



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## GREEN SHEET

## JANUARY 2003 PLANT FORUM NOTES

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

*Aloe ciliaris*  
*Arctostaphylos* 'Lester Rowntree'  
*Calliandra eriophylla*  
*Citrus limon* 'Ponderosa'  
*Grevillea* 'Noelii'  
*Hardenbergia violacea*  
*Iris unguicularis*  
*Lachenalia aloides* (two types)  
*Lachenalia bulbifera*  
*Lupinus succulentus*  
*Salvia munzii*, and  
*Tabebuia impetiginosa* 'Pink Cloud'

The identity of the following could not be completely ascertained:

*Callistemon* sp., *Camellia* spp.,  
*Crataegus* sp., *Lathyrus* sp., *Magnolia*  
sp., *Narcissus* sp., and *Scadoxus* sp.

Thank you to all that brought plants to the January meeting! All are encouraged to bring in plants to share with the group. Remember that you do get one free "exhibitor's ticket" for the plant raffle if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the forum table.

*Aloe barbertoniae* (Asphodelaceae). South Africa, Eastern Transvaal. No common name. Plants produce stemless suckering rosettes up to 3 feet wide and (after six years) are only 8 inches tall. This plant has produced up to three 5 foot tall inflorescences per rosette. Flowers are widely spaced along the stems. Foliage is heavily mottled and the margins are edged with sharp teeth. Elizabeth also notes that this plant is very showy and is an early bloomer. Her plant was raised from seed from the Jardin Exotique in Monaco and bloomed in its third year. (Elizabeth Stromme)

*Arctostaphylos* 'White Lanterns' (Ericaceae). Garden hybrid, originating at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, selected by Dara Emery. This selection is often slow growing, but may ultimately reach 6 feet or more in height, with a greater spread. For a manzanita, this plant is rather adaptable growing in full sun or bright partial shade. It is one of the heaviest blooming manzanitas, only 'Howard McMinn', 'Bert Johnson', and 'Big Sur' regularly exceed its bounty. 'White Lanterns' is also less stringent about watering and drainage – it prefers well-drained soils and is drought tolerant when established, but it is adaptable to heavier soils and some summer water. As with all manzanitas, watch for manzanita branch dieback – caused by a fungal pathogen – and remove and destroy affected stems at least four inches into healthy tissue. As its name suggests, the flowers are pure white. (Elizabeth Stromme)



*Hypocalymma angustifolium*,  
*Lathyrus* sp. and *Narcissus* sp.

*Hypocalymma angustifolium* (Myrtaceae). Western Australia. The small flowers appear in profusion along the stems, each emerging white and fading to pink. The needle-like, green foliage gives the plant a pleasing fine texture. This winter-blooming, evergreen shrub may reach 3 feet tall and 7 feet wide. Jane mentioned that the plants prefer sun, good drainage, and no fertilizer. This plant was introduced into California by the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum. Elliot & Jones note that the plant prefers partial shade, though it will tolerate full sun. They also mention that this species is used commercially for cut flowers, and that the plants respond well to pruning and may even be hedged. (Jane Coogan Beer)

*Passiflora complanata* (Passifloraceae). Mexico, Oaxaca state. Flat Stem Passionflower. Jorge mentioned that this plant name has yet to be published; it is a new species described by J. M. MacDougal. This vine has flattened stems and may reach heights of 20 feet or more. Plants may be grown in full sun (near the coast) or in partial shade. High humidity is preferred, though high heat should be avoided. (Jorge Ochoa)

*Salvia* 'Gayle Nielson' (Lamiaceae). Garden hybrid, originating in Tucson, Arizona; reportedly between *S. clevelandii*, *S. dorrii*, and *S. mohavensis*. This plant greatly resembles *Salvia dorrii*: small, thickened, gray leaves, deep lavender-blue flowers in small whorl-like clusters along 1 to 2 foot long inflorescences. Unlike *Salvia dorrii*, this sage typically blooms in the winter. Plants get woody quickly, and since they do not respond well to pruning into old wood, they need to be pinched regularly during the growing season and lightly pruned in fall. Mature plants are typically taller than wide, and may reach 4 feet tall. Plants perform best in full sun and in well-drained soil. Overwatered plants will be floppy. This, along with *S. chionoeplica* and *S. munzii* are the earliest blooming "Californian" sages. (Chris Meyer)



*Salvia involucrata*  
× *Salvia karwinskii*

*Salvia involucrata* × *Salvia karwinskii*. (Lamiaceae). No common name. Garden hybrid, originating at U.C. Berkeley Botanical Gardens and selected by Martin Grantham. This large plant may reach from 4 to 8 feet tall, and is often at its best growing into and through other large woody shrubs that will support this sage's long stems. In our area, this vigorous hybrid blooms from late fall through the winter, though gardens further to the north do not see the large pink flowers every year because this plant is frost tender. (Established plants regularly survive frost damage and recover from the roots.) Plants prefer rich, well-drained soils and regular watering. Full sun near the coast, partial shade inland. It is unfortunate that this plant has not been named, as it is widely grown in California. (Note: shown as *S. karwinskii* × *S. puberula*.) (Chris Meyer)

*Ajuga reptans* 'Catlin's Giant' (Lamiaceae). Selected from Jack Catlin's garden. This useful evergreen perennial groundcover spreads by runners and has shiny bronzed leaves and 6 to 8 inch spikes of large deep-blue flowers. Foliage is attractive throughout the year, and the winter-to-spring flowers are an added bonus. Plants may be grown in sun or in shade. Plants are easy to grow and require moderate amounts of water. The Cranes note that snails and slugs usually leave this plant alone. (Barbara & Ralph Crane)



*Ajuga reptans*  
'Catlin's Giant'

— Edited by Bart O'Brien

