

SalviaNews

November/December 2001

THE HERB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

The Victorian Salvia Study Group

C/- Trudi Fry, 39 Temple Rd. Selby 3159

Telephone (03) 9754 4041 Email: trudifry@iprimus.com.au

HOT NEWS!!! HOT NEWS!!! HOT NEWS!!!

REFER TO THE ATTACHED FLYER FOR DETAILS REGARDING OUR SPECTACULAR

SALVIA EXPO

AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SALVIAS AND TO PURCHASE VARIETIES YOU MAY NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF.

Editor's Note:

We know there are a lot of Salvia enthusiasts out there but we want a lot more hands on Salvia people. This is the way we all started and learnt from each other as we went. Opportunities for learning are Work Shops at our Collection gardens and visits to member's gardens and of course THE SALVIA EXPO at Ferny Creek on March 17. The people who have written reports for SalviaNews are greatly appreciated. Communication is so necessary. Don't not write because you think you can't write. Remember it is what you write not how you write that is important. Just go ahead and do it. Remember that I know nothing about editing and very, very little about computers, but I will happily tap out with two fingers any thing you send in. And do make the effort to come and join in the activities. You will find us fun and very welcoming We would love help with the EXPO contact MegBentley 0359649360.

News & Views

South Australian News

Jillian and Mary Ann attended the Salvia Show at Urrbrae House in Adelaide on Sunday 18th November. They made purchases of a number of hard to find salvias eg. *Salvia rubiginosa* and *S. cinnabarina*. The beautiful grounds of Urrbrae House are maintained by volunteers and contain plantings of salvias in a 'sensory' garden. There is a rose garden interplanted with salvias, in particular many wonderful flowering examples of *Salvia semi atrata*, *S. discolor*, *S. Costa Rican Blue* and *S. Black Knight*.

Mary Ann's *Salvia Indigo Spires*, *S. Purple Majesty*, *S. gesneraeflora 'Tequila'*, *S. somalensis*, *S. karwinskii*, *S. cacaliaefolia*, *S. agnes* and *S. chamelaeagnea* are all growing and flowering well. She has over forty new salvias from Jillian, the Adelaide Salvia Show and a local nursery to add to her garden. It has been hinted that a few vines may have to be removed to make way for more salvias.

Canterbury News (G. Ellis)

Adopt a Salvia

In the last *Salvia News*, p2, there was a report that Velda collected cutting material from a plant in Kew. The plant appears to be a form of a common easily grown plant, *Salvia karwinskii* x *involucrata*. A member took on the task of propagating.

It is wise to look out for *Salvia* material in public and private gardens and in nurseries. New plant material should be identified then a decision made about the worth of propagating it. This is within the context of managing an official collection which involves maintaining and propagating a large number of *Salvia* species.

From about 1991 Velda and I have been collecting *Salvia* species and recording them on a database. We were busy propagating up to 1996 and distributed these plants to *Salvia* people and gardens. All these plants have accession numbers from the database in the form of CSG123. This allows us to easily obtain details about the plant. It also allows us to say that *S. nax* in Fred's garden is the same as *S. nax* in Freda's garden. This may seem obvious but we have nine listings involving *S. coccinea* and four for *S. glutinosa*.

We have had some wondrous plants which are now, sadly, lost or vary rare within our *Salvia* group. What experience have you had with the following plants? They are all species plants and even within the wide world of *Salvias*, they are unusual.

Salvia cardueacea (CSG34) and *S. hispanica* (CSG90) are annuals. Propagation is by seed. Many plant collections have lots of annuals to contend with but for *Salvia* it is unusual. So far we have not learnt to deal with annuals. The first is Thistle Sage with furry and spiny leaves and flowers mainly in blue of an unusual shape. The second was an unusual food source in Central America because the seed is rich in oil.

Salvia jurisicii (CSG49) and *S. patens* (CSG195) are hardy herbaceous perennials which snails love when the growths appear in spring. The first may flower in forms of blue, white and pink from seed while the second, Gentian Sage has the sort of blue that is often sought. These plants need particular care but they should be fairly easy to grow overall.

Salvia interrupta (CSG11) and *S. pomifera* (CSG35) appear to be short-lived perennials which require attention to the roots of the plants to avoid early death. *Salvia interrupta* is a sub-shrub which grows a stately flower head to show soft blue flowers. *Salvia pomifera* in the Mediterranean is attacked by a gall wasp which cause lumps to form on the stems. These are collected, candied and may be bought as "sage apples".

There are further rare *Salvias*, however I leave you with some questions. Would you like to specialise in propagating and growing one of these groups of plants? This could be very rewarding for you while giving attention to some obscure but attractive plants. Should we focus on plants just mentioned or on forms of *Salvia karwinskii* x *involucrata*? The only problem with this plant appears to be in containing its growth in a garden.

Geelong News (Bill Whitehead)

Early in October I visited the Geelong Botanic Gardens to inspect the *Salvia* bed and I was a little disappointed at what I saw. I mentioned this to a staff gardener. A week or so later, the Director, John Arnott phoned me to ask if he and some staff could pay my garden a visit. He and three others called at the end of October and were quite impressed with what they saw.

They took away 12 *Salvias* their garden did not possess and borrowed 2 of my *Salvia* books. John also asked me the name and phone number of the *Salvia* specialist, ie. Meg, who had sent him the *salvia* pruning notes. One week later 2 staff members called and then left with a heap of carefully labelled cuttings. They assured me of complete reciprocity between their garden and mine. This gave me great satisfaction and lessened somewhat my disappointment at no longer being able to join the *Salvia* Group during their meetings in the Melbourne area.

I purchased *Salvia sagittata* 'Mosquito' from Sue early in October and it is now 2 feet high to the tops of its very slender, blackish flowering stems. As I write, the buds are slowly emerging from their pale green calyces, which are quite conspicuous against those black stems. No flowers as yet have fully developed but they will be a deep blue colour. My *Salvia discolor* is at least 8 years old and its indigo black flowers also contrast sharply with its silvery green calyces. Its flowers tend to droop and for me they look like black teardrops waiting to fall. I believe my *Salvia sagittata* 'Mosquito', as it further develops, will equate or even prove better than my *S. discolor*.

I never cease to wonder about the beauty and great diversity of the *Salvia* genus.

Lavington News (Sue Templeton)

Death in the Nursery

This is the time of the year when the garden races ahead of the gardener who trails along behind trying to catch up. In fact for a couple of weeks I gave up trying and just let things roll. My busyness was compounded by having my very young granddaughter up for a week and a fox getting into the chickens. Some compensation for lack of sleep and hyperactive chickens was in viewing the carcass of a large male fox caught by the neighbours.

November is the time of the year when "difficult" *salvias* drop dead. Late October the warning signs were there when a beautiful *Salvia fruticosa* 'Greek Skies' I had just photographed in flower started to wilt. I panicked, cleared a bit of ground on a mound and got some of my precious difficult plants out of pots. Strangely a side shoot of the *Salvia fruticosa* lived while the rest of the plant died thoroughly dead. Fortunately I had already started a few cuttings which look as though they intend to be with me for some time. Some seedlings of regular *Salvia fruticosa* have lived and a plant in the ground is about to flower. It is somewhat deprived of water and a lot of sun which may account for its lateness. I hastily got my one

plant of *Salvia pomifera* out of a pot but it continued to die very dead. I still have an unrooted cutting alive but don't hold out much hope. This is about the only species that I have no way of replacing. I got some seed last year but they didn't germinate this spring.

My 20 or so spring *Salvia clevelandii* seedlings all died but my autumn grown two plants have cutting material and one 2cm plant in the ground next door is still alive. So I will keep trying cuttings which have all died so far. All my *Salvia apiana* seedlings died but I have two plants in glorious flower and plenty of seed to keep trying. However I have got some *Salvia leucophylla* seedlings through the difficult period for a change and best of all have some *S. sonomensis* I expect to live - a first for me.

This year I have more than one *Salvia miltiorrhiza* and I have been surprised to have colour variations, one being much darker than the usual "Chilcombe" colour. *Salvia hierosolymitana* is being rather co-operative and I may end up with 20 or so seed from lots and lots of flowers this year. My original *Salvia barrelieri* has not put up a spike yet but a younger plant has. Did the first plant object to being squashed and shaded most of the year?

I have two healthy seedlings ground of *Salvia canescens* (from a seed society) and two healthy seedlings of *S. daghestanica* in a pot. These are lovely grey salvias which are reputedly the same plant. *Salvia hydrangea* in a pot died but set a few seed after pretty flowers. One spring seedling and two autumn seedlings in the ground look as though they hope to keep living. This plant was in flower very early spring. All of my *Salvia interrupta* didn't respond to a panicked late planting but the two planted in autumn in the blazing sun next door are still alive but not thinking of flowering. It will be interesting to see if they continue to live in that position. I will plant something around it that will give shade. *Salvia candelabrum* in my garden is putting up flower spikes. Two *Salvia penstemonoides* from last year are dead and one is thinking about it. I have a few very healthy seedlings from spring and am hoping to yet sow some successfully. I had one plant grow very healthily and flower for year in a northern dryish spot. Spring sown *Salvia cyanescens* looks as though it will flower over summer. *Salvia candidissima* plants are sulking though healthy enough. *Salvia argentea* is in flower. My original *Salvia hypargeia* which has flowered for years might be almost crowded out this year but I got one new seedling from a spring sowing which looks as though it is planning to live.

Salvia fulgens and *S. 'Red Dragon'* seem to have a high water requirement. *Salvia fulgens* planted next door in the dry garden has not emerged after winter. I am not sure if it is being smothered under something (still hoping) or is just plain dead. *Salvia 'Red Dragon'* is flowering a lot. Some *Salvia patens 'Guanajuato'* are re-emerging in the dry garden but needs rescuing from smothering by flowering *S. spathacea*. I have a couple coming up in pots also.

Perhaps the biggest excitement is to have *Salvia engelmannii* flower for the very first time. It is extremely difficult to get to germinate. I have got *Salvia atrocyanea* (reported to be *S. guaranitica* style) and *S. Chiquita Blue* to germinate. The latter sounds extremely gorgeous. They have recently been gratefully received from overseas. *Salvia tubifera* looks as though it plans to flower. *Salvia dombeyii* has a lovely fat bud. *Salvia Waverly "Phyllis Fancy"* (imported) is in bud. *Salvia recognita* in the garden is in bud and the *S. recognita/officinalis* crosses from NZ are still flowering beautifully and looking healthy - I MUST do cuttings. I have been expecting them to die or look sick. I have a plant which has the smell and form of *Salvia eigii* and has lavender flowers like my *S. nemorosa* so if it is winter flowering it will be interesting.

So besides all the other salvias which are making my place so colourful this is what is happening in Boomerang Drive in November 2001.

Macclesfield News (Donna)

My stock gardens are beginning to fill out a little. Practically everything has taken root and is on its way. The roses and clematis are yet to be planted, a job to be completed in the not too distant future. Flowers are in abundance and I can actually start to see a vision which has finally been realised after 4 years. A new application of lucerne and pea straw is the next project in preparation for the hot summer ahead. Being on tank water with very little pressure is going to be a challenge, but as they say, where there is a will there is a way. On the nursery side, visits from Paddy and Liz from Eltham, John from Emerald and Elizabeth from Kallista have all proved to be fruitful. A lot of people would be shocked to learn that my salvias survive with very little water and no feeding. I have practiced this for the past 4 years or so and my reason for doing so is that I like to produce what I call 'a toughened' plant and I have neither the time or water to do so. A number of my regular clients (including Jillian) will testify that this has meant that they end up with a plant that does not require constant 'molly coddling' once in their garden. The word is starting to spread along with many business cards handed out, hopefully will mean in the not too distant future many visitors to my nursery. If you're ever in the Kallista area on the first Saturday of the

month, come and visit me at the Kallista Market which is a wonderful 'community' market with a large variety of goodies, including scrumptious food.

New additions to still be planted include *Salvia coccinea* 'Lady in Red', *S. superba* 'Snow Hills', *S. guaranitica* 'Argentine Skies', *S. cinnabarina*, *S. curtiflora*, *S. 'Red Dragon'*. I recently bought two salvias from Bunnings. *Salvia Rose* & *S. Merlot*. The former turns out to be *Salvia microphylla* 'Sensation', the latter a *S. greggii* x *microphylla*. Both of these are grown by Panorama Nursery and is an example of a wholesale nursery 'renaming' plants to gain the notoriety and dollars.

Eltham News (Paddy Childs Green)

Of course, as a long time gardener I have had my brush with Salvias but it wasn't till early this year when I went on a short garden tour with the Eltham Living & Learning Centre and visited several gardens that I saw so many different *Salvia*. I was intrigued and delighted by the enormous variety in these two gardens, growing, I must tell you, under fairly severe conditions.

My friend, Liz Damaschi gave me a subscription to the *Salvia News* as a birthday present and I bought Betty Clebsch's book and am now a devotee. Well, that is, amongst all my other garden loves! So a visit to Donna Grundy's was the next move. We (Liz and I) sallied forth on a dreary day in early October and before we hit the foothills of the Dandenongs the rains came and continued to come but we finally got to Macclesfield after a number of detours. And were welcomed by Donna.

Her nursery is beautifully situated with wonderful views. As a display garden she has planted Salvias both in front of her house and at the back meaning there are two weather aspects. In this way you will be able to note what salvias work in both sun and shade, and what are blooming in which season. These are inter-planted with roses and other perennials. Although this is all very new you can visualize what it will look like after the warmth of the summer has got to work.

Donna had a wonderfully illustrated catalogue with virtually exact colours of the flowers of dozens of *salvia*. Under a large umbrella (it was still raining) we looked and admired the marvellous variety of foliage and colour. I took home *Salvia corrugata*, *S. coccinea alba*, *S. africana-lutea*. Besides the salvias Donna has a good collection of perennials and some of the smaller shrubs and in this area I bought *Buddleia alternifolia* and *Campanula latifolia* 'macrantha'. These are all planted and doing very well. As I am 'new' to salvias I have only had one flowering so far though I have about eight or ten now but as most of them are from cuttings I will have to wait to see what they are like. I brought down from Albury a couple of weeks ago a cutting of *S. mexicana* 'Limelight' and believe it or not it has already rooted, the season just right.

Despite the weather (gardeners don't worry about a bit of rain) we had a lovely day and were impressed with Donna's knowledge and friendliness. The nursery has enormous potential with great interest for *salvia* lovers. And I am a convert!

Berwick News (Winsome Thom)

A *Salvia* Beginner

Last year I went to a meeting at Ferny Creek Horticultural Society, and heard Trudi Fry talking about salvias. As I remember she said her first introduction to salvias was Bonfire *Salvia*, and so she thought that salvias were red. Trudi has now asked me to write an article on my salvias, so I must begin the same way as Trudi did – the first *salvia* I ever remember is Bonfire *Salvia*; and I didn't particularly like it! (As an aside, I noticed in the November issue of *Gardening Australia*, they suggest planting 'red semi-perennial *salvia*' – exactly what that may be they don't say).

I was born in England into a gardening family, and my grandfather 'pricked out' annuals (along with his vegetables) every spring. I imagine amongst them were salvias. Once we came to Australia, I lived in a garden in Ferntree Gully which had very few annuals, but concentrated on fruit trees and shrubs. We did have some perennials and amongst these for as long as I can remember, we had this purple thing - *Leucantha*. It wasn't one of the flowers I picked as soon as it showed its head, like the daffodils and roses, but it was always there, blooming for months on end. The name *salvia* never occurred to me, let alone *Leucantha*.

When I bought my first flat in Malvern, it had a communal garden, which mainly consisted of shrubs, and one jacaranda, which I planted, and which did poorly. One old lady who lived in the block kept saying that Kevin Heinze had said if something didn't grow, you took it out and looked at the roots, and I kept telling her we had to wait a little longer before we did that. Now when I drive past the flats, I think they must have looked at the roots, and then thrown the thing away, as there is no sign of it.

My second flat had its own tiny garden, although the soil in Glenhuntly is pretty poor. The garden seemed pretty boring to me, and as soon as I settled in, I immediately removed most of the things planted there, save what I was told was an orange, but looked a very peculiar citrus to me – it turned out to be a cherry guava. In place of the photinia and other common flat dwelling plants, I decided I would only plant things that were perfumed; lavender, roses, gardenia and various herbs. This included removing the grass, and planting a thyme lawn. I also again planted a jacaranda. After some time, other things started to come into the garden, mostly via my Mother's garden, including Leucantha. Still, I didn't register anything much about salvias, but Leucantha bloomed and flourished month after month, and was always admired by the neighbours, some of whom thought my scented leaves pretty boring. I heard one person passing and lamenting that there was so much could be done with my small area – like filling it with petunias and other annuals I presumed; maybe something bright bonfire salvia? Just before I left Glenhuntly I was walking one lunch hour, and was entranced by some beautiful blue flowers growing wildly through a garden I passed. It took me some time to discover this was Bog Sage; nobody mentioned *Uliginosa*, and if they had, I wouldn't have remembered the name. This I thought I should like to have in my garden. Then I saw *Patens* (with its brilliant Gentian colour) and this I had to have in my garden. Sadly, in Glenhuntly's soil, they didn't thrive very well, and *Patens* soon vanished completely.

So my husband and I married and moved to Berwick, and I at last had a 'proper' garden. Again, one of the first plants that came into the garden was a cutting of Leucantha, and again it flourished. However, I had never forgotten Bog Sage, or Gentician Sage, so I started looking around. I bought every single plant that said 'salvia' on its label, sometimes with the most surprising results. Like *Lanceolata*, whose colour I had never seen before, and another whose label read, 'salvia - pink, white, navy' – and came into flower mauve and white. I eventually identified it as *Chamelaeagnea*.

Then one day I read in the paper that there was going to be a talk on Salvias at the Herbarium, by Sue Templeton, and I asked my Mother to accompany me there – and I became totally addicted. My husband and I joined the Ornamental Plant Conservation group, and some months later went on a weekend trip with them, including a visit to Sue's home. By that time I had quite a few salvias, but my husband was horrified to hear there were several hundred more of them! He was also intrigued at Sue's garden, where salvias even grew under the clothes line.

I now have over 100 different salvias, many of which I can thank Sue Templeton for. I have lost my share along the way. Some taken by the snails, some dried out in summer, and some unfortunately, dug up by my greyhounds. Like the shepherd with his sheep, I grieve for every one I lose, but usually I manage to replace them, often with Sue's help. I have grown annuals, *Farinacea* and *Horminium*, but I still resist Bonfire Salvia. I adore *Melissadora*, because it reminds me of my tiny perfumed garden days, and if I ever had to live in a little garden again, I would choose that salvia. Sometimes when I go into gardens filled with Australian natives, I think that maybe that's what I should grow, but although I may be able to give up my camellias (I mostly have perfumed ones), my roses, and my other herbs, I doubt I could ever give up salvias. When I show people around our garden, the plants I point out, one after another, are the salvias. The salvias are the only plants I keep any register on, and check on in the garden one by one. I still make a lot of mistakes about which is which, and find a salvia I expected to have pink flower, suddenly flowers yellow, and I have to go back to my books, or ask Sue, and work out what it is. I can tell most of my salvias by their flowers now, and I am learning which leaves are which, but I still have a long way to go. I still haven't propagated any plants, but I shall in the future. I must thank first Sue Templeton, and now Trudi, for their encouragement.

I hope that I have encouraged a few other people to grow salvias too. From the deep blue of *Discolor*, to the vivid blues of *Patens* and *Guaranitica*. The soft pinks of *Taraxicifolia* and *Waverley*, to all the vivid pinks and cerises, and all those wonderful reds. This week I have my first flower on *Van Houttii*, a different shade again. Then there are all the mauves and purples, to the indigo of *Black Knight*, and the in between, the yellows and whites, and the oranges, and those hard to define, *Lanceolata* and *Africana-Lutea*. My Mother and I were entranced by the markings on my first flower of *Indica* and on *Glutinosa*. And what about those wonderful leaves? I visited an open garden last year and remarked on a salvia, to be told, 'that's not a salvia, the leaves are wrong' – I think it was *Chiapensis*. I thought 'lady, just come and look at My salvia leaves, look at *Runcinata*, *Juriscii* and *Cacaliifolia*, or even *Lyrata*. What do you think *Salvia* leaves should look like? It doesn't matter if it's *Gesneriiflora*, up over my 6ft fences, or *Chionophylla* crawling along the ground, they are all wonderful. They are all Salvias.

Report on Official Collection

Nobelius Heritage Garden, Emerald

A very willing band of helpers conducted a horticultural workshop at the Nobelius collection in October.

We cut grass, pruned back, weeded, thinned out, composted, planted out and replaced, leaving the beds much more attractive than they were when we started. Thank you to all who worked so hard, our best attendance yet at a workshop.

Replacement and new plants are thriving thanks to a wonderful new Chamomile Farm compost mix. *Salvia wagneriana*, *S. hians*, *S. lavanduloides*, *S. agnes* (shooting ahead), *S. uliginosa*, *S. elegans*, *S. forskaohlei* and *S. leucantha* (white flowers) have been severely thinned out as they were tending to swamp more interesting plants. *Salvia leucophylla* is in full bloom with whorls of pale mauve flowers on long flowering stems; a wonderful contrast to the small grey leaves of this plant. *Salvia leucantha* magenta is presenting an attractive mass of colour in a corner of its own while *Salvia dolomitica* seems to bloom perpetually.

Eye catchers in the collection are the long hedge of *Salvia officinalis* 'Purpurascens' with deep purple leaves and masses of mauve flowers, and *Salvia fruticosa*. The latter of these are bee attractors and doing their job well during these weeks of late spring.

Do come and join us at the plot for our Xmas picnic on 9 December 2001.

Hampton

By the beginning of October the seasonal pruning, weeding and so on had been brought up to date over several days. On 16th October Mark had a journalist visit from Your Garden magazine. I went there to assist with the occasional *Salvia* question. At the same time we had a delivery of horse manure and lucerne hay. After the journalist had left, Mark and I spread about ten bags of manure on the front garden *Salvia* plot then three bales of lucerne hay for mulch. All this was organised by Jillian from her Ferntree Gully supplier. Three bales of lucerne hay have been kept in reserve.

Salvias Flowering in Member's Gardens Now

agnes	greggii Alba	Microphylla Musk
africana caerulea	greggii bicolor	microphylla Neurepia
austriaca	greggii Coral	microphylla Iced Lemon
africana lutea Namibia	greggii Fulhams Red	microphylla Sierra Pink
africana-lutea	greggii Lara	microphylla Sensation
arizonica (lucky Lyndi)	greggii x micro	microphylla wislizenii
algeriensis	greggii Raspberry Royal	miniata
blancoana	greggii Sierra Pink	munzii
Black Knight	guaranitica	muirri
buchananii	guaranitica Argentine Skies	nemorosa/sylvestris Blue Hills
cacaliaefolia	guaranitica Large Form	nemorosa/sylvestris Snow Hills
chamaedryoides	Harmony	nemorosa Ost Friesland
chiapensis	haemetodes	nilotica
chiapas species	hirtella	officinalis
coahuilensis	Indigo Spires	officinalis Nana
coccinea	interrupta	patens
coccinea bi-color	involutrata x karvinskii	pulchella
coccinea coral	karvinskii dark calyx	rubinigosa
coccinea pale	karvinskii green calyx	rugosa
coccinea red	karvinskii x involutrata	runcinata
concolor	lanceolata	sagittata(lucky Bill)
corrugata	lavandufolia	scabra
Costa Rican Blue	lavanduloides	scutellarioides
discolor	leucantha	semi-atrata
disermis	leucophylla	spathacea
dolomitica	lyrata	splendens van Houttii
dorisiana	Marine Blue	splendens varieties
eigii	mellifera	sprucei
elegans Honey melon	mellisadora	tingitana
fallax	merjamie	urica
fruticosa	munzii	Verticillata Purple Rain
fruticosa Greek Skies	microphylla Baby sage	villosa
fulgens !!!	microphylla Huntingdon	viscosa
gesneraeflora	microphylla Cyclaman	Waverley
gesneraeflora var. Tequila	microphylla Bi-color	

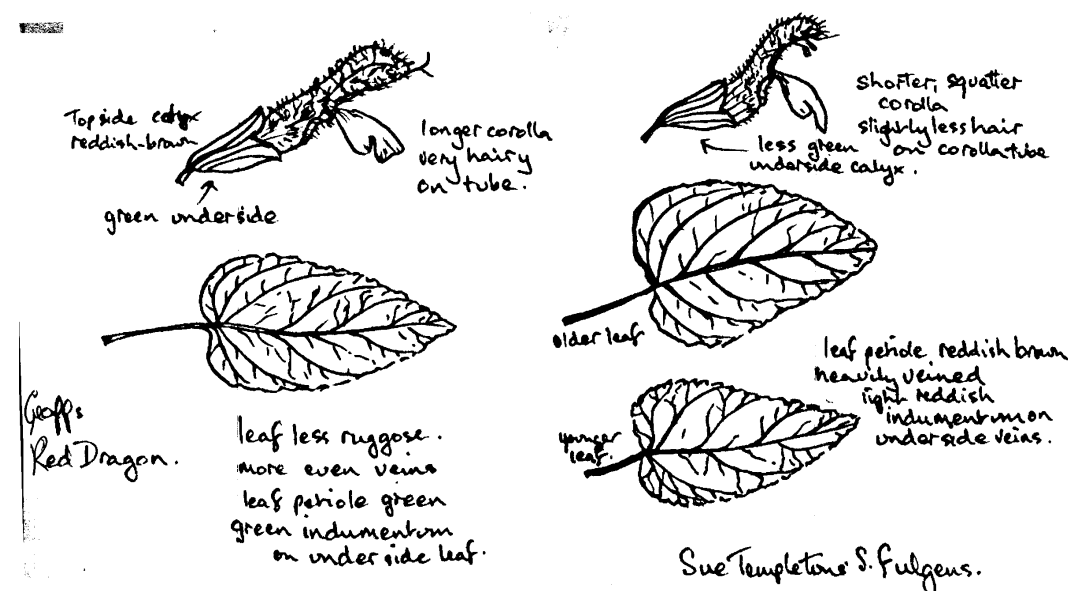
Salvia fulgens and Salvia 'Red Dragon' by Meg Bentley

This is the comparison between *Salvia fulgens* and *S. 'Red Dragon'* as promised in the last *Salvia News*.

While both of these look very similar there are a few slight notable differences. These comparisons were made whilst in New Zealand, we have only had *Salvia fulgens* for a short time and Sue Templeton has just brought *Salvia 'Red Dragon'* into Australia so comparisons in Victoria will have to wait until our plants become more established.

1. Illustration on the left shows 'Red Dragon' from Geoff Genge at Invercargill.
Flower tube somewhat straighter, longer and very hairy. Calyx reddish-brown on the top side and green underneath.
Leaf less rugose, veining much more even, indumentum on undersides lighter green.
Petiole green.
2. Illustration on the right, *Salvia fulgens*, also at Invercargill, shows a shorter squatter flower with slightly less hair on the tube and slightly more reflexed from the calyx. Calyx was slightly smaller with less green on the underside. The older leaf showed heavy veining, light reddish indumentum on the undersides and leaf petiole reddish-brown, the younger leaves not quite so prominent at that stage. (This was from a young plant of Geoff's from Sue Templeton).

Salvia 'Red Dragon' has been well established in New Zealand, whereas *Salvia fulgens* is quite new.



Salvias for Containers and Small Gardens by Trudi Fry

I have a large garden and it is easy to get excited by the tall exuberant *Salvias* quite forgetting that the average person doesn't garden 2 acres. When this was pointed out to me rather forcefully I began experimenting on *Salvias* as pot /container plants and found that there are many that are ideal. Long flowering, good foliage and easy care were the standards I set. The containers are standard 12" black plastic pots and the potting mix a good quick draining type. Because this is an experiment the use of the mediocre looking black pots is just an easy way to start, but the plants are beautiful enough for terracotta. I feed with Maxicrop to start with then Osmocote granules and to give a boost from time to time Miracle Grow. They need water regularly and a sunny spot though some (I'll tell you about these later) will grow in shade to part shade. All the *Salvias* I mention have been grown by me in pots for a year or so and of course are equally lovely in the garden where they will grow larger but not huge.

This will be an ongoing series of articles and this time I will start with just a few to get you interested.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p><i>S. Waverly</i>
<i>S. runcinata</i></p> | <p>great foliage, pretty pale mauve flowers. Cut spent flowers off and it flowers forever.
insignificant little mauve flowers but wonderful ferny foliage that can be clipped to shape if you wish. I am using it as a border to a formal square <i>Salvia</i> bed.</p> |
|--|---|

- S. greggii* I am growing several with great pleasure. They are all colourful and seem to love pots.
S. microphylla These enjoy pot life too. I have also combined a *S.greggii* with a *S. microphylla* in the same pot to great effect.
S. Marine Blue The bluest of blue flowers and soft looking grey foliage. Nice and tough and also combines well with *S. greggii* or *S. microphylla*.

There is no reason I think, why one can't put two or more different salvias in the one pot to give a contrast in foliage and flowers. At the moment I have *S. dolomitica*, *S. runcinata* and *S. lanceolata* thriving together. You will see these at the Salvia Expo and I will be giving a talk on them as well.

Glossary

- Petiole a stem attachment from the leaf to the stalk
 Sessile without a petiole – the leaf is directly attached to the stem
 Cauline leaves have a very small petiole up a flowering stem
 Rugose wrinkled, rough surface, with indented veins
 Apex shape of the tip of the leaf blade
 Verticillata a whorl of flowers along the stem at regular intervals

More next SalviaNews.

Forthcoming Events

Again, the big event to mark in your diary is the SALVIA EXPO. Refer to the attached flyer for all the details.

Sunday December 9	Salvia Xmas Party – All welcome Nobelius off Creighton Rd, Emerald BYO Picnic	11am onwards
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2002 Calendar

Sunday January 13	visit to Judi Forrester (Otway Herbs)* Via Biddles Creek Road, Apollo Bay	
Sunday February 17	Hampton Workshop 21 Barnett Street, Hampton	11am – 2pm
Sunday March 17	SALVIA EXPO Ferry Creek Hort Society Hilton Rd, Ferry Creek	9am – 5pm
Sunday April 21	Jillian Barkell's Garden 6 Halycon Rd, The Patch	11am – 2pm
Sunday May 19	Nobelius Workshop off Creighton Rd, Emerald	11am onwards
Sunday June 16	Elly Roos' Garden 59 Ferguson Street, Upwey	11am – 2pm

BYO Lunch to share is the general routine. At workshops it is recommended to bring your gloves and tools. Contact Donna Grundy on 59 688 567 or 0412 766 763 for enquiries.

* Some people have elected to travel to Apollo Bay on the Saturday and stay overnight. A visit to Bill Whitehead's garden and the Geelong Botanical Gardens may be possible on the Saturday. Please contact Ray Boatman (9754 4889) for details.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR SALVIANEWS BY EMAIL?

If so, please email Trudi (trudifry@iprimus.com.au) with your email address before our next edition.

