



Walter Andersen Nursery™

# Garden Talk

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

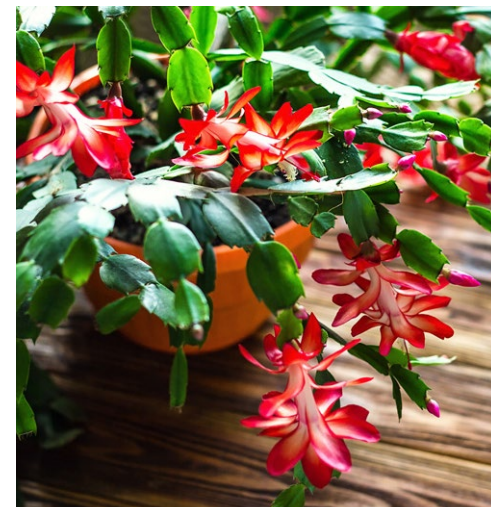
STORE HOURS: San Diego 8am-5pm | Poway 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

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## Poinsettias Share The Holiday Spotlight

By WAN Staff



Christmas Cactus



Cyclamen 'Absolu de Morel'

The **Holiday Cacti** and **Cyclamen** are great alternatives to the traditional poinsettia. These plants offer colorful holiday blooms, plus you can enjoy them all year 'round.

The **Holiday Cactus**, also known as the **Thanksgiving Cactus** or the **Christmas Cactus**, can be bought during the holiday season

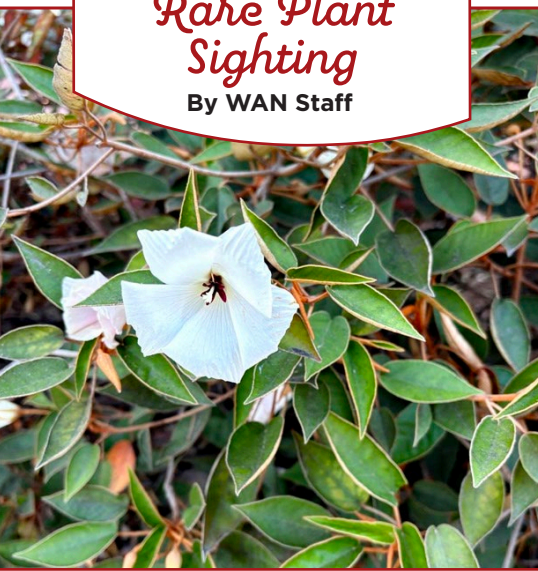
in bloom. It should be placed in indirect sunlight, in regular indoor temperatures. Keep the soil moist and fertilize weekly.

**Cyclamen**, available in white, red, and deep pink, generally are dormant during summer months and bloom indoors during winter. Be sure to

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## Easily-Spotted Rare Plant Sighting

By WAN Staff



While Ken Andersen was strolling through downtown La Jolla, a shrub with pretty white flowers caught his eye. He suspected it was some sort of hibiscus and snapped a photo and brought a sample to our Poway store

[continued p2](#)

## 2025 Rose Preview

By Melanie Potter

Both stores are potting up thousands of bareroot roses! We have been busy trimming the roots and planting the roses in **E.B. Stone Bang 420**. It's one of E.B. Stone's premium soils and experience shows us that the roses get a great start in it. You'll find **shrub roses, climbers, minis, tree roses** (18", 24" and 36") and **David Austin roses**. Many are the old favorites that we stocked last year but there are a



'Angelic Veil'

[continued p3](#)

## Rare Plant

continued from p1



for verification. Turns out that he was way off base. It was actually *Trochetiopsis ebanus*, a dwarf ebony or Saint Helena ebony. What's that, you ask? It is a species of flowering plant that is endemic to the island of Saint Helena in the southern Atlantic Ocean. It is not related to the ebony of commerce (*Diospyros* spp.), but is instead a member of the mallow family, Malvaceae. Saint Helena ebony is now critically endangered in the wild. How about that, a critically endangered plant growing happily and beautifully in La Jolla! •

## Holiday Spotlight continued from p1



*Poinsettias*

smell **Cyclamen 'Absolu de Morel'**, the perfume fragrance and white with magenta tipped blooms are an intoxicating combination.

**Editor's Note:** Here are some WAN picks for the holidays!

### Rosemary

Not just for the holiday season, plant this in the yard and have year-round access to a fresh herb. Make this a gift that keeps on giving.

### Mini Christmas Trees

These are fun, easy to care for, and can be planted in the yard for year-round enjoyment. They are usually decorated and wrapped in decorative foil. Remove the foil to water and make sure the plant drains thoroughly before returning it to its decorative sleeve.

### Ivy Topiaries

An instant formal look is achieved with these. They are fast growing and easy to maintain. Keep in bright light and keep soil moist. Snip wayward new growth or wind into existing foliage to maintain the shape.



*Amaryllis*

### Orchids

Ken Andersen recommends **Phalaenopsis** because they are so easy to grow. Also called **Moth Orchids**, they tolerate low light and usually need weekly watering.

### Bulbs

Don't forget **Paperwhites** and **Amaryllis**. If you are getting a late start with these, you can find them already potted up!

### Poinsettias

The selection is huge and no longer limited to the traditional finds. Look for really white varieties (not yellow being sold as white), hot pink, lime green, striped, spotted, and gold. Some may even have glitter but that is just sprinkled magic and not nature. •



*Ivy Topiaries*

*Rosemary*

**Garden Talk**  
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Or Listen Anytime on our Podcasts Page  
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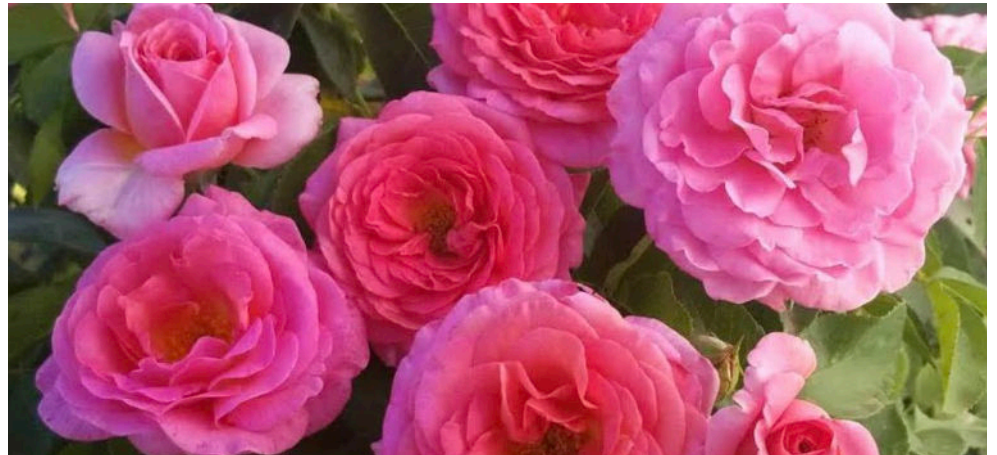
## Still Growing!

By WAN Staff



It's me, the corpse flower at Walter Andersen Nursery's Poway location. Last month I was about 15 feet tall and this month I'm a foot or two taller. Tall enough that I had to be moved to a part of the store with higher ceilings. In my old spot, my leaves were touching the ceiling. Speaking of leaves, mine are green and glossy, I'm looking very attractive if I may say so. My leaves die back within 12-18 months. I am getting a lot of attention and the only thing that upstages me on occasion are the adorable dogs that visit our store. •

## 2025 Roses continued from p1



'Time After Time'

few new ones that made their 2025 debut to tell you about.

### Angelic Veil (Hybrid Tea)

Fusion of pink and white picotee hues, with a citrus-infused, moderately fruity aroma. Grows to a height of 2½-6' and spreading out 2-3'. It offers robust resistance against powdery mildew and rust.

### Tiamo (Hybrid Tea)

Non-fading red blooms that thrive in hot summers. With its lovely mild fragrance and stunning color, this rose is ideal for cutting while its bushy upright habit (5½' tall x 3' wide) and hardy nature make it perfect for many garden settings.

### Time After Time

Floribunda rose with medium pink color and slightly fruity scent. This rose variety reaches a height of 2-5', spreading over 2-4'. It has robust



'Tiamo'

disease resistance, particularly against powdery mildew and rust.

The oldest rose we have is **Zepherine Drouhin**, a pink climbing rose, which was introduced in 1868!! Several 2024 roses are back in stock so if you missed seeing them last year, 2025 might be your lucky year.

Download the PDF list on our website at [www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-Rose-List-Final.pdf](http://www.walterandersen.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-Rose-List-Final.pdf). •

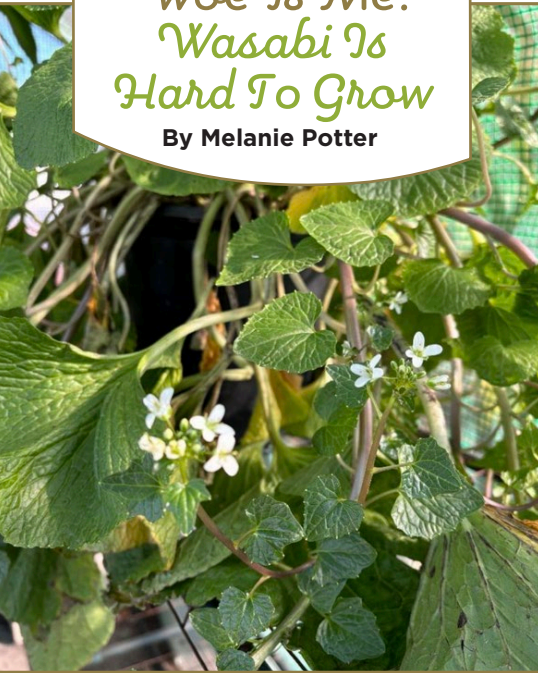


## Christmas Trees Are Here!

Whether you like Noble, Douglas, Grand, or Fraser Fir, all of our trees are top quality. Once they arrive, they are put onto individual stands with water bowls so you can see exactly what the tree looks like. The water bowls also insure that the trees stay fresh. Flocking (only available at the San Diego store) and fire-retardant services are also available. This year, make it your family tradition to get your Christmas tree from Walter Andersen Nursery. You'll be glad you did!

## Woe Is Me: Wasabi Is Hard To Grow

By Melanie Potter



Through the magic of television, a support team, and a humongous kitchen outfitted with all the bells and whistles, TV chefs make whipping up a meal look as easy as pouring a glass of water. The farm-to-table movement continues to be enticing too with most fresh herbs and vegetables being easy to grow. That said, we were surprised when a few customers began asking for wasabi plants.

We brought a few in, they are a good-looking plant, but be warned that they are darn hard to grow, in fact wasabi, native to Japan, is considered to be one of the most difficult. Big, green leaves trail and are topped with a tiny, white flower. The flower reminds me of a spider plant flower.

When researching how to grow wasabi, I came across words like "with the proper care and environment", "14 steps to

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## Funny Things In Nature

By Melanie Potter



If a **holly** plant's leaves are being nibbled by deer, it switches on genes that make the leaves spiky when they regrow. On taller hollies, the upper leaves (safely out of deer's reach) are smooth while the lower leaves are prickly! It's true, plants can communicate with each other through chemical signals.



During the 1600s in Holland, **tulips** were so valuable that their bulbs were worth more than gold. The craze was called tulip mania, or tulipomania, and caused the crash of the Dutch economy. Fun fact about tulips: After cutting tulips, they can continue to grow as much as an inch per day.



The word **pineapple** comes from European explorers who thought the fruit combined the look of a pinecone with flesh similar to an apple. Pineapples are the only edible members of the bromeliad family.

Small pockets of air inside **cranberries** cause them to bounce and float in water.



**Algae** are among Earth's oldest forms of life, with fossils dating back over 3 billion years.



So sorry we didn't learn this fact until after Halloween: The giant **montane pitcher plant** of Borneo is large enough to digest rats. Its size and the digestive fluid it produces allow it to tackle much larger prey than the average insect-eating plant.

**Venus Flytraps** are just the tip of the carnivorous plant iceberg. There are over 600 different types of plants that prefer their meals winged or crawling. The Venus Flytrap keeps count of how many times an insect touches its hair triggers before closing shut.



And, finally a really mean fact: **Tomato plants** can be pretty ruthless. When a sibling plant is struggling, they'll release more chemicals into the ground to inhibit their sibling's growth and reduce competition.



## The Garden Talk Show

The guys from Garden Talk are now pre-recording the radio shows. That means no more getting up at 4:30am for a 6am studio time. George and Ken have been joined by their regular guest, John Clements and recently got schooled by Farmer Roy Wilburn from Poway Gardens as they talked a lot about tomatoes!

## Wasabi

continued from p4

growing” and ‘challenging’. Given that, I will keep buying wasabi in the tube or use the powered version. However, if you are up for it, here are growing tips.

It requires a humid, temperate environment (you may need a greenhouse), takes two years to mature, and is highly susceptible to disease when grown in large quantities. Provide shade as wasabi is not a sun loving plant. Plant in compost amended with an organic, sulfur-rich fertilizer. The soil pH should be between 6 and 7. Keep plant moist but the soil should be well draining. It’s a semi-aquatic plant which makes it susceptible to mold and disease. The distinctive flavor develops when the plant matures at 24 months. Once mature, dig up the rhizome, which should be 7-8 inches long. There you have it. See you at the supermarket buying wasabi?? •

## To Do List: December



*Bare root roses arrive this month!*



*Plant cauliflower, cabbage & more*



*Force Paperwhite bulbs now*



*Plant evergreens, junipers & conifers*

### Plant

- > Bulbs: Force Paperwhites now for Christmas blooms. Last chance for fall bulbs.
- > Color: Don't miss Pansies, Violas, Stocks, and Calendulas.
- > Vegetables: plant onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beets, carrots, and more.
- > Plant conifers, junipers, evergreens, California natives and drought-tolerant plants.
- > Roses, roses, and roses are due the third week of the month.

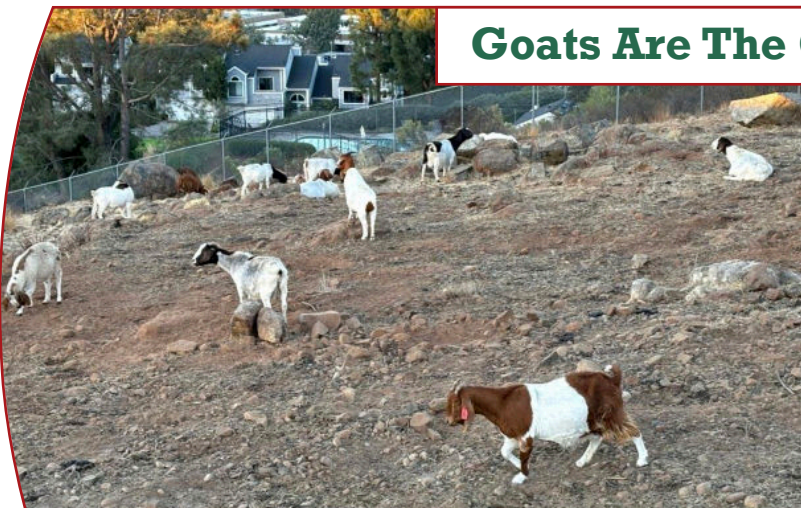
> Potted pomegranates, figs, grapes, and cane berries are here! Selection varies by store. Call for details or [check the website for the list.](#)

> Look for Camellias, Azaleas, Pyracantha, Holly, Living Christmas Trees, Poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, and Photinia.

### Pest Control

> Dormant spray for diseases and over wintering pests. Use Liqui-Cop for disease control and Horticultural Oil Spray. •

## Goats Are The G.O.A.T. At Controlling Weeds



Regular walkers at Lake Miramar were treated to several weeks of fabulous sightings of a herd of goats doing a successful job of weed abatement. This fall, the goats, under the watchful eyes of their canine companions, cleared overgrown hillsides and delighted visitors. Supplied by Elm Goats, they are hard workers and a low-cost solution for not only clearing large areas of wild brush, but they will also fertilize and till the earth. Goats are let loose on the land and can clear about one acre a day! •



*Store  
Holiday Hours  
& Closings*

- Dec. 24** Poway closes at 2pm
- Dec. 25** Both stores closed for Christmas
- Dec. 31** Poway closes at 2pm
- Jan. 1** Both stores closed for New Year's Day

**Garden Classes: December**

Saturday classes are **FREE** and last about an hour. Complimentary coffee is served. During inclement weather, classes are held indoors in San Diego and on the covered, heated patio in Poway. Topics are subject to change. See the full schedule at <https://www.walterandersen.com/classes-events/>.

**SAN DIEGO**

**9:00AM**

**POWAY**

**9:30AM**

**Garden Classes are on holiday for the month of December. We will be back in January, 2025!**



**Walter Andersen  
Nursery™**

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

*GardenTalk*

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