

President's Message

The last month has been very interesting, as in the well known phrase "May you live in Interesting Times!"

After the killing frost in El Cajon just after Christmas, I looked at my garden and all of the big zonals planted in the ground were hard hit. I cut them back, but could not salvage some of them. The good news was that none of the Ivy leaved were hit, and none of the ones in the raised beds (2 ft high) were hit. It looks like I will have to think about overwintering - something I have been ignoring until now.

While I was trimming out the dead leaves, I discovered a bunch of zonals that had big holes eaten in the leaves. When I sent pictures of them to Jim Zemick he identified this as Geranium Budworm damage. Ummm... it turns out that this little nasty is commonly called the Tobacco Budworm, and the University of Florida Extension has this little gem in their publications: Tobacco budworm is a common pest of geranium and other flower crops such as ageratum, bird of paradise, chrysanthemum, gardenia, geranium, petunia, mallow, marigold, petunia, snapdragon, strawflower, verbena, and zinnia.

I think this list covers just about everything in our garden. The good news is that spinosad (AKA Captain Jacks Deadbug Brew) seems to kill the caterpillar. The bad news is that you may need to spray every couple of weeks until you get all of them. But don't worry - if you have roses you will already be spraying spinosad for Chilli Thrips - the latest plague to hit San Diego roses. Also you will be checking your citrus for the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing (HLB) disease. See <http://californiacitrusthreat.org/pest-disease/> for more information on this.

Monica's scented geraniums are ignoring all this and growing like...weeds?

I will be attending the 2019 Pelargonium Conference on Feb 16, 2019 at the Los Angeles County Aboretum. See <http://www.geraniumsociety.org> for details. The speakers include David Taylor from the Pelargonium and Geranium Society (PAAGS) of the UK, Tom Glavich (Skyview Succulents), Wayne Handlos (CCGS), and Robin Parer (Geraniaceae).

Patrick Powell



A Publication of the San Diego Geranium Society
The San Diego Geranium Society meets the Second
Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., in Room 101 of the
Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.
Meetings are Free! All Welcome!

Our Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
@ 6:30pm

This is our Valentine's Potluck Dinner!
Bring something to share to serve 8 -
dessert will be provided.
We can use extra hands to set up -
come early (6:00) if you can help.

Don't forget to -
Bring Cuttings from your Garden -
Bring a plant for "Show and Tell"

After Dinner, we'll enjoy playing
"Geranium Bingo" -
and we'll be discussing our 2019 Show/Sale!
Be sure to come with ideas for a theme!

2019 Pelargonium Conference

There's still time to register for the 2019 Pelargonium Conference - the deadline to register is 2/11. The Conference will be held on 2/16 at the LA County Arboretum. More info is available at www.Geraniumsociety.org



Budworm Leaf Damage



Dead budworm -
magnified!



Pelargonium greytonense

Source: <http://pza.sanbi.org/pelargonium-greytonense>

This is a fairly small, fragrant pelargonium for the scented garden. *Pelargonium greytonense* is an erect, much branched 1 m shrub 0.75 m in diameter. The stems are soft and green when young but become woody when older. Minute hairs with a few scattered long soft hairs, as well as glandular hairs which are green but become greyish brown when older, are present on the stem. The palmately (hand-like) incised leaves are covered with short and rather stiff as well as scattered long hairs. The leaves are aromatic. Flowers are white to pale pink and are borne in umbel-like inflorescences. This species flowers between September and January with a peak flowering period in October and November.

Pelargonium greytonense is listed on the Red List of South African plants (Raimondo et al . 2009) as Rare.

Pelargonium greytonense has a small distribution area in the southwestern Western Cape on the southern slopes of the Riviersonderend Mountains. This area receives rain primarily during the winter months and is frost-free because it is relatively close to the coast. High temperatures are experienced during the summer months. The specific name *greytonense* refers to the town of Greyton where the species is found. Although this species grows only in a small area it occurs locally in large numbers. It is mainly found growing in ravines.

The seed is adapted to wind dispersal; it is light in weight and has a feathered, spiral tail. When the seed lands and there is sufficient moisture in the soil, the tail becomes like a drill, twisting the seed into the soil so that the seed can anchor itself in the ground and prevent itself from being blown away, or carried away by moving animals. This ensures that most of the seeds produced, five seeds per flower, have a good chance of germinating.

There are no recorded cultural uses for *Pelargonium greytonense*. The leaves have a sweet aromatic scent, making this plant an excellent addition to any scented garden. This species will do well in containers and smaller areas in the garden. It is well suited to grow among other smaller herbaceous perennials.

Pelargonium greytonense, like most other members of the genus, is easily grown from either seeds or cuttings. Cuttings are propagated at any time of the year but best after flowering and seeding. Take semi-mature stem cuttings 150 mm long and apply a rooting powder to stimulate rooting. Place the cuttings into a propagation tray with individual cavities. The cuttings are then placed in a cold-frame or a cool well lit area to root. The cuttings will root within 3 weeks. Once the cuttings have rooted, pot into a well-drained potting soil. Young plants can be fed on a monthly basis with an organic-based liquid or granular fertilizer.

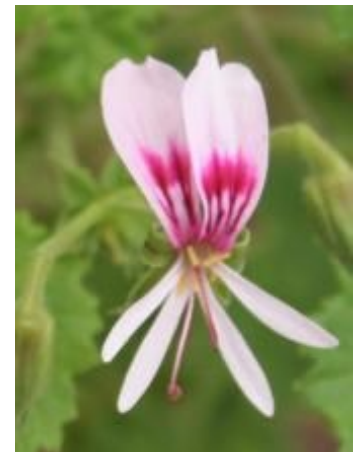
This *Pelargonium* is a winter-rainfall species. Seeds are sown in autumn. Sow the seeds in a light, well-drained potting soil mixture. Broadcast the seeds evenly in the seed tray and cover them with a layer of clean white sand or fine-milled pine bark. The depth of sowing is usually one-and-a-half times the size of the seed. Water thoroughly but gently and provide light shade. Germination usually takes place within 4 weeks. Seeds are best sown when fresh although they may remain viable for up to seven years. *Pelargoniums* grown from seed are generally more vigorous than those derived from cuttings. They do, however, tend to take longer to produce flowers. Plants grown from seed will show some degree of variation, and if a particular form or variant is required it must be propagated by cuttings.



Hairy Leaves



P. greytonense



Flower