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Agastache 'Summer Lustre'

### Selected Plant List for Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

The selected plants I propagated and grew this year reflect my interest in growing California native plants as well as choice plants from Mediterranean climates: plants that are adapted to our climate - that survive our long, hot, dry summers with little water.

They also reflect my passion for growing plants that attract pollinators of all types; hummingbirds, flies, moths, beetles, bees, and butterflies. While I enjoy observing and learning about all kinds of flower visitors, the past few years I've focused on planting for our native bumble bees, responding to their ever increasing numbers on my homestead.

Finally, the plant selections reflect my deep interest in Salvias. So many of them love our climate and so many pollinators love them. While the Salvias from Mexico and Central and South America are favored by hummingbirds, the California natives and many of the Mediterranean species also attract many bees, butterflies – and hummingbirds!

Some of the Salvias that will be available:

***Salvia brandegii* 'Pacific Blue'** - A rugged California native similar to *Salvia melifera*, but with greener foliage and deeper blue flowers.

***Salvia* 'Celestial Blue'** - A long blooming California native with deep blue flowers contrasted with the reddish calyces. A hybrid of *S. clevelandii* and *S. pachyphylla*

***Salvia clevelandii* 'Winnifred Gilman'** - Floriferous, showy selection of the Cleveland sage, with electric blue flowers May through July.



*Salvia brandegii* 'Pacific Blue'



*Salvia lavandulifolia*

***Salvia lavandulifolia*** - One of my favorite Salvias for the drought tolerant garden. Forms a low growing shrub of silver leaves and spikes of blue flowers in April/May. A favorite of the Pipevine Swallowtail.

***Salvia* 'John Whittlesey'** - Few Salvias produce as many flowers as this selection. Large, orange-red flowers on long flowering stems. Hummingbirds love it.

***Salvia* 'Savannah Blue'** - A rarely grown salvia from South Africa that is another favorite of mine for the dry garden. Extremely drought tolerant with bright green foliage and quantities of small pale blue flowers all summer. Favored by some bumble bees and a number of other native bees.

***Salvia guaranitica* 'Van Rensen'** - Tall growing selection of *S. guaranitica* that does not spread like 'Black and Blue'. Deep blue flowers – another hummingbird favorite.



*Salvia* 'John Whittlesey'

***Salvia munzii* 'Emerald Cascade'** A rarely grown California native sage that is easy to place in the small garden. It grows only to 30" high and wide with tiny grey-green leaves. The small flowers are pale blue blooming in mid spring and attract a range of small native bees. This small shrub develops more character as it ages.

Closely related to the salvias, agastaches are easy, long blooming plants many of which are great plants to attract a range of pollinators. **Agastache ‘Summer Lustre’** was a standout in our Pollinator Berms last summer. Peachy-pink flowers were continually produced all summer on 5’ tall plants. Hummingbirds, sphinx moths and butterflies enjoyed the nectar.



Agastache ‘Summer Lustre’

One plant I grew from seed this year that I’m excited about is False Indigo ***Amorpha californica***. This is the larval food plant for the California Dog-face butterfly which is California’s state butterfly. It would be exciting if we could provide a home for them some day. I’ve also been told the *Amorpha* attracts many different bees. I’m hoping it is a good plant for the bumble bees.

Another hard-to-find plant I’m pleased to be offering is the Island Mountain Mahogany – ***Cercocarpus betuloides var. blancheae***. A relatively fast growing *Cercocarpus* with slightly larger birch-like leathery leaves than the species. It readily adapts to a variety of garden situations – part of a hedgerow, grown as a screen, or a specimen plant pruned to display its grey bark, or in a threesome – a drought tolerant substitute for birch trees. The seed heads are a delight of their own - their curved feathery wings eye-catching in morning or evening sun.



**Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris ‘Canyon Snow’** is an excellent, easy plant to grow in dry shade. The bright white flowers with golden-yellow markings on the petals are stunning in mid spring. Lustrous green foliage.

**Achillea ‘Moonlight’** - Not to be confused with the ubiquitous *Achillea* ‘Moonshine’, Moonlight sends up strongly vertical stems topped with the flat headed flower clusters of golden yellow that last for months in mid summer. 30” tall



While the ***Caryopteris ‘Dark Knight’*** is not an uncommon plant to be found in nurseries, I wanted to grow more for a couple of reasons. One, it flowers in late summer with masses of cool blue flowers that brighten my pollinator berms, adding much-needed late season color after a long hot summer. Also, last summer it was the one plant that the monarchs visited in August, and the last of the male bumble bees are often found nectaring on the flowers. It is a very durable plant.

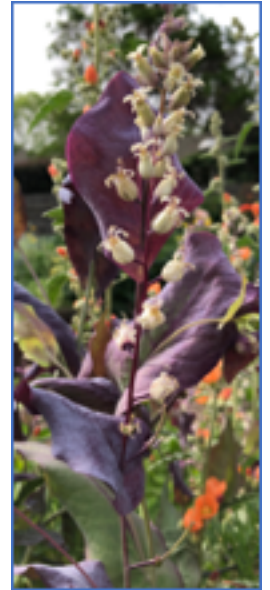
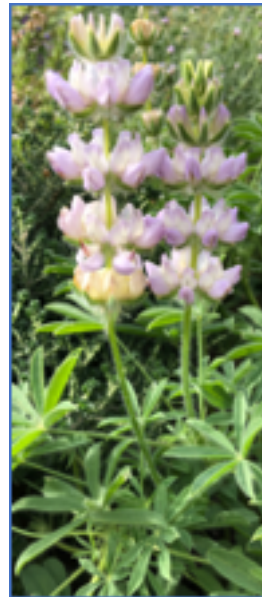


Western Tiger Swallowtail on *Salvia clevelandii* ‘Winnifred Gilman’

## SEEDS

We are very pleased that Rob Schlising has donated seeds from his garden – 100% of the sales of his seeds will be donated to the Mount Lassen Chapter of CNPS. Rob, whose incredible garden has been on the CNPS/Altcal garden tour several times, grows a wide array of plants to attract native bees specifically. A large part of his plan to attract native bees has been to grow a wide variety of California annuals. He is generously sharing seed of 14 species from plants that have performed well in his Chico garden. You can read more about his growing of California annuals in the June 2020 edition of The Pipeline - the Mount Lassen chapter's monthly newsletter. You can view this article by going to [https://mountlassen.cnps.org/images/newsletters\\_all/newsletters\\_2020/2020\\_06\\_pipevine.pdf](https://mountlassen.cnps.org/images/newsletters_all/newsletters_2020/2020_06_pipevine.pdf)

Some of the seeds being offered include:



*Clarkia rubicundra* (top left), *Layia glandulosa* (bottom left), *Collinsia heterophylla* (dark form), *Lupinus microcarpus*, *Streptanthes farworthianus*

*Monardella venosa*

