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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SHARING
SECRETS**

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“Tell us about your favorite tree or plant.”

The aptly-named “Majestic Oak” at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens really lives up to its name. It’s a huge old specimen of *Quercus agrifolia*, tucked into the lower east side of the garden. You’ll know it when you see it. I actually recognized it on a postcard I saw in someone’s office. - *LB*

One of my favorite plants (there can never be just one) is *Arbutus 'Marina'*. This tree is located where I can observe it as I approach my house as well as through a window when I am inside. It is always changing. The small bell shaped pinkish white flowers are followed by fruit which is green, then yellow, then deep red. Often, flowers and red fruit are on the tree at the same time. Its bark deepens from a light greenish tan to a rich reddish brown and then shreds off and the cycle begins all over again. The hummingbirds constantly feed on the flowers and, in the spring, nest in the tree. Even the old leaves provide interest as they yellow before they fall. - *BC*

Now that I am old, I especially appreciate plants that do not require a lot of care, so my current favorite is *Rosa mutabilis*. This informal Chinese rose was introduced in 1894 and grows into a shrub eight feet high and wide. In my coastal garden, it is evergreen with flowers every month of the year. It is down on my unwatered hill with the natives and other Mediterranean climate plants. I don't feed it, prune it or water it, but it produces only leaves and flowers, never any pests or diseases. The single flowers open gold, change through orange and pink and end up crimson, so its appearance changes as the proportions change, but it is always beautiful. - *CR*

Calylophus drummondii. Very drought tolerant. Bright yellow flowers almost all year. Little care is needed except hard pruning in winter, but I don't manage to get to this every year and they're just fine without it. - *KM*

Zauschneria californica. I wish I could survive dry, full sun conditions and bloom in the hottest part of the year! There's a stand under the lighted sign at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church on Sunland Boulevard in Shadow Hills. - *JVdF*

Moreton Bay Fig. The one in Veterans Park near the Redondo Beach Pier is over 100 years old and a spectacular giant. - *LC*

'Perfect Moment' Hybrid Tea Rose. Perfect in profusion, form, and coral red and yellow color, only not fragrant. Very hardy and prolific up in Glenridge – poor soil up there. - *MF*

Vitis californica 'Roger's Red' and *Arctostaphylos* 'Lester Roundtree'. - *TM & CM*

Agave parryi var. *huachuchensis* on the hillsides in Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona. - *SE*

Euphorbia cotinifolia or Caribbean Copper Plant. Like the Smoke Tree without the smoke. - *NW*

Anigozanthos 'Big Red' (Red Kangaroo Paw). Big, bold and beautiful. - *CE*

California Sycamore for its shade and pretty trunk. - *MH*

Jacaranda. Lacy looking foliage and neon lilac flowers. - *DL*

Clematis 'Blue Belle' and *Rosa* 'Clair Matin'. - *JC*

Cordyline terminalis or Ti Plant. I collect them. - *KG*

'Sombreuil' Rose. - *DC*

Sanseveria. - *NL*

'Sunshine Blue' Blueberry produces a heavy crop in Long Beach. - *DH*