



WALTER ANDERSEN
NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

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AUGUST 2019



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Diagnosing A Summer Pest

By Ken Andersen

One of the most insidious pests that rosarians have to deal with is **Rose Slug**. This small, green larva hatches from eggs laid on the underside of rose foliage by a sawfly. Once they hatch, they begin feeding on the foliage which causes small holes in the leaves. If they aren't stopped quickly, they can decimate the foliage on your roses. The good news is that even though they can cause a lot of damage to roses, it is not fatal and they are easily controlled once found.

There are a number of controls available that will treat Rose Slug.

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Lending A Hand To The Corps

By Ken Andersen



Butler Gardens at Quarters 1

Our San Diego store's neighbor, MCRD, has asked for our expertise on matters related to landscaping on the base. A few years ago, we did some consulting work for the Gold Star Family Garden. This is a solemn garden on the base dedicated to families who have lost

Marines in combat. In honor of those fallen we offered our consulting services at no charge.

Most recently, I was contacted again by the base liason Rick Huenefeld and asked if we could help them with

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Words From Walter

Plumerias Are At Their Best

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



These wonderful blooming plants, also known by the exotic name of frangipani, are most often associated with Hawaii and grow well in most parts of the tropics. They even grow beautifully in San Diego, as long as you are in a fairly frost-free zone.

They form a large shrub or small tree; prefer full sun and very good draining soil. If

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Lending A Hand continued from p1



George Allmon & Ken Andersen consulting at MCRD



Japanese bronze bell in the Oriental Gardens

For more information about Quarters 1 and Butler Gardens, click on the link below.

<https://www.mcrc.marines.mil/News/News-Article-Display/Article/519378/quarters-one-depot-treasure-historical-landmark/> •



Butler Gardens at Quarters 1 on base. Quarters 1 is the commanding general's home while in command of the base and it dates back to the earliest days of MCRD, in the early 1920s. Butler Gardens is the historic garden that surrounds Quarters 1 and is named in honor of General Smedly Butler, the base's first commanding officer.

In 1995 a landscape architect was hired to draw the layout of the gardens and the plants it contains. Over the years, many changes have been made to the gardens. Our job was to review the 1995 plan and survey the gardens as they are today and note the changes that have been made in the past 24. Last month, George Allmon from our Poway store and I spent the morning walking the entire garden, locating plants on the plan, confirming their placement and also noting plants that were no longer in the garden. It gave George and me a wonderful opportunity to see this historic garden that has been the retreat of the base commander and a location for many formal events, including a visit by President Kennedy.

The garden is divided into seven different areas, Rose Garden, Reception

Garden, Reflecting Pool Garden, Flower and Vegetable Garden, Shade Garden, Jade Garden, and Oriental Garden. Each is beautiful and unique, many with plants that date back to the establishment of the base. Huge mature trees, including a massive Torrey Pine, offer filtered light to areas of the garden. In the Oriental Garden, a Japanese bronze bell stands off to one side. The bell was presented to the garden by General Holland Smith after the Marines took the island of Saipan during World War II. What I thought was damage to the bell from old age, Rick informed me was actual battle damage the bell suffered during the campaign.

With our visit complete, I took our findings back to the office and wrote up a detailed report which was sent to the liaison office. It was interesting to see what changes had been made to the gardens over the past two plus decades. George and I offered some recommendations to improve the gardens and to solve some of the cultural issues that were noted on our visit. It was our great pleasure to help with the ongoing maintenance and preservation of one of San Diego's historic places.

Fall Bulbs: **Bearded Iris**



'Clarence'

Although it seems way too early, our fall bulb season is just around the corner! How do we know? We know because the harbinger of fall, the **Bearded Iris rhizomes** will be arriving within the next two weeks. We are expecting 16 varieties this year, most of which are rebloomers. Choose from the following varieties:

Blatant	Frequent Flyer
Blueberry Tart	Halloween Halo
Cat's Eye	Harvest of Memories
City Lights	Pink Attraction
Clarence	Red Hot Chili
Concertina	Rock Star
English Charm	Spirit of Memphis
Feedback	Victoria Falls •

Words From Walter: Plumerias continued from p1



drainage is a problem, they can easily be used as a potted plant or in raised beds.

The stems and branches are fairly stiff and thick and usually need to be a few years old to bloom. Flowers come in red, pink, yellow, white and combinations of colors such as pink, yellow, and white on the same petal. They bloom at the tip of new growth. Give them room as they can reach 6' to 10' in time, and will grow as wide as tall. If the plant gets too big, trimming is very easy and you can root the trimmings!

The plant is deciduous but comes out in spring with large leaves and fairly fast growth. They can grow as much as 12" to 18" a year under good conditions. The deep green leaves are about 8" to 15". Blooms usually start in May or June and continue until it gets cool in the fall. Most have a strong, pleasing, almost intoxicating fragrance.

If you want to try planting the cuttings, the best time is June, July and August. Make cuttings about 12" to 18" long and let the fresh cut part callous over or dry for about five days. Dip the end in a rooting hormone and place in Plumeria Mix or Sponge Rock. They

will usually root in about six weeks. You may have to support them with a stake because the branch is heavy and may tip over if the mix is very light. Water the cuttings about two times a week, more if it is very hot. Do not keep them too wet as they will rot.

The plants are not fussy as long as they have at least a half-day of full sun. Perhaps a little shade inland during the hottest part of the day, but not too much. Feed regularly for best results. High nitrogen fertilizers will give the most growth; however, using a fertilizer high in phosphorus will give the most bloom. Nitrogen is the first number and phosphorus is the middle number. If you use a liquid fertilizer, be sure to use it every two weeks. If you use a dry fertilizer, be sure to read the directions as feedings may vary from monthly to every four months, depending upon the brand. We usually use a dry type because you do not have to feed as often.

Mites, aphids and white fly are the few pests that can be a problem. Most can be hosed off with water or treated with insecticide. •

Big Summer Pest

continued from p1



Tell tale holes in leaves are a clue that you should turn over a few leaves and try to spot these green, caterpillar-like larvae.

However, some take longer to work which gives more time for damage to occur. Once Rose Slug is detected on the plant, a quick acting spray should be used to knock them down. **Bonide Eight and Bio Advanced 3-in-1 Insect Disease and Mite Control will work very effectively and quickly. They are best applied with a hose end sprayer to insure that the underside of the foliage, where the Rose Slugs are hiding, is treated. For a more organic approach, consider using Captain Jacks Dead Bug Brew with spinosad as the active ingredient, again making sure the underside of the foliage is treated. Usually two to three applications seven days apart are enough to break the life cycle of the saw fly and get the Rose Slugs under control. No matter what you spray, make sure that you do it at a time when bees are not active. Spraying in the evenings is a good plan as the bees are not as active and the plants have a chance to dry overnight.**

Once under control, the plants can be cleaned up with some selective pruning to reduce the damaged foliage on the plant. A feeding this time of year will encourage lots of new

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Designing With Summer Annuals

By Kate Karam, Monrovia Nursery



Summer Snapdragon



Million Bells



Dahlia



Verbena



Geranium



Lantana

Annuals are the eye candy of the summer garden and every year you can create a whole new “plant painting” without breaking the bank.

Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in a single growing season. If you live in a zone that experiences a fall killing frost, when they’re done, they’re done. In the warmest zones, some annuals can winter over.

Here’s a quick cheat sheet of a few annuals you’ll find, and ideas about how to use them.

FULL SUN

Many of the annuals we love to use for summer color originated in warmer climates like the southern United States, Mexico, and South America. That’s why (with a bit of care) they sail through the heat of summer, even in full sun. Here are just six of the amazing varieties of full sun annuals you’ll find in stores this summer.

Summer Snapdragon

Angelonia is a heat-lover that’s perfect for upright, spiky interest. Mix the rainbow of colors—white, pink, purple, rose, red—or mass in a single hue. Deer and rabbit resistant! Up 14” tall and wide.

Ideas: Hummingbird gardens, cottage planters, rose gardens.

Million Bells

Calibrachoa’s petunia-like blooms are a billowy mass of color that thrive all summer, even in heat and humidity. Great in pots, but also an excellent, unexpected bedding plant. Up to 15” tall and wide.

Ideas: Suspend hanging baskets in groups of three at different heights.

Dahlia

Happy and carefree, bedding and bush dahlias are shorter and more compact, serving up ultra-bright, all-season color to borders and beds, but also as cut flowers. Up to 18” tall and wide. **Ideas:** Adds height to window boxes. Harvest when blooms are almost fully open.

Verbena

When it comes to quickly softening hard surfaces or covering bare spots, few annuals do it better than verbena. Pillow-y and spill-y, it’s a spreading low grower. Butterflies go nuts for it. Up to 8” tall and 3’ wide. **Ideas:** Hanging baskets, of course, but also gentle slopes and berms.

Geranium

Pelargonium is THE classic choice for containers and window boxes. Sun and heat lovers, they also tolerate partial shade. And the colors: pink, purple, red, salmon, and white!! Up to 16” tall and 24” wide. **Ideas:** Juxtapose its formality by planting in a blowsy cottage garden.

Lantana

Continuous summer color from large flower clusters on a compact, water-wise, sun-loving plant that tolerates heat and humidity. Perennial in mild

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Summer Annuals continued from p4



Fuchsia



Caladium



New Guinea Impatiens



Coleus



Sweet Potato Vine

winter region, annual elsewhere. **Ideas:** Use in wildlife gardens to attract bees and butterflies.

PARTIAL TO FULL SHADE

While few bloom enthusiastically in very deep shade, there are many annuals that actually appreciate a respite from summer's direct, overhead rays, especially hot afternoon sun. When choosing plants for areas that are not full sun, it's a good idea to observe before buying. Note the light conditions at 8am, 11am, 2pm, and 4pm—this will give you the best info on how much sun your spaces get, and at what time of the day. These five annuals are a great place to start.

Fuchsia

A large family of flowering shrubs, several species are grown as frost tender container plants that are so ideal for hanging baskets. Seriously, look at those drooping, tubular flowers! Up to 1' tall and wide. **Ideas:** Add tiny white lights to a hanging basket of fuchsia for a lush living chandelier.

Caladium

Only difficult thing about Caladiums is deciding which to choose. Splotched, striped—choose one that makes you smile. Perennial in temperate, frost-free regions, annual elsewhere. Up to 18" tall, 12" wide. **Ideas:** Use in low, trough planters where they can flutter in even a light breeze.

New Guinea Impatiens

Unlike classic impatiens, which are shade lovers, New Guinea impatiens flowers can tolerate up to half a day of sun in most parts of the country. Flowers are bigger, too. Up to 18" tall, 9" wide. **Ideas:** Use where you need a carpet of near endless color. And, in butterfly gardens!

Coleus

Such a valuable little color wonder for areas that always seem to be on the damp but well draining side. Many colors and leaf shapes to ponder. Pinch often! Up to 18" tall and wide. **Ideas:** Lovely massed, but also use them to contrast taller, grassy foliage plants.

Sweet Potato Vine

A distant relative of the 'Morning Glory' vine, sweet potato vine—black, green, or brown—grows big and fast. Works in sleek modern settings, vegetable gardens, or cottage gardens. Trailing, 16" tall and 24" wide. **Ideas:** Tie the long stem up onto a trellis for a quick, green screen.

CARING FOR ANNUALS

- Choose carefully both in terms of light needs and watering requirements. Look for well branched, bushy plants, and then get them into the ground ASAP!
- Feed regularly (every 2 - 6 weeks) to keep them healthy and to ensure a near constant supply of blooms. Always make sure to water well before applying fertilizer (liquid or dry) to avoid shock.
- Annuals do not have very deep root systems and can dry out quickly on a hot day. Give them a good soaking in the morning and the evening. Water whenever the soil feels dry about 1 inch below the surface.
- Pinch (use your thumb and forefinger) to remove spent flowers as needed. Many newer varieties are "self cleaning" so the flowers sort of disappear, but the stems will get leggy. Around midsummer, prune back by several inches. You'll be rewarded with a fresh flush of new growth and flowers. ●

Little Lanterns

By Melanie Potter

I've been thinking of lanterns lately. A few weeks ago, we hung some in the Poway store as part of our summer décor. Then, not once, but twice customers admired the little lantern-like flowers on a shrub and one even made the leap to purchase it so it seems like a good time to talk about **Abutilon!**

When you see it in bloom, the first thing you'll likely notice is the adorable, colorful flowers that hang like lanterns off the shrub. The flowers can be white, yellow, pink, red, and orange and there are bicolor varieties. The inside of the flower may remind you of a hibiscus which is a distant relative.

The common name is **Flowering Maple** or **Chinese Lantern** and they are upright, branching plants and some varieties have a structure reminiscent of a Japanese maple. They are low growing woody subshrubs that perform best in partial shade with well-



Abutilon 'Tiger Eye'

draining soil. They will require regular water and with that care, you'll have year-round blooms that the hummingbirds and butterflies like. ●

Summer Pest

continued from p3

growth and a new flush of flowers later in the summer. We have long recommended Gro-Power fertilizer for your roses. Gro-Power also makes an excellent rose food if you want something more specific for them. Both are humic acid based which helps develop good soil for your plants. It makes soil healthy and habitable to the micro organisms that reside in it. If you prefer an organic approach to feeding, E.B. Stone Rose and Flower Food is an excellent choice. One thing to remember when it comes to fertilizer, the best one is the one you use! If you have a favorite rose food, just make sure that you use it.

As always, if you have questions about your plants, bring samples to either location for a diagnosis and remedy. ●

TO DO LIST: August

FERTILIZE

For **lawns**, use Marathon Fertilizer for tall fescue, and Bonide DuraTurf Weed & Feed to feed grass and control broadleaf weeds. Feed **ornamentals** with Gro-Power. Feed **vegetables** with Gro-Power Tomato and Vegetable Food or Dr. Earth Organic Tomato and Vegetable Food. Feed **citrus, avocado, and fruit trees** with Gro-Power Citrus and Avocado Food. Feed **palms and tropicals** with Gro-Power Palm Tree and Tropical Food.

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**. Late crops of **warm season vegetables**, like tomatoes, squash, and beans can be planted. 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, Crape Myrtle, Hibiscus, Agapanthus, Citrus, Plumeria, and Avocados. ●



Old Ben:

Benefits of Backyard Birds

By Old Ben



It can be a lot of work to attract birds, but doing so offers many benefits beyond just enjoying these backyard visitors. Your backyard birds are part of the local ecosystem. Attracting them to your yard requires planting bird friendly landscaping, adding fresh water to the yard and choosing the best bird feeders and bird houses. If you do these things, you will discover the following benefits.

Pest Control

Many birds eat a variety of insects, including aphids, mosquitoes, spiders and other bugs that are not welcome in a yard or garden. Attracting birds encourages them to take advantage of the natural food source.

Flower Pollination

Hummingbirds, orioles and other birds that sip nectar are efficient pollinators of garden flowers. This can give flowerbeds an added color boost from extra blooms, which will in turn attract even more birds.

Weed Control

Finches, towhees and sparrows consume large quantities of weed seeds, making them effective landscapers to help control unwanted plants. Planting seed bearing flowers can also give them a natural food source to enjoy and reduce feeder refills.

Environmental Conservation

Bird-friendly landscaping makes use of native plants. Native plants use less water and are more resistant to diseases, making them better for the local ecosystem and requiring less work to maintain.

Increased Property Values

A home that is well maintained with appropriate native landscaping that attracts birds can have improved

curb appeal and be a good value for homeowners.

Education

Observing backyard birds is a unique opportunity to study local wildlife and attracting birds all year round gives backyard birders the chance to see plumage changes, courtship behavior and nesting. This is also a great way to introduce children to wildlife enjoyment and appreciation.

Wildlife Conservation

As more habitats become threatened through development, attracting backyard birds provides a critical oasis for local and migrating birds. This helps boost bird population both in the yard and in the local environment.

Stress Relief

Watching birds, interacting with them, and listening to their songs as well as working outdoors to improve their habitat can help relieve stress and promote well being.

For many backyard birders, the best benefit of attracting birds is simply being able to enjoy them, but attracting them with proper landscaping and attentive care can lead to a range of other benefits that make welcoming the birds even more exciting and productive. •

Old Ben's Specials

Valid August 1-31, 2019

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

Attracts Lesser Gold Finches and many other small birds.

25lb. bag

Sale \$49.99 Reg. \$59.99

Old Ben's No Mess Wild Bird Seed

The No Mess Advantage. Seed is hulled and chopped, will not sprout so birds can eat all the seeds which attract fewer feeder pests.

20lb. bag

Sale \$34.99 Reg. \$39.99

Old Ben's Dove & Quail Seed

A very popular blend. Many other wild birds love this blend too.

25lb. bag

Sale \$19.99 Reg. \$24.99

All specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

Ask Old Ben!

Ask Old Ben questions about birds, show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences? You can at askoldben@aol.com

Old Ben's Nyger Feeder or Hand-Painted Feeder



Constructed of cedar woods and stainless steel wire. Both decorated by a San Diego artisan for Old Ben's Workshop. No two feeders are exactly alike!

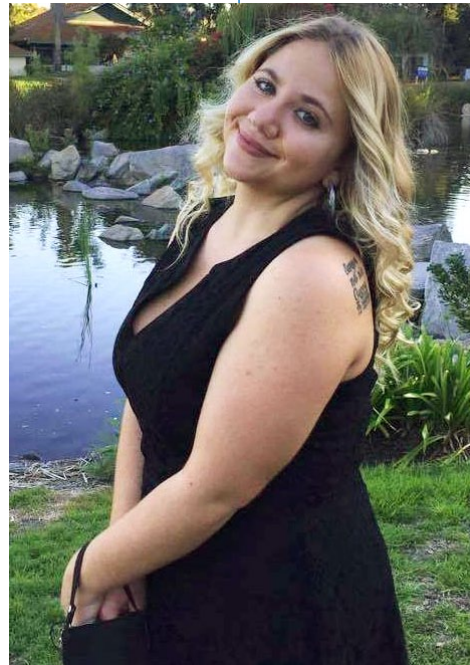
Your Choice

Sale \$39.99 Reg. \$49.99



In Memoriam

By Melanie Potter



Nina Silver

Her name was Nina Silver and she was a cashier at our Poway store. She had a great laugh and a big Italian family; she was cheerful, friendly and young. She was just 20 years old when she left the nursery with plans to move to New York to study nursing. A week later, on June 23, those plans and her life came to an abrupt and violent end.

Standing outside of a house in La Jolla where a party was underway, a gunman shot into that small gathering, bullets striking four people. Three young men were shot and Nina was tragically and senselessly killed.

She was beloved by her family, friends, and coworkers. The apple of her mother's eye and the little sister of her protective brother, Tony, who lured her to the nursery to follow in his footsteps, she was just so young and is forever missed. •



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 www.walterandersen.com/calendar/.

SAN DIEGO | 9:00AM

8/3
Summer Rose Care

8/10
Weed Wars

8/17
Shade Loving Plants

8/24
Lawn Care
& Maintenance

8/31
No Class

POWAY | 9:30AM

8/3
Rose Care with David Ross

8/10
Organic Insect Controls
with George Allmon

8/17
Japanese Garden Design
with Richard Wright

8/24
Propagating Succulents

8/31
Bonsai Workshop with Tony. Bonsai a dwarf pomegranate, \$30 fee, space is limited. RSVP/pre-pay at 858-513-4900

Giant Sea Squill
Guess The Age Giveaway!

Each store has a truly Giant Sea Squill bulb to give away to one lucky winner! Both bulbs are the same age grown from seed by our supplier. These beautiful, extremely drought-tolerant plants will make a nice addition to a dry area in your landscape! After their super tall flower spike with thousands of flowers fades, beautiful dark green foliage will appear. We also have smaller Sea Squills available for sale if you want to be sure to get one! To enter, stop by either location and sign up with your name, phone and email and your guess for the age of the bulb. Sign ups will end September 1, 2019 and the winner in each store will be chosen the following week. One entry per person per day may be made in each store. In the case of multiple correct answers, a drawing will be held to determine the winner. Good luck! •

August Special *Valid August 1-31, 2019*

Summer Sale!

Bonide DuraTurf
Weed & Feed
Sale \$19.99

Reg. \$27.99

Stock Up & Save!

Specials limited to stock on hand. No special orders. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. While supplies last. Hedge Fund\$ may be redeemed.

Visit Our 2 Locations

SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street
San Diego, California 92110
{619} 224-8271

POWAY

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, California 92064
{858} 513-4900

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