



SalviaNews

Victorian Salvia Study Group

A Branch of the Herb Society of Victoria

WINTER

JUNE JULY AUGUST

Number 29

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUNE 17th SUNDAY** Neil and Margaret Keir's Garden at 11am
23 Bond St. Mt Waverly Mel. 70 G2 Ph 9802 7139
Enjoy seeing salvias and other lovely plants. Bring lunch to share.
- JULY 7th SATURDAY** PAKENHAM GARDEN EXPO 10 am to 4pm
Pakenham Racecourse Racecourse Rd Pakenham Mel. 317 E 8
We will be selling salvias again.
- JULY 16th MONDAY** Upper Yarra Valley Garden Club at 8pm
Senior Citizens Hall Dammans Rd Warburton Mel. 290 A4
Trudi will be speaking on salvias and Jillian will sell salvias
- AUGUST 19th SUNDAY** Cait Hoogenbosch's Garden at 11am
391 Chum Creek Rd Chum Creek Mel. 269 C1 J4
We have been invited to this interesting garden. Bring lunch to share
- AUGUST 25th SATURDAY** Ballarat Floral Art Group at 2pm
Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre Ballarat Botanic Gardens
Ballarat Country Mel. 254 G9
Trudi will be speaking on salvias and Jillian selling salvia plants
- SEPTEMBER 22nd SUNDAY** Trudi Fry's Garden at 11am
39 Temple Rd South Belgrave Mel. 84 J2 ph. 9754 4041
Visit 'The Great Wall of Salvias' and other attractions!
The Sale Garden Club are coming too. Bring lunch to share.
- OCTOBER 13th and 14th SATURDAY AND SUNDAY . BAW BAW GARDEN EXPO**
Lardner Park Warragul Mel 612 U8 9 pm to 4pm
This should be an interesting visit. We will not be selling salvias.

BENALLA BOTANICA

OCTOBER 26th 27th & 28th FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Visit Benalla for this outstanding event; there will be garden visits, talks

by overseas experts and sales of interesting things for enthusiastic gardeners. The Salvia Study Group will be selling plants on 27th &

28th.

Further information next Salvia News.

NOVEMBER 18th SUNDAY Cloudehill Nursery and Garden visit at 11 am
89 Olinda/Monbulk Rd Olinda Mel. 122 A9

The Salvia Study Group will be visiting this magic garden.

DECEMBER 9th SUNDAY CHRISTMAS GARDEN PARTY at Trudi's garden at 11am

39 Temple Rd South Belgrave Mel. 84 J2 Bring lunch to share.

FEBRUARY 9th & 10th 2008 Mark Dymiotis's OPEN GARDEN

35 Barnett St. Hampton. Mel. 76 K5

FEBRUARY 16th & 17th SATURDAY & SUNDAY

FERNY CREEK PLANT COLLECTORS SALE

100 Hilton Rd Sassafras Mel. 66 E 2

We will be selling salvias.

Salvia News – Hobart

The display of salvias at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has reached a peak with the full flowering of the lime-green calyx form of *Salvia mexicana*. It is a brilliant sight with numerous erect inflorescences, up to 35cms in length, densely covered in persisting yellowish-green calyces. Flowers, to 35mm long with a horizontal hooded upper lip, change colour from dark blue, with a lower lip of a distinctly more purple tone, most evident in shade, to a purple blue in sunlight. Presented above the shiny grey-green ovate leaves, the massed yellowish-green calyces are so prominent that this particular form of *S. mexicana* is noticeable even from a distance. From a root ball that was transplanted in mid September to make way for widening of the deck of the restaurant, one four year old specimen of this salvia, in full sun, has flourished and regrown to a sturdy shrub over 1.5m high and more than 2.5m across, an impressive sight! This plant is a prolific setter of seed and capable of self seeding. Behind, the lush growth of the ‘Tequila’ form of *Salvia gesneraeflora* has produced the first of its dark unfurling terminal flower stalks with shoots already up to 1.5m in length, resulting from the hard prune in January.

By mid autumn, *Salvia madrensis* began to extend its flower stems on shoots that have grown to 2m tall from plants pruned to the ground in early September. The bright yellow of the stem, the calyces, narrow and ribbed and corollas with short, hooded upper lip, is unusual on plants in colder climates as well as for salvias in general. The peduncle can be up to an unusual 20mm in length, and bear sparse and short flowers, only 30mm long, that have a cream lower lip. Conspicuous inflorescences, up to 60cm long, are sticky to touch and retain the remains of assorted tiny insects. They can branch at their base with shorter lateral flowering stems, their vivid yellow exhibited above the darker green of the substantial foliage of this salvia, one of the largest leaved of the genus. Such leaves can grow to an impressive 30cm long and 20cm wide. Another interesting feature of this plant is the cruciate cross section of its stem, formed by the characteristic four edges of the genera of the *Lamiaceae*, and two of the opposite sides being deeply furrowed. This characteristic alternates along the length of the stem between each node with the flat, smooth surface of the other two opposite sides.

Our collection last year was again expanded with a further generous receipt of material, in September, from Geelong Botanic Gardens. Thank you Des! So far, I have been particularly impressed by the growth rate of *S. purpurea* and the appeal of *S. mexicana* “Lolly”. Only planted 20 weeks ago, a plant of *S. purpurea*, in full sun with some late afternoon protection, has grown with slender stems to 2.7m. Other such specimens, a touch shorter, that are exposed to afternoon sun are also delicate with an open, lightly foliated form. However, they are more advanced in flowering with an unusual feature of terminal inflorescences at an equal stage of development on all laterals along the entire length of the stem from near the ground to the top. In contrast, the growth of *S. mexicana* “Lolly” is, so far, open but quite horizontal, measuring 1.20cm across but only 70cm in height with a slightly paler blue flower than the lime-green calyx form but with, instead, a dark, almost black calyx with a tint of purple.

Strong vigorous growth of such salvia shrubs provide an ability to quickly fill a space in the garden although their vulnerability to potential wind damage may require staking or the protection of sheltering plants.

The frequent sweeping of an apparently singular Brush Wattlebird between the shrubs of *Salvia* 'Costa Rican Blue' and these cultivars of *S. mexicana*, feeding, acrobatically, on the nectar of their abundant flowers, and aggressively defending this against smaller competitors, is an enthralling feature of this autumnal salvia spectacle.

John Daniels
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GROWING SALVIAS IN DROUGHT TIMES

I live on a 12-acre block at Upper Coomera in the Gold Coast Hinterland. Traditionally this area was used for timber, dairying and growing arrowroot crops, amongst others. I have sandy soil, which responds well to watering or rainfall, but is not moisture retentive. Summers are not as hot as Brisbane; overnight winter temperatures to 7-8 degrees with occasional frosts in low-lying areas. As my house and garden is elevated I am not frost affected.

After poor summer rain, this autumn has been extremely dry, sometimes very windy, so little morning dew. Temperatures have been much higher than normal for March/April - on 5th May it was 31 degrees. So not only no recordable rainfall for months, but hot as well.

My summer creek and waterhole are now non-existent, so I rely on tank water. The top dam is dry. Even with the occasional deep watering, it's very hard to get the water to penetrate the soil. Dolomite and organic matter have been added. The garden is very well mulched - some areas do perform better than others. I fertilized with Plant of Health Organic Link in early autumn.

Salvias which have flowered and coped well here without water for at least 2 months are: *Salvia* 'Indigo Spires'; *S. karwinskii* x 'Follett's Folly', *S. 'Waverley'* and *S. 'Pseudo Nutans'*.

Salvias which have been given occasional water and have grown/flowered well: *S. 'Phyllis Fancy'*, *S. karwinskii* x *involucrata* 'Raspberry' (seedling found in Brisbane garden), *S. 'Anthony Parker'*, *S. 'Purple Majesty'*, *S. melissodora*, *S. microphylla* 'San Carlos Festival', *S. muiirii*, *S. 'Christine Yeo*, and *S. 'Marine Blue'*.

Salvias which are not coping, even with occasional water: *S. 'Van Houttii'* (wilting quickly), *S. iodantha* (wilting), *S. leucantha* 'Purple & White', *S. nemorosa* 'Blue Hills', *S. involucrata* 'Pink Icicles' (flowered well, wilting now), *S. madrensis* (flowering well, wilting) and *S. 'Blue Ribbon'*.

Salvias which have died: *S. x sylvestris* 'Caradonna'; *S. x sylvestris* 'Rose Queen' (both in too hot a position and not enough TLC), *S. lavanduloides*, 'Bog Sage' *S. uliginosa* and *S. gesneriiflora*.

Salvias receiving grey water: growing and flowering very well: *S. purpurea* and *S. wagneriana*;

Salvias which were distressed and have been lifted and are growing in large pots with hand watering and Healthy Earth fertilizer; *S. involucrata* 'Joan', *S. sagittata* 'Mosquito' (now *pennellii*) and *S. 'Costa Rican Blue'*.

Salvias purchased or propagated within the last 6 months and not planted in garden. These have been potted on as required and fertilized with Healthy Earth and are growing/flowering well and are hand watered:

Salvia involucrata 'Bethellii', *S. leucantha* 'Midnight', *S. discolor*, *S. chiapensis*, *S. 'Cookie'*, *S. sinaloensis* and *S. involucrata* 'Bethellii'.

Denise Long

The Perennial Poppies Group Inc
SE Queensland

WERRI BEACH SOUTH COAST NSW

This autumn has seen my best display of salvias for a while. Good rain at the right time has resulted in a great show from Salvia 'Anthony Parker', *S. iodantha*, *S. madrensis*, *S. leucantha*, S.'Purple Majesty', *S. elegans* purple, *S. melissadora*, S.'Christine Yeo' and others.

I've found that *Plectranthus*, purple, white and pinks, which flower at the same time as most of the above salvias, look great together. As do *Abutilons* and all the grey leaved perennials which seem to glow at this time of the year. All together they create colourful pictures.

Had a lovely visit from the Keir's who called in on their way back to Melbourne. It's always interesting to hear how other people garden and their different problems. I envy your get-togethers down there. They always sound like good fun!

The combination of S.'Costa Rican' blue and the red *Canna* leaves was a great success and will be more so once the salvia fills out a bit. I've tried to mix S.'Black Night' and a pink salvia which is like a smaller version of *S. involucrata* 'Bethelli', with a pink *Calla* lily and a maroon *Alternanthera*. I think eventually they will look good together.

Salvia 'Purple Majesty' growing in amongst California Tree Poppy (*Romneya*) with its grey leaves is stunning. *S. elegans* 'Purple' which was planted accidentally in the nature strip garden has put on a great show as we have had less wind which usually burns the leaves. I've also planted a Nutmeg bush between S. 'Margaret Arnold' and S. 'Phyllis Fancy' which I'm hoping will work.

I'm enjoying trying out these combinations and also am propagating madly to fill out any gaps in the borders. I will need to get some new salvias soon though.

Maureen Cox

The Travels Of Margaret and Neil Keir

We are away in Tasmania for a month minding our daughter's children whilst she and her husband are overseas. We are in Sheffield, the home of Clematis Cottage Nursery (very tempting each time we come here). The town is overlooked by Mount Roland and rolling green farmland, and over recent years Merran has been creating a lovely one acre plus garden.

Quarantine restrictions prevent us bringing plant material with us but on one of her Melbourne visits we sent her home with a lovely bunch of salvia flowers which were suitably sprayed at the airport, and resulted in a few plants growing in her garden.

Before our Tasmanian trip we visited Wollongong. Trudi suggested (perhaps I should say insisted) that we detour to visit Maureen and Milton Cox at Werri Beach on our way home. It was easy to spot Maureen's garden as we turned into her street. The front garden slopes gently down to the road with a garden full of flowers and colourful foliage, a winding gravel path and picket fence gateway. Having given up trying to grow *S. madrensis* we were confronted with a wonderful display from some thick clumps in full flower. We hope to have a couple of photographs to show you in June.

The rear garden slopes down steeply down to a large lagoon and a narrow path leads through a simple arch down to a small jetty. The garden is full of interesting plants, a lot of them unusual, including that new bronze *Pennisetum*. Of course you would expect to find salvias throughout the garden and we were not disappointed. It is a great time for S. Anthony Parker and Maureen makes good use of it as well as many other salvias. You will be surprised to hear that we did manage to come home with a few cuttings.

We enjoyed morning tea on the deck in the sun overlooking this beautifully maintained garden---well you can imagine how pleasant it was.

Margaret and Neil Keir (*I just wanted to have that magnificent *S.madrensis* checked out. It amazed me when I saw it ... Trudi*)

SALVIAS IN A SMALL GARDEN Geoff Crowhurst, Thornbury

My single front terrace house, which dates from 1890, has very little front garden and a small but longish back garden, with old roses, clematis, tree peonies, and camellias in the shady back part. I've covered the fences with plants wherever possible, and espaliered dwarf bougainvillea up the brick north and west facing walls. So I can't really grow any of the larger salvias, and have expanded into the nature strips (mine and the apartment's next door which I care for) to now grow about 45 types in all.

I don't grow any very unusual salvias, though *S. glechomifolia* and *S. chionophylla* are not particularly common. The former has smallish blue flowers on and off in the warmer months, and spreads a bit in light shade as a ground cover. *S. chionophylla* also creeps, and readily roots where nodes touch the soil. I've got it in semi-shade, but it would flower more in sun, so I'm going to plant it in a tall pot where it can trail down the sides. Betsy Clebsch says it will bush up if the trailing stems are cut off.

Of all the salvias, I would class the *S. patens* forms as royalty. They have splendid large flowers in glorious colours and are very reliable. Although they do well in the open, they are probably better out of the hot afternoon sun. Some people find them a bit tricky, probably because snails and slugs absolutely love the new spring shoots, and may keep chewing them until the plants give up. I completely fell for the ethereal *S. 'Cambridge Blue'* when I saw it growing in semi-shade at Lambley Nursery, where it lit up the soft light in front of the old house, *S. 'Chilcombe'* is an interesting violet blue, and I am still waiting to get the white form.

Of the other salvias, *S. chiapensis* is absolutely fool proof, and I used it in a large basket to good effect to win The Most Innovative Hanging Basket prize at the International Flower and Garden Show last year for my garden club. Another favourite is *S. coahuilensis* which flowers for ages in a west facing situation, and has leaves which have a beautiful sharp smell when trodden on. *S. microphylla* (Baby Sage) suits my small garden well, takes trimming, and looks smart next to *S. chamaedryoides*.

Out the front on the nature strip, a plant which I bought as *S. 'San Marcos Festival'* ('San Carlos Festival?') has performed marvelously, and in its second year has spread to about three feet, while being less than a foot tall. After being trimmed in spring, it has never stopped flowering, and bounces back immediately after a scorching hot day. I also rather like *S. disermas*, which is managing well under a callistemon tree. It is a modest sort of plant with clean foliage and obliging habit, and would suit many garden situations. *S. 'Hot Lips'* has established itself well after being planted late spring, and should come into its own next season.

I should mention that planting up the nature strip has been no easy feat, as I have had to devise means of defeating a regular local plant thief. After a number of thefts, I came up with the idea of a cheap wire basket to cover a newly planted salvia, fixed to the ground with three of the longest tent pegs I could buy, hammered in at an angle. With mulch to cover the basket edge and top of the tent pegs, no one could see how the cover was fixed, and it couldn't be pulled straight off. I haven't lost a plant since. We gardeners do have to be inventive, don't we?

How some North and South American Salvias are related, based on:

“A REVISION OF SALVIA SUBGENUS CALSOPHACE”
C. Epling, 1939, Beihefte 110, Fedde Repertorium Spec. Nov.

Taxonomists love to categorize things, and from time to time, in their wisdom, they come up with new groupings. To collectors of *Salvias* who only wish to enjoy their beauty in the garden, all of this is irrelevant. However, some of us are interested in the relatedness of plants, and especially in how they have evolved. Major research into *Salvias* at the molecular level is currently being undertaken internationally which may well overturn current divisions of *Salvias*, and may even regroup some *Salvias* with other genera, such as *Rosmarinus* and *Perovskia*. In the meantime, we have some 900 species worldwide to consider, of which some 500 are grouped into a subgenus – “*Calosphace*”, occurring in North, Central and South America.

Bentham originally grouped the 156 species in the subgenus “*Calosphace*” into 7 sections. However, by the twentieth century, many more species had been discovered, with closer to 500 species in this subgenus and in 1939, Carl Epling published a major work, further dividing these into 91 sections. He grouped these species according to the following attributes:

- Number of flowers in a glomerule
- Persistence or not of floral bracts
- Number of veins in upper lip of calyx
- Proportion of upper lip to lower lip of corolla
- Entire invaginated nature of the corolla tube
- Inclusion/exclusion of stamens
- Nature of stamen connective, especially the lower sterile portion
- Proportions and shape of style branches
- Hairiness/smoothness of the style itself

While such a classification is probably outdated, it is still referred to frequently by users of the Yahoo discussion group, in the absence of anything else.

I was keen to see this published work for myself for a number of reasons. Firstly, as already noted, section names appear from time to time on the web discussion site, and they meant nothing to me. Secondly, we have made reference to the difference between flowers of the *greggii*-type and *microphylla*-type, based on the presence of paired papillae at the base of the corolla tube (see “What’s in a name?”, *Salvia News* Winter 2006 no 25) which supposedly places these species in separate sections, according to Epling. Thirdly, it is possible to see similarities, albeit subjectively, between species such as *Salvia macrophylla*, *scutellariodes* and *sagittata*, or *lavanduloides* and *agnes*, or again, *glechomifolia* and *prunelloides*, to name just a few.

I understood that this book was not available in Melbourne, so on a visit to the UK in August last year, I obtained permission to consult the library at Kew and spent a whole day ploughing through this 500 page volume (in latin!), to extract the following information. Clearly the list below is not a list of every *Salvia* in the subgenus *Calosphace*, (would be 14 pages otherwise), but rather I have extracted the names of most of the species that we know about in Victoria, with a few others that I have seen in Robin Middleton’s collection. This way, not all 91 sections are represented, but they are numbered as per Epling, and I have given the page references for anyone who wishes to pursue this further. From my point of view, I find this list immensely useful. In addition to the similarities I noted above, look at section 13, “*Uliginosae*”, for example and then look at the flowers of *Salvia uliginosa*, *villosa*, *forreri*, *glechomifolia*, *arizonica*, *prunelloides* and *sinaloensis*, then again at Section 41, *Flocculosae*. Of course, there may well be identification errors in some of the plants we think we know and have.

Another use for me, is the highlighting of the confusion between *Salvia rypara*, *riparia* and *misella*. I think the latter two are now considered synonymous, however, spelling errors abound in written articles, confusing *riparia* with *rypara* – two species from different sections.. It is also interesting to see some of the new species names we have been given for plants that had temporary names before, such as “Tammy”, which is now *Salvia pennellii*, and “Kathe” which is now *Salvia cruickshanksii* (note the *s* underlined. and in bold. Bentham named this flower, so I figure this

spelling is correct). I was surprised to find *Salvia iodantha* and *Salvia purpurea* in separate Sections, but they are adjacent and presumably fairly close. I was also surprised to find *Salvia tubifera* in a separate Section (*Tubiflorae*) from that of *Salvia longistyla* (*Curtiflorae*) because I had read somewhere that these were synonymous. (*Comment they are quite different; flower at different times- and have different colors etc Jillian*)

Doubtless, you will have other observations and queries, such as, “Where is *chiapensis*?” for which I have no idea of the answer except that I clearly missed it out! So I hope my time was on the whole well spent!!

Page ref	Section	Species	Where they occur
14/15	2. <i>Microsphace</i>	3. <i>misella</i> (Kunth)	Cuba, Mexico – Baja California
		4. <i>riparia</i> (Kunth)	“ “
18 - 20	3. <i>Tomentellae</i>	12. <i>gilliesii</i> (Benth.)	Bolivia, Chile
31	5. <i>Cucullatae</i>	27. <i>clinopodioides</i> (Kunth)	Mexico
34 - 35	8. <i>Lavanduloideae</i>	41. <i>lavanduloides</i> (Kunth)	Mexico 2000+m
		42. <i>agnes</i> (Epl.)	“ but different habit & aspect
50 - 51	11. <i>Corrugatae</i>	57. <i>corrugata</i> (Vahl)	Colombia, Peru
53	12. <i>Discolores</i>	60. <i>discolor</i> ((Sessé et Moc.)	Peru
54 - 58	13. <i>Uliginosae</i>	64. <i>uliginosa</i> (Benth.)	
		72. <i>villosa</i> (Fern.)	
		77. <i>forreri</i> (Greene)	
		78. <i>glechomifolia</i> (Kunth)	
		79. <i>arizonica</i> (Gray)	
		82. <i>prunelloides</i> (Kunth)	
		85. <i>nana</i> (Kunth)	
		<i>sinaloensis</i> (Fern.)	
88 -89	18. <i>Hastatae</i>	108. <i>macrophylla</i> (Benth.)	
		109. <i>funckii</i> (Briq.)	
		110. <i>sagittata</i> (R. et P.)	Peru
		112. <i>rumicifolia</i> (Kunth)	Colombia
		113. <i>scutellarioides</i> (Kunth)	Colombia
93 - 94	19. <i>Standleyana</i>	115. <i>cacaliifolia</i> (Benth.)	
94 - 95	20. <i>Blakea</i>	119. <i>patens</i> (Cav.)	Mexico
102	24. <i>Glareosae</i>	127. <i>reflexa</i> (Hornem.)	
105	25. <i>Potiles</i>	131. <i>hispanica</i> (L.)	
106 - 107	26. <i>Mitratae</i>	132. <i>lasiantha</i> (Benth.)	
108	27. <i>Phoeniceae</i>	134. <i>hirtella</i> (Vahl)	Ecuador

110	29. <i>Rubescentes</i>	138. <i>rubescens</i> (Kunth)	
113 - 114	30. <i>Biflorae</i>	140. <i>squalens</i> (Kunth) 141. <i>tubiflora</i> (Smith) 143. <i>oppositiflora</i> (R. et P.)	
117 - 118	31. <i>Cylindriflorae</i>	147. <i>sprucei</i> (Briq.) 149. <i>praeclara</i> (Epl.) 150. <i>heerii</i> (Regel) 154. <i>haenkei</i> (Benth.)	Bolivia
132	34. <i>Subrotundae</i>	166. <i>coccinea</i> (Juss.) 167. <i>subrotunda</i> St. Hil.)	
135	36. <i>Flexuosae</i>	171. <i>pauciserrata</i> (Benth.)	
138	37. <i>Incarnatae</i>	173. <i>cinnabarina</i> (M. et G.) 174. <i>elegans</i> (Vahl)	
143	39. <i>Chariantha</i>	190. <i>rubiginosa</i> (Benth.)	
143 - 165	41. <i>Flocculosae</i> **	194. <i>chionophylla</i> (Fern.) 195. <i>chamaedryoides</i> (Cav.) 196. <i>coahuilensis</i> (Fern.) 197. <i>serpyllifolia</i> (Fern.) 198. <i>thymoides</i> (Benth.) 200. <i>cruickshanksii</i> (Benth.) 204. <i>lycoides</i> (Gray) 205. <i>macellaria</i> (Epl.) 206. <i>greggii</i> (Gray) 207. <i>muelleri</i> (Epl.)	
166 - 167	43. <i>Scoradonia</i>	214. <i>keerlii</i> (Benth.) 218. <i>melissodora</i> (Lag.)	
174	44. <i>Uricae</i>	224. <i>amarissima</i> (Ort.) 225. <i>urica</i> (Epl.)	
186-187	46. <i>Farinaceae</i>	242. <i>farinacea</i> (Benth.) 244. <i>azurea</i> (Lam.)	
197-198	47. <i>Malacophyllae</i>	253. <i>rypara</i> (Briq.) 254. <i>stachydifolia</i> (Benth.)	
204	49. <i>Dusenostachys</i>	260. <i>recurva</i> (Benth.) 261. <i>concolor</i> (Lamb.) 262. <i>madrensis</i> (Seem.)	Mexico Mexico Mexico. Sierra Madre
211	51. <i>Pennellia</i>	269. <i>pennellii</i> (Epl.)	
211	52. <i>Atratae</i>	270. <i>semiatrata</i> (Zucc.)	
213 - 214	54. <i>Polystachyae</i>	278. <i>polystachya</i> (Ort.)	Guatemala

228	56. <i>Carneae</i>	294. <i>gracilis</i> (Benth.)	
		296. <i>iodochroa</i> (Briq.)	
		297. <i>simulans</i> (Fer.)	
		298. <i>carnea</i> (Kunth)	
234 - 239	57. <i>Angulatae</i>	305. <i>tiliifolia</i> (Vahl)	
		309. <i>caudata</i> (Epl.)	
		310. <i>roscida</i> (Fern.)	
		311. <i>fallax</i> (Fern.)	
		319. <i>myriantha</i> (Epl.)	
		336. <i>xalapensis</i> (Benth.)	
		339. <i>amplifrons</i> (Briq.)	
267 - 268	61. <i>Briquetia</i>	354. <i>mexicana</i> (L.)	
273 - 274	63. <i>Fulgentes</i>	359. <i>pulchella</i> (DC.)	
		360. <i>fulgens</i> (Cav.)	
277- 279		363. <i>microphylla</i> (Kunth)	
279	64. <i>Pavonia</i>	364. <i>revoluta</i> (R. et P.)	
280 - 282	65. <i>Nobiles</i>	366. <i>gesneriflora</i> (Lindl.)	
		367. <i>adenophora</i> (Fern.)	
		368. <i>disjuncta</i> (Fern.)	
288 - 289	67. <i>Erythrostachys</i>	379. <i>regla</i> (Cav.)	
		381. <i>sessei</i> (Benth.)	
292	68. <i>Silvicolae</i>	383. <i>miniata</i> (Fern.)	
293	69. <i>Coeruleae</i>	384. <i>ianthina</i> (Otto et Dietr.)	
		385. <i>guaranitica</i> (St. Hil.)	
		386. <i>atrocyanea</i> (Epl.)	
295 - 301	70. <i>Cardinalis</i>	387. <i>cardinalis</i> (Kunth)	
		390. <i>karwinskii</i> (Benth.)	
		391. <i>holwayi</i> (Blake)	
		392. <i>wagneriana</i> (Polak)	
		393. <i>involucrata</i> (Cav.)	
		394. <i>puberula</i> (Fern.)	
301 - 302	71. <i>Conzattiana</i>	395. <i>aspera</i> (M. et G.)	
305.	74. <i>Skeptostachys</i>	401. <i>regnelliana</i> (Briq.)	
307	76. <i>Hoehneana</i>	403. <i>grewiifolia</i> (S. Moore)	
309	78. <i>Tuberosae</i>	406. <i>oxyphora</i> (Briq.)	
310	79. <i>Longiflorae</i>	410. <i>dombeyi</i> (Epl.)	
314	80. <i>Brandegeia</i>	414. <i>blepharophylla</i> (Brandege)	
		415. <i>oresbia</i> (Fern. 1900)	

321- 322	85. <i>Tubiflorae</i>	425. <i>tubifera</i> (Cav.)	
327	86. <i>Iodanthae</i>	437. <i>iodantha</i> (Fern.)	
329	87. <i>Purpureae</i>	441. <i>littae</i> (Vis.) 442. <i>purpurea</i> (Cav.)	
336	89. <i>Albolanatae</i>	448. <i>leucantha</i> (Vis.)	
337 - 390	90. <i>Curtiflorae</i>	450. <i>longistyla</i> (Benth.) 453. <i>curtiflora</i> (Epl.)	
342 - 343	91. <i>Secdae</i>	464. <i>splendens</i> (Sellow) 466. <i>confertiflora</i> (Pohl)	

In the book there followed a list of names under the heading “Nomina dubia inquirenda et mihi ignota”, none of which is familiar to us in Victoria either, so I have left it out.

Pat Anderson, March 2007

PURPLE AND SILVER

In an act of defiance to glum “it will never rain feelings” I, with help, emptied the bold red and blue garden bed. It was all dry sticks about to spring forth, as *Salvia gesneriiflora*, S. ‘Costa Rican Blue,’ *Salvia concolor*, S ‘Blue Skies’, etc do, at the slightest hope of rain. All were ripped out ruthlessly. Next, six metres of compost was spread and watered. Full tanks, lucky me. This left a surprising space, not seen for years. In my terra cotta pots there were so many anonymous purple *micro/greggii* anons. They were jostling each other and impossible to see except as a mass. No chance of I.D. when one can’t see where a plant ends and another begins. Once I realized how crammed they were I felt guilty. I hate cruelty to plants, especially caused by me.

The Terra Cotta idea works a treat. Easy and economical to water but success leads to excess. Something needed to be done. The front blue/red bed had been destructed, so naturally, this lead to a “Purple Patch’. With the help of a good strong 19 year old gardener construction began. I have a good supply of *cotyledon orbiculata* growing vigourously so the brick edging is planted with this lovely tough silver plant and the rest of the bed planted with the above *micro/greggii* lot, S. ‘Purple Majesty’, S. ‘Black Knight’ various forms of *S. leucantha* and of course three *S. semi-atrata*. The silvers I have so far throughout the bed are; *centaurea cineraria*, *senecio cineraria* and I am looking for those other lacy silver lovelies to mass through the salvias.

Now all that was written last night. A diary form is a way of writing for SN all you folk fed up with demands from an annoying editor should try. Back to today, my designated gardening day and the pump on the concrete tanks failed. What an aggravation. Plenty of water in them too. Probably needs a filter cleaned and that is a son job. However I scrambled my way to the steel tank and it was full and its pump kind so exhausted with no work done I had to rest. But just on dark managed to get more silver cotyledon in and that was my day!

A week later I have pruned the 20 year old *Salvia africana lutea*. It has waited years for a prune but I have been reluctant to have someone not as sweet kind and understanding as me do it. And it wasn’t quite blocking all the steps. Any way I went out with loppers and suddenly became transformed into frenzied destroyer. Branches flew every where, even

the ones just flowering. And fresh lovely shoots were growing even as I cut the hard woody structure over them. Once started how does one know when to stop pruning? These loppers give a feeling of power. It was the need for a rest and a coffee that stopped me.

Trudi Fry

Salvias surviving the drought

The Geelong Botanic Gardens is fortunate to hold a collection of *Salvia* which not only meets the charter of a Botanic Garden but adds to the charm of the garden. Geelong has been on staged water restrictions for some time and the local residents are savvy when it comes to water conservation and are innovatively applying good sense to gardening with drought tolerant plants.

Salvias feature in the Geelong Botanic Gardens in both the traditional landscape and the 21st Century Garden. The heritage garden has an exemption which has meant that some areas of the garden are watered with a view to keeping trees and significant specimens alive. The *salvia*'s in this part of the garden may be in beds which receive water, while others have not received any beyond subsistence watering. In the 21st Century Garden the *salvias* have only received subsistence watering and have performed extremely well, still providing a good floral display.

Following are just a few of the *salvias* which have performed well and can be considered by growers from other dry areas:

<i>Salvia microphylla</i> cvs.	A bed planted in September 2004 with a variety of cultivars is doing well. The soil was improved with the addition of organic matter and is mulched with pea straw.
<i>S. chamaedryoides</i>	The blue flowers and blue green foliage of this plant from high altitude areas of Mexico is well adapted to dry conditions and its prostrate form is an advantage in mixed planting beds.
<i>S. namaensis</i>	This plant from South Africa with its aromatic foliage is performing very well on subsistence watering and has flowered well during the summer period.
<i>S. dolomitica</i>	Another South African plant from the Transvaal province it gives the effect of saltbush with its grey-green foliage.
<i>S. nilotica</i>	From the North African coast this plant survives the drought well and its propensity to self seed has been curbed by the lack of water.
<i>S. muiiri</i>	Again an African plant from the Cape of Good Hope adapted to sandy soil and coastal conditions.
<i>S. chiapensis</i>	A Mexican <i>salvia</i> from the cloud forest areas and with wonderfully glossy dark green foliage and hot pink flowers. This plant may not be cold or frost tolerant but it has survived not only the 21 st Century garden but the Play Scape adjacent to the garden- both dry areas and one with the added wear and tear of children!
<i>S. cacaliaefolia</i>	Another <i>salvia</i> from Southern America, Mexico and Guatemala from forested areas. A handy plant for dry shaded areas and doing well in full sun having flowered well.

The plants listed here are representative of the collection and many more have proven to be very drought tolerant while providing a good show of flowers. For those of you who haven't been to Geelong for a while now is an opportune time to come and explore the garden and make notes on what is performing well in our conditions.

Des Lawrence & Annette Zealley
Geelong Botanic Gardens Ph. 5227 0379

Glenelg Community Park
Article for the Salvia Study Group of Victoria

It all started when the Geelong Botanic Gardens was requested to assist on the planning of some garden beds and a planting day at the Glenelg Community Park in Corio, by Bethany Family Support Services, a Welfare Provider servicing the Geelong and surrounding area.

Initially, John Arnott and I met up with the representative of Bethany Family Support Group's Linden Baxter, to assist with ideas and the layout of some of the garden beds. At this time it was close to spring, in fact early September 2004. John drew up a mud map planting plan and asked if I would assist Bethany and the residents on the day.

We had about 40 people turn up for a planting day. The day was perfect for gardening, sunshine while most of the work was done and rain when we were finished. Botanic gardens and Bethany supplied tools, plants included indigenous and salvias. At this stage we were on stage 2 water restrictions with watering allowed on alternate days, a long enough hose was also at hand to water in the newly planted plants. There has been two subsequent planting days since then, the last being, during spring of 2006.

The local residents were keen participants, from grandparents to parents and lots of children, who took up the responsibility of keeping an eye on the park when all the work was finished. A Park Ranger Badge was handed to these children to show some appreciation for all the hard work they had put in, they were certainly an enthusiastic group.

Some of the plants that are still surviving since the initial and subsequent plantings are doing exceptionally well. To name a few of these, first of all the *Dianella* species which appear delicate but are one of the hardiest plants around. Others include some species of salt bush, small indigenous plants, such as (*Westringia brevifolia*, *Myoporum insulare* and *Hibiscus insularis*, some eucalypt, hardy African daises, salvia and in pride of place a Japanese maple planted in the centre of the garden surrounded by a circular garden bed with a bench seat close by.

The salvia are doing exceptionally well considering we are at present on stage 4 water restrictions. Untreated water is being trucked in once or twice a week by council at Corio, they have also kept up the mulching of the garden beds which has helped tremendously during this drought. Although we are still watering occasionally the ground is still cracked around many of the plants. Some of the salvia that stand out are *S. pulchella*, *S. africana lutea*, *S. africana caerulea*. The *S. microphylla* species and cultivars are in excellent condition. To name a few such as, *S. microphylla* 'Hot Lips'

S. microphylla wislizenii, *S. microphylla* 'Margaret Arnold', *S. microphylla* var. *microphylla*. Others such as *S. leucantha* are the masters of survival, Mexican Bush Sage adapts to most environments and never looks back once planted, *S. 'Phyllis Fancy'*, *S. 'Anthony Parker'*, and *S. karwinskii* are also in splendid form.

From its humble beginnings this community effort is still going strong thanks to the aid and participation of all concerned and especially the seniors of the nearby housing estate. At this stage however, all new plantings have stopped due to water restrictions, together with the help of residents and Bethany Family Services we shall strive to keep this line of communication open between community and the Botanic Gardens strong.

Des Lawrence
Horticulturalist Geelong Botanic Gardens 16-5-07

Some Floppy Salvias in My Kiama Garden

Every now and then I do something in the garden that turns out to be just right and the spot I chose for my *Salvia iodantha* is an example of this. Maureen Cox of Warri Beach gave it to me as a small plant she had grown and warned me that it grew big and floppy. It has been in the ground for three years now and the first year it grew very tall but, when it was blown around by the wind, it put down new roots to support itself and so it developed into quite a shapely bush, not at all floppy. It had very few flowers that first year, though. Last year, when I returned after being away for the whole of May and June, I found it a glorious display of those unusually coloured flowers. What do we call that colour? Magenta, cerise, royal purple? This year it has been smothered in flowers since a flooding downpour of rain in late February. During December, January and most of February, *S. iodantha* and the rest of the garden had been gradually shrivelling up but then the rain worked a miracle and everything began not only to revive but to burst into flower.

One of the reasons that I am so happy with the spot I chose for *S. iodantha* is that it is at the top of an incline on the path that leads up from a gate which means that the large bush that it has grown into hides what is behind. And don't all the good garden designers tell us that we should create situations in the garden that make the visitor wonder what is coming next? In my case, when you pass by *S. iodantha* you come upon the chequerboard garden that holds small culinary herbs and salad vegetables, a lovely surprise.

I am happy with the position I gave my *S. madrensis*, too, another very large plant but with such glorious butter-yellow flower spikes that only a very hardhearted gardener could resist growing it. I put mine between a boundary paling fence and a high-canopied gum tree, quite a hot, dry spot. It flops about a bit in its rather restricted situation but it too has been flowering beautifully since the rain of late February. I first saw *S. madrensis* in flower in early July and I am hoping mine will continue at least till then this year.

Finally I must say a word about my *S. purpurea*, another big, floppy salvia. Covered in flowers since February it has been flopping all over its neighbours but I don't mind at all. I forgive its floppiness because of its superb colour. But what colour is it? Purple? I don't think so; rather a deep, intense mauve.

Sheila Fox

Salvias by the Sea.

The news is good here, we have had rain 76mm. in March, 54mm in April. The garden was so grateful to get a proper drink, after all those buckets of grey water (so was my back) The Autumn bloomers such as *S. iodantha*, *S. madrensis*, *S. mexicana* 'Lime calyx' have been making a great display. Now the Winter show is coming on with buds bursting on *S. purpurea*, *S. 'Blue Bird'*, *S. involucreata x karwinski*, *S. curtiflora*, *S. disjuncta* and *S. myriantha*. Because we are practically frost free, we can enjoy all these beautiful blooms without the disappointment of seeing them turn black over night.

I started growing Salvias in Jan. 2004 after a visit to Lemon-tree Cottage, and attending one of Trudi's lectures a few weeks later. I brought 12 plants home from Elly's. I now have 140.

I have slowly been gaining knowledge through trial and error and advice from more experienced growers. I have also treated myself to a copy of Meg Bentley's Manual. It lives on the dining table I doubt it will ever make it to the book case.

When I read the Autumn Newsletter I understood it all. I am now working my way through all my old Newsletters as I hope I will now be able to appreciate all that went over my head when they arrived.

I still have to check labels when I walk around my garden as I am not able to remember all the names yet. That is because I regularly add another dozen to the collection. I do enjoy collecting *Salvia greggii* and *S. microphyllas*. I have a separate bed for both groups and they are filling fast.

I get great delight from *S. 'Hot Lips'*, *S. eigii*, *S. Involucrata 'Joan'*, *S. miniata*, *S. buchananii*, *S. 'Waverley'* and *S. 'Indigo Spires'*. They never stop flowering no matter how dry, or hot or cold and windy the weather they keep soldiering on. They bring a smile to my face every time I walk in the garden.

Coral Kennedy

STRATFORD NEWS

I was very interested to read Pat Anderson's article on Stressgard in the last Salvia News.

On 1st June approximately each winter, I spray my frost tender plants including plectranthus as I have a lot in my collection. I can honestly say in our area of East Gippsland where we can get very severe frosts, the frost only burnt tips of plants, and if I had not used Stressgard the frost would have burnt the whole plant. Another example is tree fuchsia which loves the shade and needs protection from Jack Frost – I have it in the open and spray Stressgard and haven't lost it yet. It is interesting to read other people's experiences on a product.

You can now only buy Stressgard in ready to use spray, whereas I have a large quantity of the concentrated form which you dilute it yourself. Perhaps ready to use spray is weaker. I have both so this winter I will try out both forms of the spray and record any variation. I will let you know the result after winter.

Our Garden Club had a guest speaker on roses/fushias this week and she said a product called Triforine you buy for mites etc must be used within two hours of mixing with water or the solution otherwise is useless. It doesn't have a shelf life, yet you buy it pre-mixed and how long is it before you buy it off the shelf. It's more like two months plus.

We are now over the fire dangers and I am about to bring home my photos, pictures and albums. They have been at a friend's house since December. This summer was a frightening time and one feels helpless as a fire can be so devastating in a short moment of time.

Despite our hot summer and though we have plenty of water with our bore, I lost a 10 year old maple and a couple of liquid ambers, a 10 year continuous drought caught up with them. I found this summer there was not the moisture underground. So to save these trees and others I went back to a two litre bottle with bottom cut off, putting neck and 1/2 bottle in the ground and watered weekly, filling the bottle up. I was able to save the rest of stressed trees that way.

Happy salvia gardening and enjoy the cooler weather. **Jane Lee – East Gippsland.**

GEELONG GLEANINGS

In the 1980's whenever I visited my local nurseries, I did not find any plants called salvia. Common sage was grown by all herb lovers for its valuable usages. The fact that all correctly identified plants had botanical names, really didn't interest me at that time. During this period my searches through nurseries gave me, apart from common sage, bog, pineapple, clary and mexican types. The latter with its long purple inflorescences was, and still is, a winner for me.

Sometimes Tricolor was available and I always snapped it up. If I remember correctly, its plant label only carried that one word. Its beautiful leaves bearing those three distinct colors, gave me much pleasure. But it teased me, because it never flowered and was so difficult to grow. The Variegated type, as stated on its label at that time, gave its leaves a lovely coloring of green and yellow. This too was always in my garden, even though it never flowered either. The third one was usually labelled Purple Sage, and this identified it better than the previous two. This latter one had mild colored purple leaves, always flowered beautifully, and these seemed a little deeper blue than its parent common sage.

It was much later after joining the Salvia Study Group, that I learned all the above eight plants belonged to the salvia family. Also the latter three plants were so closely related to common sage, that they were indeed its cultivators. Also at this time too, I discovered how misleading the common names of plants were. I noted that Jerusalem sage actually belonged to the Phlomis family. That Russian sage belonged to the Petrovskia family, and thus were not salvias.

After joining the Salvia Study Group, Sue Templeton the salvia specialist at Albury, when visiting Geelong called on me, and gave me handsome specimens of *S. chiapensis* and *S. discolor*. Both of these have continually flowered over the years and always remained my favorites. But with salvias it is rather difficult to retain favorites for long and each time I see them a different one wins. How can one separate *S. gesneriiflora* 'Tequila' from *S. sagittatus* or *S. semiatrata* or *S. patens* 'Royal Blue', etc etc.

Returning to the present time, for several months now we have been on Stage 4 water restrictions, preventing us from using mains water on our pots and gardens. To further offer chaos, I declined to use grey water. My gardens after long usage, without offering fertilisers or mulches, are now without water too. Hence I am fully testing my wonderful salvias to continue to grow. Yes indeed I have lost some! Those bedded ones currently in flower are: *S. chamaetryoides*, *S. 'Costa Rica Blue'*, *S. discolor*, *S. disermis*, *S. gesneriiflora* 'Tequila', *S. greggii* both white and pink, *S. guaranitica*, *S. lanceolata*, *S. leucantha*, *S. 'Marine Blue'*, *S. melissodora*, *S. microphylla* 'Iced Lemon', *S. microphylla* 'Huntington', *S. var neurepia*, *S. namaensis*, *S. pseudo nutans* and *S. somalensis*.

Because of my refusal to use 'grey' water, the situation is radically different for my potted salvias. I have loaned them to a friend who has adequate watering facilities. He assures me that we both now own them, and I believe him because he is also a member of the Salvia Study Group. I can see them whenever I wish, and he has excellent skills in enticing cuttings to spring into life.

With respect to our Salvia News, not only does our Editor have the difficult task of producing it, she is also forced to contact tardy writers like myself, for ongoing articles. It is noticeable when reading the latest issue No 28, that the usual well written articles by John Daniels of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hobart, again discusses his interesting salvias. The Perennial Poppies Group of S. E. Queensland, also discuss their salvias. Maureen Cox at Warri Beach, NSW, gives details of her salvias. M. Arnold and S. Ardill, both of Goolwa Beach in South Australia again relate their problems and successes with salvias.

Whilst it is splendid that the growers in other states desire to join and offer us their skills, I must not forget Victorian subscribers. In particular may I comment on Pat Anderson's article entitled "Testing New Products". It was thought provoking, well written and with good photographs. It was quite a treat to read and to study. Each quarter, we members of the Salvia Study Group look forward to the next issue of Salvia News. For this to happen, the continued support of us subscribers to our Editor is vital **Bill Whitehead**

Publishing reading material for salvia fanatics

Sometimes the weather is inclement and we are forced indoors from the garden to find something to occupy ourselves until it is 6 o'clock. The significance of 6 o'clock is that this is the time when Pat and I indulge ourselves by removing the cork from a bottle. This is a fairly disciplined observance in our home, our so-called 6 o'clock rule.

Well, late one wet afternoon, while I was anxiously waiting for the time to reach 6 o'clock, I indulged in a little bit of self entertainment by writing an article about salvia fanatics. Foolishly, I sent the article to the editor of the Salvia Newsletter. Now this is a bit like a teenage son or daughter cleaning the house before having some friends round. All knowledgeable teenagers know that this is something they never ever do because it sets an irreversible precedent; thereafter, their parents expect them to be co-operative, even helpful. Well, so it is with editors if you foolishly submit an article voluntarily.

Editors are funny people. They are so preoccupied with the production of their publication that they lose their ability to understand how the people who write articles react to circumstances. Editors don't realise that after 6 o'clock authors prefer to indulge themselves with a bottle rather than write an article. Similarly, on a cold snappy morning, editors fail to appreciate that lying snuggled up in bed with a book has far more appeal than preparing an article at the computer in an icy cold room upstairs. Nonetheless, as the date for a new issue suddenly starts to loom, editors, and the editor of the Salvia Newsletter is no exception, suddenly pick up the phone and request an article, invariably with an absolutely unreasonable deadline. I used to become unsettled when contacted in this way and worry about identifying a newsworthy event to write about. However, experience has taught me not to worry. I have come to realise that the editor will publish any drivel I prepare as the publication of this article illustrates.

Well I think it is time to make some constructive suggestions about the material published in the Salvia Newsletter. The title dictates that the subject matter must concern salvias and, despite the dull nature of the topic, it should make compelling reading. Now anybody who has been to a salvia corroboree will know that the only thing that interests salvia fanatics is the colourful outcome of salvia hybridization, in other words, salvia sex. Instead, look what the Salvia Newsletter serves up! We read how to deprive salvias of their sex life by propagating them vegetatively from cuttings and rootstocks! Really, if we gave some thought to the enjoyment of life by salvias we would recognise that this sort of article is just plain vindictive. Moreover, from a commercial point of view, a publication about life without sex, even in salvias, is not likely to be a best seller. As a first step to promote interest, each newsletter should contain a gripping story about the sex life of a specific salvia. Further, it should be crammed full of smut about which salvia is having it off with another salvia, giving full details of the identities.

Secondly, and more importantly, I would like to suggest an additional way to promote interest in salvias and lessen the stress incurred by the Salvia Newsletter's regular contributors when "Newsletter time" comes round yet again. I would recommend that each issue contain a centrefold with a gripping photo of a naked salvia. It should be published in complete unexpurgated detail, showing all the hairs and vital tit-bits down the inside of the colourful corolla. Moreover, each issue should have a new exciting, enticing and ravishing model. This would greatly reduce the need for written contributions and the Salvia Newsletter would be able to compete successfully with other publications that are renowned for their centrefolds. Quite apart from taking the pressure off the regular contributors, implementation of this initiative would promote awareness of the Salvia Newsletter in the horticultural industry, thereby enhancing distribution and sales and advancing the career of the editor. Moreover the copyright of the centrefolds could be sold to the press and the media for a fortune. The proceeds could then be used to engage a professional lobbyist to convince federal parliamentarians that the new regulations governing the importation of salvias are not in the national interest and need to be repealed to ensure the continued commercial success of salvias in Australia in general and of future salvia centrefolds in the Salvia Newsletter in particular. This would be a win-win outcome for all stakeholders as we go forward!

Well, it is now 6 o'clock and I have other things to do. In the absence of a gorgeous titivating salvia centrefold, I hope the editor is able to recruit sufficient material to relegate this article to the back page. **John Anderson**

