

SACRAMENTO GARDEN NOTES

#5 Start of Summer 2016

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Salvia 'Waverly' is a long blooming plant. If it freezes back it will start in midsummer and go through fall. Since the one in the city strip did not freeze this year, it is already blooming.

Being in the city strip it hasn't gotten much water the last couple of years and has done fine.

The blue and white flowers aren't as showy as some, but make a nice mix of colors. It can be cut fairly hard to control size if need be.

If you'd like some, either I can give you cuttings, or let me know and I'll root you a pot of it.

NO POTS NEEDED-put them in your recycle!

Garden Notes – early June –

After a mild spring, it seems summer is coming in with the month of June with temps around or over 100.

Remember that in extreme heat, a plant can wilt when in the sun even when damp. It is simply the plant losing water faster than it can absorb it through the roots and will correct itself as soon as the plant gets out of the sun. So check something really needs water before watering, or you can over water such items.

I really enjoyed by Japanese Iris this spring, picture below. I have 4, 4" starters available for \$6 each if anyone wants one.



Oh, I found the name, it's Royal Banner Although some of the lilies are done, several Oriental and Oripet (Oriental crossed with Trumpet) types are just

opening. One new one I tried this year is the double tiger lily shown below. Remember if you cut lilies for arrangements, leave at least ½ the leaves on the plant to make food and blooms for next year!



Erratic Blooms: Although we have had heat the last few days, even over 100, the unusually cool day (60's) with thunderstorms about 2 maybe 3 weeks back has triggered a few things that should be fall blooming into coming into bloom, such as the species cyclamen (Cyclamen hederifolia album. Speaking of species cyclamen, I have a few pots available, including 2 of the rarely

seen white shown below. This is normally at least semi dormant at this time of year and while I've had them bloom in August after a cool spell, never at the end of May/early June.



I also have one of the newer early blooming Helebores showing buds.

BAD HORTICULTURE – it has become fairly common for commercial growers to take a plant and change the name for their marketing. Two examples spring to mind – Proven Winners often changes the names of plants to something that markets better, or make up a name they can trademark. After all, it wouldn't

do for them to be selling something you could get cheaper elsewhere. It is even in the marketing agreement they sign with a grower/ founder of a new plant, that they can change the name.

The other example is Plant Delights Nursery who decided a new Begonia species needed a “marketing name” rather than the ABS U # and so named it B. ‘Pewterware’ and sold it under that name.

In both cases, it just adds to the nomenclature problems of those trying to research a plant.



Primulina thomasiana is a small gesneriad (African Violet family) used in light gardens or terrariums. I have a few available, extra from a batch I grew from seed.



I am about to divide the above two Iris – the blue & white is a rebloomer, blooming Spring and Fall, the mahogany a regular season. I should about 4 of each, maybe more, let me know if you’d like one.

Things to do:

Plant seed of fast annuals like Cosmos, Marigold, Sunflowers for late summer

and fall color. Late Sunflowers are a great brood plant for late season ladybug lava, since they tend to get aphids just after blooming and the Ladybugs feed on them. The seed heads when ripe can be eaten or the seed used for winter bird food.

Since summer heat means more watering, watch for things that stop growing, or pale out. These are signs the nitrogen has leached out and they need feeding.

Either don't prune or prune lightly things such as Rhododendron, Camelia, Azalea and other winter/spring blooming shrubs, as they start setting flower buds for next year about now.

Check out Brent and Beckys Bulbs online for ideas of what to add this fall. If you go to their charity site, you can select a charity (like Sunburst Projects) and part of your purchase will go to that charity. A lot of the smaller bulbs do well in pots and can brighten a patio! Most of the South African bulbs, along with California natives like Treteilia (Brodeae) are very drought tolerant.

Renew mulch if you haven't this season. It not only saves water but adds organic matter to the soil as it decays. It will also increase your worm population and worm castings are a great soil additive! All natural fertilizer!

Well, as I finish this up our weather in June has swung between 100 and as low as 71, then back to 100 in a few

days, no wonder the plants are confused.



Above is Penstemon stricta, a Rocky mountain native that goes straight up with its bloom spikes. Last year it was about 3' tall, this year something must really be to its liking as it is 5 ft. tall, way over its normal height. I have a few 4 inch pots if anyone wants to try it.

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME BYE
AND SEE WHAT I HAVE LEFT,
JUST GIVE ME A CALL AT 916-
617-7516 AND CHECK IF I'M
HOME.**

