

WALTER ANDERSEN'S

GARDEN TALK

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



WINTER

08

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A New Year, A New Garden!

By Yvonne Savio, Home & Garden Showplace

February in southern California means starting a new garden, and we can now get into high gear choosing seed varieties to sow and searching for the earliest tomato seedlings to plant. But remember to finish pruning dormant fruit trees and perennials, including roses.

Successful and exciting gardens result from including something new as well as the dependable favorites. I always try some new lettuces and greens and tomato varieties, but keep my proven winners -- butterhead lettuce, Ace and Celebrity tomatoes and Gardener's Delight or Camp Joy cherry tomatoes, pimento peppers, Straight Eight and Burpee Hybrid II cucumbers, and yellow crookneck squash. **Continued P4**

Firewise Plants

Fire-Resistant Trees

- Lemon bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*)
- Toyon, California holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
- Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*)
- Catalina cherry (*Prunus lyonii*)
- Italian buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)
- California pepper tree (*Schinus molle*)
- Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

Fire-Resistant Shrubs

- The trees listed above and Evergreen sumacs (*Rhus*)
- Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*)
- Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)

Fire-Resistant Native Plants

- Yarrow (*Eriophyllum* species)
- California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)
- Deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*)
- Annual lupines (*Lupinus* species)
- Sticky Monkey Flower (*Mimulus* species)
- Penstemon (*Penstemon* species)
- Chia (*Salvia columbariae*)
- Creeping Sage (*Salvia sonomensis*)
- Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*)
- California fuchsia (*Zauschneria* species)

Fire-Resistant Introduced Plants

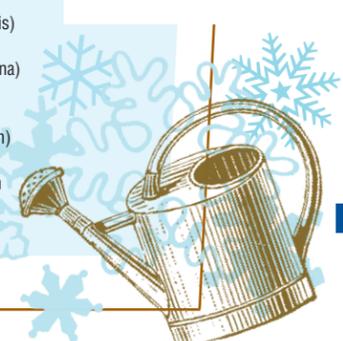
- Silver Spreader (*Artemisia caucasica*)
- Salt Bush Spreader (*Atriplex*)
- Creeping Salt Bush (*Atriplex semibaccata*)
- Rockrose (*Cistus crispus*)
- Sageleaf Rockrose (*Cistus salviifolius*)
- Lavender Cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)
- Green Santolina (*Santolina virens*)

Other Choices

- Sea Fig (*Carpobrotus* species)
- White Trailing Ice Plant (*Delosperma 'Alba'*)
- Trailing Ice Plant (*Lampranthus spectabilis*)
- Croceum Ice Plant (*Malephora crocea*)
- Rosea Ice Plant (*Drosanthemum floribundum*)
- Cape Weed (*Artotheca calendula*)
- Prostrate Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
- Creeping Coprosma (*Coprosma kirkii*)
- Trailing Gazania (*Gazania rigens leucolaena*)
- Lippia (*Lippia canescens*)
- Myoporum (*Myoporum parvifolium*)
- African Daisy (*Osteospermum fruticosum*)
- Lavender Cotton (*Santolina* species)
- O'Connor's Legume (*Trifolium fragiferum* var. O'Connor's)
- Periwinkle (*Vinca* species)

Things gardeners should consider when choosing plants for a fire-safe landscape:

- 1 Local area fire history
- 2 Site location and overall terrain
- 3 Prevailing winds and seasonal weather
- 4 Property contours and boundaries
- 5 Native vegetation
- 6 Plant characteristics and placement (duffage, water and salt retention ability, aromatic oils, fuel load per area, and size)
- 7 Irrigation requirements



1)

Dianellas And Other Treats For 2008

by Melanie Potter



Dianella Little Becca

Hemerocallidaceae, about half are native to Australia. They are evergreen; feature long strappy leaves and range in color from deep green, blue-green to pale green. There are blue flowers in spring with prominent yellow stamens that are borne in sprays on a stem. Shiny, blue to purple berries appear as do shiny, black seeds. Their habitat ranges from moist forests and dry woodland rainforests to coastal dunes, therefore for San Diego climates; you don't need to have a green thumb to grow them.

Dianella Cassa Blue



This year we'll have some new varieties available from Monrovia and here's a quick look at them—

Dianella Cassa Blue: An easy-care dwarf selection with lush blue-green foliage. Excellent mass planting or border in front of shrubs. Tolerates most any soil and salt spray. Erect foliage 2 ft. tall, slowly spreading clump. Thrives in either full sun or shade.

Dianella Baby Bliss: A smaller version of Dianella Cassa Blue.



Dianella Tasred

Dianella Little Becca: Luxuriant green strap leaf plant with smaller stature and tough as nails constitution. Provides heat, drought and humidity tolerant foliage with wide versatility in gardens. Takes full sun, part shade. Fast growth 2 to 3 feet high, 2 feet wide.

Dianella Little Rev: A compact, easy-care selection with blue-green foliage and pale violet spring flowers followed by purple berries. An excellent mass planting or border in front of shrubs. Tolerates most any soil and salt spray. Forms small clumps 1 to 1½ ft. tall, ½ to 1 ft. wide.

Dianella Tasred: Unique foliage is green with yellow tones in the margins and red base. Color becomes more acute in colder months but fades to green in summer. Red stems in spring produce showy flowers followed by purple berries. Cold hardy alternative to phormiums with upright strap leaf form and broad lush appearance. Excellent choice for both tropical and modern garden design. Evergreen perennial. Full sun to heavy shade. Fast growth to 3 feet tall and wide. **Continued P2**

Fire-Wise Landscaping Tips

by Melanie Potter

The smoke hadn't even cleared from the October 2007 firestorm San Diego experienced before the nurseries were fielding questions from customers about fire proofing their landscapes. The wisest advice we got regarding this question was from Kevin Twohey, a nursery owner and fire chief of the St. Helena Fire Department in St. Helena. He said that in a firestorm like we experienced last year and in 2004 (he and his fire crew were brought down to assist both fire efforts) the only thing you can do is to get people out of the way. There is no rhyme or reason why things burn or don't burn.

As witnessed by owner Ken Andersen and store manager, David Ross, who stayed busy providing damage assessments to fire victims, much of what was scorched does grow back in time. Sometimes, the only evidence that children lived in completely burned homes was the plastic and wooden play set that was unscathed in the back yard. While there are no guarantees to landscaping a home to withstand fire storm damage, there are things to plant that literally don't add as much fuel to the fire. In a fire situation, the dead trees and shrubs surrounding your home act as fuel for fire. Removing flammable vegetation reduces the threat of fire damage.

These fire wise planting tips come from our friends at Monrovia.

To create a more fire-safe landscape, the primary goal is fuel reduction. Gardeners should landscape using the zone concept. Zone 1 is closest to the structure; Zones 2-4 move progressively further away.

Zone 1 This well-irrigated area encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency. Plantings should be limited to carefully-spaced fire-resistant species. **Continued P3**

Think Pink When Selecting 2008 Roses

After thumbing through the 2008 rose catalogs as well as Walter Andersen's 2008 rose list, it looks like pink is the hot color for spring. There are some new color combinations, some striped, and some roses are named for celebrities, but pink seems to prevail. Here's what will be new for 2008 in addition to plenty of old favorites, as far as Walter Andersen's rose selection.



Apricot Candy

A soft apricot colored hybrid tea with above average resistance to diseases and an old rose fragrance.



April in Paris

Jackson & Perkins 2008 Rose of the Year with classic seashell shaped buds that open into pale pink blossoms edged in soft pink. Intense rose tea scent.



Catalina

A Grandiflora with ruffled apricot pink petals with a deeper pink reverse with a clear pink and yellow accent. Light, antique scent.



Citrus Splash

For those who adored 'Happy Chappy' last year, don't miss seeing this shrub rose with its stripe blossoms in yellow and orange that lighten to yellow and pink as flowers mature. Fruity scent.



Dream Come True

A mild tea scented Grandiflora with blooms that are yellow edged in ruby red.



Frankly Scarlet

A Floribunda with a peppery fragrance with blooms of a unique light red color. It is bred for rapid reflowering.



Julio Inglesias

A Floribunda with a strong citrus and verbena fragrance, it counts 'Sentimental' as one of its parents and boasts light and deep pink stripes.



Laura Bush

A Floribunda with clusters of dusky orange buds that burst into cinnamon-orange blooms splashed with orange centers.



Lovestruck

Jackson & Perkins 2008 Floribunda of the Year, hot pink petals with white reverse and disease resistant foliage.



Mardi Gras

A Floribunda with a strong color mix of yellow, orange and pink. Mild, peppery fragrance.



Spring Fever

A groundcover rose that produces single blooms that start out pink and deepen in color as the weather chills, finally fading to white. Black spot free foliage.



Watercolors

A shrub rose with colors of yellow, pink, cerise and ruby red.



Windemere

An English rose that opens with cream colored blooms that turn white with summer's sun. Fruity, essence zested with grapefruit overtones is its fragrance.



Wing-Ding

A Brilliant scarlet Polyantha. There's a light fragrance and it blooms late into the season.

See all of Walter Andersen Nursery's roses for 2008 at www.walterandersen.com/roselist-2008.html



Walter Andersen Nursery's
9th Annual Poway Rose Show
Coming in April or May!
Watch for Details.

Camellias Keep Looking Better And Better

PHOTO: PETER A. HOGG PHOTOGRAPHY



Andy Shearer is the green goods buyer in our Poway store. He has a keen eye for what makes a plant attractive, so when he was practically doing handstands about the new shipment of Camellias

both stores would be receiving we had to take notice. It was agreed that these were the lushest, healthiest and best blooming camellias we'd seen in a long time. Best of all, the time is right to buy and plant them.

Camellias are native to Japan, China and Indo-China, where they grow on well-drained wooded slopes under light shade. A natural mulch of leaves accumulates beneath the plants. The plants were successfully grown in Northern California around 1853, and they have been popular ever since.

Camellias need good drainage to do well, so be sure the area you want to grow them does not stay too wet. If your drainage is poor, you might try a raised bed or container. Camellias like a soil mix that is high in humus content and slightly acidic. In preparing the soil, mix ample amounts of redwood compost, peat moss or a good Camellia-Azalea mix, usually using about 1/4 good garden soil, and 3/4 humus.

Find a location that does not get hot sun if you choose the Japonica varieties. Sasanqua varieties can take full sun along the coast, but would look better if they get some shade in warmer inland areas.

Dig a hole approximately twice as large in diameter as the original container (1 gallon plants, a slightly larger hole would be better, such as 20" or so). The hole should be about 1.5 times as deep. Use your prepared mix in the bottom of the hole and tamp firmly so the top of the root ball, when placed in the hole is 1" above the soil surface. Fill in around the sides of the root ball with the same mixture as above. Tamp it down firmly to get rid of any lumps and air pockets. When the hole is full, it is wise to form a berm around the plant with soil to hold water and fill with water two times to be sure the plant is thoroughly watered.

Water your new plant as needed, but be sure it does not get dry. They should be moist at all times but be sure they do not stay soggy wet or the roots will rot.

Fertilize camellias with a good balanced fertilizer as soon as new growth appears in the spring. Follow the directions on the package and be sure not to overfeed them. Cotton seed meal is a favorite of many growers. There are other mixtures of fertilizers formulated for camellias, just follow the label directions. A supplemental feeding of iron will keep the foliage a deeper green. Do not fertilize a dry plant; instead, water thoroughly the day before you feed the plant. Stop feeding in November or else the flower buds will drop and you will get no blooms.

Insects are usually not a problem, however, occasionally scale or mites are a nuisance. Aphids on the new growth can usually be washed off with a strong stream of water. Spraying may be necessary and a good systemic insecticide will control most problems.

Camellia Japonica, C. Reticulata and most of the hybrids need protection from the hot sun. Some of the deep pinks and reds will do well in full sun if you are less than five miles from the coast. Inland, shade or filtered sun will keep the plants looking better. Light pinks and white blooming plants should not get direct sun. Generally speaking, Sasanqua varieties bloom earlier usually starting in November and the Japonicas usually start about the first of the year. Sasanquas have smaller leaves and blooms, generally with the Japonicas and Reticulatas having the largest. Reticulata varieties and hybrids tend to have a little more rangy growth habit. ●

Treats For 2008 *Continued From Pt 1*

Dianella Tasmanica variegata: Stalks of shiny turquoise blue berries lasting from fall into winter create a colorful accent in the garden. Neat grass-like foliage is great for use around pools, yellow stripe of variegation on the green blades. Evergreen perennial. Shade. Moderate-growing, foliage to 4 feet tall, spreads by rhizomes.



Bella Rossa Camellia

Not new, but always a treat that looks great is Nuccio's Bella Rossa Camellia. It produces a profusion of formal, crimson red, 4 inch blossoms, nonstop over the full extent of the season. Blooms heavily when young. Large size is ideal for screens and evergreen background or as a single dramatic specimen. Reaches tree-like proportions to 25 feet tall with age. Evergreen. Full or part shade. Moderate grower averaging 6 to 8 feet tall and as wide. ●



Growing Your Own Super Food

by Monrovia



Blueberries are not only delicious, but considered an antioxidant super-food and one of the healthiest fruits around. While they can be pricey in the supermarket – blueberries are surprisingly easy to grow in San Diego. So why not grow your own?

According to Nicholas Staddon, director of new plants for Monrovia, blueberries have been gaining tremendous popularity among home gardeners for many reasons. "Well of course, people love the sweet berries. But they've realized that these shrubs are really beautiful," he explained. "They have a fantastic array of white to blush-colored flowers in the spring that cascade down in clusters. The satiny foliage changes in the autumn from a pretty green to vivid red and gold."

He points out that blueberries are easy to grow, resistant to pests and diseases, and will yield a nice harvest of fruit for several weeks during the summer. Blueberries don't require much space, and grow very well in containers – especially in oak wine or whiskey barrels. You can put the containers close to the house to make harvesting easier. Just a light pruning once a year, after they stop bearing fruit, and the shrubs will maintain a tidy appearance. They don't have thorns, so they are children and pet-friendly.

If you live in a warmer climate, you'll want to seek out the Southern Highbush and Rabbiteye blueberries. Some great choices are O'Neal, Sunshine Blue, Jubilee and Southmoon. These are extremely tolerant of heat and humidity and don't require a pollinator to produce fruit.

For the colder parts of the county, plant the Northern Highbush varieties, such as Hardy Blue, Patriot, Spartan, Misty, Northblue and Top Hat. These do require a pollinator, meaning that you need to have at least two different varieties with similar bloom times, planted close together. ●

Low-Chill Winner For Southern California

by Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nurseries



Tom's picks were selected for their ability to produce quality fruit in southern California's coastal and inland valleys, as well as in Arizona and California lower deserts where winter time chill hours are less than 500 per year. Consideration was also given to varieties that will successively ripen throughout the summer. A planting of the following selections would be expected to produce flavorful, quality stone and pome fruits from mid-May through October.

APPLE

Dorsett Golden A fond selection from the Bahamas, Dorsett is thought to be the lowest-chill apple selection in production to date, needing less than 100 chill hours for successful production. It's self-fruitful and also works well as a pollinator for other early season apples, like Anna. Dorsett harvests from June through July in the southwest and often produces a second, smaller crop in late summer.

Fuji Fuji is a cross between Ralls Janet and Delicious. Once thought to require high chill, Fuji has proven itself as a reliable producer throughout the low-chill southwest. We now rate it at less than 500 chill hours and for all practical purposes it should be considered in the 200 to 400 hour range. Fuji is self-fruitful and is also a recommended pollinator for other mid season apple varieties. Its ripening in the southwest is from late August through October.

Pink Lady aka "Cripps Pink" A cross between Golden Delicious and Lady Williams from Western Australia. With a chilling requirement at 200 to 400 hours, Pink Lady is self-fruitful and harvests from early September through the fall season, often holding on the tree until winter.

APRIUM™

Flavor Delight An Aprium is a Plum-Apricot hybrid that favors the characteristic of its Apricot parent. It has a low chilling requirement of less than 300 hours. It ripens in the southwest from mid-May through June and is self-fruitful but produces better with cross pollination of another apricot. With very little alternate bearing, it produces reliably in most years.

NECTARINE

Arctic Star Arctic Star has a low chilling requirement of less than 300 hours. Arctic Star is the earliest to ripen of the new, low acid, super sweet, white nectarines. Its harvest season is June in the southwest. It's self-fruitful and rates high in our early summer taste tests.

Double Delight™ has a chilling requirement of less than 400 hours. Originally thought to be higher chill, it has proven itself to be a heavy producer in southern California. It puts out a beautiful display of showy double pink flowers in spring. Double Delight™ is self-fruitful and freestone and ripens through July.

PEACH

August Pride Requires less than 300 chill hours. It ripens late July through August in the southwest. For three months of yellow freestone peaches consider planting May Pride, Eva's Pride, Mid Pride and August Pride together in one hole.

Donut (Stark Saturn) aka "Saucer" or "Peento" This unique flat shaped peach with a sunken center is all the rage. Donut has a low chilling requirement of less than 300 hours and seems to produce just as well under high chill conditions as it does in low chill. It's self-fruitful and ripens from late June through July in the southwest.

Eva's Pride This delicious, fine flavored large peach, has a very low chilling requirement of 100 to 200 hours. Eva's Pride is self-fruitful and a heavy producer with a harvest season beginning in late May and extending through late June in the southwest. This is one of those (if I was only going to plant one peach) varieties.

Red Barron This fruiting and flowering peach displays a beautiful double red flower color. Red Barron is low chill rated at 200 to 300 hours and produces a large, juicy, richly flavored yellow freestone fruit. Harvest season is mid July to early August and it's self-fruitful. Plant it together with Saturn peach for a beautiful showing of double red and pink flowers and fruit for six weeks.

PLUOT™

Flavor Grenade Pluots are plum-apricot hybrids, favoring the plum parentage. Originally thought to be high chill, Flavor Grenade could possibly be one of the most widely adaptable Pluots to date. Flavor Grenades chill requirement is not known for sure but is probably in the 200 to 300 hour range. Best when pollinated with Burgundy plum or another Japanese plum or Pluot. Ripens mid August and holds on the tree until October.

Flavor King Another highly adaptable Pluot variety with a chill requirement of 400 hours or less. Pollination can be with Burgundy plum or another Japanese plum or Pluot. It ripens August to September. Plant Flavor King with Flavor Grenade, Beauty Plum and Burgundy Plum for good cross pollination and fruit from June to October.

PLUM

Beauty Sweet and flavorful, with an early season. Its low chill requirement of 200 to 250 hours makes it more adaptable than Santa Rosa and more productive in cool climates. Beauty's harvest is early June to mid July and it's self-fruitful.

Burgundy This Japanese-type plum is rated at 150 to 300 chill hours. Burgundy has no tartness and is self-fruitful. It's also considered to be one of the best cross pollinators for other Japanese plums and Pluots. Burgundy's season is from mid July and often extends through September. It's a proven producer throughout the southwest and if I was only planting one plum, it would be Burgundy. ●

Plants Without Leaves Really Exist

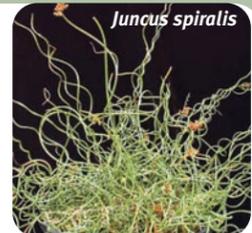
by Melanie Potter

Is a plant with no leaves a plant or just sticks and stems? It's a question I never pondered until I saw a couple of interesting and curious plants that appeared around late summer and early fall. I know it's usually bad news for a plant to lose its leaves as that means I'm killing it, or the season is changing and it is moving into its dormant period. These peculiar plants, however, were in healthy condition and marked for sale, one even found its way into a container design.

Imagine a head of hair sticking straight up in twisted corkscrews and you'll have an idea of what *Juncus spiralis* looks like. This is a member of the rush or sedge family and is also known as corkscrew rush. It is a perennial plant with a dark green spiraling stem that grows to about 1 1/2 ft. tall and wide. Plant in full sun to part shade in moist to wet soil. Plants are often slow to establish and will slowly spread by creeping roots. In summer, the plant will flower with

insignificant yellow to greenish or brown flowers. Use this plant as a specimen, winter houseplant or in a bog garden. They can grow in just a few inches of water. If you plant it in a water garden, make sure to confine it to a container as it is invasive.

In its container, the calcecephalus brownii looked like a small, round shrub. It was all white and had nothing that looked like leaves. The plant originated in Australia and likes full sun. The stems are branching and look somewhat like coral. Described as a grayish-white or silver color there are in fact tiny leaves on the stems which look more like bumps. The plant will flower with small pale greenish-yellow flowers, at the stem ends, in summer. It doesn't require much water once established but will appreciate well drained soil. This plant has a high tolerance for salt so it does well on the coast. Suggested uses for this plant include using it as a ground cover or adding it to a rock garden. ●



Creating A Fragrant Garden

by Monrovia



Fragrance adds another dimension of pleasure to your garden and heightens your outdoor experience by encompassing the most powerful of our senses—the sense of smell. Just as perfume seduces the senses, fragrant plants intoxicate and romanticize any setting. Keep fragrance in mind when selecting plants for your garden. White and pastel flowers are the most fragrant, pale pinks are the most potent pastels, moving through the color wheel to the mauves and yellows, and to the less scented purples and blues.

Vibrant colors such as oranges and crimsons will provide dramatic color in the garden, but little or no fragrance. Fragrance becomes intensified in enclosed areas, so plant your most fragrant selections in a courtyard or trellised patio, or surround your garden with hedges and windbreaks to encourage the fragrance of plants to linger.

Flowers are fragrant because it makes them attractive to their pollinators, drawing them in by scent before they actually see the flower. The fragrance that plants carry comes from oils produced in the glands found in leaves, bark,

fruit, wood, seeds, flowers, and roots. Fragrance is created when the oils evaporate and the molecules are released into the air. There are many different essential oils found in the plant kingdom and each plant has a mixture of compounds that make up its unique fragrance. These essential oils are perceived differently by everyone. What may be alluring to one, may be pungent to another. Many plants have distinctive fragrances, but it is the subtle mingling of scents from a variety of plants that will tempt your senses. A plant's fragrance is capricious and may subtly change from day to night, or from spring to fall.

It's useful to understand the basics of color and fragrance when planning your garden. Cool colors such as blues, pinks and purples, convey calmness and tranquility, while warm colors like bright yellows and reds create drama and vibrancy. Plant warm colors in the foreground and cool colors behind to give an illusion of depth to a small garden.

Fragrant choices include: gardenias, tuberose, magnolias, lavender, roses, lilacs, mock orange, jasmine, Angel's Trumpet, wax leaf privet, carnations, Bower vines, Viburnum, Banana Shrub, and honeysuckle. ●

by Melanie Potter

2009 Rose Preview



Walter Andersen Nursery's roses come from three different growers. One of those, Weeks Roses, has released information on three new roses for 2009 and we have a sneak preview! These roses are available for pre-sale.

To make sure you get the rose you want, call 858-513-4900; they are selling for \$19.99 and will be available in January.

Rock & Roll – The offspring of George Burns and New Zealand, this Grandiflora is burgundy, red and white stripes with a cream reverse. It is disease resistant and has a strong rose and fruit fragrance. Its growth habit is upright and full. Blooms have long stems.

Teeny Bopper – A scarlet and white bicolor shrublet that has a compact and rounded growth habit. Flower form is double, ruffled in flashy clusters that resemble hydrangea-like heads. Weeks suggests putting this at the front of a border, or in a container, or place it among perennials.

Shockwave – This rose may have to be seen to be believed. At press time, the description provided from Weeks promises a pure neon yellow Floribunda that holds its color until the end of the bloom's life. "Eye-searing pure hot yellow" is the flower color promised with bright, super glossy apple green foliage. Stem length is medium and the fragrance is mild.

Fire-Wise Landscaping *Continued From P1*

Zone 2 Fire-resistant plant materials should be used here. Plants should be low-growing, and the irrigation system should extend into this section.

Zone 3 Place low-growing plants and well-spaced trees in this area, remembering to keep the volume of vegetation (fuel) low.

Zone 4 This furthest zone from the structure is a natural area. Thin selectively here, and remove highly flammable vegetation.

Here are some additional tips:

- Eliminate small trees and plants growing under trees. They allow ground fires to jump into tree crowns.
- Space trees 30 feet apart and prune to a height of 8 to 10 feet.
- Place shrubs at least 20 feet from any structures and prune regularly.
- Plant the most fire-resistant vegetation within three feet of your home and adjacent to structures to prevent ignition.
- Provide at least a 10 to 15 foot separation between islands of shrubs and plant groups to effectively break-up continuity of vegetation.
- Landscape your property with fire-resistant plants and vegetation to prevent fire from spreading quickly.
- Maintain a well-pruned and watered landscape to serve as a green belt and protection against fire.
- Keep plants green during the dry season and use supplemental irrigation, if necessary.
- Trim grass on a regular basis up to 100 feet surrounding your home.
- Take out the "ladder fuels" — vegetation that serves as a link between grass and tree tops. It can carry fire to a structure or from a structure to vegetation.
- Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Prune all trees up to 6' to 10' from the ground.
- Remove leaf clutter and dead and overhanging branches.
- Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from your home.
- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences. ●

Fuller's Finds

BY CAROL FULLER

We had our scare here in Poway (again) with the Witch Fire so I hope this finds you well and safe.

Needless-to-say, my finds for this issue are more on the fire-safe side of the botanical world. But to be honest, after reading Debra Baldwin's "Designing with Succulents" and seeing her at the San Diego Horticulture Society meeting, I have gone nuts. Now I know some of you will stop reading at the word "succulent", but don't, you'll miss out. Boy, have I got some great plants for you!



Kalanchoe daigremontiana also known as the "Mother of Thousands" is an incredibly strong growing plant. This plant was given to me by a succulent nut before I became one myself and I couldn't be happier

with how it performs. It is incredibly easy to grow and propagate for your friends as it has masses of plantlets on the margins of the leaf. In fact, my succulent nut friend just gave me the leaf and told me to "just put in on the ground". It's that easy. You can also propagate this by cuttings. This plant is a native to Southwest Madagascar. It is about 3 feet tall and will spread as far as you want to let it. The fleshy leaves are about 6" inches long and are medium green flecked with purple with a notched red edge. The most remarkable feature is that the leaf margins of this plant have spoon-shaped bulbiferous spurs that bear young plants. The flowers are a purplish color, tubular in shape; about 1 inch long and the hummingbirds love them. It will enjoy full sun to partial shade in a well drained soil mix, so it has done quite well in my decomposed granite soil. If you want to keep it in a pot, a cactus mix will do just fine. It is a somewhat drought tolerant plant; but like most succulents, if you don't give it enough water, it will shrivel or just plain break apart, but it does recover quickly. Water once a week and it will do just fine. Feeding with an all-purpose fertilizer (Gro Power, of course) just once a season will make it go crazy.

If you need a groundcover and are tired of ice plants and aptenia start looking at Echeverias and Sempervivums.

Echeveria (syn. carunculata) 'Paul Bunyon' caught my eye with its interesting leaf patterns. It looks like there is a leaf lying on a leaf. The coloring is a light green but in older leaves the color changes to a shiny pink. The knobby parts will develop more colors, pinks, lavender, and blue which is why it caught my eye. I have to admit the flowers are a bit of a let down. They are very small and straggly but I like this plant for the leaves. This plant will grow to about 12" across and will occasionally produce offsets. It is a bit of a slow grower. It likes the full sun and is not particular about soil. But whatever type soil you have, be sure that it is well draining. Again, decomposed granite is perfect for in ground and pots will need a cactus mix and watering once every 7-10 days. Propagation of this succulent can be done by cuttings or by planting the offsets it may develop. I have since found out from a connoisseur that this variety is on the rare side but keep an eye out for it. I think it is well worth it.



Echeverias are easy to care for and easy to propagate. The varieties are endless and can be as large as 3' or as small as 3" so keep them in mind for a rock garden.

Sempervivums are members of the crassula family and are very low growing. You may know them as "hens and chicks"; but there are so many other varieties to choose from. They are native to southern and central Europe and are very frost hardy. Sempervivums are neat and tidy little rosettes of plants. The leaves on these little guys range in color from green to gray, brown, red, maroon, colored leaf tips and sometime leaf bases. They also change color with the change in temperature. The flowers on this type of succulent are star shaped and rise above the plant on thick fleshy stems which will bear several flowers. The color on their flowers is usually light or dark pink. They grow well in full sun but in really hot areas they will shrink. This happened to one of mine but cooler weather and a little more water brought it back just fine. Once a year you may have to remove a few dead leaves. Propagation on this succulent is as simple as removing one of the offsets and putting it in a pot.



There are two varieties of this in ground in my new "desert"; *Sempervivum grandiflorum* which has yellow flowers with a purple base; and *Sempervivum tectorum* which has pink flowers with a white margin. So far they have not "taken over" any of the areas in which they have been planted, so I consider them very easy care.



Gasteria succulents are members of the lily family. They are very slow

growing succulents from South Africa and have very stiff, thick leaves. The leaves of many of these succulents grow in ranks, stacked evenly on top of each other. Some varieties will grow in the form of stars and rosettes. The leaves can also be a solid green or show speckles. The inflorescence will form between the leaves on a tall stem and provide numerous tubular flowers in shades of pink, salmon and yellow. Hummingbirds love these flowers. They prefer a dry warm climate in semi-shade although some will tolerate the full sun. Well draining soil is best and during the hot summer the soil should be kept moist but not wet. Add a little gravel to the potting mix to increase drainage. This succulent will produce offsets or you can start new plants simply by a leaf cutting. How easy is that!

There are 3 species I have in my collection; *Gasteria liliputana* which is a small variety that grows in clusters. They look like a number of star-shaped flowers all clustered together. The leaves are speckled. The flowers arise on long stems above the leaves and the shape reminds me of lavender flowers.



Gasteria variegata, a native of South Africa, is the smallest in the family. It has dark green, shiny leaves with little white speckles. This plant flowers in the spring and they are a pink and green combination. In shade I found it will keep its color better, so mine is hiding under some of its larger neighbors. During the growing season a balanced fertilizer to 1/2 the recommended strength is suggested.

Gasteria nigricans is one of the larger species. It also has variegation in the leaves which are a dark green with waves of white. It tolerates full sun in a temperate climate. The salmon pink flowers arise from between the leaves on graceful stems and are produced quite freely in warm weather. ●

the wee corner

by Melanie Potter



Little Containers

Little plants in little containers can make quite an impact and because of that the nurseries sell a lot of hanging baskets. They are an easy way to get lots of color in a small, vertical space.

In winter we see smaller flowers spilling out of the baskets and there are some good choices despite the colder weather. Here's a salute to the little guys that do a big job.

Violas—They come in a very wide variety of colors including apricot, red, yellow, blue, and white, so they make for great displays and are very well suited to mass displays of striking color patterns. Violas grow into a plump little bush that gives a basket a full look.

Calibrachoa—These flowers were born to be incorporated into a hanging basket. Look for Million Bells, small, petunia-like looking flowers in a variety of bright colors. They are excellent at spilling out of the container and trailing and they are loaded with flowers. They like full sun and regular water.

Ivy—Popular, easy-to-care for and another good trailing addition to a basket. Look for all the ivies like Swedish ivy and grape ivy. You're not limited to just green as there are variegated varieties available.

Vinca major and Vinca minor—This is a forgiving trailing vine for your hanging basket as you can plant it in full sun to partial shade in most any soil as long as it is well drained. They are drought tolerant and don't require frequent watering.

Mini cyclamen—Available in shades of pink, red or white, even the cyclamen's foliage is attractive, often having silver marbling on the top sides of the leaves. They prefer rich, porous soil with lots of humus.

Fairy or Baby Primrose—This plant prefers light shade to sun and likes the soil kept moist. You'll get a variety of color choices such as pink, lavender, red, salmon, cream and yellow. ●

Winter Class Schedule

All classes are free and begin

at 9:00am in Pt. Loma at

3642 Enterprise Street, and

at 9:30am in Poway at

12755 Danielson Court. On

rare occasions, we may need

to make a last minute

change. If you have questions,

call 619-224-8271 (Point

Loma) or 858-513-4900

(Poway). Show up early if

you don't like standing, and

have coffee on us!

POINT LOMA 9am

January

1/5 Bare Root Trees & Shrubs

1/12 Camellia & Azalea Care

1/19 Rose Pruning & Planting

1/26 Spring Bulbs

February

2/2 Preparing Garden Soils

2/9 Spring Color

2/16 Cymbidium Orchids (Selection & Care)

2/23 Citrus & Avocado Varieties

March

3/1 Plants Indoors

3/8 Spring Vegetables

3/15 Ornamental Trees for San Diego

3/22 Spring Lawn Care

3/29 General Orchid Care

POWAY 9:30am

January

1/5 Rose Pruning & Bare Root Roses

1/12 Fruit Tree Pruning & Bare Root Trees

1/19 Rose Pruning

1/26 Spring Bulbs

February

2/2 Natives with Carol Fuller

2/9 Intro to Bonsai with Richard Wright

2/16 Companion Plantings: Plants that Grow Better Together

2/23 Xeriscape Gardening with Carol Fuller

March

3/1 Container Gardening

3/8 Citrus & Avocados with Richard Wright

3/15 Staghorn Remounting & Care with David Ross

3/22 Herbs with Carol Fuller

3/29 Orchids

New Garden! Continued From Pt

As gardeners eager to taste our garden delights, we automatically plant too much, only to be swamped with tomatoes and overwhelmed with zucchini. This year try to limit yourself to the amount of space and number of plants you'll realistically be able to take care of. Months from now, you'll be pleased with your successes rather than disappointed with your attempts.

Some varieties, like the All America selections, are widely adaptable to various growing areas, but others are not. Purchase those that are known to do well in your immediate area. Nothing's fool-proof, but that's part of the anticipation and fun! ●

TOOL SHED

by Melanie Potter

Safeguarding Plants Against Frost

Last winter's freeze was a surprise to most San Diegans with nearly everyone experiencing some damage or loss of plants. This year, the nursery has two items that can help keep plants toasty, when the temperatures dip, and prevent them from being toasted.

Years ago you could find frost protector blankets referred to as row covers. They are back again and are called Harvest Guard, made by Gardeneer. Two sizes are available (5' x 25' and 5' x 50'). Not only does this offer protection against frost, insects, birds and heavy rains, but floating row cover creates a "greenhouse" environment for bigger, better and earlier crop yields. The blankets' UV inhibitors provide long life. These are ideal for vegetable gardens, strawberry rows and newly sown lawns. Another alternative is buying a roll of burlap also from Gardeneer. It's a versatile home and garden product. In the garden, it protects seedlings, controls erosion, and serves as shade cloth, wind screen or camouflage. Indoors you can use it for crafts, needlework, decorating projects, lampshades and wall hangings.



Should there be a freeze this year, here's Walter Andersen's advice for your affected plants. Don't cut back immediately. The burned part of the plant will provide protection from further damage should another freeze hit. Wait until the weather warms and plants have had a chance to come back. It was surprising what bounced back with some time, regular watering and fertilizer.

If your Plumeria suffers, you may cut off the soft part of the trunk. Always remember, when in doubt give either store a call for advice. You can take preventative measures by making sure that if frost is forecast, to cover tropicals, fruit trees, avocados, and vines.

Poinsettias

Keep 'Em Blooming



by Paul Ecke Ranch

The poinsettias you bought in December provided bright color through the holidays, but now that we are well into the New Year, you may be pondering what to do with these festive beauties that are still lush and blooming.

It's possible, but not easy, to keep your poinsettia blooming by following these suggested tips.

- Cut the plant back to four or six buds by early April or when the bracts begin to fall, whichever occurs first.

- Place the pot near a sunny window and water and fertilize regularly. New growth should sprout by the end of May. Do continue watering and fertilizing.

- Beginning on Oct. 1, keep the plants in total darkness for 18 hours a day and bright sunlight the other six. To achieve the needed darkness, place a cardboard box over the plant each day. After eight to 10 weeks of the light and dark routine, plants should develop a new display of holiday blooms.

One thing to remember, these poinsettias have been hybridized to perform best in greenhouse and indoor situations, so they generally do not thrive when transplanted to the garden.

Once the holidays are in sight and your poinsettias are ready for display, place them in the indirect sunlight for at least six hours a day. Keep the room temperature between 68 and 70 degrees and don't expose plants to temperatures below 50 degrees or chilly winds.

Water the plants thoroughly when soil feels dry to the touch, but be careful not to let them sit in standing water. Don't fertilize poinsettias in bloom but nourish them with an all-purpose fertilizer after the blooming season. ●

Contact Us! 2 Locations to Serve You!

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Seasonal Recipe

Sweet Carrot Salad

5 cups (1/2-inch-thick) carrot slices
2 garlic cloves, halved
2/3 cup fresh lemon juice
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon paprika

Combine carrot and garlic in a large saucepan. Cover with water; bring to a boil. Cook 8 minutes or until tender; drain. Discard garlic.

Combine lemon juice and remaining ingredients in a medium bowl, and stir well. Add carrot to lemon juice mixture, tossing to coat. Serve salad at room temperature or chilled.

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