



**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

—• IN THIS ISSUE —•

Pot Talk: Plastic Or Terracotta?	1
Bare Facts On Bareroot Trees	1
Poinsettias In Stock Now!	1
To Do List: December	2
Redeem Paper Hedge Fund\$	3
Recipe: Green Beans Supreme	4
Choosing A Holiday Tree	4
Garden Talk Talks Changes	5
GardenTalk Radio Schedule	6
Holiday Hours & Closings	6

Pot Talk: Plastic Or Terracotta?

By Food Gardening Network & WAN Staff



Ken Andersen plants his citrus in terracotta-looking plastic and opts to grow vegetables, especially tomatoes and peppers in plastic 15-gallon black nursery pots.



Welcome to San Diego and our crummy, less-than-desirable-to-plant-in soil. That challenge is solved by planting container gardens rather than in-ground planting. Surprisingly, loads of things grow well in containers such as citrus, vegetables, flowers and camellias. Now, it's a matter of choosing the container.

One of the most noticeable differences between terracotta and plastic pots is the availability of colors. Terracotta is the traditional, unglazed clay pot. They are most often reddish-brown, though depending on the color of the clay, they may be orange, brown, light

[continued p2](#)

Poinsettias In Stock Now!



Tips to ensure your poinsettia lasts through the holidays:

- > Provide bright, filtered light.
- > Avoid direct sunlight or placing near a heat source or drafty windows.
- > If you keep a poinsettia in the decorative foil cover it may have come in, poke holes in the bottom so it can drain. Or take the plant out of the cover when watering. Don't let the plant sit in water or its roots will rot.
- > Check the soil for dryness every 5-7 days. If it feels light when lifted, it's time to water. •



The Bare Facts On Bareroot Trees

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Why Buy Now?

For starters, you get the best selection as far as varieties go. Another perk is that they are much easier to transport in your car. Best of all, they cost less than when you purchase them in a container. If you need more persuasion, they are easier to plant as you don't have to remove them from containers.

What Is Available?

You'll find the best selection now. More than 120 varieties to choose from. Download the



Bareroot season is underway. If you plant a bareroot fruit tree in January, this is what it will look like nearly a year later. It may have even borne fruit.

[continued p3](#)

To Do List: December



Look for Cyclamen

Plant

- > Look for Camellias, Azaleas, Pyracantha, Holly, Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, and Photinia.
- > Bulbs: Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms. Last chance for fall bulbs.
- > Color: Don't miss Pansies, Violas, Stocks, and Calendulas.
- > Vegetables: plant onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, carrots, and more.
- > Potted pomegranates, figs, grapes, cane berries and blueberries are here. Selection varies by store. Call for details or [check the website for the list.](#)



Plant Onions & Garlic

[continued p3](#)

Pot Talk continued from p1



gray, or even yellow. There's also glazed terracotta (ceramic), which can offer some gorgeous color combinations and patterns. Plastic, on the other hand, can come in just about any color or combination of colors you can imagine.

Weighing The Options

There's no question that plastic pots weigh less than terracotta. That can be positive or negative, depending on your purposes. Since terracotta weighs more, it can offer young plants a solid base of support against wind, critters, or people tipping it over. On the other hand, if you plan to move your plants around, plastic is lighter and can make a big difference in the overall weight, especially in larger planters. If you opt for plastic containers, remember that once you add soil to it, the weight will increase. It will weigh even more when watered.

Price

Though terracotta is relatively inexpensive, plastic pots are the clear winner here when it comes to price.

Durability

It's hard to judge either way about the durability of terracotta vs. plastic pots. Terracotta can crack or break easily if you drop it or, and weather can cause it to deteriorate. Plastic pots won't break when you drop them, but they can crack in cold weather or if you accidentally

squish them. Choosing a heavy-duty plastic container over something flimsy will give you better aesthetics and lifespan.



Sustainability

There's little question that terracotta is more sustainable than plastic. Terracotta is made from clay, and the only processing is that it gets fired in a kiln. It's interesting to note, however, that terracotta is not biodegradable. One look at any archeological site, and you'll find clay pots and vessels that are thousands of years old. If you do have a broken terracotta pot, consider another purpose for it before tossing. Could it become a garden accent or fairy garden?

It's Too Hot, It's Too Cold!

The thicker walls of terracotta containers help regulate soil temperature. Roots are more insulated and less exposed to extreme ranges of hot and cold temperatures. On the other hand, plastic is often thin and is a poor insulator. Temperatures can fluctuate wildly. Add to that, dark plastic containers, especially black containers, can heat the soil to the point of damaging seeds or roots.

Moisture

Simply put, plastic is impermeable and retains a lot of moisture. Terracotta allows moisture to soak through and will help the soil drain more quickly. The biggest factor is how often you want to water your plants and how much moisture your plants need. Terracotta is probably a better option for an herb like rosemary that enjoys very well-drained soil. Plants like mint or celery that enjoy lots of water may appreciate a plastic pot.

[continued p3](#)

To Do List: December

continued from p2



Roses arrive soon!

- > Plant conifers, junipers, evergreens, California natives and drought-tolerant plants.
- > Roses are due the third week of the month.

Pest Control

- > Dormant spray for diseases and over wintering pests. Use Liqui-Cop for disease control and Horticultural Oil Spray. •

Redeem Paper Hedge Fund\$



Be sure to redeem your paper Hedge Fund\$ certificates before December 31, 2025. We will be unable to redeem paper Hedge Fund\$ certificates after that date due to our new computer system. We apologize that we are unable to make exceptions. •

Pot Talk continued from p2



What About Ceramic?

Ceramic plant containers are clay pots that are glazed and fired at a high temperature. Though they are clay, just like terracotta, the glazing process gives them some unique

features. One of the most significant is that they do not have the same porosity as terracotta. That means they retain water more like a plastic pot. However, they also have the stability and durability of terracotta.

Terracotta, ceramic, and plastic pots can all be acceptable options for edible gardens. Which is better? When it comes to sustainability, durability, temperature regulation, and that ever-present need for "well-drained soil," terracotta is the winner. However, if price and weight are your primary considerations, plastic might be a better choice. •



Bareroot Trees continued from p1



Some bareroot is already here and you'll find it in sleeves, or all bushed out like these blueberries, and some bare-root selections will be just sticks (for now).

list of fruit trees in stock here: www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-Fruit-Tree-List.pdf.

I Don't Have Much Room For Planting

You can plant more than one tree in a hole!! Your planting hole should be a little larger, say 2.5'-3' in diameter, and about 16" to 18" deep. Place three trees in the hole, spacing them about 12" to 18" apart. Have three tree stakes ready, one for each tree. Be sure to mix some soil conditioner or planting compost with the soil that you dug from the hole (don't

dig too deep or your trees will rot) to fill in around the roots of your new trees. Use plastic tie tape to tie your trees to the stakes to keep them from falling over. Be sure to trim back your new bareroot trees, maybe as much as 1/3 off the top. This will give you a nicer, lower branching tree.

Are Fruit Trees Hard To Care For?

Start fertilizing your new trees in March or April, and repeat the fertilizer about every three months until September. Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado or Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Food is ideal. •

Recipe: Green Beans Supreme



INGREDIENTS

3 cans green beans, drained
 1/2 cup onion, thinly sliced
 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, minced
 1/4 cup butter, melted & divided
 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon lemon rind, grated
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 1 (8 ounce) container sour cream
 1/2 cup cheese (2 oz). Swiss or cheddar is our 'go to' choice
 1/2 cup dry breadcrumbs, crushed fine (crushed Ritz crackers can be substituted)

DIRECTIONS

Cook onion and parsley in half the butter until tender but not browned. Add flour, salt, pepper, and lemon rind. Stir. Turn heat to medium-low and add sour cream and mix well. Stir green beans into the mixture and cook until heated, stirring occasionally. Turn into a greased 8-inch baking dish. Top with cheese. Combine breadcrumbs and remaining 2 tbsp butter; sprinkle over cheese. Bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees or until cheese is melted and breadcrumbs are browned.

Editor's Notes: If using fresh green beans, cook them before using. When making this with a gravy dinner, I omit the cheese and top with French fried onions. From the cookbook, Candlelight & Wisteria, Recipes from the Deep South published in Auburn, Al. •

Choosing A Holiday Tree To Last A Season

By WAN Staff



Make it a family tradition to get your Christmas tree from Walter Andersen Nursery!

About the same time that your Thanksgiving week is underway, Christmas trees are expected to arrive at our stores. How do you know what type of tree is right for you? **There are four primary types of trees available each year.**

NOBLE FIR > These are our most popular selling tree, with evenly spaced, nicely layered branches that allow ornaments to hang freely. Because they have relatively fewer, heavier needles, these stay the freshest.

FRASIER FIR > This tree is short needled, and is sometimes called a "silverback" because of the silver color of the underside of its needles. It is compact and upright, and stays fresh a long time as well, though generally not as long as the Noble.

GRAND FIR > This tree has a pungent, distinct aroma, and looks like a Douglas fir on steroids. The needles are a little larger and of more substance, but this tree usually does not stay as fresh as long as the two above mentioned trees.

DOUGLAS FIR > A very full, dense, fine needled tree. Because of this, they dry out the quickest.

When selecting a tree, look for trees that are dark green and appear fresh.

Ones with firm needles that snap when folded only drop old, dead, needles from the center when stood and shaken.

Not only is freshness paramount, but size matters also. Know the height of the ceiling in the room you'll display your tree and buy at least one foot shorter so you have plenty of room for the crowning ornament. Bear in mind the area the tree will take up and the foot traffic around it to help you decide your tree's fullness. If you are tight on room, the Fraser may make a good selection as they tend to be the 'thinner' of holiday trees.

To care for your tree, always use a stand that holds ample water. A fresh cut tree drinks a lot of water initially. Once a suitable tree has been selected, put a fresh 2" (approx) cut on the bottom to allow water to flow up into the tree. I also put a few vertical slices into the base of the trunk to allow additional water flow up the trunk. When the tree stops drinking, carefully re-slice up the sides of the trunk to allow water to flow again, taking care not to puncture the basin.

Add a commercial tree preservative, get the tree into water immediately, and keep your water bowl filled with a water/preservative at all times. •

Garden Talk Talks Changes

By George Allmon

Last month, the Garden Talk team celebrated a milestone: Ken Andersen, George Allmon, and John Clements wrapped up one year with our new Garden Talk format. This change has afforded us the ability to provide a much more information filled garden and yard-centric show. The previous show was live and allowed listeners to call in questions, (which we miss!), but made it difficult for us to have the experts with us in the studio. Now, we tape the show beforehand in order to have a variety of guests join us to share their wealth of knowledge.

For example, this past year included such diverse topics as: San Diego Seed Co, San Diego Beekeeping Society, San Diego Rose Society, Tomatoes, Native Plants, Waterwise planting, Harvesting Rainwater, USDA Wildlife Biologist, Native plant design, Palm trees, Arborist, Plant Scientist, Fruit Trees, Orchids, Plumerias, Felco tools, Spiders, Zoo horticulturist, Herbalist, and our own store managers. We sure have learned a lot from these experts, and hope you have enjoyed learning more about your garden and yard along with us.

To listen to past shows, visit our podcast page at <https://www.walterandersen.com/podcast/>.

If you have a question you would like us to answer on the show, or would like to suggest a guest for the show, please email us at gardentalkradio@walterandersen.com. If you'd like to see names and specialties of each of our past year's guests, check out our website or Facebook page. •





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:

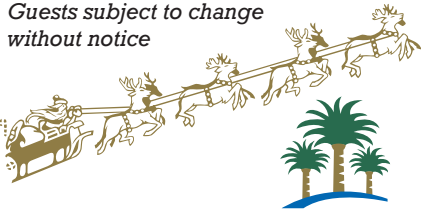
12/6 – Ken, George & John

12/13 – Ken, George & John
with special guest James, our
Poway Store Manager

12/20 – Best of Garden Talk

12/27 – Best of Garden Talk

Guests subject to change
without notice



walterandersen.com

Garden Classes: December

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/>.



Holiday Hours & Closings

Both stores will close on Christmas Day
& New Year's Day.

The Poway store will close at 2pm on
Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve. •



**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

Visit Our 2 Locations

Visit Us Online



walterandersen.com



[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/walterandersennursery)



[instagram](https://www.instagram.com/walterandersennursery)



[youtube](https://www.youtube.com/walterandersennursery)



[shop](https://www.walterandersen.com/shop)