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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

MAY 2003 PLANT FORUM NOTES



Lotus dendroideus var. *dendroideus*

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

Adenium obesum
Alberta magna
Calochortus clavatus
Castilleja exserta (= *Orthocarpus purpurascens*)
Deppea splendens
Erysimum menziesii var. *concinnum*,
Euphorbia tirucalli
Holmskioldia sanguinea
Iris foetidissima
Iris germanica – hybrids
Justicia leonardii
Salvia apiana
Salvia splendens 'Van Houttei'
Salvia 'Waverly'
Streptosolen jamesonii
Verticordia plumosa

Thank you to all that brought plants to the May 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.

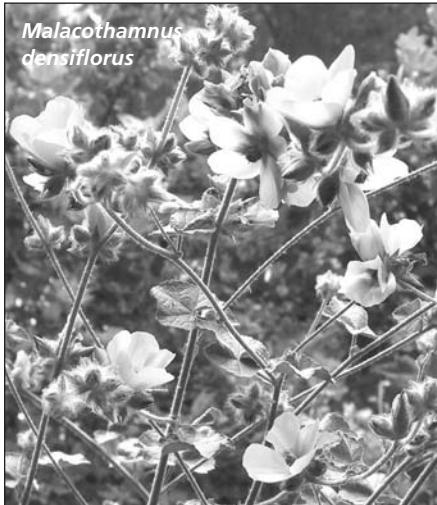
Citriobatus spinescens – shown as *C. pauciflorus* – (Pittosporaceae). Australia: Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory. Australian Orange. This evergreen shrub is full of spines. Quarter-inch wide white flowers appear in the leaf axils in spring and are followed by attractive 1 inch round orange fruits. Plants require regular watering during dry weather. Elliot & Jones recommend this plant as a groundcover or shrub for shady areas. The genus *Citriobatus* is restricted to Australia with a single species ranging into Malaysia. (Jim Jaeger)

Lotus dendroideus var. *dendroideus* (Fabaceae). California: Channel Islands (except for San Miguel Island which has *L. d.* var. *veatchii* and San Clemente Island which has *L. d.* var. *traskiae*). Island Lotus. In many regards, this species is the island version of the common deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*). Plants may reach up to 6 feet tall and typically have an equal spread. Stems and leaves are green. Inflorescences appear from winter until summer and are composed of 3 to 10, small, yellow, pea-like flowers. The plant is a favorite food of rabbits, ground squirrels, etc. Plants are fast growing and prefer full sun to light shade. (Trish Meyer)

Lotus grandiflorus (Fabaceae). Widespread in California and northwestern Baja California, Mexico. No common name. This is a particularly variable species: plants may behave as perennials or shrubs and may be hairy or glabrous, decumbent to erect, with flowers varying from greenish white to yellow. Inflorescences are composed of from 3 to 9 small pea-like flowers. Joan notes that her plant is 8 to 10 inches tall, blooms in the spring, is grown in full sun and is drought tolerant. (Joan Seidel)



Lotus grandiflorus



The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained:

Crinum sp.

Cuphea sp.

Euphorbia sp.

and a plant that stumped everyone.

A freshly ripened pumpkin was also shown – this could have been any of the following species: *Cucurbita maxima*, *C. moschata*, *C. pepo* or it could have been a hybrid.

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

Calochortus venustus f. *sanguineus*

Chrysanthemum coronarium

Dichelostemma volubile

Holmskioldia sanguinea f. *citrina*

(shown as *H. s. aurea*)

Indigofera dosua

Prunus serrula

Salvia judaica

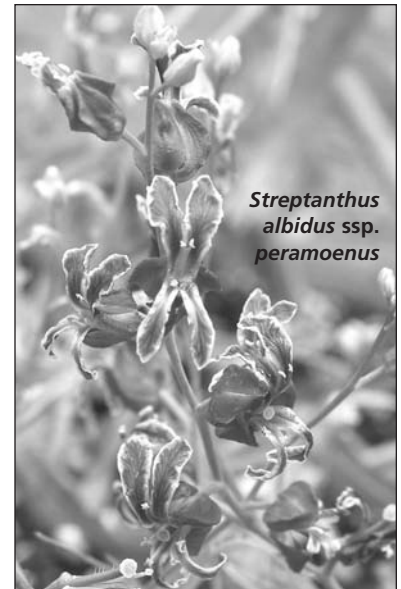
Trichostema lanatum 'Fremont Peak'

Lotus maculatus 'New Gold Flash' (Fabaceae). Canary Islands. New Gold Flash Lotus. This evergreen, low-growing perennial may reach up to one foot tall and spreads to two feet or more. The golden yellow flowers are marked with orange along the margins. Grey-green leaves are finely divided into narrow segments that are more or less succulent. The typical species requires cool nights to bloom well, but *Sunset* notes that this selection (as well as 'Amazon Sunset') will bloom even when grown in areas with warm night temperatures. Joan notes that her partially shaded plant blooms from April until July, and recommends keeping the soil moist as the plant will not recover from drying out. (Joan Seidel).

Malacothamnus densiflorus (Malvaceae). California: Peninsular Ranges to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. No common name. This is one of the easier species of *Malacothamnus* to accommodate in a garden due to its small size and profuse flowering. Plants reach 2 to 3 feet tall (slightly taller when in flower) and form colonies via underground runners. Wands of drab white to showy deep rosy pink flowers are freely produced from spring to summer. This species is an excellent choice for a dry hillside, where its spreading habit is a desirable aid to erosion control. (Chris Meyer)

Rosa 'Chihuly' (Rosaceae). Hybrid origin. Chihuly Rose. This is a new rose scheduled for introduction by Weeks Roses in 2004. It is named for the famous glass artist, Dale Chihuly. Apparently he had wanted a turquoise colored rose, but this beautiful selection is a complex blend of salmon and yellows. (Matt Dell)

Streptanthus albidus ssp. *peramoenus* (Brassicaceae). California: Santa Clara County. Most Beautiful Jewelflower. California is richly endowed with beautiful annuals, and this one is unfamiliar to most gardeners. Sow seeds in the fall in the same fashion as other commonly grown native annuals. Plants will grow from 6 inches to 2 feet tall. Inflorescences are from 3 to 12 inches in length and carry numerous magenta-pink flowers that are outlined with white. Individually, the four-petaled flowers are not especially showy or large, as they are overwhelmed by quarter-inch wide swollen magenta calyces that certainly attract attention. This plant is rather rare in the wild, but is easily grown in most gardens. Plants prefer good drainage and sun to light shade. Trish reports that a ground squirrel devoured the seedlings in early spring; while the plants later recovered inside the greenhouse, they remained small. The flowers were also not as richly colored as they would have been if grown outdoors. (Trish Meyer)



— Edited by Bart O'Brien
Photos by Chris and Trish Meyer



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