



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## GREEN SHEET

## OCTOBER 2003 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Thank you to all that brought plants to the October, 2003 meeting – it was a great display of early fall blooming plants! 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!



*Datura wrightii*

*Alyogyne cuneiformis* (Malvaceae). No common name. Australia: Western Australia. Evergreen shrub. This plant grows from 3 to 8 feet tall and spreads from 2 to 6 feet wide. The showy 2 to 3 inch long flowers are more or less tubular in shape and are white with a dark red spot at the base. Leaves are thick, wedge-shaped, and 1 to 2 inches long. Plants will not tolerate significant frost or waterlogged soils. Grow this plant in well-drained soil in coastal or warm gardens. (Vivian Pulliam)

*Datura wrightii* (Solanaceae). Sacred Datura or Jimson Weed. From California east to Utah and Texas, south to Mexico. Herbaceous perennial, frequently grown as an annual. Spectacular white- to pale-lavender, funnel-shaped flowers explode into bloom early in the evening and fade by early morning. Flowers are fragrant and are pollinated by hawk moths. Foliage is dark gray-green. Plants may reach from 1 to 3 feet tall and usually spread wider. Seeds are freely produced and the plant can

become a pest in some gardens. Cucumber beetles (these look like green ladybugs) frequently attack the foliage and flowers. All parts of this plant are poisonous! (Tim Evans)

*Mimosa polycarpa* var. *spgazzinii* (Fabaceae). Sensitive Plant. South America. Evergreen shrub. At the Huntington this plant reaches 3 feet by 3 feet and has pale pink powder-puff flowers. However, in the wild this thorny plant grows up to 10 feet tall! Flowers may vary in color from pink to lilac and are about an inch across. The botanical variety *spgazzinii* has smaller leaflets that are “minutely downy.” Sensitive Plant is notable for the movement of its leaves – it seemingly wilts when touched or when subjected to rapid drop in temperature or air pressure – “maximum sensitivity is displayed at temperatures between 77 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit.” This species is noted as “taller and coarser” than the more familiar “Sensitive Plant” *M. pudica* (usually grown as an annual in our area). The genus name *Mimosa* means mimic – referring to its animated leaves that “resemble animals in their sensitivity.” Quotes in this description are from the RHS Dictionary. (Jim Jaeger / Huntington Botanical Gardens)

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

*Camptotheca acuminata*  
*Castanospermum australe*  
*Elaeagnus pungens*  
*Erythrina crista-galli*  
*Farfugium japonicum*  
*Galphimia glauca*  
*Hydrangea quercifolia*  
*Justicia aurea*  
*Nertera granadensis*  
*Salvia cacaliaefolia*  
*Tillandsia cyanea*  
*Urginea maritima*



Salvia flava

*Psilostrophe tagetina* (Asteraceae). Paper Flower or Paper Daisy. Eastern Arizona to western Texas and south to Mexico. Perennial subshrub. This low growing spreading plant may reach 12 inches tall and up to 2 feet wide. Yellow daisy flowers appear throughout summer and fall. These turn amber-colored to whitish and develop a papery texture and last for months. Plants need full sun and hot, dry locations for best results in our area. Reportedly poisonous to grazing sheep. (Ralph & Barbara Crane)

*Salvia flava* (Lamiaceae). Chinese Sage. China: Yunnan. Winter deciduous herbaceous perennial. Plants develop a thick rosette of dark green attractive leaves. When in bloom during the fall months the plant may reach from 1 to 3 feet in height and will spread from 1 to 2 feet wide. Flowers are rather small, but are showy: canary yellow with a maroon lower lip. The exterior of the flower is covered with fine white hairs. As with many of the Asian *Salvia* species, this plant is adapted to partial shade to shady conditions. Plants will need regular watering throughout the growing season in most of the Los Angeles region. (Chris Meyer)



Salvia oppositiflora

*Salvia oppositiflora* (Lamiaceae). Peruvian Salmon Sage. Peru. Perennial / Subshrub. Flowers are generally produced in pairs and are, to quote Betsy Clebsch, “a soft and mellow orange-red.” The flowers are attractive to hummingbirds. This sprawling sage is best grown amongst other plants where it will be supported. Plants vary in size from 2 to 4 feet tall and are equally wide. In our region, this plant is best grown in partial shade and will require regular watering and fertilizing. This species is normally considered tender, so wait until early spring to cut it back. (Chris Meyer)

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

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

- *Lycianthes* sp. – orange hairs, especially notable on stems and new growth, cover all parts of this mounding 4' x 4' shrub with white flowers from John Bleck in 1992 (Jim Jaeger / Huntington Botanical Gardens);
- *Pedilanthus* sp. – with small leaves and relatively thin somewhat sprawling stems about 1 foot long (Joel Lichterwalter).

