

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO  
November 1978 Newsletter

November meeting:

Phil Fuentes, an orchid grower and bonsai enthusiast, will talk on bonsai, the Japanese art of dwarfing trees and shrubs, Tuesday, November 28, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's College, Lab 118 of the Laboratory Building. Fuentes will suggest native plants which could make fine subjects for bonsai. Through bonsai, even apartment dwellers and people with limited gardening space can grow New Mexican native trees and shrubs.

Illustration from "Growing Bonsai", U. S. Department of Agriculture Home and Garden Bulletin No. 206, 1973.

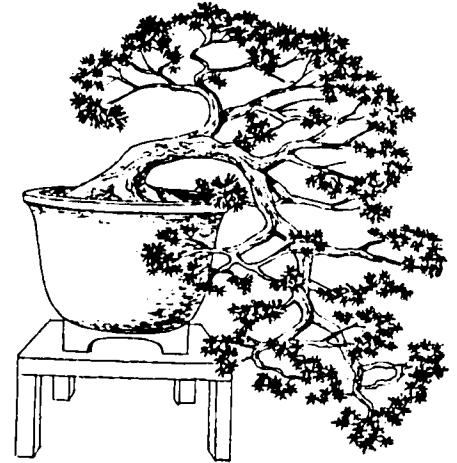


FIGURE 8.—The cascade style of bonsai represents a natural tree growing down the face of an embankment. A cascaded planting usually looks best in a round or hexagonal container.

News and Notes:

Are your dues due? Thanks for being so prompt in responding to the reminders written on your newsletters that it's time to renew your membership in the Native Plant Society. Our apologies to those who receive a note after you've submitted your dues. Please send your membership renewals to Carol Dimeff, Rt. 4, Puesta del Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

Our thanks to Sandra Corrie Newman, last month's speaker, for an interesting talk on the use of native plant materials in basket weaving and dyeing.

A supplement to "Native Plants for Landscaping in Northern New Mexico" has been printed. If you own this booklet and would like the supplement, please write the editor and enclose a stamp. The booklet with the supplement will remain at the old price of 50¢. "Native Plants for Landscaping in Southern New Mexico" is 75¢. If you want either of these sent to you, postage is 40¢ on each booklet.

A Catalog of the Flora of Arizona by J. Harry Lehr, curator of the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, has been released to supplement The Flora of Arizona. The catalog fills the growing need for a current checklist of Arizona's flora. It is designed to serve both as a field reference and a bibliographic guide to the recent literature. An effort has been made to record the common names under which the plants are known by the layman. Lehr plans to keep his book current by publishing new taxa and bibliographical entries in the Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science. You can buy your own copy of A Catalog of the Flora of Arizona in the Garden's bookstore or it may be ordered by mail by writing the Desert Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 5415, Phoenix, Arizona 85010. Either way the price is \$4.75.

## Native Plants for Southern New Mexico:

Jim McCulloch of El Paso sent us a list of plants seen in his area which he feels could make good ornamentals. Some of the species he suggests have already been described in the NPS booklet, "Native Plants for Landscaping in Southern New Mexico". So, we decided to present here only new ideas and his comments regarding the propagation or cultivation of species in the booklet.

*Senecio longilobus* (*S. filifolius*) - found everywhere; would make a good ornamental of the Dusty Miller type. Ranchers have made us think of it as a pernicious weed, though it is really quite pretty.

*Isocoma wrightii* (*Haploppus heterophyllus*) - another weed disliked by ranchers, but not really weedy appearing. Profuse golden-rod type flowers. Not to be confused with *Ericameria laricina* (*Haploppus laricina*), which has evergreen, conifer-like leaves and a gnarled or twisted bonsai appearance. In the summer and fall it flowers with small, haplopappus-type yellow flowers and is common in the Organ Mountains.

*Juniperus pinchotii* - grows in the Guadalupe Mountains; red berries make it a good-looking shrub.

*Sapinaus drummondii* (Western Soapberry) - described in the booklet, Jim has got them to germinate by filing a couple of holes in the seedcoat.

*Ptelea trifoliata* - a shrub or small tree, also described in the booklet. Small but numerous flowers in spring. Could make a good-looking shrub with pruning.

*Palafoxia sphacelata* - a composite with large, pink flowers; grows in deep sand.

*Mortonia scabrella* - could make a very handsome foliage plant for a rock garden. Grows on dry, limestone cliffs.

*Heterotheca* spp. - called camphor-weed because the crushed leaves give off a strong, camphor-like odor. Several of our local species would look good in rock gardens.

*Viguera steneloba* - a shrubby, xerophyllic composite with a profusion of yellow flowers after summer rains. Normally about 3 feet tall, it could be used in rock gardens.

*Poliomintha incana* - grows to a maximum height of about 4 feet.

*Dyssodia* spp. - would also look good in a rock garden.

*Sisymbrium linearifolium* - a good-looking crucifer which apparently doesn't need much water, tall, purple flowers.

*Erysimum capitatum* - another crucifer, xerophyllic, with tall, yellow flowers.

*Hoffmanseggia glauca* - a low-growing plant with conspicuous, yellow flowers. Good for a rock garden, though it tends to take over the area grown in.

*Machneranthera scabrella* - a small, common weed, but has large yellow flowers; good accent plant for a rock garden.

*Brickellia californica* - a much-branched perennial shrub up to 3 feet tall of the sunflower family; grows in rock locations with cream-colored flowers in summer.

*Condalia ericoides* or *C. warnockii* - both dense, spinescent shrubs. *C. ericoides* would be better for hedges or borders, as it is evergreen.

*Koerberlinia spinosa* - commonly called crown of thorns or crucifixion thorn, this plant would also be good for a barrier effect.

*Berberis trifoliata* (Mahonia) - a handsome shrub with gray-green foliage and clusters of fragrant yellow flowers in spring followed by edible berries. Possibly sold in some nurseries, but not in El Paso.

*Rhus microphylla* - a big, fine arroyo species with fuzzy, brick-colored berries in summer. Because of its riparian habit, it would probably do better with supplemental water.

*Larrea tridentata* - dominant desert shrub of southern New Mexico, described in booklet; it often has olive-green color to foliage; small yellow flowers in spring followed by silvery, pubescent seed balls. Can be grown from seed but is very difficult to transplant.

*Stenandrium barbatum* - small, but really beautiful when flowering.

*Agastache cana* - a lovely annual with purple flowers; grows in moister places.

*Datura wrightii* (*D. meleoides*) - Daturas from South America are available at nurseries, but not our native species.

*Astragalus* spp. - especially *A. allochrous* and *A. wootonii*, with their inflated pods.

Other potential ornamentals not described in the booklet include: *Trichachne californica*, *Abutilon incanum* and *Penstemon fendleri*. Three additional vines of ornamental value include: *Sarcostemma cynanchroides*, *Janusia gracilis* and *Ibervillea tenvisecta*.

Your comments or any additional information regarding the cultivation of species described in the booklets are always welcome. Send your notes to the Editors, Rt. 4, Puesta del Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

Classified Ads

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*Liatriis punctata*  
Blazing star  
(Compositae)  
2 feet tall  
Blooms October,  
intense purple