



NEWS FROM SOQUEL NURSERY GROWERS

September 2009

Open weekdays 8 am to 4:30 pm

What Does Soquel Have?

We have several options to keep you informed of what we have available:

By mail: Once a month we send out this newsletter and availability by postal mail.

By fax: We update our availability every Friday. If you need the most current copy, call and ask for one. We can also fax it to you automatically every week.

By email: You may receive our availability every Friday by email. We send it as an attachment in three different formats: Windows Excel 2000, PDF, and HTML.

Our website: www.soquelnursery.com has our weekly availability list without prices. The web edition of this newsletter has photos of our featured plants.

Our email address is info@soquelnursery.com

If you would like to be put on or taken off any of these lists please call (831) 475-3533.

Philotheca myoporoides

Philotheca myoporoides or **Long-Leaf Wax Flower** is a handsome Australian shrub with smooth, olive-green narrow leaves. In the winter and spring it is covered with small starry white flowers. It has a dense, mounding habit to about 3' – 4' tall and wide. Its flexible stems make it wind resistant. When established it will tolerate drought and frost. It likes dappled shade or sun, well-drained soil and moderate water. **Philotheca** responds well to pruning and shaping.

Camelot Series Digitalis

New for us this year is the **Camelot Series** of **Digitalis** or **Foxgloves**. These are the first F1 hybrid **Digitalis**, having superior vigor, sturdy stems, and a very long bloom season. The flowers are held horizontally all around the stem, showing their spotted throats. The flower spikes are huge and well branching to 4' tall. The **Camelot Series** blooms profusely the first year in spring and fall. The plants will live 3-4 years and achieve full glory in their second year. All **Digitalis** grow well in light shade, but **Camelot** is one of the most sun and heat tolerant varieties. We have **Rose, Lavender, White, and Cream**.

Cyclamen

Fall and winter are **Cyclamen** time, and some of ours are ready. We have the classic **Sierra** series in red, white, lilac, and pink. The **Fancy** varieties are a mix with stripes and fringed petals. New for us this year is the fragrant, vigorous **Jardino** series in red and white. **Jardinos** are larger than miniatures and smaller than intermediate types. They grow to about 10"-12" tall. You can keep cyclamen alive in the garden if they have dry shade in the summer for their dormant time. All three series are available in 4".

**We will be closed Labor Day,
Monday, September 7th.
Our usual Tuesday deliveries will be rescheduled.**

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Ceanothus

Ceanothus light up the hills of California in springtime with clouds of flowers in unforgettably vibrant shades of blue. The genus **Ceanothus** has a wide diversity of forms, ranging from small trees to groundcover types, native to many habitats. They are often called **California Wild Lilac** or **Mountain Lilac**. The flowers are important for bees and other beneficial insects. The seeds are beloved by quail and songbirds. The roots fix nitrogen in the soil. **Ceanothus** have a reputation for being short lived, but this is usually caused by excessive water and fertilizer. Deer will prune the larger leafed varieties a little bit for you. They usually don't like to eat the ones with tiny leaves.

Concha: Dense shrub with arching branches to about 6' x 6'. Can be trained up as a small tree. Narrow ½" long dark green leaves. Large, profuse clusters of deep blue flowers. **Concha** is more cold hardy than other Ceanothus. It is also more tolerant of alkaline soil and clay.

Julia Phelps: Shrub with mounding habit to 6' x 8'. Tiny ¼" long leaves. Deep indigo flowers like electric sparks. **Julia Phelps** enjoys coastal conditions, but will do well inland. The foliage is fragrant after rain. Tolerates summer water and clay soil.

Ray Hartman: Fast growing shrub or small tree to 15' x 15'. Large rounded leaves. Medium-blue flowers. Deer like the new growth. If you cage it for the first year or two, it will grow up out of the reach of deer.

Yankee Point: Fast growing groundcover to 2' x 10'. Thrives in full sun on the coast, preferring a little shade inland. Medium-blue flowers and large leaves. Excellent for covering slopes.

Echium handiense

If you crave **Echium fastuosum (Pride of Madiera)** but you don't have enough room, **Echium handiense** is the plant for you. The electric blue flower heads are more rounded than those of *E. fastuosum*. Its eventual size is only about 2' x 2'. Say "handy-en-see".

Salvia brandegi

The foliage of **Salvia brandegi** or **Brandegge's Sage** has a wonderfully aromatic sweet resinous smell, evocative of wild California chaparral. It is native to Baja California and the Channel Islands. The leaves are dark green, long and narrow, with a shiny wrinkled upper surface and a white felted underside. In spring the shrub is covered with stately whorls of pale lavender flowers with contrasting dark calyxes. It loves coastal conditions and sunny, exposed areas, thriving in sandy or clay soils. It needs no additional water once established. Too much water will make it sprawly and leggy. **Salvia brandegi** grows to about 3'-4' tall and wide. The dark green foliage makes a nice contrast with silvery foliage such as **lavenders** and **Teucrium fruticans azureum**. **Salvia brandegi** is a durable and long-lived shrub and is deer resistant.

Asclepias currassavica

Rejoice if you see big, brightly striped yellow, black and white caterpillars on your **Asclepias**. Have the pixies lost their socks? No, these are the larvae of the **Monarch Butterfly**. We have **Asclepias currassavica 'Silky Gold'**, and **Silky Deep Red'**, aka **Milkweed** or **Blood Flower**. The flowers and foliage are very attractive even without caterpillars.