



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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GREEN SHEET

MAY 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:

Arthropodium cirrhatum
Chlorophytum orchidastrum
Colocasia
Dichlostemma 'Pink Diamond'
Drimiopsis maculata
Dudleya brittonii
Dudleya gnoma
Dyckia remotiflora
Eriogonum umbellatum v.
 polyanthum 'Shasta Sulphur'
Gasteria sp.
Kalanchoe
Limonium species
Limonium bellidifolium
Malacothamnus arcuatus 'Edgewood'
Salvia apiana
Salvia africana-lutea
Salvia clevelandii 'Winifred Gilman'



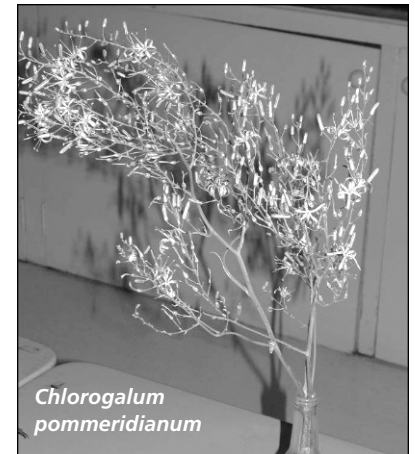
Salvia 'Desperado'

Thank you to all that brought plants to the May 2004 meeting – it was quite an eclectic collection! We were honored to have the forum table moderated by David Verity this month. Although many have already been described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*, there were still several new specimens, selections and hybrids shared. Everyone is encouraged each month 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 shown but are not described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*:

Chlorogalum pommeridianum (Liliaceae). Soap plant or Amole. Native from Southern California to Southern Oregon. This bulb has narrow, wavy, and waxy light green leaves to 2-1/2', and sends up a floriferous branched stem 2-10 feet tall, with small white flowers. Used by the Indians, Spanish, and American Settlers as soap for all sorts of washing jobs: bathing, shampoo and laundry. After baking the bulb, it can be used as a food source. The juice that oozes out during baking was used to glue feathers to arrows. Also, crushed bulbs were used to throw into dammed streams to stupefy and catch fish! (It is now illegal to use it for this purpose in California.) Easy to grow, drought tolerant and resistant, full sun. Can be grown in small spaces. (Sheldon Lisker)



Chlorogalum pommeridianum

Digitalis obscura (Scrophulariaceae). Willow-leaved foxglove. Native to Spain. Narrow leaved perennial 1-3' high and as wide with downward arching, tubular orange-red flowers. Form is erect to prostrate. (Joe Brosius/Magic Growers)

Salvia leucophylla × *apiana* 'Desperado' (Lamiaceae). Selected hybrid between California natives. This recent Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden introduction is considered to be one of the largest native sages. It can easily attain 6-8 feet high by 6-12 feet wide. Much branched pale gray foliage with numerous lavender whorled flowers. Bart O'Brien reports counting as many as 26 branches on one inflorescence! (Tim Evans)



Digitalis obscura



Sphaeralcea munroana hybrid

Salvia lanceolata (Lamiaceae). Native to South Africa. Multi-branched shrub 3 feet high by 2 to 4 feet wide. Gray lanceolate leaves with strikingly beautiful flowers ranging in color from pale pink to rosy brown. Often confused with *S. africana-lutea* as the foliage is similar; the secret is in the flower color: the latter's blooms emerge yellow and age to a rusty orange. Blooms May thru November. Full sun. Little to no water once established. (Dick Kohlsreiber)

Sphaeralcea munroana hybrid (Malvaceae). Chris has brought blooms from his *S. munroana* to the plant forum before, and did this night as well for comparison with one of a series of hybrids he has found interesting. The parent (a California native) is an upright perennial shrub, 3–5 feet high and 2–3 feet wide. It features gray-green leaves and orange flowers that have a slightly reddish tinge that bloom late spring to early summer. To his surprise, half the offspring from seed collected from this plant had flowers that showed influence from a Southwestern *S. fendleri* var. *venusta* in the same garden, which has dark pink blooms and a more basal habit with numerous tall, thin flowering spikes. Chris has selected out four color forms he found particularly interesting; the one he brought in was pale pink. Both parents as well as their offspring are drought tolerant and thrive in full sun through part shade. (Chris Meyer)



Trichostema lanatum 'Cuesta Ridge'

Trichostema species (Lamiaceae). Native to California. The flowers are tubular ranging from bright blue to rich purple in color, with exserted stamens. The inflorescence and stems are woolly with blue, pink, or whitish hairs, giving it the common name Woolly Blue Curls. These plants require full sun and excellent drainage. The lower elevation species (*T. lanatum*) have larger, more dense and woolly inflorescences than the higher elevation *T. parishii*. Early settlers made a liniment from the leaves to treat bruises and sore muscles.

Trichostema lanatum 'Cuesta Ridge'. A small selection with spikes of woolly, purplish-blue flowers. (Trish Meyer)



Trichostema parishii

Trichostema lanatum 'Fremont Peak'. Another smaller selection with extremely dense, velvety blue flowers. (Tim Evans)

Trichostema lanatum 'Susanna Bixby Bryant'. This recent RSABG introduction features a woolly white calyx which adds a nice frosting to the blue corollas. (Trish Meyer)

Trichostema parishii. This mountain species has a much smaller, more delicate bloom. The lower leaf surface is hairy, but not 'woolly' as are the lower elevation blue curls. Flowers are in loose clusters; not tightly packed as in others. (Trish Meyer)



Trichostema lanatum 'Susanna Bixby Bryant'

— Edited by Kerry Morris
Photos by Joe Brosius & Chris Meyer

