



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## GREEN SHEET

## JUNE 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:

*Centranthus ruber*  
*Hauya elegans*  
*Justicia leonardii*  
*Lathyrus odoratus* (purple seedling)  
*Pachypodium gayi*  
*Petrea volubilis*  
*Plumeria obtusa*  
*Plumeria rubra*  
*Prunus mume*  
*Stephanotis floribunda*  
*Tecoma stans*  
*Tecoma stans* (young seedling),  
and *Tecoma* 'Mystery Orange'  
(shown as *Tecoma shirensis*)

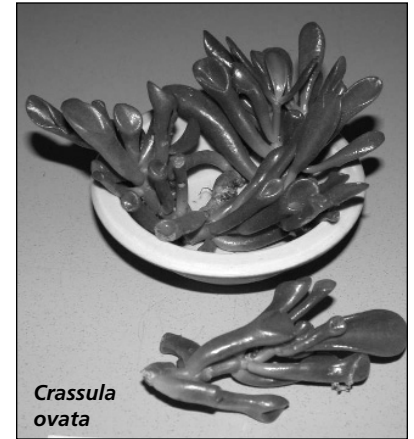


*American Lady emerges on Gnaphalium*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June 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 shown but are not described in the Society's *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens*:

*Crassula ovata* "Shrek" (aka: 'Hobbit') (Crassulaceae). Shrek-ears Jade Plant. Jack, always the prescient observer, notes that this plant should be renamed "Shrek" due to a case of amazing convergence: the oddly shaped leaves with suction-cup-like tips are identical to Shrek's ears. Though rules of botanical and horticultural nomenclature forbid such changes, it is a shrewd marketing suggestion to those inclined to do so! Plants are fast growing and make excellent container subjects. (Jack Catlin)



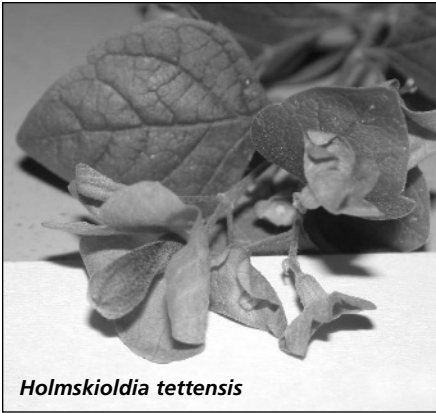
*Crassula ovata*

*Gnaphalium canescens* var. *microcephalum* (Asteraceae). Everlasting. From central coastal California to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Biennial or short-lived perennial. Plants may be pleasantly aromatic or not. Cathy grows it for its sprays of tiny flowers with shiny white bracts and just a touch of yellow in the center. She notes that it seeds around but that it has not been a pest. This plant is a host for the American Lady butterfly (watch for caterpillars building fluffy nests around branch tips, or chrysalises hanging near the base). Surprisingly, there are no *Gnaphalium* species in SCHS's *Selected Plants* book! (Cathy Ratner)

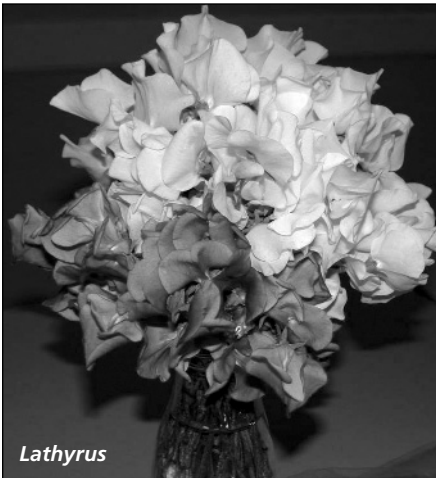
*Hebe* 'Midsummer Beauty' (Veronicaceae). Midsummer Beauty Hebe. Garden Hybrid from New Zealand. Plants will reach up to six feet tall and have purple new growth. This summer-blooming shrub has lilac-purple flowers that fade to white. (Dick Kohlschreiber – South Coast Botanic Garden)



*Hebe* 'Midsummer Beauty'



*Holmskioldia tettensis*



*Lathyrus*

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

- Dioon edule*
- Duranta erecta* 'Sapphire Showers'
- Malva sylvestris* (seedling of 'Primley Blue')
- Malva sylvestris* 'Primley Blue'
- Verbena peruviana* 'Aphrodite'

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

- Cuphea* sp.
- Epidendrum* – light pink
- Hibiscus syriacus* (a sport of 'Minerva')
- Plectranthus* "apiculata" – no plant of this name was found in our references

*Holmskioldia tettensis* (Verbenaceae). Chinese Hat Plant. Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi. Variable! Evergreen erect shrub, twiggy bush, or slender shrubby tree from 4 to about 15 feet tall. There are no spines on this species. Noted as very floriferous from spring to late summer, and "when in full bloom is one of the most conspicuous objects in the veld." Inflorescences are axillary at the tips of the branchlets. Corollas vary in color from lilac, bluish, or violet to purple, though white and yellow flowered specimens are known. The saucer- to hat-like calyces are showy for a long period and are pink. Plants make a crackling sound as they shoot their ripe seeds in summer. Leaves blades are distinctly toothed, deep green above, paler beneath and are evidently glandular pubescent. In the wild, these plants are found on steep hillsides on stony, rocky slopes and in open woodlands. The genus is named in honor of botanist Theodor Holmskjold of Denmark. There are about 20 taxa in this genus and they range from the Himalaya to Madagascar and central and southern Africa. (Jim Jaeger – The Huntington)

*Lathyrus odoratus* 'Mary Lou Heard' (Fabaceae) Mary Lou Heard Sweet Pea. Garden Hybrid. Named and introduced by Renee Shepherd as a tribute to gardener Mary Lou Heard. This seed clone was made available for only one year, with a portion of the sales proceeds benefitting the Mary Lou Heard Memorial Scholarship Fund. The large ruffled flowers are sweetly scented and are "glowing lilac-shaded." The plant is a strong grower and was blooming "at its peak two months ago." (Jill Vig)

*Lathyrus odoratus* 'Royal White Dove' (Fabaceae). Royal White Dove Sweet Pea. Garden Hybrid. A large white-flowered, nicely scented sweet pea. Jill noted that this one had been in bloom for a long time as well – and that these were seedlings that appeared around her garden from last year's plants. (Jill Vig)

*Teucrium betonicum* (Lamiaceae). No common name. Madeira Islands. Evergreen perennial/shrub. I've always been fond of this plant because of its ample soft pale dusky green leaves with crenate margins. Nothing else looks quite like it or has that distinctive foliage color. Plants are evergreen and reach two to three feet tall. The attractive violet-flowered inflorescence appears in late spring or early summer. Plants are well behaved in the garden and don't require much care other than removal of spent flower clusters and very occasional pinching or light pruning. Plants may be considered drought tolerant when grown near the coast and will require some summer watering and afternoon shade in hot inland gardens. (Cathy Ratner)

Note: the *Tillandsia* shown in January as *T. gardneri* is now thought to be *T. bergeri*.

— Edited by Bart O'Brien  
 Plant Forum photos by Joe Brosius  
 Butterfly photo by Trish Meyer

