



socalhort.org

GREEN SHEET

Southern California Horticultural Society

JUNE 2008 PLANT FORUM NOTES

Compiled by Susan C. Eubank

Thank you to all who brought plants to the June 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 June: *Acanthogilia gloriosa*, *Calibanus hookeri*, *Cuphea ignea*, *Cynanchum marnieranum*, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, *Salvia* 'Waverly', *Sesbania punicea*, *Stephanotis floribunda*, *Trachelium caeruleum* and *Tweedia caerulea*.

The identity of the following plants could not be completely ascertained: a *Calochortus* sp. and an unnamed *Hemerocallis* cultivar.

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.



Banksia coccinea (Proteaceae) – Exhibited by Gary Kamisher
According to the **Flora of Australia**, this striking flower is part of a shrub or small tree that can grow to 25 feet tall. Its native habitat is along the southwestern edge of Western Australia in sand and shrubland or woodland. It flowers in spring and summer. The regular arrangement of the flower separates this *Banksia* into its own section in genus. It is common in the cut flower trade. The seed vessels respond to fire. The shrub needs to be pruned to keep it from sprawling. It is also susceptible to *Phytophthora*. (Pictured at left.)

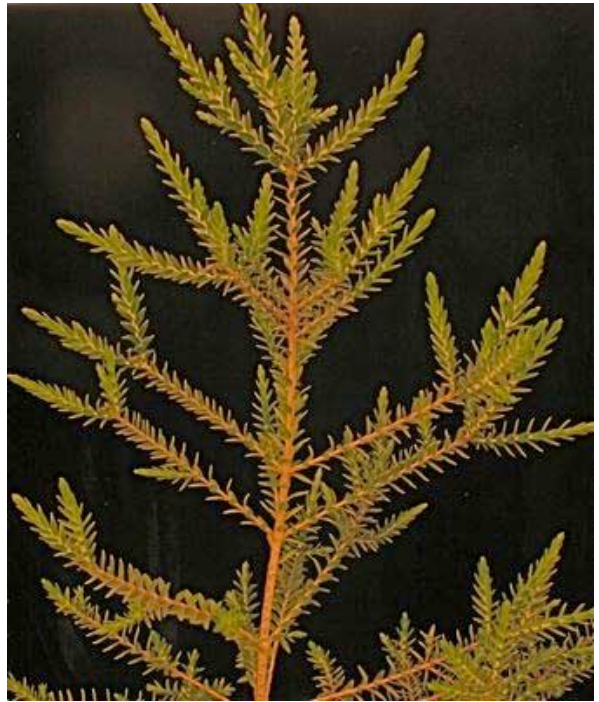
Cordyline indivisa (Dracaenaceae) – Exhibited by Eileen Fiumara
According to the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, this is an endemic to both the North and South Islands. Its habitat is varied, from montane to subalpine forests, and at lower elevations in cooler and wetter areas. It can grow up to 24 feet tall. The nursery industry is captivated by its broad, blue-grey leaves with a red to orange midrib. It does not appear to be threatened with extinction in New Zealand, however, some populations have been extirpated by goats. As a horticultural plant, the Conservation Network says it is prone to sudden death if the temperatures are too warm and the plant is too dry. Eileen says her care routine is "easy."

Regelia velutina (Myrtaceae)

– Exhibited Gary Kamisher

Gary also brought another plant endemic to south Western Australia. According to the Association for Growing Australian Plants, it also grows in sandy soils and woodlands. The flowers and persistent seed pods resemble *Melaleuca*. They say it does poorly in areas of summer rainfall. It should be drought resistant here.

(Pictured at right.)



Valeriana officinalis (Valerianaceae) Garden Heliotrope, Valerian

– Exhibited by Dick Kohlschreiber

This European medicinal herb also has fragrant flowers. James Adams, **Landscaping with Herbs** (Portland, Or.: Timber Press, 1987), suggests that you don't want to bury your nose into the flower head. For it to smell like heliotrope, it needs to waft through the air first. He suggests planting groups placed in the back of the border. Dick's specimen came from South Coast Botanic Garden where it is kept in a pot in full sun to partial shade. The medicinal properties are lengthy (relating to the central nervous system) and the precautions on its use are many. Other economic uses are in flavorings and perfumes.

(Pictured at left.)

– Photographs by Paul Martin

(Visit our website, socalhort.org, to see this Green Sheet's photographs in color.)