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Walter Andersen Nursery™

GardenTalk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

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Decorating For Halloween Using Plants & Flowers

By Claire Rambo



It's October, a month for being spooky and scary but also a month for creating beautiful flower and plant displays to go along with those Halloween decorations. I walked around the nursery looking for flowers and plants to help you add a bit of color to your Halloween displays.

Here are 10 flowers and plants to help elevate your All Hallows Eve décor.

1) Marigolds aka the "flowers of the dead" They play a major role in the Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos (November 1-2). The bright orange and yellow blooms typically form dense, ruffled blooms or daisy-like heads and have a strong scent that is said to help guide the dead back to their loved ones. The tall African varieties can be used as cut flowers in bouquets. We carry 6pk and 4" singles of marigolds. This month, look out for the decorative pots of Marigolds.

2) Chrysanthemums aka Garden Mums The quintessential flower of fall. They are one of the most popular flowers

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Making Friends With Old Grapes

By Melanie Potter



Bare root fruit tree season is approaching, and soon we will have wine grapes available. You are likely aware that we stock the well-known grapes and I assumed they were the 'go to' varieties that winemakers favored. Imagine my surprise when reading a menu at a wine tasting room, I encountered grapes I wasn't familiar with and had to Google them.

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Gardening For A Dry Climate

By Monrovia



As droughts become more frequent and severe, the need for landscapes that can withstand water shortages is increasingly important. The benefits of a drought-tolerant garden include reducing dependence on irrigation, promotion of biodiversity and sustainability, and conservation of water while maintaining a beautiful garden. Your landscape will rely on the natural environment to create a low-maintenance garden that can withstand periods of drought while reducing the carbon footprint that comes with water transportation.

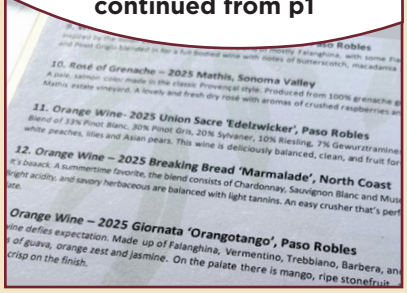
Drought-tolerant landscaping key elements include:

- ***> Choosing water-wise plants***
- ***> Improving soil quality***
- ***> Implementing efficient irrigation to reduce water loss***
- ***> Incorporating hardscape elements and porous materials***
- ***> Utilizing mulch and ground covers***

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Old Grapes

continued from p1



Here's an introduction to some new favorites:

Falanghina – A thick skinned grape used in white wines that gives a full body experience. There is an interesting array of flavors with an orange blossom scent, then on the palate there are richer mandarin flavors along with orchard fruit and subtle spice and herbal nuances. It is mostly found in the Campania region of Italy, in the volcanic soils surrounding Mount Vesuvius.

Fiano – Drink wine made from this grape and you'll be greeted with green apple, hazelnut, honey, lemon, pear, and pineapple. Fiano is an ancient variety from Campania, in southern Italy, where it thrives in the volcanic soil. It's known as Italy's finest white grape.

Trebbiano – From Italy, it is an entire family, which includes Trebbiano Giallo, Spoletino, Toscano, Abruzzese, and Romagnolo. This seems to be a blending grape and its flavor changes depending upon where is grown. For instance, grown in Abruzzo, this grape has found its ideal habitat thanks to the rocky soil, the altitude, and the influence of the sea.

Sylvaner – We leave Italy for Germany, Alsace, Austria and Switzerland where this grape is grown, prized for transparency

continued p3

Decorating For Halloween

continued from p1

around the world. In Japan, mums are celebrated with their own holiday, Chrysanthemum Day on September 9. Mix and match purples and oranges for Halloween, add red and bronze to continue into fall. We carry 4" singles up to 12" cache pots of mums.



Twisted Celosia

3) Twisted Celosia aka Cockscomb Celosia Believed to originate from the tropics around the world, they like heat and humidity. Make sure the soil stays moist and does not dry out. The twisted flowers look like brain lobes and can add spooky, scary elements to any flower display. The flowers can also be dried for an impactful bouquet.

4) Millet, Purple Majesty This is an ornamental hybrid. The young leaves start out as green and turn purple with sun exposure. This grass, "tall, dark and handsome" can reach 3-5 feet tall and can produce 8-12 inch cattail-like flower spikes. Great replacement for corn stalks in porch displays.

5) Ornamental Peppers We carry a variety of different colors of peppers in both 4" single and 6" decorative pots. However, the Purple Flash pepper featuring nearly black leaves variegated with purple and white is a nice touch to any Halloween display. It can grow 12 to 15 inches tall with small, glossy, and extremely hot black peppers.

6) Petunias These cascading flowers come in a variety of Halloween colors from black to purples and oranges. Mix and match for an amazing Halloween color bowl. Keep the soil moist and water regularly. Petunias like to be deadheaded for continual blooms.

7) Pansies As the temperature dips, its time to plant pansies. These popular flowers like cooler temperatures. They come in a variety of colors so you can mix and match Halloween hues for a festive color bowl.

8) Black Sweet Potato Vine A "spiller" plant for containers. These ornamental vines are a deep purple to almost black color. They add contrasting foliage to any flower arrangement. Sweet potato vines love the heat and humidity.



Black Mondo Grass

9) Black Mondo Grass Use this purple-black grass to create a bold contrast in your containers. This grass prefers partial shade from our southern climate. They produce lavender flowers in the summer and purple berries in the fall.



Heuchera by Monrovia

10) Heuchera A colorful foliage plant that comes in a variety of colors. Look for the deep purple leaves to add a contrast to any display. These plants prefer partial shade in our climate. The purple leaved plants can tolerate a bit more sun but protect them from the harsh afternoon sun.

So, as you are putting out the pumpkins and the Halloween decorations, remember to add some flowers and foliage to take your display to the next level. •

Old Grapes

continued from p2



to soil and microclimate, especially on calcareous and gypsum-rich clays where it can feel mineral, savory, and quietly powerful. Subtle aromas of fresh herbs, gooseberry or green orchard fruit, and a distinctive note often compared to fresh hay. Riper grapes produce flavors leaning toward pear, quince, melon, or gentle stone fruit.

Ribbola Gialla – An ancient Friulian variety famous as the grape behind orange wine. This is a white grape most closely associated with Friuli-Venezia Giulia in northeastern Italy and with western Slovenia, where it is widely known as Rebula. Ribolla Gialla is typically light to medium-bodied with high acidity, showing lemon, green apple, pear, white flowers, and sometimes a stony or saline finish. With less aging it can gain breadth and a gentle creamy note. With skin contact, it shifts dramatically to a deeper color, more tannic structure, and flavors that can move toward dried citrus peel, apricot, tea-like notes, herbs, and gentle spice.

And on that note, be bold and taste wine made from unfamiliar grapes. •

Dry Climate continued from p1



Using terracotta-toned hardscape elements Photo: Monrovia

When creating a design and choosing plants, consider the following:

• Opt for climate-appropriate and drought-resistant species that are adapted to your region's temperature, humidity, and rainfall patterns.

• Minimize lawn areas and replace them with drought-tolerant grass alternatives or low-water groundcovers.

• Incorporating hardscaping elements into your drought-tolerant landscape design adds interest and structure while contributing to water conservation efforts. Hardscaping refers to the non-living components of your landscape, such as pathways, patios, and retaining walls. Consider using pavers or gravel that allow water to percolate into the soil and reduce runoff. Incorporate shade such as pergolas or arbors to create cool spaces and support climbing plants. Use boulders and rock gardens to add texture without requiring water.

• Sculptural Elements such as water-wise fountains or statues add character to your landscape.

Proper soil preparation and mulching are key to creating a strong foundation for your drought-tolerant garden. Here's what you need to know:

• Improve soil quality by incorporating organic matter, such as compost, to help retain moisture and promote healthy root growth.

• Apply a layer of mulch around your plants to reduce evaporation, suppress weed growth, moderate soil temperature and control soil erosion. Organic mulches such as wood chips, bark, pine needles, or leaves have the added benefit of increasing the fertility of your soil as it breaks down. However, these options may not be the best choice in areas prone to wildfires, as they are combustible. Inorganic mulches such as decomposed granite, gravel, or rocks are a better option for a fire-wise landscape, especially close to structures.



Mulch reduces evaporation, suppresses weeds and controls soil erosion

• When applying mulch, add a layer of 3-4 inches at planting time and a thin topdressing each year if needed.

Efficient Irrigation Techniques

Drought-tolerant plants still require regular irrigation to establish strong roots and maintain health, especially during prolonged dry spells.

To ensure your plants receive the water they need without waste, consider implementing these irrigation techniques:

• ***Drip Irrigation:*** These systems deliver water directly to the roots of your plants, minimizing evaporation and runoff.

• ***Smart Technology:*** Smart controllers and moisture sensors can help your watering schedule by adjusting irrigation based on weather conditions and soil moisture levels. These devices can automatically reduce watering during rainy periods and increase irrigation during dry spells.

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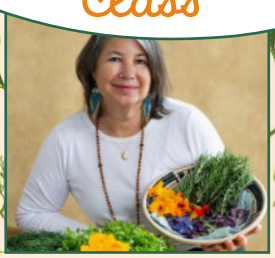
Safety First

By WAN Staff



We think the best way to learn a new task is to do it with instruction so if you saw Claire driving the forklift around in circles in the parking lot, it was a well-constructed plan. Claire decided it was time to learn how to drive a forklift and our Dry Goods Manager, Chuck, also a certified trainer is our best coach. With his precise instruction Claire soon became a whiz at forking anything that needed moving. •

Herbalism Class



October 17th at 9am at the San Diego Store. Herbalism for the Home Gardener – *Tending Ourselves as We Tend Our Garden* with Cindy Saylor. Herbs belong in any home garden! Come learn about key herbs to include in your garden. We will discuss the medicinal properties, their ancient roots and have fun tea tasting. •

Lights, Camera, Backyard Ready!

By Theresa McPherson, Lawn & Garden Retailer Magazine & WAN Staff

Have you heard about this latest trend that Lawn & Garden Retailer magazine shared in its August issue? It seems that **homeowners are designing gardens and outdoor living spaces with milestone photography in mind!**

Think graduations, pre-prom photos, family reunions and gender reveal backgrounds and then ask yourself if your landscape is camera ready. **Here are some tips to get your yard pretty as a picture and not break the bank.**



Frame with Vertical Backdrops: Install a structured frame like a garden arch or arbor. Soften and add color with plants like climbing roses, hydrangeas, wisteria or native plants with a restrained growth habit that's perfect for framing people without overwhelming them.

Take a Seat: Add a classic bench in an out-of-the way corner to create a casual 'secret garden' vibe. Build texture behind the bench using shrubs with colorful foliage (nandina, Japanese maples, golden euonymus or Leucadendron).

Fancy Up the Porch: It's a natural stage and lucky you if your porch has multiple levels. Endless choices include hanging baskets, container plants, and tasteful décor.



How About a Mini Meadow: So many homeowners have removed lawns and sought other options whether it be gravel, artificial grass, or mulch and carefully curated planting areas. Don't forget wildflower mixes, rows of sunflowers, natives or colorful pollinators (salvias, lavender, cuphea). Dry creek beds can also find a home here.

Mark a Person's Growth: Here's a favorite that is guaranteed to make memories. Plant a tree to celebrate the addition of a child or new member of the family. You can choose a tree that peaks during the person's birthday month. Bonus points if it can accommodate a tree house or a swing! •

Dry Climate continued from p3

• Deep and Infrequent Watering: When watering drought-tolerant plants, water deeply and infrequently. This encourages plants to develop better root systems that can withstand dry periods.

Xeriscaping Principles

Xeriscaping is an approach to landscape design that prioritizes water conservation and low-maintenance plantings. It is possible to turn existing landscape into a drought-tolerant one by assessing your current plants and identifying those that require the most water. Gradually replace these water-intensive plants with drought-tolerant alternatives that are well-suited to your climate. •

The Shirt Off Our Back

By WAN Staff

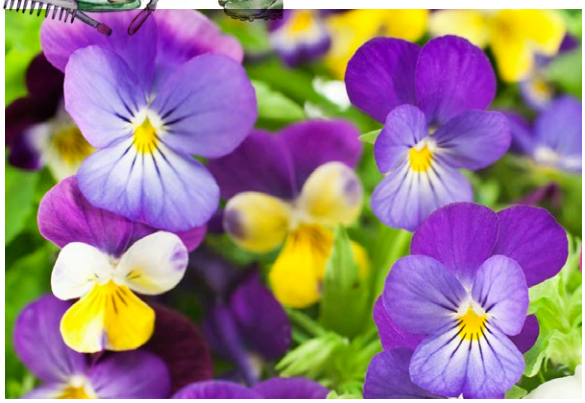


The new Walter Andersen Nursery work shirts featuring a Dia de los Muertos theme are a hit. Everyone seems to want one including folks who work for companies with their own cool t-shirts. One of our favorite brewers, Koo from Koobrew instantly traded his for ours. We enjoyed seeing him model our new shirt while we sampled a Japanese Dark Lager, one of the most popular beers that Koo brews. •



October To Do List

Natives • Winter Annuals • Fall Bulbs • Fertilizing



Plant winter annuals like Violas



Plant bulbs



Water during Santa Anas



A good time of year to plant drought-tolerant plants

Plant

> California natives and drought-tolerant plants are best planted this time of year to get root systems established.

> Bulbs like Daffodils, Ranunculus, Freesias, Anemones and more.

> Winter annuals like Stocks, Snapdragons, Pansies, Violas, and Primrose.

> Cool-season vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, peas, carrots and more!

> Shrubs such as Camellias and Azaleas, and trees that provide wonderful fall color such as Ginko, Pistache, and Liquidambar.

Lawns

> Overseed Bermuda lawns with Annual Rye.

> It's a great time to plant Fescue from seed or sod.

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.

> Do not feed Camellias until after they are finished flowering.

Water

When dry Santa Ana winds are expected, make sure to get extra water on plants and lawns before needed, especially container plants. •



Shows This Month

10/3 – Ken, George & John

10/10 – Ken, George & John with special guest Dr. Eric Gordon Middleton, UC Cooperative Extension San Diego

10/17 – Ken, George & John

10/24 – Ken, George & John with special guest TBD

10/31 – Ken, George & John

Guests subject to change without notice

Listen anytime online at www.walterandersen.com/podcast

Garden Classes: October

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	POWAY 9:30AM
10/3 Save Water, Grow Dragon Fruit with Alan Ridley	10/3 Soil Microbes with Joe Zanetalli of So Cal Bio Amendments
10/10 Fall Container Gardening with Constanz	10/10 Prepping Your Garden for El Niño w/Randy Ritchie, Malibu Compost
10/17 Herbalism for the Home Gardener – Tending Ourselves as We Tend Our Garden with Cindy Saylor	10/17 *Special Kids Class* Little Sprouts Gardening Club – Edible Plants & Ladybug Release with Jes of WAN San Diego
10/24 Worm Composting & Book Signing with Susan Frazee	10/24 Planting California Natives w/Greg Rubin of California's Own Native Landscape Design
10/31 No Class	10/31 Tree Care Basics, Proper Planting Demo w/Arborist Kurt Peacok of Tree San Diego

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