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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**SHARING
SECRETS**

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We are printing more answers to past questions.

“What plant has turned out to be a pest in your garden and in what way?”

Nassella tenuissima (Mexican Feather Grass) is magnificent moving in a breeze, glistening and reflecting sunlight. Unfortunately, it is a pest that seeds everywhere – into cracks in the street and sidewalk, into hideaway places behind other plants, into thorny cactus – just look and there it is. If left alone it would take over the garden.

Oenothera speciosa (Mexican Evening Primrose). This pest was sold as a selection of oenothera which would not be invasive. Not true. As it matures, it spreads by rhizomes and seed with great vigor. Unfortunately, it has done so in the cactus garden. Cutting back the plant and digging it up have only resulted in a holding action. It is pretty in bloom but can take over an area. - BC

“What are your favorite garden tools & equipment?”

A Compost Crank. It's a spiral crank and penetrates compost material like an auger. Lift and mix. It works great and is EASY to use. It's a back saver, too. I actually enjoy “mixing” my compost bin with only a minimal effort. When I purchased mine 5-6 years ago, it was \$39.95. From Lotech Products, www.compostcrank.com, 800-795-7316. - GS

“Tell us about your favorite tree or plant.”

Russelia equisetiformis (Firecracker or Coral Fountain Plant). Hummingbirds love this plant. They fight each other over it (destroying their image of pure, benign beauty). I love the coral flowers, the grace of the plant and the continuing movement of hummingbirds seeking its nectar. This is my hummingbird feeder which I can see from inside the house. It needs water and is best placed in a pot or on a bank or wall where it can spill over. - BC