

New and Underused Plants for the Western Region of the United States

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Keywords: new plants, underused plants

Summary

Both new and underused plants have a place and value in modern landscapes. Incorporation in landscapes of older varieties alongside newer selections should be considered. California's spring bloom, especially after winter rains, was featured along with recommendations for exploring areas like Sand to Snow National Monument in south-

ern California. The plant list includes selections from genera such as *Echinacea*, *Philodendron*, *Callistemon*, and *Cercis*. Recognition was also given to plant breeders, such as David Salman and Dennis Werner. These plant introductions provide various benefits, including drought tolerance, pollination services, wildlife habitat, and fruit production.

INTRODUCTION

It was indeed a terrific privilege to be invited to speak before such an esteemed group of nursery professionals. My presentation topic was new and underused plants. Part of my professional work with Everde Growers is the pursuit of new plants as well

as older varieties that still have a place into today's residential and commercial landscapes. Too often we are focusing on the new, which is all fair and well, but there are many older plants that have a place in today's marketplace.

The first portion of the presentation was devoted to the incredible spring bloom we can have in California after the winter rains. I suggested places to visit, Sand to Snow National Monument, created by President Obama during his term in office. The Monument is some 157,000 acres in size and located northwest of Palm Springs. I also spoke about the coastal ranges east of Interstate 215 in the Lake Elsinore and Corona areas, and finally the eastern side of the High Sierras in the Lone Pine and Big Pine regions.

I then went on to describe numerous varieties of new and not-so-new plants as well as recognizing the breeders who were involved or responsible for creating the plants. Plantsmen included:

David Salman, High Country Gardens, Santa Fe, NM.

Dennis Werner, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Randy Baldwin, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, CA.

Ron Gass, Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, Glendale, AZ.

The following list of plants can all be used in various regions of the United States. Most, if not all, will perform well in California, but some will need winter protection. All offer unique benefits to the landscape depending on the varieties. Such benefits include their drought and disease tolerance; pollination services; habitat for wildlife; and their fruit production.

Echinacea x hybrida Double Scoop™

Watermelon Delux PPAF

Alocasia micholitziana ‘Frydek Variegata’

Philodendron ‘Strawberry Shake’

Philodendron billietiae Variegated

Callistemon viminalis ‘CV01’ P.P. #24,444

Slim™

Flower Carpet® ‘Mini Cherry’ PPAF

Groundcover Rose

Rosa persica

The Hollywood Hibiscus® Collection

Lavandula allardi ‘Meerlo’ P.P.#25276

Laurus nobilis ‘Monrik’ P.P.#25915 Little

Ragu®

Mulenbergia reverchonii ‘Punduis’ Un-

daunted®

Punica Angel Red® P.P.#16578

Bouteloua gracilis ‘Blonde Ambition’

P.P.#22048

Selected additional species include:



Figure 1. *Bergenia cordifolia* 'Peppermint Patty' PPAF CPBRAAF



Figure 2. *Callistemon* Light Show®



Figure 3. ‘NC2016-2’ P.P.#31260 Flame Thrower®



Figure 4. *Cercis* x 'Merlot' P.P.#22,297



Figure 5. *Cercis siliquastrum* 'Bodnant'



Figure 6. Flower Carpet® ‘Peach’ PPAF
Groundcover Rose



Figure 7. *Hesperaloe* Desert Dusk®
P.P.#28909



Figure 8. *Grevillea* x Spirit of An-
zac® P.P.#29372



Figure 9. *Penstemon* 'Dark Towers
P.P.#20013 Beardtongue



Figure 10. *Senecio* 'Angel Wings'



Figure 11. *Vitex* x Summertime Blues *Vitex* PPAF



Figure 13. *Fallugia paradoxa*



Figure 12. *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' P.P.#22048