



# Southern California Horticultural Society

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**JUNE/JULY 2007 PLANT FORUM NOTES**

**GREEN SHEET**

*Compiled by Susan C. Eubank*

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June and July 2007 meetings! 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** (2000), were shown in **June**: *Aechmea orlandiana* var. *ensign*, *Agrostemma githago* ‘Milas’, *Calliandra eriophylla*, *Dianella tasmanica*, *Eugenia uniflora*, *Leonotis leonurus*, *Thalictrum delavayi* and in **July**: *Ananas comosus*, *Begonia* ‘Irene Nuss’, *Dianthus x allwoodii*, *Stigmaphyllon ciliatum*, and *Stigmaphyllon littorale*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained in **June**: a *Clerodendrum* sp., a *Gasteria* sp. and a basket of bromeliad family plants with an *Aechmea* sp., a *Guzmania* sp., a *Neoregelia* sp., a *Nidularium* sp. and a *Tillandsia* sp., and in **July**: an *Anthurium* sp., a *Begonia* cultivar, two *Cotyledon* spp. or a *Tylecodon* sp., and a *Spathyphyllum* sp.

Information in this compilation was gleaned and condensed from the Plant Forum exhibit cards, numerous sources at the Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden and various internet sites. For specific sources of information on the plants, please contact me at the Arboretum Library at 626-821-3213.

## June 2007 display



*Alternanthera ficoidea* ‘Red Threads’ (Amaranthaceae) – Exhibited by Kathleen Brown  
This tropical Latin American native needs rich, moist, well-drained soil. The plant is grown for its foliage. The translucent leaves can be stunning when the light shines through the red coloration. The foliage has the most color in full sun along the coast, but low humidity in inland valleys makes it a shade plant there. Plants grow to 2 feet tall and can be propagated by seed (quite variable) and tip cuttings.

*Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Pia’ (Hydrangeaceae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani  
‘Pia’ is a dwarf cultivar that only grows to 2 foot high and 18 inches wide. The flowers are reliably pink, blooming in late spring and summer. Debra keeps hers moist in a pot in filtered sun.



*Lilium* ‘Amethyst Temple’ (Liliaceae) – Exhibited by Cathy Ratner  
Cathy purchased these lilies from the Park Seed Catalog and grows them in almost full sun near the coast. They get 4 to 5 feet tall and don’t need staking. The flowers are shades of pink to magenta and fragrant.

*Cordyline stricta* (Dracaenaceae) – Exhibited by Eileen Fiumara

This Australian native grows in the Sydney area in coastal rainforests and wet eucalyptus forests. It is a narrow plant which grows up to 15 feet tall with deep green, strap-like (up to 1 ½ feet) leaves. The blooms are long panicles of white to purple flowers with black berries. Partial shade and moist soil conditions are best, but it will tolerate dry periods and light frost. It can be propagated from seed and stem cuttings. This is the most common native cordyline in the Australian nursery trade.

#### July 2007 display

*Begonia* ‘Eunice Gray’ (Begoniaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

This is a hybrid of *B. echinosepala* and *B. venosa* developed by Irene Nuss in 1968. It is shrub-like with white, fragrant blossoms.

*Begonia* ‘Flamingo Queen’ (Begoniaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

This awarding winning plant was hybridized in Australia by Ross Bolwell and introduced to the United States by Don Miller. It is cane-like with white spotting and edging on the leaves.

*Begonia* ‘Little Miss Mummy’ (Begoniaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger

Brad Thompson hybridized this short begonia that has almost black, shiny leaves and white with a pink blush flowers.

*Berkheya purpurea* (Asteraceae) – Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

The daisy flowers shoot up to 3 feet high from a thistle-like, dense, basal clump of foliage. The ray flowers are light purple to dark mauve (rarely white) and the centers are dark purple with white pollen. In their native South Africa, they grow along streams and seeps as well as grassy meadows at 4500 feet to 9000 feet elevation in the Eastern Cape to Drakensberg and Lesotho. This is a steppe climate plant rather than Mediterranean so the growing season is spring, flowering in the summer and slightly dormant in winter. Dick grew his from seed from Thompson & Morgan.



*Origanum* ‘Kent Beauty’ (Labiatae) – Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This is a hybrid between *O. rotundifolium* and *O. scabrum*. The primary ornamental features are the beautiful, pink-edged, chartreuse bracts which will trail over container or wall edges. The inflorescences dry well. *O. rotundifolium* is native to Georgia and Turkey at 750 feet to 3800 feet altitude and *O. scabrum* is native to the mountains of southern Greece. Good drainage mimics those native habitats. It is often sold in the trade as an *O. rotundifolium* cultivar.



*Salvia penstemonoides* Big Red Sage (Labiatae) – Exhibited by Lili Singer

Thought to be extinct in Texas until the 1980s, now federally listed as threatened, about 300 of the large salvias are still found in 5 sites (3 protected in Lost Maples State Natural Area) in the canyon country of the Edwards Plateau area. The limestone canyons have riparian and mesic woodlands of bigtooth maples (*Acer grandidentatum*) and other unusual plants. Due to development, the water table is falling; thus the threatened status. The leaf rosettes and flowers are reminiscent of penstemon. The plants grow 3 to 5 feet tall with glossy, evergreen foliage. The large, red flowers bloom throughout the summer. It grows easily from seed which has little genetic variation. Lili obtained hers from High Country Gardens.