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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

June 2002

## GREEN SHEET

In addition to the plants discussed, the following plants described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens* were shown:

*Allium christophii*  
*Ammi majus* 'Green Mist'  
*Centaurea crassifolia* (Paleocyanus)  
*Chilopsis linearis* 'Warren Jones'  
*C. l.* 'Burgundy Lace'  
*xChitalpa tashkentensis*  
 'Morning Cloud'  
*xC. t.* 'Pink Dawn'  
*Dianella tasmania*  
*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *ovatifolia*  
*Jatropha podagrica*  
*Malacothamnus* 'Edgewood'  
*Neoregelia compacta*  
*Penstemon heterophyllus*  
*Philadelphus lewisii* 'Goose Creek'  
*Romneya coulteri*  
*Ruellia makoyana*  
*Salvia x superba* (*S. nemerosa*)  
*Salvia* 'Vicki Romo'

### Spring into summer—the minty, sagey season of Lamiaceae:

*Chilopsis linearis* 'Regal' (Bignoniaceae). West Texas to California, Mexico. A number of lovely blooms from desert trees were displayed by Rancho Santa Ana including this desert willow. A cold-hardy, deciduous, large shrub or small tree, this selection is denser and more compact than most, growing to about 10 feet tall. The clusters of ruffled, orchid-like flowers are bi-colored lavender and deep wine red. (Bart O'Brien)

*Clerodendrum thomsoniae* (Lamiaceae). Bleeding Heart Glorybower. Tropical West Africa. You can't confuse the flowers of this Lamiaceae with any other. From white, bell-shaped calyxes come bright scarlet flowers, hence the common name. This vining shrub seldom gets taller than 6 feet in the Los Angeles area, though in the wild it mounds up to 18 feet. Best in light shade, but needs inland heat to bloom well. (Armando Flores)

*Epiphyllum* 'Humdinger' (Cactaceae). Orchid Cactus. A recently introduced large-flowered variety from Rainbow Gardens with good, intense yellow flowers (and no red sepals). Yellows are not common and more than a few members were heard to exclaim over this one. (Dave Verity)

*Eriogonum fastigatum* (Polygonaceae). Baja California. The native buckwheats are an under-appreciated group, responsible for much of the color seen in the chaparral, though the color usually comes from the foliage or the dried seed heads which assume all sorts of autumny shades as summer progresses. The flowers are attractive to many insects and the foliage is food for the larvae of a number of small butterflies, including blues. This particular species is a dink, unusually small, growing into a tidy foot-around ball, suitable for a rock garden. The plant on display was covered in small white flowers. (B. O'B.)

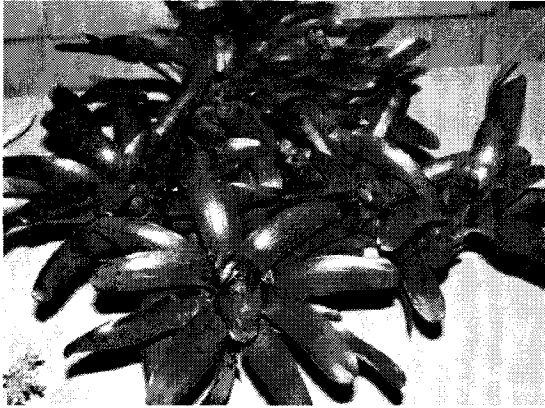
*Mimulus aurantiacus* cultivars (*Diplacus*) (Veronicaceae). California. Bush monkey flower. While at UCLA, Dave Verity hybridized hundreds of monkey flowers (growing out over 4,000 in one year) trying to get reliable color strains that could be seed-grown. Many of these plants ended up at UC Riverside and derivatives continue to appear, including several of those on display. One thing Dave never got around to was selecting for garden endurance, so these woody perennials tend to be short-lived in the garden. They grow 1-4 feet tall with dark green leaves that are sometimes sticky. Lipped, funnel-shaped flowers in many colors. A good purple, an odd magenta-pink (curiously named 'It's a Girl'), a fine orange ('Pumpkin') and a pink were displayed. Plants need full sun but little water. Grow great on slopes. (B. O'B.)



*Monardella*

*Monardella purpurea* (Lamiaceae). California. Kissing cousins to the salvias, this minty perennial is native to dry open slopes in yellow pine forests. It is considered "durable" by some, who have plants in the ground that are 10 years old. Another boon: It attracts butterflies. Plant is 4-6 inches tall, even with flowers, it stays under a foot. Flowers are purplish as the name implies. (B. O'B.)

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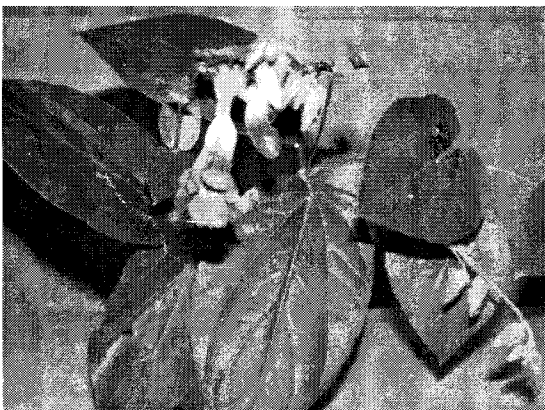
*Neoregelia* 'Hoja Rojo'

The following plants were also shown but are not described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*:

*Chilopsis linearis* 'Bubba'  
*C. l.* 'Lois Adams'  
*C. l.* 'Mesquite Valley Pink'  
*Malesherbia paniculata*  
*Mimulus* 'It's A Girl!'  
*Parkinsidium* 'Desert Museum'  
*Podocarpus totara*  
*Salvia disjuncta*  
*Tecoma sambucifolia*

The identity of the following could not be completely ascertained:

*Lachenalia* sp.  
*Gasteria* sp.



*Thunbergia battiamei*

*Neoregelia* 'Hoja Rojo' (Bromeliaceae). Brazil. Colorful epiphytic bromeliads that are easily grown on the ground if drainage is quick. They're known for the colorful leaves, which form cups in which the small flowers bloom. Spread to make big candelabras of individuals. This plant was in a pot and was 4 feet across. Along the coast, most need full sun to be their most colorful. (Dave Verity).

*Pitcairnia multiracemosa* (Bromeliaceae). Bolivia. A terrestrial bromeliad that makes clumps of long leaves that look like drying grass. But don't walk bare foot though this grass since several long thorns are hidden near the slightly bulbous base. The tubular flowers are a spectacular rosy orange on 24 inch spikes and attract hummingbirds. In his Arcadia garden, Bob grows his under 50 percent shade cloth and the pots are kept quite moist because they sit in a inch of standing water. He grows them in cactus or cymbidium mixes, preferring the cymbidium bark. (Bob Wright)

*Poliomintha bustamanta* (*P. longiflora*) (Lamiaceae). Mexico. Mexican oregano. Described by the exhibitor as "quite petite and pretty," they also mention that it is not too spreading. Flowers are long, narrow, lavender tubes so attract hummingbirds; leaves small and dark green, smell and taste like oregano. Used in cooking. Needs: full sun and some water, but comes from quite arid regions; light shade in hottest desert areas. (Kerry Morris)

*Salvia canariensis* (Lamiaceae). Canary Islands. A towering sage for the barely watered or unwatered part of the garden and one of the most dramatic—this one can be seen from well down the block. After a year or two in the garden, flower spikes get 6-8 feet tall with numerous side spikes. Lavender flowers emerge from large, rosy-purple calyxes and these last for months after the flowers have faded giving the impression that the bush is still in bloom. Leaves are equally dramatic, large (6 inch) and gray, turning to near white in the hot sun of summer. Of course the taller they bloom, the harder they fall, and the plant must be cut back to an untidy 2-3 foot mass of twigs and leaves in late summer. Try not to cut into really thick wood or it may not rebound in spring. Needs replacing after about 5 years. Chris said that birds love the seeds and that in Sherman Oaks it needs some water, though near the coast, it survives on rainfall. (Chris Meyer)

*Thunbergia battiamei* (Acanthaceae). Tropical East Africa. A lax perennial that grows and flowers in shade. The plant exhibited grows at the base of a very old maple in partial shade in Northridge, completely disappearing in winter. It is 2-3 feet high and the clump increases in size over the years, to 8 feet according to the society's *Selected Plants*. Dark violet-blue trumpet-shaped flowers appear along the stems, among oval 4-inch leaves. (Ralph & Barbara Crane)

edited by Robert Smaus