

## *January 2016 Plant Notes*

Patricia Knight from Los Altos bought the following Camellias at Nuccio's Nursery Canada Flintridge, Los Angeles. These evergreen shrubs or trees flower in the winter and spring and can tolerate everything except full sun as long as they have well-drained moist soil.

**Camellia japonica** 'Buttermint' – This charming small plant was introduced by Nuccio's in 1997. It has a miniature rose form with creamy white small blossoms and a yellow center.

**Camellia japonica** 'Chandler's Elegans' - This medium sized, slow growing plant was introduced in 1823 by Alfred Chandler (London). It has an anemone form with deep rose-colored petals.

**Camellia japonica** 'Guilio Nuccio' – This large plant was introduced by Nuccio's in 1956 and is considered by many to be the world's finest camellia. Its' very large semi-double flowers can be coral rose or a watermelon color. It has a vigorous upright growth.

**Camellia x hybrid** 'Tama Peacock' – This small to medium sized plant found in Japan in 1947 was introduced to the trade by Nuccio's in 1999. Its' pendulous semi-double tubular flowers are white with deep red edges.

**Kalanchoe marnieriana** (Marnier's Kalanchoe) - Grown by Judy Wong in Menlo Park. This succulent takes full sun and is tender to 25-30°. The flowers are rose-pink to red and dangle off reddish stalks that bloom from fall to winter when they nicely contrast with its flat blue-green rounded leaves. It grows to be 12-18" tall and 2-3' wide.

**Lachenalia viridifloia** (Turquoise Hyacinth) - Grown by Judy Wong in Menlo Park. This early blooming bulb from South Africa and is only found in one remote location flowers in the spring and is sought after because it is one of the few plants which has turquoise flowers. The bloom spike can be up to 4' tall. It needs sun and well-drained soil and is hardy to 30°. It is easy to grow but please do not give it any summer water. The buds on this plant haven't opened yet. It can be purchased at Annie's Annuals.

**Ruscus aculeata** (Butcher's broom) - Grown by Katie Wong in San Jose. This drought tolerant native Mediterranean bushy shrub flowers in the spring. It is good in a shady are and it can withstand deep shade and is drought tolerant. It makes a lovely Christmas arrangement with its glossy red berries (female plant). This edible plant belongs to the Asparagus family and it's shots taste like asparagus and is believed to help unclog veins in the circulatory system. It was used to scrub butcher's blocks, clean chimneys or help repel rats and mice. It is a very easy plant and will get to be 3' tall and 3' wide in 10 years.

~Ana Muir