



WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY™

Garden Talk

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

San Diego's Independent Nursery Since 1928™

FEBRUARY 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Camellias Shine During Winter	1
Shop Now For Your Valentine!	1
Hedge Fund\$ Changes	1
Helping The Rose Parade	3
To Do List: February	3
Win A Valentine Gift	3
History Of WAN	4
2018 Plant Of The Year	5
Old Ben: Water To Attract Birds	6
Old Ben's Specials	6
February Garden Classes	7
Sweet Peas	7
February Special	7

Camellias Shine During Winter

By Walter Andersen, Jr.



Camellia 'Spellbound'

During winter when many other plants are dormant and leafless, Camellias shine. There are many different types of camellias, but **Camellia japonica** is by far, the most popular type. They can grow fairly large, some varieties to 8-10 feet or more, but can easily be kept much smaller by pruning. Prune after they have finished blooming, and once or twice more during their growing season. Once flower buds begin to form (late summer), stop pruning until the plants stop blooming.

Most varieties of Camellia japonica begin blooming from December to February, and continue blooming for about three months.

[continued p2](#)

Hedge Fund\$™ Change

Beginning February 1, 2018 Hedge Fund\$ certificates will not be valid until five days after issue. Please make sure that you do not lose them as they cannot be replaced. Unfortunately at this time, we are unable to implement a paperless process. You will need to hold onto your paper certificates for redemption. We appreciate your patronage. •

Shop Now For Your Valentine!

By Melanie Potter



Hoya 'Heart'



Peperomia

We have been thinking about Valentine's Day and at press time, we are ordering plants suitable for your sweetie.

We'll have **orchids from Hawaii** and other great finds. How about **Hoya 'Heart'** with its heart-shaped leaves? There is also **Peperomia** with heart-shaped leaves, but these are greener and shinier. Beautiful and fragrant **Stephanotis** will be here and lovely **Anthuriums**.

[continued p2](#)



Camellias continued from p1



The plants have beautiful, medium sized, dark green, glossy foliage about 3-4 inches long. Blooms are 3-5 inches in diameter and are large, showy, and picturesque in floating bowls. They make great container plants (use larger, 16-20 inch pots), and do quite well in the ground.

When planting in the ground, use a mix high in peat moss or other organic matter such as E.B. Stone Azalea Camellia Mix. When planting in containers, use Edna's Best potting soil, or the Sunshine All-Purpose in the black bag with the green stripe. Camellias like to be kept moist, but not soggy wet. During winter, water camellias in the ground about once every 7-10 days. Camellias in containers will need to be watered about once or twice per week. During summer or hot, dry periods, water more frequently.

Fertilize with Gro-Power or camellia and azalea food. Stop fertilizing early September or once buds begin to form. Feeding after buds form may cause them to drop off.

Camellia japonica prefers shade, morning sun, or filtered sun but will tolerate more sun in the coastal areas. Generally darker flowering varieties are more sun tolerant.

Below is a brief description of some popular varieties. Hundreds of others are not mentioned!

Bob Hope

Large, deep red with yellow stamens in the center.

Blood of China

Another large red with yellow stamens.

Colonel Fiery

Older, tried, true flat red flower.

Debutante

Medium to large peony formed, light pink flowers, heavy bloomer, takes some sun.

Kramers Supreme

Very large, red, peony formed blooms.

Magnoliaflora

Medium sized, pale pink flowers with yellow stamens in the center.

Mrs. Tingley

One of the favorites with large, flat, pink blooms.

Nuccios Gem

Large, flat, perfectly formed white.

Nuccios Pearl

Similar to Nuccios Gem, tinged pink at the edge.

Tom Knudsen

Old favorite deep red with rose formed blooms.

Silver Waves

Large, White semi-double with yellow stamens at center on upright plant.

Camellia sasanqua, the second most popular variety, generally have smaller leaves and smaller, but more plentiful blooms. They tend to begin blooming a little earlier, usually starting in October or November. Camellia sasanqua tolerate more sun, but usually do better with some afternoon shade away from the coast. There are two primary growth habits to Camellia sasanqua. Some varieties grow low and wide, other types are more compact and upright.

Sasanquas also make excellent container plants. Some of the low growers can even be used as hanging plants! Care for sasanquas is very similar to japonicas. Since sasanqua camellias are a little different and many people are unfamiliar with them, folks miss out on a very showy plant. Be sure to give them a try!

See page 7 for a special offer on Camellias. •

Valentine! continued from p1



Anthurium



Moonlight Romantica



Sweet Mademoiselle

Best of all, the **roses** are already leafing out and there's a huge selection of old favorites and new varieties, including **Moonlight Romantica**, a fragrant rose with light yellow old fashioned blooms and **Sweet Mademoiselle** with its pink double blooms. •

Helping The Rose Parade Happen

By Abigail Allen (Poway Store Merchandiser)



it we would be working for Paradiso Float Builders, located adjacent to the Rose Bowl.

Volunteers are assigned work schedules and a float. We had our assignment; on Dec. 28 from 1-6pm, we would be working on the UPS float. What a difference seeing a float folded up in the hanger before rolling down the road; it's amazing.

Our first two hours were spent crushing coconut for the dragon's wings. There is a very specific way to do this so that the coconut would not turn brown as brown dragon wings are not ok. Gloves were a must, and it wasn't a crunching or smushing technique, but more of a light sifting, cracking motion. The roses arrived that afternoon and we helped unload, cut, pick, and reload them into refrigerated trucks. Amazingly, bundles were processed in minutes.



I look forward to participating again, but will probably do so closer to the first of January. That's when fresh flowers are adhered to the floats. Here's a tip: opt for the morning shift to get the pick of the jobs! •

As a native Southern Californian, I grew up watching the Rose Parade on New Year's Day. When I was about 7 years old, my grandmother took my younger sister and me to Pasadena to see it live. We got there early evening on New Year's Eve and camped on the sidewalk with hundreds of other people. I don't remember too much of it, except that I always wanted to go back. It took 35 years, but my love for the parade, and roses, never waned.

As I watched the parade last year, one of my New Year's resolutions was to be a part of it. I contacted one of the main float building companies and patiently waited. I wouldn't be working on a float alone as I volunteered my 12 year old daughter, Lilly. Before we knew

TO DO LIST: February

PRUNING

Now Is The Time. Finish pruning roses and deciduous fruits and ornamentals before new growth starts. **Trim.** In LATE February, trim back tropicals like Hibiscus and Bougainvillea after danger of frost passes to clean up any damage received during the winter.

PEST CONTROL

Dormant Spray. Give last applications of dormant sprays such as Liqui-Cop or Oil Spray before buds start to break on deciduous fruits and ornamentals.

PLANTING

Last of the bare-root Roses, Fruits, and Ornamentals should be planted. Citrus can also be planted now. Protect from frost if needed. Plant another crop of leaf lettuce, kale, broccoli, beets, carrots, radishes and cauliflower.

LOOK FOR

Camellias and Azaleas, cool season vegetables, bulbs, potatoes, and garlic.

IRRIGATION

Check Sprinklers. Keep them off during rainy times. If you haven't already done so, **sprinkle fertilizer** (we like Gro-Power) around before the rain so it can get watered in. Don't fertilize areas that are likely to flood when it rains. Don't forget to take a look at your drains and remove debris from around them. A clogged drain can cause flooding. •

Win A Valentine Gift

Both stores have a Valentine gift for the customer who shares the best story about how they met their sweetheart. Email your stories to us by Feb. 9 and we'll read them and the two that make us swoon, will receive a plant suitable for gift giving on Valentine's Day. Email the store of your choice at info.poway@walterandersen.com or info.sandiego@walterandersen.com. •



Share your story to enter to win this planter!

The History Of Walter Andersen Nursery

By Ken Andersen



The new store on Rosecrans Street

Third in the series. See the December 2017 and January 2018 newsletters for the beginning of the series at <http://www.walterandersen.com/news/newsletters>.

As the 1930s rolled on and despite the Great Depression, Walter Sr. managed to keep the business expanding. With the opening of the new store at 3860 Rosecrans Street, the business really started to grow. In 1939, Walter Sr. landscaped the Life Magazine house in La Jolla Hermosa. More than 10,000 people attended an open house after the home was featured in the February 1939 issue. Other contractors who worked on the home were mentioned in a San Diego Union article published in February and included Squires Belt Material Co. (supplied the plaster and patio tile) and Fred Vinyard Overhead Door (supplied garage doors).

Other landscaping services evolved. One that I was always fascinated by as a child, was lawn renovation by lawn burning. A special, planter sized box with massive gas burners attached to it was fitted on a dolly and brought to the customer's home. A large propane tank was connected to the apparatus and it was placed over a section of the customer's lawn and the burners were lit. This incinerated all of



The Rosecrans Street store interior

the existing grass, weeds, seeds, and most likely anything beneficial in the soil. In essence, the soil was sterilized and a new lawn was installed in its place. Walter even developed his own mix of rye, blue grass, and fescue seed which has been sold for decades as Andersen's Special Mix.



The lawn burning machine

Another specialty that Walter's business excelled in was building stone fireplaces. In April of 1940, the San Diego Union published a photo of one built at our Rosecrans location and invited the public to come see it. In June of 1940, the San Diego Union published another article about a fireplace that Walter Sr. installed at the home of Miss Ilamae McCarty on Reed Ave in Pacific Beach. The public was invited to view the installation and the newspaper wrote, "The novel fireplace includes all conveniences of a kitchen, a barbecue grill, oven, sink with hot and cold water and cupboard space". There are two original fireplaces Walter built at homes he owned in Bay Park that as far as I know are still standing.

continued p5

History Of WAN continued from p4



Custom fireplaces built by Walter Andersen Nursery ca. 1940

Upon the opening of the county fair grounds at Del Mar in 1936 and the Del Mar Race Track in 1937, Walter began installing landscape exhibits in the flower show at the fairgrounds. While we are not sure that he did a landscape exhibit for the 1936 fair, we do know that he had at least one in the 1937 fair. At that time, entries into the flower show were different than they are today. Back then, there were specific categories that you competed in and prizes were awarded as first, second and third place. Those categories included: Fern Garden, Patio Garden, Rose Garden, Fuchsia Exhibit, and Poinsettia Exhibit (guess who won that!). Today, the fair encourages entrants to the flower show to create a landscape that goes hand in hand with the fair's theme. Awards of merit are presented along with special awards presented to the best of the best. This includes

the perpetual trophy for most practical landscape sponsored by Walter Andersen Nursery for many years now. Walter Andersen Nursery is the longest continuous running exhibitor at the fair flower show having had at least one entry in every flower show held at the fair since 1937 and 2018 will be no different!

Walter added a new store on the corner of Rosecrans and Moore Street in 1940 and a more modern building across from it in 1946. That building, with its tall sloped glass store front windows was built by his older brother, Hans, who had moved to San Diego and for a time worked for Walter. Shade houses and a pond (which a very young Walter Jr. once fell into and was fished out by an employee) were added as well.

After the nursery moved from Rosecrans to Enterprise Street in 1969, the small store and office building from 1940 was sold and moved by the new owners to their property directly across the street (which was also owned by Walter and served as a growing yard at one time). The 1946 building still remains on the property and for nearly 30 years, it has housed a rental car company. •



The Rosecrans store ca. late 1940s

2018 Plant Of The Year Is...

By The Perennial Plant Association



Photo: Perennial Plant Association

The Perennial Plant Association has awarded the title Perennial Plant of the Year® 2018 to Allium 'Millenium'. This herbaceous perennial, relative to the common onion, is a workhorse of the late summer garden. This cultivar is the result of a multigenerational breeding program involving Allium nutans and A. lusitanicum (formerly Allium senescens ssp montanum), selected for late flowering with masses of rose-purple blooms and uniform habit with neat shiny green foliage that remains attractive all season long. It is also drought resistant. The genus Allium contains more than 900 species in the northern hemi-sphere, but is perhaps best known for a dozen or so species of culinary vegetables and herbs: onion, garlic, leeks, shallots, scallions, and chives.

Allium 'Millenium' has numerous virtues to add to the landscape setting. Growing best in full sun, each plant produces an upright foliage clump of grass-like, glossy deep green leaves reaching 10-15" tall in spring. In mid-summer, two to three flower scapes rise above the foliage with each scape producing two or three showy two-inch spherical umbels of rose-purple florets that last as long as four weeks. The flower umbels are completely round and not dome shaped as they are in some Allium species. They dry to a light tan often holding a blush of their former rose-purple color. While other alliums can look scraggly in the heat of the summer, 'Millenium' does not let the heat bother it. However, in very hot summer climates it does appreciate afternoon shade.

Pollinators will flock to Allium 'Millenium'! Butterflies and bees will thank you for adding 'Millenium' to your garden. •



Old Ben:

Using Water To Attract Backyard Birds

By Old Ben



Maintaining a Birdbath

The key to attracting a large number of birds is to keep your birdbath full of water at all times. The bowl should have a gentle slope so birds can wade into the water. Your bowl should be no more than three inches deep. If deeper, add small pebbles or rocks so the birds can land on them. Anything deeper than three inches will cause the birds to avoid your birdbath. In the natural environment, most sources of shallow water are intermittent. Although puddles form after a hard rain, reliable pools are rare and birds will travel great distances to visit them. Keep the bird bath full and you'll be well rewarded. Remember to clean your birdbath every couple of days. Don't let the water become stale. Clean off the bottom of the bath immediately if green algae start to form.

If you are trying to make your backyard a better place for birds, few things are more attractive than a well maintained birdbath. Just add water and watch the fun. •

Water is an important part of your backyard bird habitat. Wild birds need a continuous supply of fresh, clean water at all times of the year, for both drinking and bathing.

Water is particularly important during the winter when natural supplies may be frozen. Just look at the east coast now and in dry, hot summer weather when water can be hard to find.

Birds have no sweat glands, so they need less water than mammals. But, they do lose water through respiration and their droppings. Most small birds need to drink at least twice a day to replace lost water.

Birds get liquid they need from their food and by drinking. Many insect eating birds get most of their water from food. Seed eating birds have a dry diet and they need to drink more.

Water is freely available to small birds at the shallow edges of ponds and streams. They may also drink water droplets that form on leaves, especially if they live in woodland areas. Species such as swallows and swifts swoop down onto a body of water and scoop up a beak full while still in flight.

Most birds drink by dipping their bill in water and throwing their head back to swallow. Pigeons and doves are able to immerse their beaks and can drink continuously.

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

Old Ben's Specials

Valid February 1-28, 2018

Old Ben's Economy Wild Bird Seed

This mix will attract a wide variety of wild birds including doves, sparrows, and house finches. **20lb. bag**

\$14.99 A Great Value!

Old Ben's Nyger Seed

The staple food for gold finches and many other small birds.

10lb. bag

Sale \$24.99 Reg. \$29.99

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

Hummingbirds are nesting now in San Diego County!

Old Ben's Hummingbird Cage with Kapok Nesting Material

This is a MUST if you feed hummingbirds. They can't resist using Kapok to line their nest.

Sale \$9.99 Reg. \$11.99

Old Ben's Crystal Clear Hummingbird Food

This food will attract these beautiful birds. **16oz. package**

Sale \$4.99 Reg. \$6.99

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

Garden Classes

FEBRUARY

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

2/3

Spring Bulbs

2/10

Glass Houses—Terrariums!

2/17

Succulents & Cacti

2/24

Make Way For Spring Color!

POWAY | 9:30AM

2/3

Staghorn Fern Remounting
& Care

2/10

Cymbidium Repotting & Care
with Walter Jr.

2/17

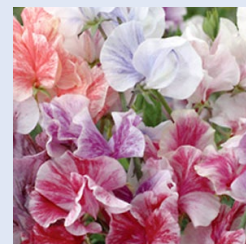
Strawberries!
with Richard Wright

2/24

Cactus & Succulents

Sweet Peas

By Botanical Interests



We enjoy these prized flowers thanks to the inquisitive gardener Father Francisco Cupani, who in 1695, found sweet peas growing near Sicily. He passed on the seeds of the enticingly fragrant, small, blue and purple flowers to botanists in both Amsterdam and England. Growers of sweet peas made improvements in flower size, scent, color variation and eventually to more flowers per stem to enjoy in the garden as well as in bouquets. Sweet peas are sown 4 to 6 weeks before your average last frost date in cold climates, and in fall or winter in mild climates. If sown indoors, sow in biodegradable pots to reduce root disturbance and grow in cool conditions (55°F or below). If you can't wait for seeds to sprout, we'll have them in pots and hanging baskets. •

February Special

Valid February 1-28, 2018 while supplies last!
90th Anniversary Special



5-Gallon Assorted Camellias

\$19.28

(Compare at \$39.99-\$49.99)

Many varieties from which to choose.
Look for the specially marked group.
No coupon necessary.

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



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