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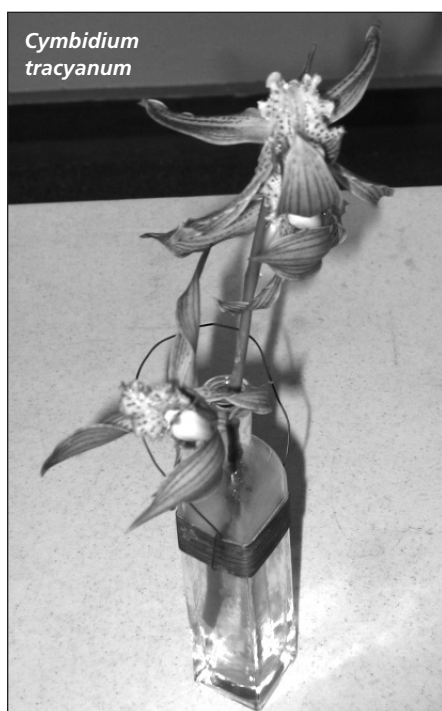
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GREEN SHEET

NOVEMBER 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:

Barleria obtusa
Diospyros kaki 'Fuyu'
Diospyros virginiana
Melia azederach
Narcissus papyraceus
Pistacia chinensis
Salvia gesneraeflora 'Mole Poblano'
Salvia purpurea
Tecomaria capensis – selection
Trichostema purpusii
Urginea maritima – 5 plantlets
grown from (and still attached to) a single bulb scale. Some of these *Urginea* plants may be available at our December meeting!



Thank you to all who brought plants to the November 2004 meeting; it was an eclectic assemblage of fall blooms and fall foliage color. 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*:

Cephalotaxus harringtonia 'Prostrata' (Cephalotaxaceae). Japanese Plum Yew. This species is found in Japan, Thailand, Korea, and northeastern China. The species is a shrub or small tree that may reach up to 18 feet tall. The cultivar 'Prostrata' originated as a side branch vegetative propagation from an otherwise normal-size plant. If it forms a leader, it should be quickly removed to maintain the prostrate growth habit. The genus name indicates that this plant appears to be yew-like (*Taxus*), and that it has head-like inflorescences (cephalo). The narrow, more or less linear leaves are spirally arranged along the stem, but are twisted to make two more or less irregular rows. Each leaf is shiny and dark green above and has two gray stomatal bands beneath. The common name plum yew comes from the fruits: These are oval-shaped, roughly an inch long, purple-brown when ripe, and are definitely NOT edible. Plants generally need cool, moist conditions but this species is noted for its adaptability. Most authorities recommend partial to full shade for this plant, but in our region that would generally translate to full shade. However, Barbara notes that her plant is "neglected, not fertilized, irregular water, sun – some summer shade" and this is in Northridge! She also says that this plant was purchased prior to 1985 and that it is now 2-1/2 to 3 feet tall and 5-1/2 to 6 feet wide. (Barbara Crane)

Cymbidium tracyanum (Orchidaceae). No common name. China, Burma, Thailand. A fragrant orchid that may be grown outside in our area. Best grown in partial shade. This species typically blooms in late summer and fall. An inflorescence may reach 4 feet in length and is generally densely packed with showy, 5 inch wide, cream-yellow flowers that have brownish to maroon markings. Foliage and pseudobulbs are typical *Cymbidium*. This orchid was originally described in 1890 from plants growing in England. (Kathleen Brown)

Salvia 'Anthony Parker' (Lamiaceae). Garden Hybrid, originating in South Carolina. Thought to be a hybrid between *Salvia leucantha* 'Midnight' and *Salvia elegans*. This vigorous hybrid will easily reach 5 feet tall with an equal spread in our region, though Chris says that his plant is currently about 3-4 feet tall and wide. Plants bloom for a long period of time from late summer through fall and even into winter. The flowers are dark purple-blue and have paler calyces. In our area, plants are best grown in full sun near the coast to



partial shade inland and always with regular watering. Plants may be cut back hard in winter after they have finished flowering (or when you have tired of them). (Chris Meyer)



Salvia mexicana var. *minor* (Lamiaceae). Toluca, Mexico. Dwarf Mexican Sage. A delightful form of this typically enormous, and notoriously variable plant. The botanical variety *minor* was originally described in 1848. The flowers are what appear to be “minor” – they are much smaller than those of the typical species, but they are produced from August through November. Chris notes that his *minor* achieves roughly half the size (3 to 4 feet) of his normal *Salvia mexicana* (5 to 7 feet). (Chris Meyer)



Salvia microphylla ‘Hot Lips’ (Lamiaceae). Hot Lips Sage. Quite an interesting plant. At different times of the year, the plant’s flowers may be all red, all white, or variously splashed or divided red and white. Plants are easily grown in full sun and moderate amounts of water – those with too much shade and/or too much water will be floppy. Plants that are not in flower immediately fade into the background as the foliage of this sage is not especially memorable. (Chris Meyer)

Salvia squalens (Lamiaceae). Peru. Perhaps the stickiest *Salvia* – and that says a lot! Plants generally will not survive freezing temperatures, but may reappear from scattered seeds. Chris notes that after a few years his plant is 3 to 4 feet tall, not quite as wide, and grows in sun to light shade with deep weekly watering on a clay

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

Camellia sasanqua ‘Hiryu’

Nerine ‘Mansellii’

Pyrus calleryana

Salvia discolor – selection with calyces flushed purple especially toward the tip

Salvia microphylla – Belize form

slope. The yellow-green leaves of this plant are rather thin and have a rugose surface and lots of glandular hairs. (Note: This is the plant that has been around for several years as *Salvia* sp. “red, from Peru.”) (Chris Meyer)

Salvia urica (Lamiaceae). Mountains of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and the state of Chiapas, Mexico. Evergreen herbaceous perennial to 4 feet or more in height, although this specimen is roughly half that size. Flowers are blue-violet and appear in late summer and fall. Plants perform best in rich soil and regular watering. Chris notes that this is the “compact” or “short” form, and that some think that it is not really *S. urica*. (Chris Meyer)

— Edited by Bart O’Brien

Photos by Steve Gerischer & Chris Meyer



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