

DECEMBER 2005 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Thank you to all who brought plants to the December 2005 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!

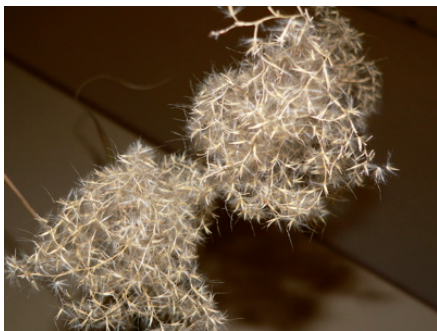
In addition to the plants discussed below the following plants, described (or listed) in the Society’s **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens**, were shown: *Arbutus unedo* ‘Elfin King’, *Fuchsia arborescens*, *Impatiens sodenii*, *Psilotum nudum*, *Rosa* ‘Lady Hillingdon’, *Rosa minutifolia*, *Tagetes lucida*, and *Tillandsia recurvata*.

The identity of the following plant could not be completely ascertained: *Impatiens* hybrid with lavender-pink, helmet-like flowers.

The following plants were also shown but are not described in the Society’s **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens**: *Hebe* ‘Eveline’ (= ‘Pink Payne’), *Oncidium* ‘Twinkle’, *Salvia melissodora* (2/04 Green Sheet), and *Salvia wagneriana* (12/04 Green Sheet).



Aristolochia trilobata (Aristolochiaceae). No common name. Eastern Central America and the Caribbean. Vigorous evergreen vine, with glabrous, shiny, three-lobed leaves that have silvery highlights. The brownish flowers are axillary and solitary and smell very bad (like rotten meat). The 3-5 inch tall flowers are a Dutchman’s pipe meets Jack-in-the-pulpit confection – with a very long tail up to 6 inches in length. Flowers appear for a long period of time from late summer to early winter. Plants may be grown in full sun to partial shade. Average watering. Note that this plant was shown as *A. macroura*, a synonym. (Bart O’Brien)



Miscanthus sinensis ‘Adagio’ (Poaceae). Adagio Japanese Silver Grass. The species is native to China and Japan. Winter-deciduous clumping grass. This cultivar has especially narrow green leaves that turn yellow in the fall. An established clump will reach 2-3 feet tall and will be equally wide. Attractive, pink, summer and fall seed heads may reach from 4-5 feet high, though Ralph & Barbara’s plant’s are only 3 feet tall. Grow the plant in full sun to light shade and regular watering. In general, *Miscanthus* do not like droughty soils, they prefer rich, fertile soils. Plants are easily divided from late fall to winter. Noted by *Sunset* as a good container plant – though it will require frequent watering. (Ralph and Barbara Crane)

Montanoa hexagona (Asteraceae). Daisy Tree. Mexico (Chiapas), and Guatemala. Evergreen shrub to tree. This (and other) montanoas are noted for their fast growth rate, attractive lobed foliage, and profusion of white, winter-blooming daisy-like flowers. The flowers of this species are generally about 2 inches across (each ray flower is about an inch long). Plants prefer full sun to light shade, regular watering. Ruth notes that her shrubby plant is about 12 feet tall, and that the plant is also grown at the Mildred Mathias Botanic Garden at UCLA. (Ruth Ingram)



Salvia ringens (Lamiaceae). No common name. Southern and eastern parts of the Balkan Peninsula, in scrub and coniferous woodlands from 1600 to 4200 feet. This evergreen herbaceous perennial flowers from summer through fall. It produces glaucous, leafless, branched, wand-like inflorescences up to 3 feet tall. Each flower stem carries numerous one and a half inch long lavender-violet flowers with central white markings. This sage may be used in the same manner as *Verbena bonariensis* – at the front of the border as the inflorescences have that uncommon see through quality. When not in bloom, this sage’s basal clump of grey-green compound foliage doesn’t call attention to itself. (Dick Kohlschreiber / South Coast Botanic Gardens)

– Edited by Bart O’Brien