



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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## GREEN SHEET

## OCTOBER 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:

*Aechmea fendleri*  
*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*  
    'Elegans'  
*Billbergia* × *windii*  
*Chorisia insignis*  
*Chorisia speciosa*  
*Diospyros kaki* 'Fuyu' (?) – the fruits were especially small  
*Farfugium japonicum* – cultivar name unknown  
*Hylocereus undatus* – showy red fruit with tiny black seeds  
*Hypoestes aristata*  
*Jasminum sambac*  
*Justicia brandegeana*  
*Koelreuteria bipinnata*  
*Luffa cylindrica*  
*Markhamia lutea*  
*Pachypodium saundersii*  
*Salvia guaranitica* 'Costa Rica Blue'  
*Salvia mexicana* 'Limelight'  
*Senna bicapsularis* 'Butter Crème'  
*Verbascum thapsus*  
*Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea'  
*Ziziphus jujuba*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the October 2004 meeting – it was a diverse showing of fall blooms. 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*:

*Aeschynanthus marmorata* (Gesneriaceae). Burma, Thailand, Malaysia. Evergreen lax – spreading to cascading pot, or hanging basket – plant. Stems may reach 3 feet or more in length. Leaves are elliptic to lanceolate in shape and have purple undersides. The upper surface of the leaf is shiny and variously mottled purple. Flowers are solitary, axillary, and subterminal. This plant is probably more often grown for its attractive foliage than for its yellowish flowers. Grow it in partial shade with regular watering. Debra notes that this plant is easily grown from cuttings. (Debra Galliani)



*Aeschynanthus marmorata*

*Alchemilla mollis* (Rosaceae). Lady's Mantle. Asia Minor. Perennial for shaded, moist areas in the garden. The pale green round leaves may reach six inches across, but in our region are typically much smaller. Small chartreuse-colored flowers appear in clusters that are held slightly above the foliage during summer. This is one of those "classic" English garden plants that I tend to think of as fussy or difficult here in dry Southern California gardens. (Shirley Kerins/The Huntington)

*Arbutus canariensis* (Ericaceae). No common name. Canary Islands. Broad-leaved evergreen shrub or tree. Plants may reach 30 feet tall with age, though they are typically slow growing. Plants produce loose panicles of urn-shaped greenish-white to pinkish flowers in summer. Attractive orange fruits develop in fall and winter. Foliage is similar to California's native madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*): leathery leaves with finely serrated margins that are dark green and shiny above and glaucous beneath. This

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

*Asarina scandens* 'Joan Lorraine'  
*Begonia* 'Mission Bells'  
*Dahlia coccinea*  
*Diascia* 'Sun Chimes'  
*Heterocentron macrostachyum*  
*Lonicera periclymenum* 'Harlequin'  
*Passiflora maliformis*  
*Phygellus* 'Sunshine'  
*Salvia madrensis*  
*Saponaria* 'Max Frei' (described  
in the July 2004 Green Sheet)  
*Tiarella* 'Iron Butterfly'

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

A tiny fern originally collected by Kathy Musial (Huntington) *Lemmaphyllum* sp., and an unusual cristate form of *Euphorbia* (this particular form – and others – are thought to be produced in Thailand). John Trager, from the Huntington had these thoughts: "The *Euphorbia* does appear to be *Euphorbia lactea* – however, it is not the commonly available form but rather a completely achlorophyllous sport. The *Euphorbia drupifera* stock (I think) was a good choice as the leaves will help sustain the crest."

specimen currently resides in The Huntington's parking lot, though it lived for many years in Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's former experimental garden (the area is now RSABG's Cultivar Garden). This species is rarely seen in California. (Jim Jaeger/The Huntington)

*Leea coccinea* 'Burgundy' (Ampelidaceae – or sometimes placed in its own family: Leeaceae). West Indian Holly. Burma. Broad-leaved evergreen shrub to 7 feet tall. This plant is typically seen in our area as a houseplant. It has large compound leaves composed of numerous leaflets. All vegetative parts of this plant are deeply infused dark purple. The inflorescence is a 3 to 5 inch wide, crowded, flat-topped cyme with 1/2 inch pink flowers (red in bud) that have yellow stamens. Eileen notes that this plant may be grown outdoors if it is protected from frost and planted in well-drained soil. (Eileen Fiumara)

*Salvia darcy* (Lamiaceae). Nuevo León, Mexico. Evergreen to deciduous perennial; cut back severely (to 2–4 inch stubs) after flowering, during the winter months. This sage loves hot weather and is frequently seen in landscapes and gardens in Phoenix, Arizona. The large, showy, red-orange flowers are attractively positioned along tall inflorescences and attract hummingbirds from summer through fall. In our region, grow this plant in full sun and moderate amounts of water (it will wilt if it wants more than you are giving it, and always seems to recover well if it is watered the same day it starts wilting). The species is stoloniferous, and may spread about but has never been problematic in my experience. (Dick Kohlschreiber/South Coast Botanic Garden)



*Salvia darcy*  
(center)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien

Photos by Steve Gerischer



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