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Nursery™**

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SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*Garden Talk*

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

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## Growing A Productive Vegetable Garden

By Bayer Advanced



freshest, most flavorful and nutritious produce that nature can create.

**Here are steps to growing a productive vegetable garden:**

### Choose Locally Adapted Varieties

Not all vegetable varieties grow well in all areas. Ask which varieties are best for where you live. There may be varieties that resist diseases specific to your area, or ones that produce better quality crops under your climate conditions.

### Plant at the Right Time of Year

For most areas, now is the time to plant summer vegetables like corn, tomatoes, squash, and peppers. In

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## Treated Water Treats Plants Better

By Ken Andersen



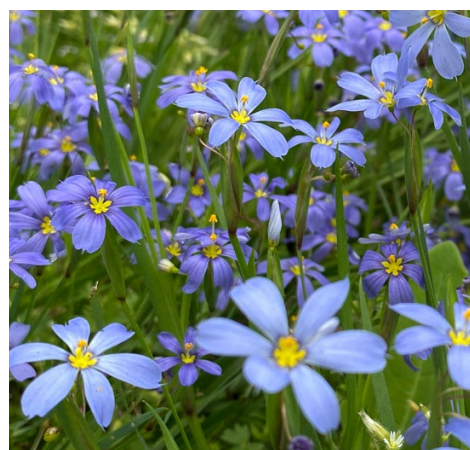
**What is the best thing you can give your plants? It's water!**

What can be a terrible thing for your plants? Again, water is the answer. That's because tap water contains heavy minerals, dirt, debris and chlorine.

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## Floral Faceoff Fires The Carnation

By Melanie Potter



Blue-Eyed Grass



Bush Sunflower by San Marcos Growers

San Diego has an official flower and that flower is being replaced by a more relevant selection. Who knew, but the carnation has been one of the San Diego symbols since being adopted by the city council via secret ballot in 1964, beating out the rose and poinsettia?

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## Treated Water

continued from p1

The folks at **Green Gro Biologicals** understand that and have created a water filter to treat the water you use to water your plants. The filter easily attaches to a standard hose bib outside and you attach a garden hose to the other end. The flow-through filter strains out the bad things in water and also helps protect against bacteria, fungi, mold, and mildew. The filters work for up to one year.

Houseplants will love the treated water and we have spoken to users who are seeing a difference in the health of their indoor plants. •

## Did You Know? Ladybug Larvae

By Monrovia



Photo: Monrovia

Many gardeners are familiar with the aphid-fighting powers of the ladybug. Although, did you know that it's actually the ladybug larvae (Coccinellidae) that do most of the aphid eating? If you see ladybugs in your yard, go on a hunt for their spiky larvae. They're probably out there doing you a favor and eating those pesky aphids! •

## Vegetable Garden continued from p1

other areas, you can plant several times over the summer and maintain the longest possible harvest season.

### Prepare the Soil Properly Before Planting

Work in generous amounts of organic matter such as compost or composted manure. If you don't use composted manure, which already contains nitrogen, also work in a complete fertilizer.

### Plant Properly

Follow planting directions on seed packets or buy vegetable starts. Sow seeds at the proper depth and space, or thin plants later to recommended distances. Vegetables that are planted too closely together will produce poorly.

### Water Consistently

This is probably the most important step to a successful vegetable garden. Maintain even soil moisture so plants do not dry out, but are not over-watered. Water deeply, and then give the soil time to dry partially before watering again. Inconsistent watering will reduce yields in most vegetables, and make others, like cucumbers and lettuce, taste bitter. One of the best ways to water a vegetable garden is to install a drip irrigation system connected to an automatic timer.

### Fertilize Regularly

Maintaining vigorous growth is very important with almost all vegetables. Most should be fed with a nitrogen fertilizer at least every 4 to 6 weeks. However, you do have to be careful not to over-fertilize. Some vegetables, especially tomatoes, will produce less if over-fertilized.

### Mulch

A 2- to 3-inch layer of organic matter applied over the roots of your vegetable plants will cool the soil, reduce weeds, and help prevent

soil moisture fluctuations that ruin quality.

### Eliminate Weeds

Weeds compete with vegetables for water, nutrients, and sunlight, thus reducing yields. Pull weeds by hand, or cultivate the soil frequently to keep them to a minimum.

### Harvest Often

Many vegetables, especially beans, squash, peppers, and cucumbers, will stop producing if not harvested frequently. Pick every few days.

### Control Pests & Disease

Many pests enjoy fresh vegetables as much as you do. Always keep an eye open for insect damage or disease. Use Sluggo to eradicate snails and slugs. Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew takes care of borers, beetles, caterpillars, leaf miners, spider mites and thrips. Horticultural oil or Neem Oil also kills insects and fungi. Bt kills caterpillars, including tomato horn worms.

### What to Plant Now:

The following need 6 to 16 weeks of warm weather to mature, depending on the vegetable.

- Snap beans
- Lima beans
- Corn
- Cucumbers
- Eggplant
- Okra
- Melons
- Peppers
- Pumpkins
- Summer squash
- Winter Squash
- Tomatoes •





## Why & How To Grow Nasturtium In Vegetable Gardens

By Amanda MacArthur, Food  
Gardening Network



The nasturtium is a powerhouse in the garden. It benefits squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, and more. They're hardy little flowers. And yes, they also bring some vibrant color to your garden.

But the nasturtium also has special powers. The edible flowers are packed with vitamin C and lutein. They taste a bit spicy and peppery. They're perfect in a salad or as a garnish on just about any plate.

The nasturtium is one of the most beneficial companion plants out there. The flower is often considered a sacrificial plant or a trap crop because they "trap" bugs by keeping them off your vegetables. A number of pests, such as aphids, cabbage loopers, and leafhoppers, love to find nasturtium in vegetable gardens. They're also known to repel pests such as squash bugs, whiteflies, and pumpkin beetles.

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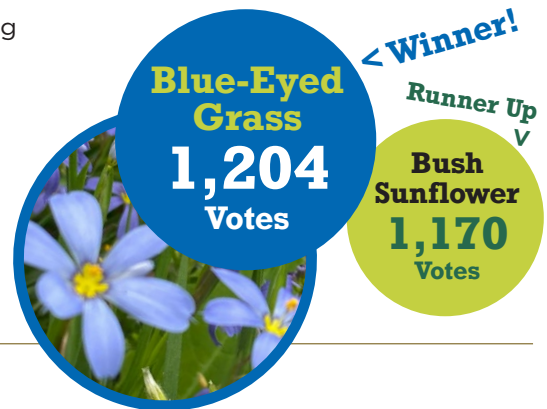
## Floral Faceoff continued from p1

Fast forward to the San Diego Bird Alliance leading a movement seeking to swap the carnation out with an indigenous flower and the San Diego city council agreed.

Changing the flower to a more relevant choice is to encourage the public to cultivate endemic flora as it helps support the broader ecosystem by feeding and sheltering local wildlife like bees, butterflies and birds.

Choices were weighed as to their ecological importance, significance in cultural history and traditions of the Kumeyaay, and friendliness for landscaping.

After four weeks and more than 7,750 votes, Blue-Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), one of only two Irises native to San Diego, has won the popular vote, and is what the community is presenting to the City to be adopted as the native official flower. Bush Sunflower came in second place with 1,170 votes. •



## A View Of Lupines

By Melanie Potter



***If you are looking for a sign that spring has sprung, take a walk at Lake Miramar and enjoy the lupines in bloom.*** Last year, goats were brought in to eat the weeds around the lake and they did a great job of consuming all the vegetation. After this year's rain, the grass is green and swaths of purple lupines dot the hillside that looks west. These members of the pea family are easy to grow. Flowers bloom from spring through midsummer and reseed themselves. Soil should be well draining, on the acid side. Flowers are deer-resistant and beneficial to pollinators like bees and butterflies. The plant is toxic to humans and animals. Both stores stock lupines. •



## How To Grow Nasturtium

continued from p3

The flowers also attract pollinators and beneficial insects. Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies all love the nasturtium, as does the hoverfly, which feeds on aphids.

Planting nasturtium in vegetable gardens is a pretty stress-free way to improve your overall garden. They do well in poor soil, are somewhat drought-tolerant, and can grow in containers or directly in the ground. They enjoy the sunshine, but will also grow well in partial shade.

Some vining varieties will grow as much as 15 feet and require a trellis, but plenty of bush varieties will stay more manageable. For either type, you may need to trim them back now and then to encourage more flower production. It's also the plant that keeps on giving as it reseeds itself and pops up when you aren't expecting it. •

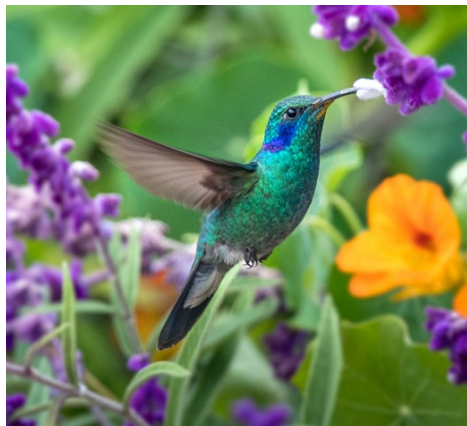
## Mother's Day!

**Mother's Day is May 11** and both stores have gift ideas for every gardening mom. Outside there are lots to choose from and inside you'll find houseplants, blooming color for indoors, books, hats, gloves and gift items. Stumped and not sure what is the right gift? Grab a gift card and let Mom shop for herself!



## Welcome To The Garden, Hummingbirds

By Monrovia Nursery



If you recall the advice, "if you feed them, they will come", you are half way there to ensuring humming birds are welcomed to your garden. The way to encourage hummingbirds to linger longer is to provide the elements they require for feeding and nesting.

Nectar-producing flowers are most closely associated with attracting hummingbirds. But did you know hummingbirds are insectivores, too? According to The Nature Conservancy's Deborah Barber, small insects are a lesser known but essential element of their diet. Insects residing in your yard means you'll likely have spiders, and hummingbirds make their tiny nests from spider silk! Chances are your garden has other nest building necessities hummingbirds use such as plant fiber, twigs, dandelion down, grass cuttings, and tree resin, to build a secluded, flexible nest.

**Here are a few tips for creating a garden that can sustain their active lifestyle:**

- > **Incorporate plants with nectar-containing tubular flowers into your garden.** The shape of hummingbirds' bill is perfectly suited to slip into the slender openings to the nectar below.
- > **Choose plants with brightly colored flowers.** Hummingbirds are attracted

to flowers with intensely bright hues of orange, red, yellow, pink, and purple.

### > Plant lots of them!

The mass of color attracts the hummingbirds, and the abundance of nectar keeps them coming back to fuel their incredibly high metabolism.

### > Include plants with long-lived flowers and with long blooming periods.

You can also choose a variety of plants with shorter bloom times but with overlapping bloom windows. This will provide hummingbirds with a continuous source of nutrition.

> **Hummingbirds can always make a meal from:** Cape Fuchsia, aloe and hesperaloe, salvias, Agastache, honeysuckle, kniphofia, red yucca, butterfly bush, crape myrtle and lantana. •



Earlier this year, a New Zealand Tree Fern was a good location for a hummingbird nest. A few months later, a hummingbird built an ADU just above the bigger nest.



## The Battle For Squatch

By WAN Staff



It was about Christmas time when the giant Sasquatch that was in the San Diego store moved to Poway. He really loves it in Poway and told us he never wants to leave unless he is sold (seriously, that's what he said). Now, we are hearing rumblings that the San Diego store misses him and wants him back! Where would you like to see Squatch reside? •



## The Chickens Moved On Up!

By WAN Staff

That's right, the chickens at our Poway store did move on up to the east side. The east side of the nursery that is. They are in a new and larger coop that was located closer to Community Road, near our vineyard and waterfall. They love visitors and don't understand why our dog guests get so much attention, so come visit the chickens! •



## To Do List: May



Plant colorful bedding plants

### 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



Watch for Citrus Leaf Miner

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

### 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.

### Fertilize

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





**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

### Shows This Month:

**5/3** – Ken, George & John with special guest Brad Lefkowitz (Creative Rainwater Capture in the Residential Garden)

**5/10** – Ken, George & John

**5/17** – Ken, George & John with special guest Farmer Roy

**5/24** – Ken, George & John

**5/31** – Ken, George & John with special guest Tom Spellman (Dave Wilson Nursery)

Guests subject to change without notice



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

## 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

**9:00AM**

**5/3**  
Pepper Care & Varieties  
with Cyarah

**5/10**  
Succulent Bonsai  
with Al Klein  
of Botanic Wonders

**5/17**  
Grow Like A Pro  
with Richard

**5/24**  
No Class  
Memorial Day weekend

**5/31**  
Compost Tea  
with Richard

### POWAY

**9:30AM**

**5/3**  
Staghorn Care/Culture/  
Remounting with James

**5/10**  
Container Gardening  
with Tammy

**5/17**  
Creative Rainwater Capture  
in the Residential Garden  
with Brad Lefkowitz

**5/24**  
No Class  
Memorial Day weekend

**5/31**  
Roses with Ruth Tiffany,  
Director Pacific Southwest  
District Rose Society



**Memorial Day is May 26th** We remember all who gave their lives in service to our Country.  
Both stores are open regular hours.



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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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