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GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

JUNE 2006 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Edited by Bart O'Brien

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June 2006 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 that were shown at this meeting are described (or listed) in the Society's **Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens**: *Acanthus spinosus*, *Alstroemeria hookeri*, *Delphinium cardinale*, *Salvia clevelandii*, *Teucrium cossonii* (shown as *T. aroanium* a rare species from the Peloponnese), and *Trichostema lanatum* 'Fremont Peak'.

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



Alpinia galanga (Zingiberaceae). Siamese Ginger. Southeast Asia. Evergreen rhizomatous perennial. This is a tall plant producing cane-like unbranched stems with a terminal inflorescence. Rhizomes and crushed foliage are ginger scented. Flowers are white with red-brown markings. Plants prefer dappled shade, rich soils, and regular watering. Remove stems that have flowered in early spring. In nature, this plant grows along forest margins. (Jane Coogan Beer)

Dudleya lanceolata (Crassulaceae). Live Forever. California, from the South Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, Peninsular Ranges, mountain ranges of California's deserts, and northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Evergreen succulent. This is one of the most geographically widespread species of *Dudleya*. A single plant can have a single rosette or several branches. Flowers vary in color from pale yellow to orange to red. In nature, plants are typically found growing on rocky slopes. In cultivation, plants must have well drained soil and should be grown in partial shade. Plants may be watered freely in winter, but should be grown dry or nearly so in the summer months to avoid pests and rot. (Laura Bauer)

Eriogonum heracleoides var. *heracleoides* (Polygonaceae). No common name. In California, this plant is only found in the Warner Mountains in the northeasternmost part of the state; it is also found to Colorado, Montana, and British Columbia, Canada. This rock garden plant has small narrow leathery leaves and forms low cushion-like mounds 3 to 6 inches tall and up to 2 feet across. Inflorescences are about a foot tall and carry several umbel-like clusters of flowers that are typically cream colored, though the plant shown had bright yellow flowers. Plants prefer sun and well-drained soils. Drought tolerant when established. A choice plant! (Tim Evans)



Passiflora macrocarpa (Passifloraceae). Giant Granadilla. Origin is not clear. It is found from Mexico to Peru and Brazil. As one might expect from the specific epithet, this plant has the largest fruits in the genus: up to 6 inches wide and 12 inches long. The fruits are egg-shaped and, when ripe, vary in color from greenish-white to deep yellow and often are blushed pink. The flesh may be white or pink. This vine produces four-angled stems. The showy flowers are solitary and may reach 5 inches across and have 5 greenish to purplish sepals and very showy violet and white/cream corona filaments. The leaves are simple and ovate in shape. This species was first described in 1869. (Jorge Ochoa)

Pipturus argenteus (Urticaceae). No common name. Mascarenes to Polynesia. There are about 30 species of *Pipturus* – some of which are used for fiber or bark cloth. Male and female flowers are produced separately, but on the same plant. This is an attractive foliage plant with bright green leaves with rather deep reticulate venation. The undersides of the leaves are silvery-white. Plants will require regular watering and average soil conditions. Pam notes that her plant reaches about 6 feet tall, but then is cut back. It has yet to bloom. (Pam Waterman)

Psilostrophe tagetina (Asteraceae). Woolly Paperflower. Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico. Yellow to golden daisy-like flowers dry to paler shades and last for months in the garden and even longer when cut and brought indoors. A single inflorescence may range in size from a nickel to a quarter – but are produced in abundance. Leaves are linear and are covered with short white hairs. Mounding to spreading growth habit to two feet tall and three feet (or more) across. Plants must have well-drained soil and are best grown in full sun. In nature this species is quite variable. (Tim Evans)

Rosa ‘Hot Cocoa’ (Rosaceae). Hot Cocoa Floribunda Rose. Flowers are variously describes as smoky chocolate orange to red and are produced in large clusters. Glossy green leaves. This rose was bred by Tom Carruth of Weeks Roses and won the AARS gold medal in 2003. (Jane Coogan Beer)



Rosa ‘Route 66’ (Rosaceae). Route 66 Rose. Flowers have relatively few petals, are an unusual purplish-rose color and have a distinctive clove scent. This plant was a 2002 introduction from Armstrong Garden Centers, though it was bred by Tom Carruth and grown by Weeks Roses. Jane noted that the plant is of low stature with a spreading growth habit. (Jane Beer)

Salvia ‘Carl Nielson’ (Lamiaceae). Carl Nielson Sage. A hybrid originated in the Nielson garden in Tucson. This sage is reportedly a hybrid involving California native sages *S. clevelandii* and *S. dorrii* – though *S. mohavensis* was also present. In looking at this plant over the years, I find the *dorrii* content suspect and *mohavensis* a distinct possibility. When well grown and happy, this is likely the showiest of California sages – though many specimens seem to struggle. Flowers are deep violet-blue and are held in thick clusters that are subtended by showy dark bracts and calyces. Leaves are a typical sage green. All parts of this plant are strongly (pleasantly!) fragrant. Established plants are drought tolerant and can be grown with limited or no water in the summer months. Grow this plant in well-drained soil and full sun, but with some low protection (shade – in the form of a low growing plant or a boulder) on its south side to insulate the root system. Additionally, this plant is susceptible to either a fungal or bacterial infection that causes the leaves to drop (particularly in winter, but plants never fully recover on their own). (Tim Evans)