

President's Message - September 2020

Here it is, Labor Day, and we have just come through one of the major hot spells in San Diego. I have been spending my time browsing web sites on plant photography and specialty nurseries.

Robin Parer's Web Site <https://geraniaceae.com/> is one of my favorite sites for scented geraniums. Donn Reiners took the photos she uses on her web site.

His web site - <http://geraniumpage.com> - has lots of easy to read and follow recommendations. Donn grows plants in Sacramento (hot!) and you might want to read his Geraniums 101 articles, especially the ones on heat and light.

I was looking for some pictures and found Digging Dog Nursery <http://www.diggingdog.com>. Use their Quick Search to find geraniums, and then click on one. I suggest Westray for a really nice geranium. Sold out and unavailable, of course.

If you want to just get a nice selection of plants, look at Shady Hills Gardens, <https://www.shadyhill.com>. Click on geraniums. They have an interesting way of selling plants - they have collections, and you get 6 plants from a collection (their choice). They also have a large variety of Regals, but do not ship them. They ship March - June.

I had been planning to visit some of the local nurseries here in the San Diego/Los Angeles area, but the weather did not cooperate, and the COVID restrictions prevented me from going on-site.

Just when I thought that we might be able to hold a meeting in September, plans went back on hold due to the latest COVID shutdown. Instead, we will have a Zoom meeting with a speaker and a presentation.

If you can't join us on Zoom via computer/smartphone, you can join us with the conference call. I hope to see/hear from many of you on 9/15!

Patrick Powell
President

Zoom Meeting

Topic: SDGS

September Zoom Meeting Time: Sep 15, 2020 07:00 PM

<https://bit.ly/2R3khFY>

OR - Phone in to Zoom: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 847 6050 0838

Passcode: 905165



Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Westray'
Full Sun/Partial Shade

This splendid new cultivar was bred by British Geranium enthusiast, Alan Bremner, who named it after his father's homeland—the Orkney Island of Westray.

Wafting a spicy scent, quantities of rounded, deeply lobed leaves define a low growing evergreen ground cover that imparts warm orange-red hues in autumn and tolerates some drought. Just above the neat, densely arranged foundation, Westray's fanciful, circular red buds give way to copious, ample-sized carnation pink flowers with sprightly anthers.

How To Train Your Baby Plant

By Donn Reiners

From his webpage - LOTS more there, so go take a look!



You planted your rooted cutting and it is time to start the training process. It will take about 2 to 3 weeks for the plant to overcome the transplant shock and now the new growth is coming in a hurry.



Nip the lead growing tip back to a node. This will cause lateral growth to occur at lower nodes.



Now let her rip - your effort and patience will be rewarded!

You've got the idea, the more lateral growth that we encourage the bushier the plant will become.

I will remove any/all flower buds which attempt to grow during this time as I want to focus the plants strength on new growth.

As the lateral growth lengthens continue to cut the lead growth tip until the desired plant shape is attained. Continue removing the flower buds.

Don't forget your feeding program, much like a growing child, the young Geranium needs plenty of food too!