, and more.

> Look for Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Camellias, Azaleas, and holiday plants.

> You'll find vegetables as well as potatoes, garlic and onions. Looking for more edibles to plant? How about strawberries, asparagus, and olives?

> Look for potted bare root trees to arrive—pomegranates, figs, grapes, caneberries, hops and more. We don't have an arrival date so call the store to check. It should be mid to late November.

### Pest Control

> This month start dormant spraying with Liqui-Cop and Oil Spray. The wetter the winter, the more crucial dormant spraying becomes!

> Clean up all foliage from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses. •



## Store Holiday Hours & Closings

**Nov. 22**

Poway closes at 3pm

**Nov. 23**

Both stores closed  
for Thanksgiving

**Dec. 24**

Poway closes at 2pm

**Dec. 25**

Both stores closed  
for Christmas

**Dec. 31**

Poway closes at 2pm

**Jan. 1**

Both stores closed  
for New Year's Day

## Garden Classes: November

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

11/4

Fall Color  
with Constanze

11/11

Nematode Control  
with Richard

11/18

Fall Rose Care  
with Olivia

11/25

Thanksgiving Weekend  
No Class

### POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

11/4

Winter Rose Care  
with David & George

11/11

Helpful Houseplant Hints  
with Chuck McClung

11/13 (6pm)

**FREE Evening Class @6pm**  
Backyard Orchard Culture  
with Tom Spellman  
RSVP to 858-513-4900

11/18

San Diego Seed Cool Season  
Vegetables with Brijette Pena

11/25

Thanksgiving Weekend  
No Class



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Nursery™**

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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*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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