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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

Garden Talk

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The Best Strawberries To Grow

By Amanda MacArthur & WAN Staff



more vigorously with more runners; ever-bearing varieties spread less vigorously with fewer runners.

Here is a look at what is frequently available in our stores.

Eversweet

The everbearing Eversweet strawberry gets rave reviews for producing tasty, sweet berries even



[continued p2](#)

Have You Seen Me?

By WAN Staff



A reader of the recent issue of Birds & Blooms sent a photo of the pictured bird asking what it is. The bird was spotted dining at the reader's hummingbird feeder. Experts Kimberly and Kenn Kaufman identified it as a Swinhoe's white-eye and shared the exciting news that

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There are many varieties of strawberries to choose from if you opt to grow your own. Strawberries are either 'everbearing' or June-Bearing. June Bearing types produce a mass of fruit over a short period during spring, some earlier, and some later. 'Everbearing' varieties produce less fruit at one time, but over a much longer period, often into fall. June-bearing varieties typically grow

Looking For Leaks

By David Ross

A couple months ago I received notification from the water company that I had water running on my property. I did a thorough search of the property and found a hose that had not been completely shut off. Thinking I had resolved the matter, I went about my life until a month later I received another notification that water was still running on the property along with a \$600 summer type water bill,

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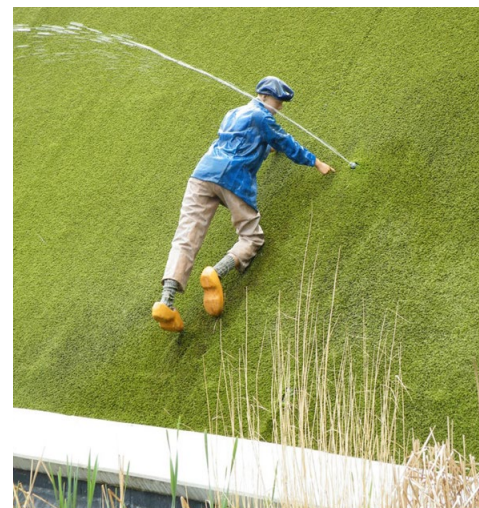


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Recipe: Beet & Ginger Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting



If you ever listen to Garden Talk Radio on Saturday mornings, it is a well-known fact that Ken Andersen does not like beets at all. Well, he changed his tune when he sampled a cake made with beets. This recipe is adapted from "Sweet" by Yoam Ottolenghi and Helen Goh. The recipe was baked and shared with us by Monica Mojonnier (the wife of one of our vendors). Monica did not frost her cake and it was just fine that way.

INGREDIENTS For the Cake:

1/2 Cup finely chopped candied Ginger
 1 2/3 Cups Flour
 1/2 Cup Sugar
 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar
 2 tsp. Baking Powder
 1/2 tsp. Baking Soda
 1/4 tsp. Salt
 1/2 tsp. Fresh Ground Cinnamon
 1/4 Fresh Ground Nutmeg
 A Pinch of Ground Clove
 1 2/3 Cup Fresh, Raw, Peeled & Grated Beet (approx. 1 large Beet)
 Zest of 1 Orange, Finely Grated
 2/3 Cups Toasted, chopped Nuts of your Choice
 2 Large Eggs
 1/4 Cup Sour Cream

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Strawberries continued from p1

when temperatures hit triple digits.

Mignonette Mignonette

Another everbearing variety, is tiny with a mature height of only 8 inches and dainty little berries. Occasionally available.

Albion

The everbearing Albion strawberry plant produces long, conical fruits that are ideal for desserts. The super sweet berries are resistant to Verticillium wilt, Phytophthora crown rot, and anthracnose crown rot.

Mara Des Bois

The June-bearing Mara Des Bois strawberry plant comes to us from France, where they are known for producing fragrant, lusciously sweet, plump strawberries from June until frost. Occasionally available.

Seascape

Most reviewers rate the Seascape strawberries as some of the best strawberries around, pointing out that they grow well in containers and are heat tolerant, disease-resistant, and productive in three seasons. The day-neutral strawberry begins fruiting about three months after planting and will grow to about 18 inches.

Sequoia

Exceptionally large conic fruit must be harvested at frequent intervals during hot periods. June-bearing, the fruit begins to bear in January, hitting peak in March. Performs like an everbearer in mild climates.

Chandler

Popular with home growers because of its intense strawberry flavor. It offers distinctive flavor and sweetness, superior to varieties that have traded taste for greater disease resistance or increased yields. June-bearing.

Camarosa

Early to midseason June-bearing plants are vigorous and very

productive, producing over extended periods at low latitudes. The well-formed flat wedge-shaped fruits are very firm and large with brilliant red color and very flavorful taste. June-bearing.

Ozark Beauty

One of the hardiest, most vigorous, heaviest-producing everbearing strawberries. Cold hardy. Ripens in early summer and continues to fruit until first frost.

White Soul

A white fruiting variety, a clumping type (few to no runners) and is day neutral. The fruit is among the largest white fruit produced by alpiners. Has the wild strawberry flavor and aroma expected from alpiners and has a hint of pineapple flavor. Everbearing.

San Andreas

Dependably high quality fruit early in the season from this moderate day-neutral variety that will produce a continuous yield throughout the summer. Large berries have an exceptional appearance and flavor. Excellent overall disease resistance. •

Seen Me?

continued from p1

the bird is a recent arrival to California. It is native to eastern Asia where it is a popular caged bird. It seems that a few escaped from captivity and were seen in Southern California in the early 2000s. By 2015, many were spotted near Irvine and thus began a population explosion causing them to be common in the Los Angeles basin and coastal cities from Santa Barbara to San Diego. •



Beet Cake

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1/2 Cup Sunflower or Canola Oil

1/2 tsp. Vanilla

3/4 tsp. Fruit Fresh or 1 (1500 mg) Vitamin C tablet, crushed to a fine powder (optional)

For the Cream Cheese Frosting (optional)

5 1/2 oz. Cream Cheese, at room temperature

1/2 Cup Powdered Sugar, sifted

1/3 Cup Heavy Whipping Cream

1/2 tsp. Vanilla and/or Finely Grated Zest of 1 Lemon

DIRECTIONS: Butter an 8-inch square or round pan. Line the bottom with parchment paper. In a small bowl, pour boiling water over the candied ginger and let it sit for 15 minutes. Drain the ginger, squeeze out as much of the water as possible. Finely mince.

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and spices. Add the grated beets, orange zest, nuts and candied ginger to the bowl, but do not stir in.

In a small bowl, whisk together the eggs, sour cream, oil, and Fruit Fresh or powdered Vitamin C. Pour the mixture over the dry ingredients in the large bowl and use a spatula to mix the ingredients together, stirring just until thoroughly combined.

Scrape the batter into the prepared cake pan, even the top, and bake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 40 minutes. (Note: The original recipe in the book, which called for the cake to be baked in a round 8-inch/20cm pan, said to bake the cake for 50 to 55 minutes.

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Looking For Leaks continued from p1

not a wet winter type water bill of about \$100. Argh! I did another (more) thorough search of the property and found no water surfacing anywhere. However, in the car I did hear an advertisement on the radio that garnered my attention. This is where the story starts to sound like a commercial. And it sort of is, but really isn't.

The radio commercial was for CPL, Cable Pipe and Leak detection. Sounded like a company whose services I could use. I called them Monday morning and after acceptance of an exhaustive explanation of costs, I made an appointment for Tuesday morning. Steven showed up and asked me to show him where the spigots on the property were. He donned sophisticated listening equipment, dropped the speaker to the ground and began listening at spigots and in between. Nothing.

Steven then put an attachment on each spigot, one at a time, and opened them to create hiccups in the pipe that created detectable sounds in the pipes which allowed him to mark where the buried pipes were located. He then pumped compressed air into the pipe.

Leaking air makes more sound than leaking water. After the air made it to the first spigot, he listened to the ground along the pipe. No leaks detected. He did this to each spigot and then headed up the driveway towards the house.

He followed his marks along the driveway, dropping his listening device every few feet until he finally heard the pressurized air leaking out. He then listened about a foot in each direction until settling on a spot and took out a piece of chalk and marked a large X on the spot. Of course, the X turned out to be right in the middle of my driveway. He then took out a drill with a long bit and drilled through my driveway. After his drill penetrated the asphalt, air started blowing out through the hole verifying that X does indeed mark the spot!

A few days later, a friend of mine located a cracked fitting and replaced a short section of pipe directly below that X and my water bill has returned to normal.

If you get a surprise water bill or notifications, don't ignore it! •



Did you see David Ross on Channel 8 talking about *citrus greening disease* recently? He and Shawn Styles did a great job of simplifying this *serious threat to citrus* and outlined how home growers can be part of the solution. See it here at <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/outreach/earth8/pest-devastating-disease-to-citrus-trees-asian-citrus-psyllid/509-2fee03ffb598-4e19-a386-9936df28090c>. •

Beet Cake

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It may take longer in another pan, but you should begin checking it after 30 minutes, or so.

Remove the cake from the oven and let cool for 30 minutes on a wire rack, then remove the cake from the pan, peel off the parchment paper, and let cool completely.

For the frosting, beat the cream cheese in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or by hand in a large bowl, using a wooden spoon or spatula), until smooth. Beat in the powdered sugar, a small amount at a time, until it's completely incorporated. Add the heavy cream and vanilla and/or lemon zest and beat for about 1 minute on high speed, until thickened. The frosting may seem rather soft, but spreads beautifully.

To serve, spread the frosting over the top of the cake.

Last step: Bring a cake to share with the WAN folks!! •



Essential Gardening Tools

By Amanda MacArthur, Food Gardening Network



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Whether you're a new gardener ready to tackle the upcoming season, or just need a reminder of what to replace, this list of essential gardening tools is a great place to start.

Gloves

Even if you like to dig in the dirt with your bare hands, there are plenty of spine-covered friends growing in your garden that you'll want gloves for, like pumpkin vines and even cucumbers. A leather or suede palm is a necessity if you are encountering anything prickly, and if they're waterproof, that's a plus too.

Trowel

A trowel can be used for just about any kind of digging. There are different shapes depending on the types of soil you're working with, but the most helpful feature some offer are measurements. Get yourself a trowel that indicates how deep you've dug. When you start transplanting your seedlings into the ground, this will be more helpful than you think.

Hoe

A hoe is a great tool to cultivate your soil, and it's a great way to keep weeds away all summer long. •

If you're consistent, go out every few days and run it through the areas where weeds tend to pop up, you will be weed free!

Tomato Cage

If you're growing tomatoes, cages will help you grow them upward, rather than outward. Tomatoes aren't great at supporting their own weight once the fruit begin to ripen, so unless you want ground tomatoes, you'll want a cage for each of your plants.

Shears

This goes without saying, but you'll need shears to cut lots of things in every garden. Use a little rubbing alcohol to clean shears after working on diseased plants, so you won't risk spreading disease to healthy plants.

Trellis

If you plan to grow anything with vines, you'll want a trellis. You can build your own, or buy one pre-made. If you grow pole beans, you'll definitely want a trellis, and they can also come in handy for squash and cucumbers. Many varieties can grow up and around a sturdy trellis if you guide them. This will save space in your garden. •

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Did You Know? The Thorn Tree

By Melanie Potter



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I recently took a ride on the wild side and learned a very interesting fact about nature. While aboard the tram circling The San Diego Zoo Safari Park, our driver, Bridget, told us how magical the Thorn Tree, an Acacia, is when it comes to protecting itself from grazing animals.

Laden with long, sharp thorns along its branches, the tree offers protection to insects and small animals. The amazing part is the trees create poisonous chemicals when they detect an "assault." The trees are able to "warn" nearby acacias to start making their own poison. How it works: When the leaves begin to fill with poison, they release ethylene gas, which drifts out of their pores and toward other acacias. In response, the nearby trees begin to manufacture poison themselves. •



To Do List: May



Mulch to reduce evaporation

Fertilize

- > For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer.
- > Use E.B. Stone or Dr. Earth to feed **ornamentals, vegetables, citrus, Avocado, fruit trees, palms** and **tropicals**.

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.

Plant

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

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



Plant Zinnias, Petunias and more

as needed. Watch for and treat plants attacked by **Citrus Leaf Miner** with Captain Jack's or Pheromone attractant with sticky cards. •



Mother's Day Gifts Are Plentiful!

Mother's Day is May 12 and both stores have gift ideas that any gardening mom is sure to appreciate. Outside there are lots to choose from and inside you'll find houseplants, blooming color for indoors, books, and gift items. Don't forget apparel – we've got hats and gloves. Stumped and not sure what is the right gift? How about a gift card and let Mom shop for herself? •

May Rose Sale!

Valid May 1-31, 2024



ALL Roses 20% OFF

Great time to add some new roses or old favorites to your yard for late spring and summer color!

Excludes Flower Carpet Roses and Lady Banks Roses

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.



Memorial Day is May 27th
We remember all who gave their lives in service to our Country.
Both stores are open regular hours.

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

5/4

Pollinators with Katie

5/11

Growing Healthy Soil & Healthy Plants in an Organic Garden with Randy Ritchie of Malibu Compost

5/18

Lavender with Ellen

5/25

Staghorn Care & Remounting with Olivia

POWAY STARTS AT 9:30AM

5/4

Xeriscaping with Succulents & Perennials with Dean

5/11

Tillandsia: Care, Culture, & Varieties with Tammy

5/18

Sustainable Gardening for Positive Environmental Impact—You CAN Make a Difference with Renee Murphy

5/25

No Class

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