

NOVEMBER 2005 PLANT FORUM NOTES - Edited by Bart O'Brien

Thank you to all who brought plants to the November 2005 meeting. It was an especially 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!

In addition to the plants discussed below the following plants, described (or listed) in the Society's **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens**, were shown: *Aloe laeta*, *Asclepias subulata*, *Barleria obtusa*, *Diospyros kaki*, *Gladiolus (Homoglossum) priorii*, *Holmskioldia sanguinea*, *Plumeria rubra*, and *Rosa* 'Double Delight'.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: *Camellia* cultivar, *Chrysanthemum x grandiflorum* cultivar, *Gloxinia* cultivar and an unknown gymnosperm that may have been a *Cupressus* or a *Thuja*.

The following plants were also shown but are not described in the Society's **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens**: *Euphorbia iharanae*, *Frailea castanea*, *Kalanchoe carnea*, *Kleinia semperviva* (= *Senecio sempervivus*), *Lomatophyllum prostratum*, *Oeceoclades spathulifera*, *Rumex sanguineus* var. *sanguineus*, and *Schlumbergera* 'Christmas Fantasy' (pinkish flowers).

Aloe krapohliana var. *dumoulinii* (Asphodelaceae). No common name. South Africa, Northern Cape Province. Evergreen winter blooming succulent with bold orange-red flowers. This plant forms rosettes up to 6 inches across and has compact inflorescences with large flowers. It was described in 1973 by Lavranos. John notes that it is an easy greenhouse plant. (John Trager / Huntington Botanical Gardens).

Asclepias pinifolia (Apocynaceae). Pine-leaved Milkweed. Mexico (Jalisco to Chihuahua, Veracruz and Oaxaca). Evergreen to deciduous herbaceous perennial. Linear leaves are 1/2 to 2 inches long. Axillary umbels of white to green flowers occur near the top of the stems. The form that is typically grown in our area grows from 2 to 3 feet tall and is equally wide spreading. This plant is often botanically lumped with *Asclepias linaria* – this including plants that are woody shrubs. (Debra Galliani)

Barleria obtusa 'Rosea' (Acanthaceae). No common name. South Africa. Instead of the typical blue-violet flowers, this cultivar has pink flowers. Gary notes that this plant will be a medium to large flowering shrub, and that it prefers full sun. (Gary Hammer)

Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' (Euphorbiaceae). Diamond Frost Spurge. A small evergreen "filler" plant, with white oval-shaped bracts and tiny white flowers. It flowers from late spring through fall. Plants reach from 8 to 20 inches in height. It is noted as heat and drought tolerant, and that it can be grown in full sun or partial shade, but this information comes from the southeast. It is supposedly hardy to 30 degrees Fahrenheit. As with all Euphorbias, the sap can cause skin rashes

and all parts of the plant should be considered poisonous. Though I have not been able to confirm its species, this plant is sometimes known as *Euphorbia hypericifolia* ‘Diamond Frost’ – and if it is, one should approach it cautiously as this species is a global weed. (Debra Galliani)



Farfugium japonicum ‘Crispatum’ (Asteraceae). Pie Crust Ligularia. The species is native to Japan, where it grows in streamside meadows. Evergreen perennial. Like the species except that it has grey-green thick leaves with margins that are crisped (very densely wavy). (Joan Citron)

Hypoestes aristata ‘Compacta’ (Acanthaceae). No common name. South Africa. A dense, low growing form that has been brought into the country from South Africa by Gary Hammer, this cultivar will only grow 2 to 3 feet tall. The attractive pink flowers appear in fall and winter. This plant prefers full sun. (Gary Hammer)

Justicia brandegeana ‘Compacta’ (Acanthaceae). Compact Shrimp Plant. Evergreen – and everblooming – shrub. A very dense, low growing form with miniaturized inflorescences that has been brought to us from South Africa by Gary Hammer. This cultivar appears to be ever-blooming, like the species typically is in our region. Gary notes that this selection is slow growing, and may be grown in full sun to half-day sun. (Gary Hammer)



Portulacaria afra var. *macrophylla* ‘Lompopo Valley’ (Portulacaceae). Lompopo Valley Elephant Food. South Africa. This botanical variety, and this cultivar, have much larger leaves (up to an inch across) than the forms typically encountered in California. In South Africa, the species forms dense thickets up to 12 feet tall. Gary notes that this is an excellent container plant and that it rarely blooms. (Gary Hammer)

Salvia buechananii, Buchanan Sage. Mexico (known only seed collected from a garden plant in Mexico City – unknown in the wild). Evergreen herbaceous perennial, growing 1 to 2 feet tall and spreading as wide. This plant has been in cultivation since the late 1950s or early 1960s. It has 2 inch long, showy, magenta-colored flowers in clusters of 3 to 6 along its 2 foot long inflorescences. Oval shaped leaves are shiny and mid-green in color. Plants are brittle and tend to sprawl. Grow them amongst other supportive low growing plants. Best grown in full sun to bright shade, with plenty of water. Rarely produces seed in California gardens. Dick notes that it grows well in clay soils. (Dick Kohlschreiber / South Coast Botanical Garden)