



**Walter Andersen  
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*GardenTalk*

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

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## Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants In An Organic Garden

By Randy Ritchie of Malibu Compost



**Garden Class:**

**Healthy Soil,  
Healthy Plants  
in an  
Organic Garden**

**March 16**

Poway Store  
@9:30am

**May 11**

San Diego  
Store @9am

## Oxalis For St. Patty's Day

By WAN Staff



Oxalis comes from the sorrel family and this is what you find in stores in our area around the holiday. Both stores will have this sentimental favorite. Most like woodland areas and become dormant in warmer weather. The emerald green leaves may sport blooms in white, pink or yellow. We'll have Oxalis regenelli "Shamrock" and Oxalis triangularis "Purple Shamrock". •



It always amazes me as a gardener, farmer, former eco-landscaper and composter that the one thing that most gardeners think of last is their soil. I think it's because we have become so accustomed to sprinkling fertilizer on everything and trusting the N-P-K ratios on the bags and boxes that we have forgotten about

what is going on in the soil right under our feet.

It is there that the magic in the garden happens! That is where the world of soil microbes and soil animals live to do what they were created to do which is breakdown and decompose nutrients from

[continued p2](#)

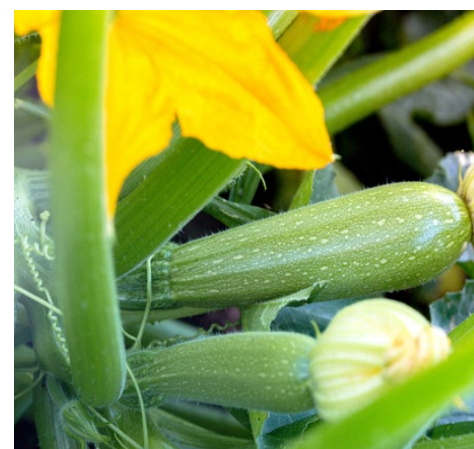
## Squash For All

By Food Gardening Network & WAN Staff

As many gardeners know, there are **two types of squash: summer and winter**. That doesn't mean that winter squash is grown in the winter, rather, the names refer to the fact that summer squash is harvested and eaten in the summer, while winter squash is harvested in late summer and fall and can be stored almost all winter long.

The difference lies in the rind. Summer squash has a tender skin

[continued p2](#)



*The most common summer squash*

## Snails & Slugs Go With Sluggo

By Melanie Potter



Who is bothered by snails and slugs? Probably everyone with a garden judging from the saucers of water or beer left out on lawns for them to drown in. If you don't have kids who pluck them off the plants and run them over with their tricycles or you do have kids and don't want to leave beer readily available in the garden for them, then Sluggo is a product that should be in your tool shed.

This slug bait is a unique blend of iron phosphate originating from soil, with slug and snail bait additives. It is also used as an ingredient in fertilizers. The bait not ingested by snails and slugs will degrade and become a part of the soil.

Sluggo is attractive to slugs and snails and lures them from their hiding places and plants. Ingestion, even in small amounts, will cause them to cease feeding. This physiological effect of the bait gives immediate protection to the plants, even though the slugs and snails may remain

**continued p3**

## Healthy Soil continued from p1



organic matter. A well-fed microbial population can naturally and organically feed the plants in your garden with all of the major and minor nutrients and trace minerals. This process is called mineralization. It is the miracle of natural fertilization and how plants and trees uptake nutrients from the soil.

For me, growing healthy soil is the most important thing that a gardener

can do. Using the right compost in the right amounts, and then adding biological inoculants like compost teas, can be an absolute game-changer for creating a healthy, safe and productive organic garden.

For me, these methods changed my entire landscape business and ultimately is what led me to become an organic and biodynamic farmer and composter. There is nothing in the garden that can replace a really good, top-quality compost. It is also the thing that will make or break a good soil mix.

*To learn more about what I've been discussing in this piece, join me for my class called **Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants in an Organic Garden in Poway on March 16 at 9:30am or in San Diego on May 11 at 9am.*** •



## Squash continued from p1

that you can pierce with your thumbnail when it's ready to harvest, and it doesn't store well. In fact, summer squash is ready to eat fairly quickly in the summer (in about 60 days), and is harvested when it's small and immature. Leave summer squash on the vine too long and you'll have squash the size of a baseball bat that turns bitter and has hard flesh.

Zucchini is the most common summer squash. Pattypan or scalloped is another equally tasty variety, among others such as Goldbar and Eight Ball.

Winter squash, on the other hand, ripens much later than summer squash (in about 80 to 110 days). It has a thicker rind and can be stored throughout the winter. Well-known winter squashes include pumpkin, Hubbard, and Butternut.



**Winter squash**

Most summer squashes are bushy, while winter squashes have a rambling vine habit. That makes it a bit more difficult to find room in your garden for summer squash, because vining plants expand in one direction when they grow and can be directed away from other plants, while bush plants expand equally in all directions and take up more space. Still, even summer squash can be encouraged to grow up a trellis, or in a container. •



## Snails & Slugs

continued from p2

in the area. After eating the bait, the slugs and snails cease feeding, become less mobile and begin to die within three to six days.

The bait can be scattered on the lawn or on the soil around any vegetable or seed crops, flowers or fruit trees to be protected. These pests like damp areas and with the rainy season in full swing, you're likely to see more. •



## Looking For Beautiful Gardens



**The Bernardo Gardeners Club is looking for gardens in the Rancho Bernardo and Poway areas to be considered for their 2024 garden tour. If you know a great garden just waiting to be showcased, contact Renee at 858-449-4240.**



## Gardening To Thrive In 2024

By Lawn & Garden Retailer

A study by Axiom Marketing's annual home gardening predicts the gardening industry will thrive this year.

Wondering what folks will be doing in their gardens?

**The Top 3 Projects Are:**

- 1) **Upgrading curb appeal**
- 2) **Creating vegetable gardens**
- 3) **Growing new kinds of vegetables & fruits**



**65%**

of respondents plan to plant more and expand their gardens



**51%**

of respondents expect to spend more time gardening this year than last



Does this sound like your reason for visiting a garden center?

**27%** Want more plant choices

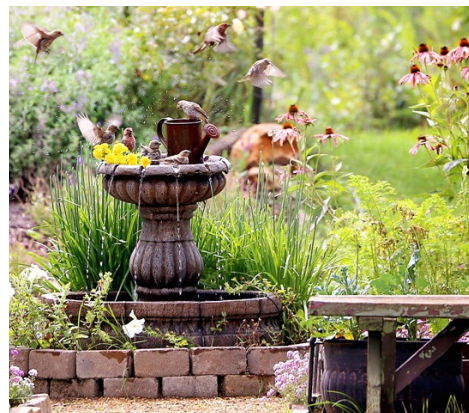
**20%** Want new plant varieties

**15%** Are seeking ideas for garden & outdoor living projects

**12%** Want help choosing the right plant •

## Food For Thought (And Birds)

By WAN Staff



The advent of spring might bring a desire to lure more birds to your yard. Increasing desirable habitat and food sources can be the solution for succeeding.

- Grow plants that feed insects and birds. Echinacea, coreopsis, rudbeckia, and salvias are good choices to start with.
- If you have a small area, you can plant a container garden filled with nectar-rich flowers. Add a birdbath, birdhouse or feeder to a balcony then sit back and watch the show.
- If you refrain from deadheading annuals, the seed heads can serve as a natural bird feeder.
- Leaving decaying leaves and fallen debris on the ground can serve as natural mulch and attract insects, which attracts hungry birds. •



## In Memoriam

By Ken Andersen



Ron Palmer

We were saddened to learn that former long time garden railway engineer Ron Palmer passed away. Ron did an excellent job maintaining our railway layout as well as repairing and maintaining our large collection of rolling stock. He assisted in the installation of railway layouts in many of our exhibits at the San Diego County Fair. Our sincere condolences go out to Ron's wife Janet and their family. •



2014 Display at San Diego County Fair



2015 Display at San Diego County Fair



## To Do List: March



Look for Calla Lilies

### Prune

Camellias and Azaleas after done blooming to shape. Cut back frost damaged plants and feed with Gro-Power to encourage new growth and regeneration.

### Fertilize

Roses and Shrubs with Gro-Power or Gro-Power for Roses. Feed Citrus, Avocado, and Fruits with Gro-Power or Gro-Power Citrus & Avocado Food.

### Plant

- > Plant Citrus, Avocados, and tropical and sub-tropical fruit.
- > Start to replace cool season bedding plants with warm season plants.
- > Plant warm-season vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and squash.
- > Be sure to amend the soil with good organic compost. Big Harvest Garden Soil is great for edibles and ornamentals.

### Look For:

Azaleas, Tuberous Begonias, Caladiums, Calla Lilies and Roses. •



Fertilize Avocado



Plant warm-season vegetables



*Big Harvest Garden Soil is a great soil amendment for edibles and ornamentals*



Plant Citrus



## Holiday Closing



### March 31

Both stores will be closed for Easter.

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

## Garden Classes: March

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

3/2

Seed Starting  
with Richard

3/9

Organic Gardening  
with James

3/16

Herbs with Kathleen

3/23

Tomatoes 101  
with Cyarah & Kathleen

3/30

No Class

### POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

3/2

Tomatoes with Farmer Roy

3/9

Grafting Fruit Trees  
with Tyler Trimble

3/16

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants  
in Organic Soil  
with Randy Ritchie

3/23

San Diego Spiders  
with Randy Supczak

3/30

No Class

## Visit Our 2 Locations



**Walter Andersen  
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*Garden Talk*

### 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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