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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

MARCH 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:

Allium triquetrum
Cestrum aurantiacum
Clarkia unguiculata
Crotalaria agatiflora
Psoralea pinnata
Spirea prunifolia
Veltheimia bracteata
Wisteria floribunda

Thanks to all those who brought in examples of plants blooming in late winter or early spring, March being a little of both. 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.

Dendrobium 'Delicatum' (Orchidaceae). Australia. A hybrid of *Dendrobium kingianum*, one of the easier orchids hardy outside in much of Southern California. While the species is under a foot tall with small, 1/2-inch, deep magenta-purple flowers, this one is about twice as tall with stalks of slightly larger white flowers. (David Verity)



Disocactus macranthus (Cactaceae). Southern Mexico. Similar to *Epiphyllum* or orchid cactus but with dainty, powerfully fragrant white flowers that are 3 inches across and are the color of old lace. Leaves can be up to 3 feet long. It is reportedly hardy, "at least along the coast." (David Verity)

Dracunculus vulgaris (Araceae). Dragon Arum, Stink Lily. Because of the smell and other family resemblances, people often think they have their own *Amorphophallus titanum* or "corpse flower" in bloom, but this arum flower is not nearly as large, though the spathe can get to 8–12 inches long and it does smell awful. (Steve Gerischer)

Iris 'Oxymoron' (Iridaceae). One of the Pacific Coast iris hybrids by Joseph J. Ghio of Bay View Gardens in Santa Cruz, it has large, rust-colored blooms intricately veined. Clumps of narrow iris foliage grow about a foot tall, enlarging slowly to 2–3 feet. Pacific Coast iris prefer full sun near the coast and shade inland. (Rancho Santa Ana, Bart O'Brien)

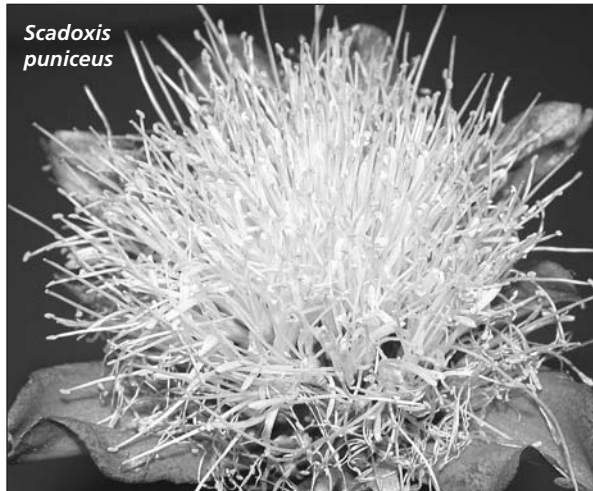
Justicia rizzinii (Acanthaceae). Brazilian fuchsia. A soft shrub 3 feet tall by up to 5 feet wide, requiring shade inland, tolerating it on the coast as long as it is not too dark. Thrives in the open shade of tall trees where it is a very useful and reliable flowering shrub. Inch-long, medium green leaves with yellow and orange flowers that look like Kandy Korn. Blooms in waves from October through March. This one came from the Cal State Northridge Botanic Garden. (Brenda Kanno)





Lonicera syringantha 'Grandiflora' (Caprifoliaceae). China. Shirley Kerins found these plants for the Huntington sale, which has a theme of fragrance this year. The clusters of bugle-like flowers are powerfully fragrant, almost overwhelming in an enclosed space. They are white shading to lavender at the base. Leaves are an inch long and the arching stems are said to make a tough and easy shrub that grows six feet wide by tall. (Bob Smaus)

Salvia henryi (Lamiaceae). Crimson sage, Henry's sage. SW United States and Chihuahua, Mexico. A small perennial growing 18 inches tall by a foot wide with medium-sized, slightly gray, serrated leaves and spikes of smallish fiery red blooms. Likes sun, little water and is "happy so far" in a clay soil in Sherman Oaks. (Chris Meyer)



Scadoxys puniceus (Amaryllidaceae). Blood Lily. This odd South African bulb has wavy, 1-inch wide strap leaves and bristly flowers on the ends of thick foot-high stalks that resemble an artist's brush, hence the other common name of Natal paintbrush. Flowers are usually scarlet but these were white. (Eileen Fiumara)

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

- Cryptomeria japonica* 'Compressa'
- Iris* 'Extra Credit'
- Lotus grandiflorus*
- Passiflora actinia*
- P. triloba*

— Edited by Robert Smaus
Photos by Joe Brosius



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