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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## GREEN SHEET

## JANUARY 2004 PLANT FORUM NOTES

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

*Arctostaphylos* 'Lester Rowntree'  
*Camellia japonica* 'Guilio Nuccio'  
*Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide'  
*Erythrina* × *sykesii*  
*Guzmania lingulata* (red)  
*Guzmania lingulata* (yellow)  
*Harpullia arborea*  
*Kalanchoe manginii* – hybrid  
*Lachenalia aloides*  
*Lachenalia reflexa*  
*Moraea polystachya*  
*Neoregelia caroliniae* var. *tricolor*  
*Reinwardtia indica*  
*Salvia brandegei*  
*Senna* (*Cassia*) *purpusii*  
*Teucrium fruticans* 'Azureum'  
*Tillandsia cyanea*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the January 2004 meeting. Everyone is 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!

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

*Camellia sasanqua* 'Apple Blossom' (Theaceae). Apple Blossom Camellia. Evergreen shrub. This cultivar has a spreading growth habit. Flower buds are pink. The white flowers are irregularly blushed pink toward the tips. (Joan Citron)

*Eremophila oppositifolia* (Myoporaceae). Weeooka or Twin-leaf Emu-bush. Australia: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia. Evergreen shrub growing 5 to 13 feet tall and 3 to 10 feet wide. The gray-green leaves are terete or linear in outline and have a pointed or hooked tip. Tubular flowers are 1 (?) inch long, and are cream-colored with pinkish toning. The white to lime-green calyces are long lasting and attractive. Plants are adapted to a wide range of soils and to low rainfall. Plants prefer full sun, but tolerate partial shade in hot areas. Established plants are drought tolerant, and respond well to pruning. Joan notes that she received this plant from the SCHS raffle table in November 1999 (plants provided by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden). The plant is still very small, less than 2 feet by 2 feet. (Joan Citron)

*Euphorbia milii* 'Helena' (Euphorbiaceae). Helena Crown of Thorns. Deciduous shrub. This cultivar has large greenish-cream colored bracts. (Joyce Wolf)

*Hebe hulkeana* 'Lena' (Veronicaceae). Lena New Zealand Lilac. New Zealand: South Island. Evergreen shrub growing to 2 feet high on banks and rocky bluffs from sea level to 3,000 feet. Unlike most hebes grown in California, this species has coarsely serrated leaf margins. The leaf margins are often reddish. The elliptic leaves are glossy and dark green. Lavender flowers are produced in broad branched terminal clusters that are 2 to 5 inches long and are held aloft by stalks up to 4 inches in length. Plants should be grown in well-drained soil. Full sun near the coast, partial shade is likely preferred inland. In New Zealand, it is noted as growing best in dry areas. No information was found about the cultivar 'Lena', though sources note that this species is quite variable and that only the "better" forms are garden worthy. (Jim Jaeger / Huntington Botanical Garden)

*Ipomoea batatas* 'Marguerite' (Convolvulaceae). Marguerite Sweet Potato. Deciduous perennial. This cultivar has pale yellow to chartreuse colored foliage. Linda was quite surprised to find this enormous tuber (about two feet long with an estimated weight of five pounds) in her front yard's border. She had planted this specimen from a 4-inch pot last spring. In warmer parts



Three succulent hybrids: *Aloe albiflora* × *Aloe ferox*, *Aloe descoingsii* × *Aloe marlothii*, *Aloe descoingsii* × *Gasteria glomerata*, were shown by their creator. All these plants are growing outdoors in 4 to 5 hours of full sunlight. All were flowering and are about 3 years old. (Jim Gardner)



of our area, these plants are truly perennial. In colder areas the tubers rot during the winter months. (Linda Pomerance)

*Iris unguicularis* 'Walter Butt' (Iridaceae). Walter Butt Winter Blooming Iris. Evergreen perennial. This cultivar has larger, pale lavender flowers. Cathy also showed the "Crete form" that has dark flowers and narrower leaves. All forms of this iris are great long-lived, drought tolerant perennials for our region. Cathy noted that she cuts back the foliage in fall so the short-stemmed flowers aren't too hidden by the foliage. (Cathy Ratner)



*Lewisia* 'Plum Wine' (Portulacaceae). Plum Wine *Lewisia*. Evergreen perennial. This is a seed strain, featuring pinkish flowers and narrow bright green succulent leaves. Jim had purchased this plant at Trader Joe's. (Jim Jaeger)



*Salvia curtiflora* (Lamiaceae). No common name. Guatemala. Evergreen shrubby perennial. One of the larger sages, this plant may reach 10 feet tall and because of its floppy stems may be equally wide spreading. The plant was originally described by Carl Epling in 1939, from specimens collected around 8,000 feet elevation. Leaf blades are mid green and may reach 3 to 4 inches long with petioles from 1/2 to 2 inches long. The red to red-purple, tubular flowers are about an inch long and are carried in clusters of six or more. Plants will need regular watering (Chris noted that he waters his on a weekly basis on a clay soil on a north-facing slope), and prefer partial shade. His plant is already 6 to 8 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide. He suggests that it is a great background plant with colorful winter blossoms. (Chris Meyer)

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: *Begonia* sp., and *Vriesea* sp.

*Tillandsia gardneri* (Bromeliaceae). No common name. Venezuela, Trinidad, Colombia, and Brazil. A very variable species. Rosettes may reach 6 to 10 inches across. The leaves are densely covered with scales such that the leaves appear white. Flowers are pink to red and appear in dense inflorescences that are arching or nodding. The species was originally described in 1842. (Doug Woodfill)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien  
Photos by Joe Brosius

