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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

## GREEN SHEET

## APRIL 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:

*Bartlettina sordida*

*Callistemon citrinus* 'Jeffersii'

*Callistemon pachyphyllum* var. *viridis*

*Clivia miniata*- Two forms of yellow clivia were brought in showing very different flower forms and plant sizes. One was large with rounded petals, the other smaller and with more star-shaped petals.

*Crassula perforata*

*Dalea bicolor* var. *orcuttiana*

*Fabiana imbricata*

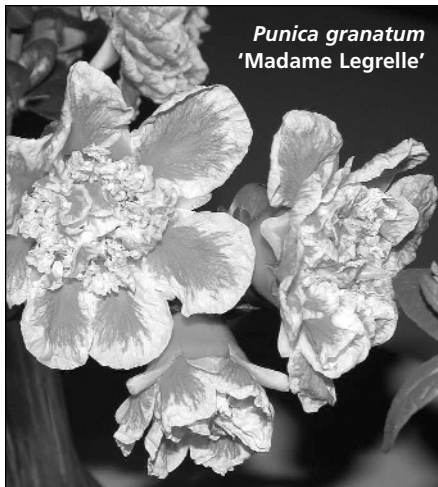
*Pachypodium bispinosum*

*Rhigozum obovatum*

*Salvia carduacea*

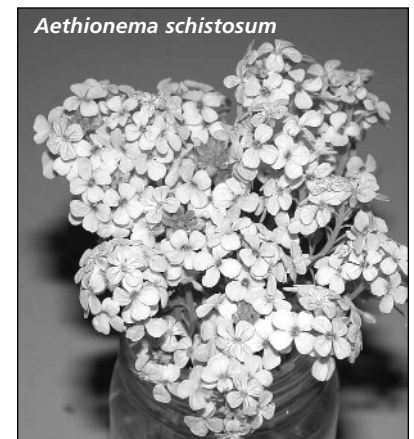
*Sphaeralcea ambigua*

*S. a.* 'Louis Hamilton'



Thank you to everyone who brought in plants to the April 2004 meeting. It was a great showing! 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!

*Aethionema schistosum* (Brassicaceae / Cruciferae). Stonecress. Native to Turkey. Small perennial herb from 5–10 inches high. Foliage is blue green and the flowers are a cool silvery pink. Grow in sun or, in inland valleys, with afternoon shade. Very drought tolerant. I find these plants do better if I can get their roots under a rock or something to help keep them cool. The more commonly seen member of this genus is *A.* 'Warley Rose'. It is coarser in texture than *A. schistosum*. (Elizabeth Stromme)



*Centaurea bella* (Asteraceae). Native to the Caucasus. Evergreen, clump-forming, herbaceous perennial with soft gray, feathery foliage and lavender pink flowers. The foliage is about 6 inches tall and the flowers about 10–12 inches. It prefers sun, good soil and water. The flowers resemble "Bachelor Buttons" in shape, another member of this genus. Plant where it can be seen up close as the delicacy will be lost in the larger border. (Cathy Ratner)



*Justicia betonica* (Acanthaceae). Brought in as *Justicia?*. White Shrimp Plant. Native to Asia and tropical Africa. Like most justicias, it is a lax growing shrub, almost more perennial than shrub. The foliage is mid green and the leaves are about 2-1/2 inches long and elliptic in shape. This species is grown for the white bracts with green veining and the pale lavender flowers. Needs regular water and should be pruned after blooming to help make the branches more self-supporting. (K. Brown)

*Punica granatum* 'Madame Legrelle' (Punicaceae). Pomegranate. Garden origin. Deciduous shrub to small tree. Flowers on this variety very large, double, creamy white with orange stripes. Pomegranates are of Mediterranean origin and so thrive in our climate without much care or supplemental water. They do need sun. The growth tends to be very angular and awkward

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

*Ceanothus* sp.

*Cuphea* (Hodel-Purificacion)  
Tamaulipas, Mexico)

*Hippeastrum* hybrid

*Pelargonium sidoides* ?

*Peperomia* sp. (brought in as an  
unidentified plant)

*Pilea* sp. (brought in as an  
unidentified plant)

*Pleisopilos bolisii* (?)

*Viola* sp. (brought in as *V. adunca*)



*Salvia africana-lutea*

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

*Calochortus amoenus*

*C. amabilis*

*C. uniflorus*

*Cuphea* 'Starfire'

*Echium hierrense*

*Fumaria officinalis*

*Geranium* 'Cheryl's Shadow'

*Lepismium bolivianum*

*Mimulus* Verity's hybrid

*Oxalis pes-caprae* 'Flore Pleno'

*Passiflora cuprea*

*Pitcairnia* 'Pinot Noir'

*Salvia interrupta*

*Salvia plectranthoides*

*Sphaeralcea ambigua* 'Papago Pink'

*Tropaeolum azureum*

to prune. The branches end with a spine, making pruning even more interesting. Removing dead wood and branches that are rubbing together is about all that is really needed. They can be trained, informally, against a wall. Because this variety has modified stamens (the extra petals), it is not a good one to choose for fruit production. (Steve Morgan/ UCR Botanic Garden)

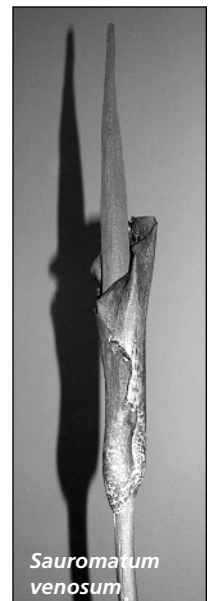
*Rosa chinensis* 'Viridiflora' (Rosaceae). Green Rose. Garden origin in China. Shrub to 3 feet tall and 2 to 2-1/2 ft wide. This mutant form has been grown as a curiosity more than anything else since its introduction from China into Europe in the 1800s. The green "petals" are really bracts. It is sterile. When in full bloom most people might walk by and not notice but when the 2 inch wide flowers are cut and arranged they can be quite showy. This specimen was shown with a spray of a very dark form, almost black, of *Pelargonium sidoides*, although there was some question as to this identity, it made a very handsome pairing. (K. Brown)

*Salvia africana-lutea* (Lamiaceae). Native to South Africa. Shrubby perennial herb to 8 feet tall although usually around 4–5 ft. Blooms spring and into summer with dull orange-ish flowers. The sample shown had dropped the flowers and only the rust colored calyxes were left. The foliage is a woolly gray green. The Cranes grow it in light soil and only water once a month in the summer. It will tolerate more water. (Ralph and Barbara Crane)

*Salvia cacaliaefolia* (Lamiaceae). Native to Chiapas, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala. Perennial herb 3–4 feet tall. Blooms spring through fall in Southern California. Flowers are blue and leaves are light green and deltoid shape. Needs good drainage and tolerates summer watering. Light afternoon shade preferred inland. This specimen was grown at South Coast Botanic Garden and displayed in a vase with white alstroemeria and a hybrid watsonia. (Dick Kohlschreiber)

*Sauromatum venosum* (formerly *S. guttatum*) (Araceae). Monarch of the East, Voodoo Lily, Red Calla. Native to Himalaya and Southern India. Tuberous perennial herb usually grown as a pot plant where it can be dried off when the foliage begins to die back in summer. Soil should be well drained and rich in humus. The flower is a spathe, about 12 inches long, green on the outside and dark maroon inside, blooming in spring. The foliage is mottled green with maroon spots, like a lizard it was named after. (Harold Vannatta)

*Wigandia caracasana* (Hydrophyllaceae). Native from Mexico to Colombia. Very robust, spreading herbaceous perennial to 10 feet tall. Striking lavender blue flowers borne in large terminal inflorescences make this an attractive plant. *Beware*: This plant is highly invasive and has gotten away into some of the local native chaparral. (Steve Morgan/ UC Riverside Botanic Garden)



*Sauromatum venosum*

— Edited by Mary Brosius

Photos by Joe Brosius



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