



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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GREEN SHEET

JANUARY 2005 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:

Araujia sericifera
Arctostaphylos 'Lester Rowntree'
Ceanothus arboreus
Cestrum elegans
×*Citrofortunella microcarpa*
 'Variegata'
Citrus histrix
Diplazium esculentum
Eranthemum pulchellum
Helleborus × *sternii*
Lupinus succulentus
Nematanthus gregarius
Reinwardtia indica
Salvia brandegei
Salvia confertiflora
Salvia iodantha

Thank you to all who brought plants to the January 2005 meeting. It was a diverse showing of winter blooms and citrus. 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!

Fortunella japonica 'Meiwa' (Rutaceae). Meiwa Kumquat. Southern China. Small evergreen tree. Fruits of this selection are rounder than most and have fewer seeds. This cultivar is often recommended as the best kumquat to eat fresh off the tree. Plants have dark green foliage and fewer thorns than most kumquats. Kumquats are amongst the most decorative of Citrus in the garden, as they have a finer visual texture due to their smaller foliage and fruits. They are amongst the hardiest of citrus – though this is not a factor in our region! (Joan Citron)

Helleborus lividus (Ranunculaceae). No common name. From the Spanish island of Majorca. Evergreen perennial. Though rarely seen in our gardens, this species (along with *H. argutifolius*) are the best adapted to our natural conditions. Plants have trifoliate leaves that are much less coarsely toothed than *H. argutifolius* but are their equal in sophistication. Stems and petioles are deep red, and this color often bleeds into the flowers and leaves to outstanding effect. Flowers are an inch or so wide and nodding. In our region, this plant should be grown in partial shade and will require some summer water (plants will wilt when water stressed, but will completely recover if watered promptly). This species has a larger root system than one might expect, making it a bit more difficult to successfully keep in a pot for more than a year or two. (Bart O'Brien)

Helleborus purpurascens (Ranunculaceae). No common name. Eastern Europe: from Hungary to Ukraine. Deciduous perennial – though in our area these plants may be nearly evergreen. This species is appreciated for its attractive deeply divided bright green shiny leaves (as the leaves harden off, they become darker). The nodding dark violet to green flowers are quite small – only 1/2 inch or so across. Plants are best grown in shade to partial shade and require average garden watering. (Bart O'Brien)

Limonium gmelinii (Plumbaginaceae). No common name. Eastern Europe to Siberia. Herbaceous perennial to 2 feet tall. This plant forms basal rosettes of short petioled elliptic to ovate leaves. The paniculate flowering stems may reach nearly two-and-a-half feet tall and have compact spikes of small blue flowers. Most *Limonium* species and hybrids are sun loving and are drought tolerant when established – this one should be too. (Debra Galliani)

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

Kniphofia 'Winter Cheer'

Salvia 'Deep Rose'

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

Camellia cultivar

Dombeya sp.

Plectranthus sp.

Salvia sp., and a *Salvia* species that was not *S. karwinskii*

Monopsis unidentata (Campanulaceae). No common name. South Africa. Prostrate evergreen perennial. Plants are usually hairless and the foliage is wildly variable. Leaves may be alternate, opposite, or whorled and vary from oblong to orbicular near the base while the uppermost leaves are usually linear. Attractive violet to blue flowers are solitary, axillary, and stalked. The plant shown had pale blue flowers. (Debra Galliani)

Salvia holwayi (Lamiaceae). No common name. Southern Mexico to Guatemala. Evergreen shrub with showy red-flowered inflorescences that appear through most of the winter. Plants may reach from 3 to 6 feet tall and, due to their sprawling growth habit will quickly reach 10 feet or more. For best performance (and appearance) this shrub should be planted amongst woodier shrubs that are able to support this sage's stems. Plants require regular watering and perform best in partial shade. Prune the plant hard after it has finished blooming, lest it take over your garden. Plants will spread by layering or from root sprouts – but these may be shared with friends(?) in order to save your own garden. Really, it is a beautiful addition to your garden! (Chris Meyer)

Woodwardia radicans (Blechnaceae). Chain Fern. Southeastern Europe. A particularly beautiful evergreen fern. Plants can get quite large. In contrast to our native chain fern (*W. fimbriata*), this species has a much more open, low-growing, and spreading growth habit. This fern may produce a "bulb-like" growth at the tip of the frond where it may easily root in loose, moist soil and establish a new plant. Cut back old ragged fronds in late winter just prior to the emergence of fresh new growth. Plants require ongoing regular watering and are best grown in shade or partial shade. There was a spectacular mass planting of this species (with redwood trees – *Sequoia sempervirens*) at The Huntington, though this area is now a new building... (Laura Bauer)

— Edited by Bart O'Brien

