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GardenTalk
Goes Remote
By WAN Staff

We caught the GardenTalk crew, Ken, David, George, and engineer Kevin setting up our remote broadcast equipment for a test run. Why you ask? As much as the guys love driving to the radio station at 5:30 Saturday mornings, they now have the option to drive to a more convenient location at WWAN, located at our Poway store. Plus, it was an excuse for them to buy and play with fun recording equipment! •



Fake Or Natural

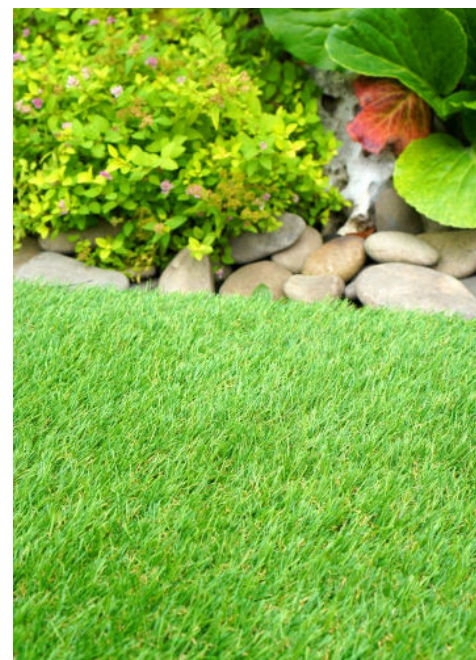
By Ken Andersen

Due to drier conditions over the past 20 years, there has been a dramatic shift towards low water use plants. This effort also saw the replacement of natural grass lawns with artificial turf. While this seems like a quick fix and a water saving idea, **there are many things to consider before switching from grass.**

Artificial turf technology has evolved dramatically and today's choices are superior in appearance. When installed properly, it can make a dramatic statement in your landscape. Before deciding on an installer, make sure you see examples of their work. It is an investment and you want it to be done right.

Artificial turf is not a one and done replacement for a natural lawn.

It does age over time and has a certain life span. This life span can



be shortened depending on the foot traffic that the lawn receives. A play area will have more wear and tear. That being said, even areas that butt up to driveways and sidewalks will

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Gardening Myths Debunked

By Amanda MacArthur, Food Gardening Network



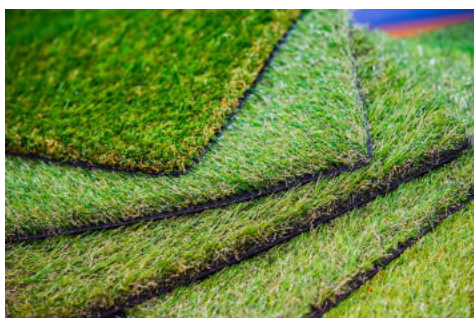
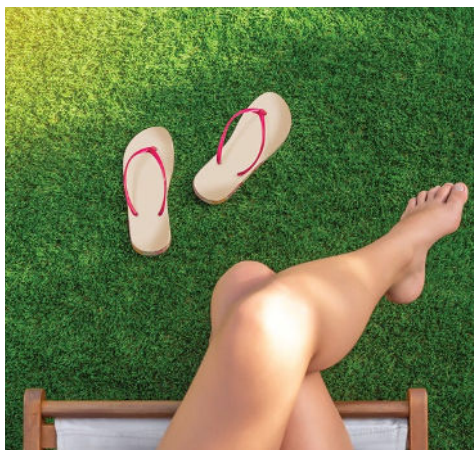
Sometimes, gardening advice gets passed around like gossip. It's easy to hear something a few times, begin to believe it, and then adopt it into your own practice. Here are some gardening myths that I've heard and how they are based on misinformation or outdated methods.

1) Composting smells terrible.

Of all the gardening myths out there, this is the one I run into any time I mention composting. "But it's going to stink up the place!"

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Fake Or Natural continued from p1



get more foot traffic than the interior areas of a lawn. This can cause the edges to mat down and wear much faster than the rest of the lawn.

Trees that were planted in lawn areas can become casualties of switching to artificial turf. I have seen many lawn trees suffer, even die, when the grass below them is replaced with artificial turf. The main reason for this is the lack of irrigation once the old lawn is removed. When installing artificial turf, sprinklers are removed or capped as they are no longer needed. However, in many cases this irrigation was needed by the tree. I have also seen trees planted adjacent to lawn areas start to develop surface roots in their search for replacement water that has been taken away with the installation of the artificial turf. This can lead to uneven areas, lumps and ridges, or uneven wear in artificial turf as the roots lift up from the surface of the underlying soil. Should you install artificial turf, make sure your installer is aware and

is in a position to place irrigation in the area to keep your trees healthy and stress free. This needs to be done PRIOR to installation as it cannot be easily done as a corrective action later.

Lawns have a cooling effect due to the moisture in the soil and their natural growth. Artificial turf typically is not cool. In some cases, artificial turf in full sun can get extremely hot. Check with your installer to see how their products perform in full sun or heat before making the switch.



Weeds can grow in artificial turf if not maintained and controlled properly

Just because you have an artificial lawn does not mean it will be weed free. Weeds can readily grow in the margins of an artificial lawn and will need to be controlled. In some installations, sand is used to keep the turf flat and weighed down. Weed seed can blow in and root into this sand layer. Controlling weeds in artificial lawns is complicated because mechanical controls such as weed eaters, edgers, and other instruments can damage the turf.



Dymondia as an alternative to grass

This reduces weed control practices to chemical means. While chemical controls are safe when used as directed, some folks prefer not to use them at all.

If you are considering removing your grass, consider other lawn alternatives that won't use as much water. One that became popular during the droughts was Dymondia. This low growing ground cover fills in well, requires less water once established, will take some foot traffic (not an option for high traffic areas), and does not require mowing. If you decide you want to keep your existing lawn but want to reduce water usage, talk to an irrigation professional about more efficient sprinkler systems that are available. Local irrigation company, Hunter, has introduced a very efficient line of stream rotor sprinklers that can reduce water consumption while retaining natural lawns.

While natural turf choices and artificial turf have advantages and disadvantages, it is not always an easy decision to make. If you are considering a change, look at all of the variables, expenses and longevity of each option. This can be a big investment in your landscape and you want it to be one that you are happy with and performs the way you expect it to. •

Gardening Myths continued from p1

The truth is, if your compost pile is smelling like anything but earthy dirt, something isn't right. There are some composting basics that will help you keep your compost pile smelling fresh, like making sure there's enough oxygen in your pile. Regularly turning your compost incorporates more oxygen allowing for a more even breakdown of organic matter.

2) You must plant your vegetables in neat rows.

If you're growing crops on a farm, it makes sense to grow everything in neat tidy rows that allow you to use heavy-duty machinery to till, sow and harvest your crops. But in your backyard vegetable garden, you can decide the layout for your plants based on personal preference. There's even an argument for mixing up your vegetables as a way of using companion planting to ward off pests and disease.



3. Watering during a sunny day will burn plants because water droplets magnify the sun's rays.

This is one of those gardening myths that falls into the "old wives' tales" category. The pseudoscience is that if you water during a sunny day, water droplets will act as mini magnifying glasses and concentrate the sun's rays onto your garden, scorching the

leaves. This is just false and has been disproven many times over. There is a risk, however, that by watering during the hottest point of the day, that much of the water will evaporate into the air instead of nourishing your plants. For that reason, it may be worth watering in the morning or later afternoon instead.



4. Gravel at the bottom of planters and containers improves drainage.

This is one of those gardening myths that even I still have to shake out of my head. I can't remember where I heard it, but it has embedded itself in the garden community as the best way to ensure proper drainage in containers and planters. The problem is, it doesn't work. In fact, it actually does the opposite of what we think it should. By adding gravel or rocks to the bottom of your container you're raising the level of where water will pool, bringing it closer to the root system. This could increase the chance for root rot. Instead of gravel, just make sure there are enough drainage holes and that they remain unclogged.

5. You need a large space to start a vegetable garden.

You just don't need a ton of space to have a nice kitchen garden. Maybe you don't have a yard at all. You can grow a fully functional container

garden that lives on a porch, balcony, or parking pad. With container gardens, raised beds, and vertical gardens, you can build the garden of your dreams with a relatively small footprint.

6. Starting a garden is going to cost me a lot of money.

Starting a vegetable and herb garden doesn't have to cost a ton of money. With some basic tools, and some inexpensive seeds or seedlings, you can get your garden up and running and stay within your budget. There are plenty of DIY garden ideas including trellises, raised beds, and container gardening that all come in at free or nearly free price points. The place to spend your money is good soil, compost, and potting mix.

7. You shouldn't put pine needles in your compost pile because they're too acidic.

Pine needles are acidic, but incorporating them into your compost with other non-acidic organic matter will generally balance out the mixture. If added to compost, it's a good idea to wait until the pine needles are dried out first since they will break down faster. You may also consider using pine needles as mulch.

8. Crushed eggshells are great for adding calcium to the soil.

Eggshells take years to decompose before their calcium can be useful to surrounding plants. It might not harm your vegetable garden and can have benefits such as balancing the pH of the soil. Unless you're adding a ton of eggshells, the calcium may not benefit the soil for a while.

9. Plants need one inch of water per week.

The reality is that each vegetable and herb require a different amount of watering depending on the type of plant and the age of the plant, the

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Recipe: *Pickled Beets*



Thanks to our Poway office manager, Gretchen, for this recipe and sample she shared!

INGREDIENTS:

8-10 medium sized red beets

3/4 cup apple cider vinegar (white wine vinegar or red wine vinegar is also fine, just NOT rice vinegar)

1-3/4 cups water

1 tablespoon sea salt (a preservative)

2-1/2 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon whole cloves

1 teaspoon whole allspice berries

Whole peppercorns (black or tri-color)

Optional sprig of herbs such as thyme, rosemary

DIRECTIONS:

Clean beets, remove stems and root tails. You can peel them or leave the clean skin on. Cut the beets into 2-2.5-inch chunks.

Steam the beets using either of the follow methods: To oven steam, leave skins on and wrap in 8"x8" pieces of aluminum foil. Bake at 375 degrees for at least 20 minutes then check them. They should be easily pierced

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Gardening Myths continued from p3

size of its container or if it's in the ground. Young seedlings and new transplants are just starting to build their root systems and will need more regular watering. Established perennials may only need supplemental watering if there has been a dry spell. Having a watering routine is great, but check to see if your plants need it first. Only water your garden if your plants need it.

10. Wood chips are the best mulch.

Wood chips are an excellent mulch choice but don't limit yourself. There are great mulch options at various price points and with different benefits. Besides wood chips, grass clippings, straw, compost, and many other things can be used to mulch your vegetable garden. You may decide to use multiple types of mulch depending on what types of vegetables and herbs you are growing, and what your soil drainage needs are.

11. Your garden needs to get more than 6 hours of sunlight a day.

While some vegetables require full sun, there are plenty of herbs and vegetables that will grow well in areas with more moderate levels of sunlight and partial shade. Root vegetables such as potatoes, beets, and carrots will bloom in partially shaded areas as will bush beans and summer squash. Look for adapted varieties of bush tomatoes that are adapted to cool regions and can thrive in shaded plots. They usually come with regional names on labels such as Oregon, San Francisco, and Siberia.

12. If fertilizer or pesticide is organic, I can use as much as I want.

Whether fertilizer or pesticide is organic, more is not always better. In fact, using too much organic pesticide or fertilizer can do damage

to your vegetable garden and each plant's root system. The key is to follow directions and when in doubt, use less than directed to start.



13. Vegetable gardening ends in the fall.

Depending on where you live, it's likely that the bulk of your local harvest takes place in the late summer and fall months. However, that's not to say all vegetable gardening is over. Certain crops will continue to grow well into November in some areas and even later in warmer regions.

14. You have to be able to get down on your hands and knees to garden.

Many folks think they can't have a vegetable garden because their bodies aren't able to get down on their hands and knees. Fortunately, there are great solutions that allow nearly everybody to be able to enjoy gardening. Raised garden beds and elevated container gardens are a great way to reap the benefits of gardening from a more comfortable height.

15. You have to start all seeds indoors.

Starting your vegetables from seed is a very rewarding process. But not all seeds need to be started indoors. Most lettuce, pole beans, peas, radishes, and carrots can be sown directly into your garden and do very well.

And, that's the truth. •



Pickled Beets

continued from p4

with a fork. Continue baking if they are too hard. The second method is to place them in a steamer basket with water in a saucepan on the stove. Steam until al dente. Let beets cool after they have cooked.

While the beets are cooking, combine water, vinegar, salt and sugar in saucepan and bring to a light boil at medium and stir until the sugar is dissolved. Turn off heat and set aside.

If you oven steamed the beets, you will need to peel them, skins should slip off easily.

Cut to desired sizes and shapes at this time.

Place beets into jars along with spices, then fill jars with brine to cover the beets. Close jars and set on counter until cooled, then place in refrigerator.

Recommended to wait a few days to have the brine soak in, but 24 hours will still offer plenty of flavor. **Beets are messy, use a plastic cutting board and wear an apron!** •

Citrus Presentation At The Fair...Not :(

By George Allmon



David and George were scheduled to speak at the San Diego County Fair this year for a presentation titled “**Backyard Citrus: Care, Culture, and Varieties**”. Sadly, due to traffic congestion and car accidents on the I-5, they didn’t arrive in time to present. (We like to think the crowd was due to everyone wanting to hear them speak!)

Had they had the opportunity to speak, they would have given you **the four great reasons to grow citrus**: (1) Be the envy of your friends and family in other parts of the country! (2) Enjoy vibrant evergreen foliage all year long! (3) Marvel at the heavenly fragrance of citrus blooms! (4) Enjoy the delicious and colorful fruit (when most other fruit trees are dormant!)

In addition, David and George would have discussed the **care and culture of citrus**, as well as describing the more commonly **available citrus varieties** that they both enjoy. Here are a few of their favorites:

Sweet Oranges

Washington Navel: Widely adapted, best in warm interiors. Bears early to midwinter.

Cara Cara Pink Navel: Rich flavor, bears the same as Washington. Rosey-fleshed colored navel.

Lane Late Navel: Ripens much later than other navel oranges and can

extend the season well into the summer.

Moro Blood: Deep red flesh. (No rind pigmentation if grown on the coast)

Sanguinelli Blood: Red-skinned fruit. Flesh red streaked.

Tarocco Blood:

Fruit with red pulp and red to pink juice.

Good quality in cooler areas.



Trovita: Seedling of a Washington Navel. Thin skinned without the tell-tale navel of the Washington. Requires less heat than other sweet oranges.

Valencia Types

Valencia: The “Juice” orange and most widely planted orange in the world. Fruit ripens in summer and holds well on tree.

Campbell and Midnight: Early ripening versions of Valencia. Nearly seedless.

Mandarin/Tangerine

Satsuma: Sweet delicate flavor. Nearly seedless. Medium to large fruit. Loose skin. Quickly over ripens if left on tree. Earliest mandarin to ripen. Early fall to late Dec. “Owari” is the main Satsuma grown in the west.

Pixie: Easy peeling, seedless with excellent flavor. Holds well on tree. Midseason to late ripening.

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What Mite Be The Problem?

By Melanie Potter



My friend had the best (well, selfish) intention when she bought her son a bonsai plant. However, she fell in love with it and decided to keep it. Then, karma. It started to decline and she was sure she was either overwatering or underwatering it given the yellowing of the leaves. She asked me what to do which made me laugh considering the brown thumbs I have and brag about. I knew her best course of action was to bring the plant to the store and consult our green thumb experts, which she did. A quick look under the microscope identified the culprits. Spider mites, members of the arachnid class, Tetranychidae family.

Spider mites are well equipped to vex you. They are itty bitty and have stylet-like (a hard, sharp, anatomical structure found in some invertebrates)

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Citrus Presentation continued from p5

Kishu: Very productive, moderately sweet, almost a smaller, later Satsuma. Easy to peel. Loose puffy skins.

Pummelo

Chandler: Most widely planted variety. Pink flesh. Flavorful. Usually seedless.

Valentine: Seedy. Moderately easy to peel when fruits are mature. Rose red to salmon color and unique sweet flavors. The name comes from both the fruit maturing near Valentine's Day and is heart shaped interior if fruit is cut lengthwise and turned upside down.

Grapefruit

Rio Red: Seedless with a blushed rind. Red flesh.

Oroblanco: Sweet seedless white flesh. Thick skinned. (*actually, a pummelo-grapefruit hybrid*)

Cocktail: Large fruit. Seedy. Sweeter with a distinctive taste. (*actually, a mandarin-pummelo hybrid*)

Lemon

Eureka: Standard lemon of stores. Everbearing. New growth is bronzy purple.



Meyer: Fruit rounder than "regular lemon", thinner skinned, and orange-yellow color. Less acidic than standard lemon. Very juicy. Everbearing.

Ponderosa: Huge rough lemons with coarse skin. Mild lemon flavor.

Variegated Pink: Green-white leaves. Green stripes on young fruit. Light pink flesh doesn't need heat to develop color.

Lime

Bearss: Fruit is green when immature, light yellow when ripe. About the size of a lemon. Seedless. Especially juicy when ripe. Main crop

is from winter to late spring, with some fruit ripening all year.

Mexican (Key Lime of Florida):

Small, green to yellow-green fruit. Bartender's lime. Main harvest fall to winter, with some fruit ripening all year.



Palestine Sweet: Less acid fruit. Ripens fall and winter. Used in Mideastern, Indian, and Latin American cooking.

Tangelo

Minneola: Hybrid of Dancy mandarin and a white-fleshed grapefruit. Large, smooth, bright orange fruit. Similar in taste to a mandarin. Ripens mid to late winter. Skin develops good color long before fruit is ripe. Few seeds. Stores for up to two months on tree.

Wekiwa: Cross between tangelo and grapefruit. Deceptive! Looks like a lemon or small grapefruit. Eaten like a mandarin. Juicy and mild. A mix of sweet orange, grapefruit, and mandarin. Ripens late fall into winter.

Kumquat

Meiwa: Round fruit. Less seedy, juicier and sweeter than other varieties. Considered the best fresh eating kumquat.

Nagami: Main commercial variety. Slightly seedy, oval fruit. Sweeter in hot-summer climates.

Fukushu: Large, oval fruit. Skin and juice are sweet, but not as sweet as Meiwa.

So many choices! Don't hesitate to stop by either store to inquire about the available citrus for your own garden. Keep in mind that due to Huanglongbing disease (HLB), citrus is a little more difficult to source. Fewer growers are growing citrus and inventory can vary widely throughout the year. •

What Mite Be The Problem?

continued from p6



mouths to pierce plant cells and suck out the sap. They congregate on the underside of leaves and if your plant is infested, you may notice webbing which helps protect the mites and their eggs. They also love hot, dry weather.

At this point, I would recommend returning to the original plan of gifting the plant and being rid of the problem. However, there are other solutions. Neem Oil or insecticidal soap are options and can break up all life cycles of mites. You can also use a pyrethrin based pesticide or Bio Advanced Insect Mite and Disease spray. •



To Do List: August



Plant drought-tolerant plants like cactus and succulents



Look for citrus



Mulch to keep moisture in

Fertilize

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

> Feed ornamentals, vegetables, citrus, avocado, fruit trees, palms and tropicals with E.B. Stone or Dr. Earth.

> Add Ada Perry's Magic Formula to your regular rose feeding schedule this month.

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, Cape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Agapanthus, Citrus, Plumeria, and Avocados. •



Find More Online!



Get more **gardening advice** on our website. Download pdfs with information on a variety of topics. Go to www.walterandersen.com/expert-advice/#gardening-tips.



Make A Note!

Both stores will close at
2pm on **August 20** for a
private event.

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

9:00AM

8/3

Ornamental Grasses, Care & Selection with Constance

8/10

Summer Rose Care with Beth Von Boxtel of San Diego Rose Society

8/17

Worm Composting with Kathleen

8/24

Dr. Earth Fertilizers with Oscar Fortis of Dr. Earth

8/31

Labor Day Weekend
No Class

POWAY

9:30AM

8/3

Organic Insect Control

8/10

San Diego Bees with Denise

8/17

Brassicas & Other Fall Crops with Farmer Roy

8/24

California Native Gardens: Creating Havens & Pollinator Pathways with Sharon

8/31

Labor Day Weekend
No Class



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