

February 2016 Plant Notes

Brassica oleracea (Ornamental Kale) – Grown by Katie Wong in San Jose.

Katie let this go to seed and scattered it last year all around her garden. Now they are stunning and are everywhere. This deciduous perennial needs some sun and is hardy to Zone 2. They grow 1 to 2 ft. tall and their stunning rosettes can be lavender, rose, red, white or even a creamy yellow.

Dodecatheon Hendersonii x 2 (Shooting Stars)

Sally once again brought her Shooting Stars. She collected the seeds 15 years ago and waited patiently for 7 years for the first bloom. This native plant only puts out one leaf per year. Season begins in January but ends by the end of March. It needs good drainage and no water during the summer.

Lachenalia pustulata splendida and L. reflexa (Wild Hyacinth, Cape Cowslip, Electric Hyacinth), grown by Judie Wong Menlo Park.

These bulbs produce lavender-purple flowers in late winter and spring. Like all bulbs they need well-drained soil and are tender to 30°. Judy planted this in 2010 and it bloomed for the 1st time last year. It can be planted along with succulents or in a container.



Magnolia maudiae (Michelia Maudiae, Smiling Monkey Forest Tree), in Arboretum Seehawer. Photo:

<http://www.dendroimage.de/0371.htm>

Magnolia maudiae (Michelia Maudiae, Smiling Monkey Forest Tree) – Daxin Liu from Mountain View brought this gorgeous smelling Magnolia. It is a hardy medium sized evergreen tree that can take Sun to Part Sun and flowers profusely in the spring. Daxin planted it 2 years ago and it is now 10 ft. high and loaded with large 6-inch pure white lemon-scented flowers. These flowers are arranged along the branches, not at branch tips. Mature growth is 15-20 ft. high and 8-10 ft. wide. They can be grown in containers and do well on the West Coast.

Salvia libanensis – Daxin Liu brought this wonderfully red salvia with big flowers. It is an evergreen Mountain Cloud Forest shrub of Colombia that needs part sun, moist soil and is tender to 30°. Daxin started with a 2” seedling and it now 3 ft. tall and loaded with gorgeous stalks of scarlet-flowers. The 4-5 inch thick heart shaped leaves have a soft, fuzzy texture. Plants have grown to be 6 ft. tall in San Francisco.

Vase – Liz Calhoon brought some flowering blooms (Baileyana Acacia, Almond tree, Mustard and Rosemary).

~Ana Muir