



Southern California Horticultural Society

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GREEN SHEET

APRIL 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the April 2008 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 Opportunity Drawing if you bring in one or more plants for discussion at the Plant 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) or previously written up for a Green Sheet were shown in April: *Aesculus x carnea*, *Albuca canadensis* (brought in as *A. nelsonii*), *Chionanthus retusus*, *Erysimum franciscanum*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Gladiolus cardinalis*, *Hesperaloe parviflora*, *Mackaya bella*, *Prunus serrulata* 'Pink Cloud', *Salvia guaranitica*, *Tabebuia impetiginosa* and *Viburnum opulus*

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a *Columnea* sp., a *Gomphrena* sp., an *Ixia* sp., a *Melaleuca* sp., a *Pericallis x hybrida*, a *Rhodocodon* sp. and a *Stachys* 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 or at Susan.Eubank@Arboretum.org.

Colocasia esculenta 'Diamond Head' (Araceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

This plant is a glossy, purple to black elephant ear with dark red stems and is newly introduced from the University of Hawaii.

Cuphea 'Dave Verity' (Lythraceae) – Exhibited by Judy Campbell

The San Marcos Growers website (smgrowers.com) gives a wonderful history of how the plant (probably a hybrid) was discovered in a backyard and moved into the nursery industry in 1980. The flowers are larger and the plant is more floriferous than the typical *Cuphea ignea*, and it's a great hummingbird plant.

Echium handiense (Boraginaceae)

– Exhibited by Debra Bushweit Galliani

This is a rare endemic from the slopes of Zarza Peak on Fuerteventura, Canary Islands. Fuerteventura is a volcanic island with persistent fog near the peak with low year-round precipitation. Unlike other monocarpic *Echium* spp., the flower stalk can be deadheaded and the plant will produce a second bloom. The flowers are blue and less dense than the common *Echium fastuosum*. This plant is grown at South Coast Botanic Garden.

(Pictured at right.)





Euphorbia x martini 'Waleuphrud' (Euphorbiaceae)
trade name Euphorbia Rudolph – Exhibited by John Schoustra

This euphorbia gets red growing tips during the fall in Southern California. The foliage is generally greenish blue. The red tips are followed by yellow-green flowers with red centers. It is patented and grown from cuttings.

(Pictured at left.)



Iris cristata (Iridaceae) – Exhibited by Paul Martin

This iris is native to the moist woodlands of the Ozarks and Appalachian mountains. The dwarf plant has leaves about 6 inches long and a beautiful frilly crest on the falls of the flowers. The color ranges from white to lilac to blue to violet to purple. Paul's is growing in the shade of a *Liquidambar* street tree in amended soil with weekly supplemental water.

(Pictured at left.)

Iris germanica hybrids (Iridaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra
All of the following cultivars are consistent rebloomers, at least at the location of John's nursery in Somis:

'Dazzling Gold' – Orange-yellow flowers. Falls have some maroon and beards are yellow. Scented. (Pictured at right.)

'Eggnog' – Soft yellow.

'Jennifer Rebecca' – Light pink with orange-pink beard.

'Paprika Fonos' – Ivory flowers with spots and splashes of red.

'Total Recall' – White falls bordered with a bright lemon yellow trim, near-white standards flushed with yellow up the midrib and light yellow beards.

'Victoria Falls' – Sky blue with white splashes.

'Wine Festival' – White flowers with dark wine colored dots.

'World Premier' – Standards are bluish-white, falls are dark blue violet with a white rim and beards are yellow.



Leucocoryne vittata (Alliaceae) – Exhibited by Dylan Hannon

This Chilean bulb is one of 12 species of *Leucocoryne* endemic to Chile. Dylan grows his outdoors and it goes dormant in the summer. Adapted to a Mediterranean climate, this bulb is tender and does not normally receive summer rain.



Leptospermum scoparium 'Silver & Rose' (Myrtaceae) New Zealand Tea Tree – Exhibited by Jane Coogan Beer This University of California, Santa Cruz Arboretum hybrid was developed by director, Ray Collett, and is sold by San Marcos Growers. (Pictured at left.)

Lupinus excubitus var. *hallii* (Leguminosae) – Exhibited by Elizabeth Schwartz
This variety is the showier version of the Grape Soda Lupine. The flowers are larger than the species. Its range is more restricted to lower elevations (less than 3000 feet) in the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Bernardino Mountains and in the coastal mountains south through northern Baja. (Pictured at right.)



Melanoselinum dicipiens (Apiaceae) Tree Angelica, Black Parsley – Anonymous exhibitor

This monocarpic plant from the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands can have leaves up to 3 feet long. The plant can reach 12 feet high. The umbel flowers produce black seeds. It can be invasive in the garden and is considered an invasive exotic in New Zealand.

Osa pulchra (Rubiaceae) – Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Garden
This was considered a rare endemic from Costa Rica until 2007, when it was also found in Bocas del Toro, Panama. Currently, three populations have been discovered in the wild. It has the glossy leaves of a coffee plant, but has huge, fragrant, hanging, white flowers, with seed in elongated capsules. The tree will grow to about 30 feet.

Pistacia vera Pistachio (Anacardiaceae) – Exhibited by Jim Jaeger
According to California Rare Fruit Grower's website (crfg.org/pubs/ff/pistachio.html), this tree produces the delicious, edible nut that originated in western Asia and Asia Minor. It was first cultivated in California in the late 1800s and is now a major agricultural crop in the San Joaquin Valley. The trees do best in hot and dry regions of California and are said to need 600 to 1500 hours of chill for best nut production. Jim found his sample in the Huntington Botanical Gardens parking lot.

Other plants displayed:

Aristolochia ridicula (Aristolochiaceae) – Exhibited by the Huntington Botanical Gardens

Bellis perennis (Compositae) – Exhibited by Gary Kamischer

Paeonia suffruticosa 'Yoshino Gawa' – Exhibited by Jane Harrington

Viola 'Blue Moon' (Violaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

Viola 'Harvest Moon' (Violaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

Viola 'Starry Night' (Violaceae) – Exhibited by John Schoustra

– Photographs by Paul Martin