

# Sacramento Garden Notes

June 2012

Written by Robert B. Hamm

2443 Castro Way #1

Sacramento CA. 95818

[gardennotes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gardennotes@sbcglobal.net)

(916) 617-7516

Volume 15 Number 6

## Last of Season

## Midtown Plant Sales

*Benefiting the kids camp program of*

*Sunburst Projects*

**Saturday & Sunday**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**10 am to 3 pm**

In the garage behind

**The Gifted Gardener,**

**18<sup>th</sup> & J Streets**

**End of Spring Specials: End of  
Season Sell Down to make room for  
planting for the Fall Sale:**

**1 Gallons @ \$5 ea (Reg \$8-\$10)**

**4" at \$3 ea (Reg. \$4 & up)**

**3 1/2" at \$2.50ea (Reg \$3.50 &  
up)**

**Smaller starters \$1.25 ea.**

**Cash, Check and Visa/MC**

**Accepted**

**Exceptions to above pricing: Hardy  
Hibiscus, Hostas, Dicenta, Wood Poppy  
and a FEW rare items.**



The hardy Mallow type Hibiscus are hardy perennials, not shrubs. The die back to the ground in the winter and regrow in spring with LARGE (10-12") Spectacular Flowers.

### **June Garden Notes:**

Remember that newly planted material needs water at its base to soak the rootball, and pots need water IN the pot. I always have problems with new volunteers who want to spray to water, not realizing it is not getting into each pot that way.

Watering is best done in early morning or in the evening unless you have no choice but to water midday

Some plants tend to look wilted in hot weather, especially in the direct sun, but recover as soon as the sun is past – Brugmansia and other high water users are examples - so check that the plant really is dry and needs water before soaking it.

When watering pots, the best is soak till water runs out the drainage holes, then allow to dry slightly before the next watering.

When buying plants in the hot months ( June through Sept), remember that plants that have been under shadecloth, even sun lovers, may burn some if put directly into full hot sun. Just as a person can burn the first time basking in the summer sun for the season. Shade cloth may cut water use making maintenance easier and keep the plants

looking a bit better in the nursery, but doesn't help you when you go to plant them out.

Also watchout for plants straight from coastal growers that aren't used to our heat. This becomes a bigger problem as we go into summer and consistent higher temperatures.

If your looking to fill in spots in the yard while things grow, don't overlook using some of the smaller veggies to get double duty.

Bush Beans make a good season filler, and are great fresh from the garden, either cooked or raw. Another good filler, especially in afternoon shaded spots is some of the colored lettuces and salad mixes.

Warm weather brings very rapid growth, and especially for pots, keeping things fed and watered is a requirement for good growth and bloom.

Mulching your plants can help conserve water and often adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil. You can use many different materials from commercial mulches to home made compost.

It may seem early, but thinking ahead to late summer and fall blooms in the garden can save you money by allowing you to buy smaller plants over the next month or two and allowing them to grow in place rather than going out and buying bigger blooming plants.

A few of the plants that can brighten up a garden in late summer and fall are the various perennial Sunflowers, Japanese Toad Lily, various Eupatoriums, reblooming daylilies, Asters, many Fall blooming Salvias and others.

So think ahead for color later in the season. Annuals like Cosmos seeded into bare spots now will provide great late summer and fall color. Others that can be direct seeded in now for late season color include Marigolds (especially the larger hybrids), Celosia (Cocks Comb) and Sunflowers. For those that don't want to tackle seed, I'll have starters of some of these available through July.



Crocosmia 'Lucifer' is a magnet for hummingbirds. This sun lover has bright red blooms and can reach 3 1/2 foot in bloom when established. This is the best Crocosmia for those that don't have the room for the fast spread of the other forms.



Liatris is a good cut flower normally seen in purple but I also have the much harder to find white flowering form. This picture shows the effect of mixing the two colors.



Dicentra formosa is the Native California Bleeding Heart that is seen in woodlands throughout the northern area of the state



Lavatera bicolor is a dependable, sun loving, drought resistant evergreen shrub that's main drawback is that it can get 6 foot tall and almost as wide, though it does react well to hard pruning. In a watered garden, this plant blooms almost year round, though in a dry garden blooms will be concentrated in Spring and Late Fall after the first rains.

## Garden Diary –

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – The Rocky Mountain Blue Columbine is done and I'm collecting seed, but a large pure yellow one is now in full bloom. Another example of how different varieties of the same plant can extend the blooming season.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** – transplanting seedlings almost daily. Lots of perennials for fall sales that will bloom next year. Something new is putting up bloom spikes almost every day. Right now a lot of Salvias are coming into bloom, the Jupiters Beard is blooming and Hydrangea are budding.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Verbena bonariensis is in bloom and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds (yes even with those tiny flowers in clusters). The native Treitelias are blooming and the reseeding Impatiens are budded. A number of 1 gallon Heucheras were donated last Friday by a foothill grower. Thank you!

**May 17<sup>th</sup>** – still transplanting seedlings, as I empty each seed pot I plant another so I

should have new items coming available all summer. Most perennials do not bloom the first years from seed, so these most of these new items will bloom next year.

The Astilbes are budding, and the Hardy Hibiscus that came in are growing like weeds, with some over a foot tall now.

Marilyn, one of the volunteers spent Tuesday weeding gallons at Cynthias. If any of you would like to volunteer to help with the plants just let me know. Help is always needed.

May 20<sup>th</sup> – the weekend saw a lot accomplished with lots of seedlings up potted and lots of labels written since the new labels came in on Friday (\$187 dollars worth). Hopefully will get everything labeled in time for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sale at GG.

The hardy Hibiscus are growing like weeds, the big plant of Knautia macedonica is in full bloom (see below), and I took advantage of some end of season specials from suppliers to get some some new varieties of the small species type gladiolas in different colors as well as some other different summer blooming items.



Knautia calcedonica is a relative of the Scabiosas that grows easily in sun or light shade and blooms all summer. It attracts butterflies like the Scabiosas. Grows about 2 ½' tall and 3' wide. Now available.

The fall blooming Colchiciums have gone dormant and I will have a few available for those that want to try them. I also am harvesting some bulbs of the white with yellow throat species form of Freesia. One of you wanted some but I can't remember who! (Darn short term memory loss!!).

May 28<sup>th</sup> – I took advantage of a suppliers end of season ½ price sale and got some interesting new bulbous plants. The first of the crocosmias are budding, the native Treteilias (formerly Brodeia) are in bloom, most of the spring bulbs foliage either is or already has died back. Remember NOT to trim back such foliage until it has turned yellow since its producing food for next Springs blooms.

**The June 2/3 sale is your last change this year to Help send a child affected by HIV/AIDS to Summer Camp, after that I will switch over to the Holiday program to provide toys and Meals to client families for the Holiday Season:**

Year to date totals to give where we stand towards the goal of raising \$5,000 for Sunburst Projects after Expenses.

Sales to date have not lived up to expectations this season, but I'm HOPING we can still make the projected goal for the year.

	Amount	Year to date
Jan 16	\$225.50	\$225.50
	\$140.00	\$365.50
Feb 21	\$100.00	\$465.50
Feb 27	\$ 46.00	\$511.50
Feb 29	\$60.00(GN)	\$571.50
Mar 5	\$103.00	\$674.50
Mar 12	\$148.41	\$822.91
Mar. 25	\$142.50	\$965.41
April 2	\$409.00	\$1,375.50
April 16	\$506.00	\$1,881.50
April 30	\$214.00	\$2,095.50
May 6	\$156.00	\$2,151.50
May 16	\$150.00	\$2,301.50
May 21	\$55.00	\$2,356.50

Thoughts on “Full Sun” plants, especially Natives:

The other day a customer made the comment that “all natives need full sun” and it got me thinking – besides those natives that are woodland plants, even those that we think of as full sun aren't always.

Having seen many of these in their native habitat in the mountains and canyons, they often only get half a days sun when you consider the sun having to clear the mountains or canyon walls, and that the mountains provide shade early in the afternoon. True they get baking sun for the hours they are in the sun, but they actually only get maybe 6-8 hours of sun out of 14 in mid summer, and are actually in shade most of the winter when the sun is low.

So, in our flatlands, half a days exposure to hot sun should be plenty.



Daylily 'Brave Heart' (rebloomer) will be available at the Sale and will be one of many items in the \$5 gallons special. Daylilies (Hemerocaulis) are sun loving, easy to grow perennials that are both drought and heat resistant.