



Walter Andersen Nursery™

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE

# Garden Talk

INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

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

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## Defense Against & Treatment Of Frost Damage Is Easy

By Ken Andersen

It does get cold in San Diego. The closer you are to the coast, the less of an issue this may be but for those who live inland, down in a valley, or in the mountains, serious damage to plants can result from cold. Mountains, hills and valleys give San Diego one of its unique characteristics. This same topography can mean the difference between having frost damage and not having it. This is apparent in my neighborhood of Scripps Ranch. I live near the top of a hill with constant breezes flowing up from the coast and suffer very little in the way of frost damage each winter.



However, my neighbors who live down the street at the bottom of the hill, are subject to frost damage

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## Don't Plant These Vegetables Together

By Amanda MacArthur, Food Gardening Network



Some reasons to separate certain plants are obvious. There might be a major size difference and the taller of the two may make too much shade for the shorter plant. Or the plants may have differing water and fertilizer needs. If you give one vegetable its proper amount of water, the neighboring plant gets oversaturated and rots.

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## Camellias: The Hot Ticket For The Cool Season

By WAN Staff



Now that the cool season is upon us, many plants are going out of bloom. The flowers we enjoyed through the long, hot summer such as hibiscus, cannas, and plumeria, are beginning to rest for the winter. However, the shortening days and cooler temperatures create ideal conditions for a minority of plants that bloom in the winter. One of these is the mighty Camellia. It creates one of the boldest display of blooms of any plant this time of year, and it also happens to be a practical, easy-to-grow shrub in any zone of San Diego county.

Camellias are woody shrubs that generally grow between six and 15

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## Don't Plant Together

continued from p1

Some vegetable plants are so alike that they are susceptible to the same diseases. And sometimes plants are toxic to each other. These plants have chemical properties that stunt the growth or even kill the plants surrounding them. The whole thing is called allelopathy.

**Here are some common vegetables that should not be planted together, and the reasons why.**

### Carrots

Don't plant carrots next to dill because they're from the same family of plants which causes them to cross-pollinate. This ends up stunting the growth of the carrots. Similarly, carrots should not be planted next to turnips.



### Potatoes

Potatoes are the bully of the plant world. They have problems with everybody! Cucumbers, melons, squash, turnips, all fall victim to the potato and its competition for nutrients and moisture. Even members of the potato family, like the tomato, shouldn't be near the potato because they slow the growth of each other and can be more susceptible to potato blight (Phytophthora).



### Asparagus

Asparagus is the lone wolf of the class. It doesn't want to hang out with onions, garlic, or potatoes.



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## Frost Damage continued from p1

every year because the cold air flows downhill and settles in the lower, wind protected areas and valleys. It will always be a bit warmer near the tops of hills and on the sides of valleys.

Protecting your plants from frost is pretty simple. For potted plants, the easiest way to protect them is to move them under a covered patio, entryway or even the garage. Having a roof over their head will keep the frost at bay. If the plants are not only sensitive to frost, but sensitive to cold in general, drape a few old sheets over them during the cold nights. This same trick can be used in your landscape as well.

For the vegetable garden or larger areas, consider purchasing Row Cover to keep the frost from settling on your plants. This inexpensive fabric is water and light permeable but will protect your plants from damage and can be left on for extended periods. Bed sheets, while they work very well for frost protection, block too much light to be left on for a long period of time.

Should your plants suffer frost damage, which usually manifests itself as burned or blackened foliage, don't rush to prune it back. You will see frost damage typically hit the tops of the shrubs while the lower part of the plant is unaffected. This is because the upper exposed areas actually shield the lower parts from the cold. If you rush to cut the damaged part off and another round of frost hits, another layer of the plant could suffer, meaning you will have to trim it back even more. Wait until the chance of frost passes for the season before you trim back frost damage.

New soft growth will suffer more damage than older mature foliage so try not to feed sensitive plants during the colder parts of the season. If you do cut your damaged plants back while the weather is still cold, refrain from feeding them, which would encourage new growth. Applications of Dyna Grow Pro Tek may help reduce frost damage by infusing the plant and its foliage with silicon making the cell walls stronger and less susceptible to damage. •

## Welcome to 2025! Noenicitinoid Ban In Effect

By WAN Staff



The state of California banned the home use of Noenicitinoid (Neonics) insecticides effective January 1, 2025. Our stores are not allowed to continue the sale of existing products and anything left on the shelf after the ban took effect had to be disposed of at a hazardous waste facility. Home owners with neonics in their possession after January 1 fell under the same requirement. Our stores have been managing the inventory to minimize what would have to be disposed.

The main neonic affected by this ban is Imidacloprid which was found in Bio Advance and Bonide products. This includes the season long soil drench

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## Don't Plant Together

continued from p2

### Pole Beans & Peas

All types of pole beans can cause problems for plants like peppers (all varieties) and even beets. These combinations don't work well because they compete for resources.

### Broccoli & Cauliflower

Broccoli and cauliflower won't do well near peppers, tomatoes, squashes, or strawberries.

Technically if you really enrich your soil, they can be friends, but in general, brassicas soak up all the nutrients in the soil which makes it hard for other nutrient-needing plants to thrive.

### Corn

Corn and tomatoes are both susceptible to fungal infections and if one gets it, the other one will too. They're also both susceptible to pests like the cotton bollworm so it's best to keep them apart.

### Onions, Garlic, Leeks & Shallots

Onions, garlic, leeks, and shallots can stunt the growth of plants like pole beans and peas. You also don't want to plant onions, garlic, leeks, and shallots near each other because if one crop comes down with pests the rest will also fall victim. •

## Camellias continued from p1

feet high by four to 10 feet wide without pruning, depending on the variety. They can easily be pruned to stay three to four feet and they make great container plants.

### There are two main species of Camellia: Japonica and Sasanqua.

Camellia Japonica has larger leaves and larger, fuller flowers of the two, and blooms from late November until March-April. Camellia Sasanqua has smaller leaves and smaller, often single flowers, and they bloom from September through January. One of the most important differences between the two from a practical standpoint is that Sasanquas tolerate more sun than Japonicas. Sasanquas can take full sun on the coast and light shade inland, while Japonicas need light shade on the coast and at least half a day shade inland.

As lush and colorful as these plants are, one would think they need copious water, but that is not the case. They are drought-tolerant plants, one of the relatively few we can offer for shady areas. When first planted, they should be watered about twice a week, but after one to two years in the ground, they can get by with a soaking every seven to 10 days.

Being native to Eastern China and Japan where the soil is more acidic than ours, Camellias do need to be planted in an acidic mix and regularly fed with an acid fertilizer. One of the best ways to provide

Photo: Brandon Friend-Solis

Photo: Doreen Wynja/Monrovia



'Yuletide'



'Nuccio's Gem'

an acid soil is to use an E.B. Stone Azalea & Camellia soil amendment, and as long as they are mixed in heavily with our native dirt, the plants should be happy. As for fertilizer, one of the best types that you can use is Gro-Power which contains humic acid which acts as both a soil acidifier and a catalyst for chelating nutrients in the soil. However, many other fertilizers do a great job as well such as Dr. Earth.

Blooms are generally shades of red, pink to pink/purple, and white. One of the most popular camellias we sell is a Sasanqua called **Yuletide**, which has bright red flowers on a full, compact plant that eventually grows to six feet tall. There are several white Sasanqua such as **Setsugekka** and **White Doves**, and pinks such as **Apple Blossom**, **Hana Jiman**, and **Shishi Gashira**. As far as Japonica, don't miss **Kramer's Supreme** (pinkish red), **Nuccio's Gem** (white), **Debutante** (light pink), and **Bob Hope** (bright red). Right now, both stores have an impressive collection, so if you would like to learn more about them, come on in! •

**Garden Talk**  
RADIO  
Listen to the WAN Experts  
Saturdays 6am-7am  
AM 1170 & 1210 | FM 96.1 & 106.1  
Or Listen Anytime on our Podcasts Page

### January Shows:

- 1/4 – "Best Of" Show
- 1/11 – Ken & George
- 1/18 – Ken & George with Special Guest Pedro Berry, Certified Arborist
- 1/25 – Ken, George, & John

[walterandersen.com](http://walterandersen.com)





# Back in the Day

with John Clements

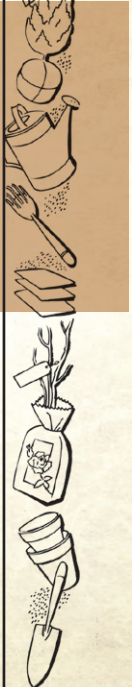
## The Kent Farm



(1) The Horace Kent farm



(2) The Kent farmhouse is on the far left



John Clements has been a horticultural professional since 1976. Former nursery owner, gardener and koi pond builder to the rich and famous, horticulturalist, commercial fruit tree farmer, garden writer, agricultural historian, and now a co-host on Garden Talk!



The vintage farm and garden (*photo 1*) takes us back to circa 1900 and the Horace Kent farm on Midland Road in Poway.

In the extended view (*photo 2*), the Kent farmhouse is on the left edge. The house was built in 1882. The Kents grew fruit on most of their hundred acres. As many of us have just installed new fruit trees in our gardens, it may be interesting to know that Horace Kent grew apricots and peaches exclusively. I find apricots a very challenging fruit to grow in San Diego, but it was a huge crop in San Diego County in the 1880s. He also grew lots of peaches, mostly Hale and Alexander.

In July 1894, according to the Poway Press, the Kent family had 15-20 tons of apricots to dry. Apricots were almost always dried, but peaches were taken to market and sold as fresh delectable fruit. They would leave at dawn to take a wagon load of peaches up the extremely treacherous Poway grade to market to University Heights (a seven-hour trip, today a mere 30 minutes), or downtown San Diego.

They sold by pre-orders and would sell their fruit for a penny a pound, or \$10 for the whole wagon load. According to the Kents, Poway was the greatest place in the world to grow peaches. In response to one of my historical vignettes a few years ago, I received the loveliest correspondence from Donna Kent, great granddaughter of Horace Kent. According to Donna, there were some calamitous

events that drastically altered the fortunes of the Kent Farm.

One event was the great flood of 1916; we all know the havoc caused by this flood in Mission Valley, but not everyone is aware it was a region-wide flood and caused a great deal of damage to the orchards the Kents owned. The death knell for the fruit business for the Kent family was the destruction caused by nematodes. Nematodes wiped out all their orchards.

Ever wonder why Nema-guard root stock is so popular among fruit farmers these days? Ask Horace Kent what he would have given for Nema-guard root stock.



(3) The property is now Archie Flint farm

The farm (*photo 3*) eventually became the Archie Flint farm, husband of Kent's daughter. They raised mostly melons and corn. Another familiar site on Midland Road is the DJ Ranch which lies on land that was formerly the Kent's peach orchards. The present owners have owned the land since 1963. ●



*Recipe: Sheet Pan Eggs with Asparagus*

By Norann Oleson, Food Gardening Network



How easy are sheet pan meals? This recipe makes a good breakfast or dinner.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 30 minutes

Yield: Serves 4

**INGREDIENTS:**

2 pounds fresh asparagus

1 pint cherry tomatoes

4 eggs

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 teaspoons chopped, fresh thyme

Salt and pepper to taste

**DIRECTIONS:**

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a rimmed baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray or lay down a sheet of parchment paper.

Arrange the asparagus and cherry tomatoes in an even layer on the baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with fresh thyme and salt and pepper.

Roast the vegetables in the oven for 10 to 12 minutes, or until the asparagus is tender and the tomatoes are wrinkled.

Remove the pan from the oven and crack the eggs on top of the

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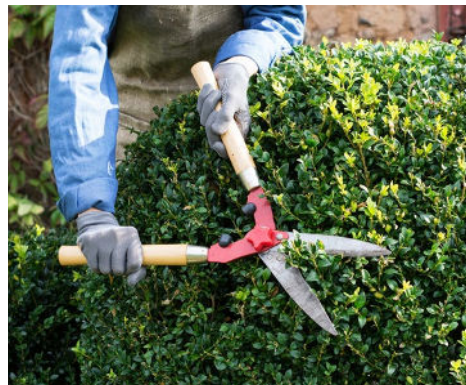
**To Do List: January**



Look for Pansies, Violas, Stocks & Snapdragons



Plant carrots, radish and more



Prune shrubs, vines and more

**Planting**

This is the **ideal time to plant** bare root roses, fruit trees, and ornamentals. Leek starts are due mid-month as are short day onion starts. **Plant these vegetables now:** Artichoke, Asparagus (crowns), Beets (seed), Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots (seed), Celery, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi (seed), Lettuce, Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Radish (seed), Spinach, Swiss Chard, and Turnips (seed). **Look for these:** Camellias, Azaleas, Holly, Pyracantha, roses and fruit trees. **Don't miss** Pansies, Violas, Stocks and Snapdragons.

**Pruning**

Now is the time to prune roses, deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines including fruit trees, grapes and berry vines. **Pruning Tools:** Use well-maintained, sharp shears. Replace worn Felco pruner blades and springs with new ones for easier pruning.

**Pest Control**

Dormant Spray for diseases and over wintering insects. Use oil spray to control overwintering insects and insect eggs. Use Liqui-Cop to control fungus on fruit trees and roses, Peach Leaf Curl and more on peaches and nectarines.

**Lawn Care**

Apply High Yield Weed & Feed to prevent Crabgrass and other weed seed from germinating as the weather warms up. •



*from the team at  
Walter Andersen Nursery*



## Noenicitinoid Ban

continued from p2

systemic insecticides. Chemical companies are reformulating and releasing new products that will contain the systemic insecticide Acephate. Acephate works somewhat differently than neonics so be sure to read the label and follow the revised instructions. •

### Recipe: Eggs

continued from p5

asparagus. Season with salt and pepper and return the pan to the oven.

Bake 7 to 8 minutes, or until the whites are cooked through, but the yolks are still a bit runny. (If you don't like runny yolks, cook until set, but be careful not to overcook the eggs or they'll be rubbery.)

Remove from oven and divide into four servings. Serve with bread or potatoes! •

## Garden Classes: January

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

1/4

Rose Pruning & Care with Olivia

1/11

Fruit Tree Pruning with Tyler Trimble

1/18

All About Berries with Kathleen

1/25

Bare Root Fruit Care & Selection with Chris

### POWAY

9:30AM

1/4

Winter Fruit Tree Care with Tyler Trimble

1/11

Spring Rose Care & Planting with James

1/18

Bare Root Fruit Tree Planting, Care, Culture & Training with Adams

1/25

Blueberries with Richard



**Holiday Hours** December 31 Poway store closes at 2pm. January 1 Both stores closed.



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INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1928!

SAN DIEGO'S GARDEN RESOURCE



## Visit Our 2 Locations

### SAN DIEGO

3642 Enterprise Street  
San Diego, California 92110  
**619-224-8271**  
Open 8am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

### POWAY

12755 Danielson Court  
Poway, California 92064  
**858-513-4900**  
Open 9am-5pm | 7 Days-A-Week

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