



WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

SEPTEMBER 2017

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A Little Space + Grape Vines = A Vineyard!

By Ken Andersen



When people think about vineyards, they usually envision long rows of grape vines suspended on wires covering acres and acres of land. Truth be told, you can get a pretty good harvest of grapes in your own yard without having acres of space.

Typically a grape vine will produce five to seven pounds of grapes. A head pruned vine (no trellis) can grow in a 5 x 5 area. In an 18-20 x 5 foot area you

could easily grow three head pruned vines and get about 15-20 pounds of fruit. This would probably yield more than you would ever need for table consumption.

If you want to try your hand at making wine you will need about 30-35 pounds of grapes to make a case (12 750ml bottles) which would mean you would need at least six vines. The

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Summertime Is Bloom Time For Water Lilies: Get Some Now!

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



If you have a pond, does it have water lilies? They take very little care and summertime means bloom time. Most people grow their water lilies in plastic containers set at the bottom of a pool or pond.

If planted in large enough containers, they will grow well, especially if they receive full sun, which they prefer.

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Best Time To Buy Plumeria Is When It's Blooming

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Ahhh Plumeria. They are exotic, sweet smelling, and a reminder of a tropical paradise.

Warm weather really encourages blooms and new growth on these beauties. They are very easy to grow in a container or in the ground, as long as the soil drains well. They are not fussy about fertilizer and using



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Vineyard! continued from p1

intriguing thing about growing your own grapes and making your own wine, is that unlike home brewing beer, you have complete control of every aspect of the process from start to finish! Though the process may take a bit longer than brewing beer, the results can be equally satisfying. To see what a micro vineyard looks like, stop by our Poway store where we have been head training some grapes by the train layout. •

Plumeria continued from p1

rose food, vegetable food, or a general purpose plant food will make them happy. Apply every two months while they are growing. No need to fertilize after October as most of the leaves will drop during cold weather.

There is a wide selection of colors that include deep red, light and dark pink, cream, white with a yellow center and more. I think that the best time to make a selection is while they are blooming. •



Water Lilies continued from p1

A container as small as 8" to 10" or as big as 24" to 30" in diameter will be fine; and you'll plant one water lily to a container. The container can be ceramic or plastic but you will have to plug the holes in the bottom by using water proof glue. We even have grow bags at the stores which have no holes and are great for water lilies.

If you don't have a pond, some gardeners use plastic or steel stock tanks (like the ones used for watering livestock) that are available at farm

supply stores. You can camouflage the tanks with plantings in front if you like.

Water lilies grow in heavy mucky soil. The soil should not have sawdust or other wood products as the particles will float and make a mess. Laying sand or gravel on top of the soil can help too. The blooms are spectacular and appear from summer to fall. To fertilize, use Gro-Power planting tablets which you push into the soil every two months. •

Licorice Plants Look Good And Smell Like Candy

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

Licorice Plant is one of the common names for *Helichrysum petiolare*. This is a low-growing shrub from South Africa. It only grows about 18" to 24" tall but can spread to 4' wide or more. It can be used as a kind of tall groundcover or as a filler between taller plants. If it is planted above a wall, it will drape.

Small fuzzy leaves to about 1" long look soft and if you brush against them they give off a licorice-like aroma. "Limelight" is the variety in the photo and there is also another that has greener foliage. Blooms are insignificant.

Licorice plants grow best in rich,



amended soils and need fertilizing regularly to keep the new foliage coming. If it gets too large, it can be cut way back as it recovers quickly. This does well in hanging baskets and can take sun or light shade. •

Get Help Harvesting Crops



Is your orchard overflowing with fruit? Do you have more citrus than you know what to do with? Look into Harvest C.R.O.P.S., a non-profit organization whose mission is to harvest your fruit which is then provided to limited income families and seniors. There are also volunteer opportunities to pick fruit and transport it. For more information, visit www.HarvestCrops.org. •

Dirty Little Hands Class in Poway

September 2 | 9:30am

In Poway, Aubry Brown will lead 'Dirty Little Hands', a class designed for children ages 3-12 and their accompanying parents/guardians. Plan on getting dirty, singing, and dancing while celebrating our connection to food, flowers, soil, water, and bugs! •

Showy, Purple Blooms Make Tibouchina A Winner

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Tibouchina from San Marcos Growers

Tibouchina heteromalla is a very showy and kind of unusual plant. It grows in

full sun to light shade (mostly shade in hotter inland areas) to four to six feet tall. The leaves have a soft waffle-like texture and are kind of fuzzy. Leaves are about 6" long and 3" wide when fully grown.

Deep purple blooms form in clusters above the plant and are very pretty. The plant blooms heavily during warmer parts of the year and into fall. It needs well amended soil and it's recommended to keep the soil moist for best results. This plant is related to *T. urvilleana* "Princes Flower", but the blooms are much smaller and for me, the foliage is more interesting. •

'Tis The Season For Fall Vegetables & Winter Tomatoes

By Melanie Potter

Everything about the weather says summer but autumn is around the corner and the fall vegetables and winter tomatoes are already appearing in the nursery.

To get your fall garden underway, take some time to prep the planting area as this makes a huge difference in the vigor of your growing vegetables. Amend the soil with Harvest Supreme and add Gro-Power's Soil Conditioner, Gro-Power Tomato & Vegetable Food, and pelletized gypsum (it reduces pH on alkaline soils).

Need planting ideas? Plant what you want to eat!

Broccoli, cauliflower, and kale are popular choices. Leafy greens and root vegetables shouldn't be overlooked. Chard, leeks, Brussels sprouts, parsnips and turnips don't appeal to everyone but I bet anyone could find



a recipe on the internet they'd like to try that stars one of these.

If you are looking for winter tomato suggestions, we'll have Russian, Siberian, Arctic, Glacier, and Stupice.

Artichokes and Asparagus will be found in starts and later this year in bare root. •

TO DO LIST: September



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. Last feeding for **Camellias, Azaleas, and roses** for the year.

PLANTING

Plant Sweet Peas, Winter Annuals like Calendulas, Stocks, Pansies, Violas, Mums, and Snapdragons. Plant winter vegetables.

Look for Fall bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Saffron Crocus, Ranunculus and Freesia), Crape Myrtle, Arbutus, Bougainvillea, and Agapanthus. Be sure to chill Tulips, Hyacinths, and spring blooming Crocus before planting. •

Fall Hours In Poway

Effective Sept. 4, the Poway store will institute its fall hours. The store will be open daily 9am - 5pm.



Words From Walter

Fast-Growing Vines

By Walter Andersen, Jr.

'Black-Eyed Susan'

Need a fast-growing vine that has super colorful flowers? **Thunbergia alata** or '**Black-Eyed Susan**' could be a winner for you. You'll like its bright green leaves about 3" long and the 1" or more blooms that appear for most of the summer months. The color is amazing with its very bright yellow flowers with an almost black center for contrast. *Thunbergia alata* comes in other colors like orange and almost pure white and all have the trademark dark center. These are evergreen in most of our San Diego microclimates. This is not a fussy plant. Plants can reach 10 feet tall with support, so if you buy one also buy a stake.

'Purple Butterfly Vine'

Dalechampia aristolochiaefolia is quite a mouthful!! Easier is "**Purple Butterfly Vine**". This is another fast-growing vine that will cover a 6' chain-link fence in no time. Fastest growth is in warm summer months which is the best bloom time that lasts into fall. The blooms have two large opposite petals colored purple to lavender. The petals are very showy against the dark green, heart-shaped leaves. For best growth, the soil should not become dry. Fertilizing with Gro-Power general purpose plant food will keep the new growth coming as long as it is warm. Unusual and showy, fast and easy, you can't beat that!

Honeysuckle

Looking for another suggestion for a fast-growing vine to cover a fence

or trellis, or to provide screening or privacy? It's **Honeysuckle 'Peaches and Cream'** and might just be the perfect plant. It's evergreen, easy to grow, and not very fussy at all. This plant blooms most of the summer and can be trained up to about eight feet tall. It does not attach with roots to walls so it won't peel the paint off or ruin a wooden fence. It will need an open framework to twine around. Upon planting this vine water regularly, probably two times per week to provide a good deep watering. After it is established, reduce watering to once every two to three weeks, in summer. Feed with Gro-Power general purpose plant food once a month to speed the growth. Reduce feeding once it grows to your satisfaction. We have other Honeysuckle vines to choose from as well.

Passion Vine

Passiflora or **Passion Vine** is a large family of plants. Most have large leaves, 3" to 5" across. They are fast growing in warm weather which is also the best time for flowers. Many think passion vines bloom in lavender or purple shades, but there are other colors like bright red. Pink and white varieties usually have smaller blooms but are equally pretty. Passion vines offer quick growth, are easily trained on a trellis or open fence, and they have tentacles that support the vine. There are fruiting varieties that do grow well if you are in mild climates with no frost. Look for *Passiflora edulis*, 'Frederick' which is a particularly good variety. •



'Black-Eyed Susan'



'Purple Butterfly Vine'



Honeysuckle



Passion Vine



Old Ben:

Rufous Hummingbirds

By Old Ben



Rufous Hummingbirds are migratory hummingbirds with breeding grounds from the Pacific Northwest to Alaska. They winter in the Yucatan and Florida. This means that they migrate a tremendous distance every year. Some Rufous hummers have flown as many as 12,000 miles during a round trip migration. Compare that to a Canada goose, which most of us think as a migratory bird, but many of them only migrate a few hundred to a couple thousand miles a year. So which species is really the migratory bird? Some people have the mistaken belief that hummingbirds migrate on the backs of geese, but I think they could teach geese a thing or two about long distance migration.

The Rufous Hummingbird is widely acknowledged as the most aggressive of the North American hummingbirds. Despite being one of the smallest hummingbirds, this tiny copper colored bird will readily attack birds many times its size. Yet even with its territorial attitude, this hummingbird is a welcome and beautiful addition to any backyard.

Feeding Habits

Similar to all hummingbirds, the Rufous will drink nectar from flowers, sugar water from your feeder, and insects for protein. Feeding times are usually less than 60 seconds. They eat many times each day and consume about three times their body weight every day.

Behavior

Rufous Hummingbirds are a solitary species and are very defensive and aggressive near feeders, especially during migration. These little, feisty birds will chase and pursue other hummingbirds, large insects, and songbirds and they will even exhibit threatening displays at other creatures, including squirrels, pets and humans.

Reproduction

Rufous Hummingbirds will mate with several partners, with males tempting females with oval or J shaped dives and a figure eight courtship display. The female builds the cup shaped nest of plant down and spider silk decorated with moss, lichen and bark, usually as high as 30 feet up in a tree.

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First Time On Sale!

Old Ben's
"A Treat For the Beak"

Ingredients

White Pine Millet
Small Sun Chips
Medium Sun Chips
Peanut Hearts
Peanut Granules
Peanut Meal
Sunflower
Soybean
Red Millet
Millet Sprays
Calcium

Feeding Directions
Scatter on the ground or fill above ground feeders. Do not put out more seed than the birds will eat in 1 or 2 days.

Analysis

Crude Protein	18.1
Crude Fat	23.0
Crude Fiber	4.9
Ash	6.4
Moisture	7.5
Total Carbohydrates	40.1

Wild Birds Just Love Old Ben's and You Will Too!
Old Ben's Nursery, P.O. Box 411050, San Diego, CA 92142 www.oldbensnursery.com

Old Ben's "A Treat For The Beak" Bird Seed

Eleven ingredients that domestic and wild birds love! Only available at Walter Andersen Nursery.

5lb. Container Sale \$16.99
Reg. \$19.99

Old Ben's Specials

Valid September 1-31, 2017

Old Ben's Classic Wild Bird Seed

Classic mix that attracts a wide variety of wild birds. No fillers in this mix.

20lb. bag

Sale \$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The Staple food for goldfinches and many other small birds.

20lb. bag

Sale \$44.99 Reg. \$49.99

Old Ben's Economy Seed Blend

A blend that attracts doves, sparrows, and other wild birds.

20lb. bag

Great Low Price! \$14.99

All specials limited to stock on hand.

No special orders. Cannot be combined with any other discount or offer.

Ask Old Ben!

Old Ben doesn't always think about birds. Sometimes he thinks about his business and that's when he had a grand idea. How cool would it be if you could reach out and ask him all kinds of questions about birds, or show him your (feathered) bird photos, or share your birding experiences? Well, now you can by using this email.

askoldben@aol.com



Garden Classes

SEPTEMBER

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

9/2

No Class:
Labor Day Weekend

9/9

Planning Your
Fall Vegetable Garden

9/16

Plan Ahead:
Backyard Orchards
with Kurt Peacock

9/23

Natives 101

9/30

Pruning & Drying Herbs

POWAY | 9:30AM

9/2

Kids Gardening

9/9

Integrated Pest Management
with Brijette Romstedt from
San Diego Seed Co.

9/16

Fall Orchard Care: Pruning & Spraying
with Richard Wright

9/23

Habitats for Birds with Old Ben

9/30

Fall Veggies & Seeds! with Brijette
Romstedt from San Diego Seed Co.

Old Ben

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She will produce one or two broods of two to three plain white eggs each during the breeding season, and she incubates the eggs for 12 - 14 days. After hatching, the female cares for the nestlings for 19 - 21 days, until they are able to leave the nest. Males have no role in nest building, egg incubation or chick care. Rufous Hummingbirds have been recorded as hybridizing with Anna's, Calliope, and Allen's hummingbirds.

Attracting Rufous Hummingbirds

Rufous Hummingbirds are commonly found in backyards planted with red, tubular flowers and good nectar producing blooms. The birds easily feed from hummingbird feeders, though backyard birders should consider using multiple feeders to minimize the birds' aggression. Having perches available can also attract these hummers, as they will have a spot to rest and watch their territory. Minimizing insecticide use will ensure plentiful protein for feeding hummingbirds. •

September Special
Close Out Sale!

Offer Valid September 1-31, 2017

Great for all trees and shrubs, too!

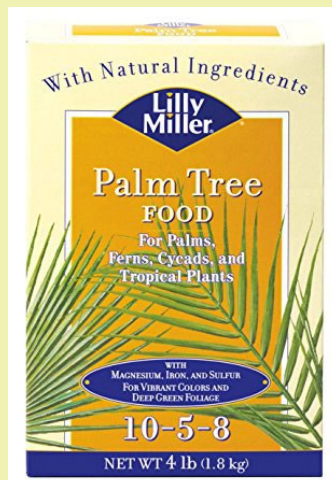
Lilly Miller
Palm Food 10-5-8

4 Pound Box

\$2.99

While supplies last!

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

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