

ANTON THOMSEN: Jose—like in San Jose.

VOICE: This is for John Byland. In your high humidity propagation, how are you controlling moss and algae?

JOHN BYLAND: The only place we have an algae problem is on the walkways. The flats we use seem to tolerate a certain amount of algae. We really don't have an algae problem.

VOICE: Question for Anton. What is the cultivar of the blue upright growing juniper you showed? What experience have you had in field growing it?

ANTON THOMSEN: I suppose you mean the *Juniperus scopulorum* type. It is 'Blue Pyramid'. We have had no problems with it.

**PLANT INTRODUCTIONS FROM MONROVIA
NURSERY COMPANY
DENNIS M. CONNOR**

Monrovia Nursery Company
P.O. Box Q
Azusa, California 91702

The Monrovia Nursery Company has always taken great pride in helping to introduce new plants or reintroduce old garden favorites into the nursery trade. Many times these plants come from around the world, or from such places as other nurseries, botanical gardens or arboretums, and even from home gardeners' backyards. At Monrovia Nursery, we are constantly scouting the fields of our containerized stock looking for sports of plants that have growing and marketing potential. Often times, these plants warrant a trademark or plant patent. Listed below are a few new and old cultivars of worthy note:

Actinidia arguta 'Ananasnaja'. This is commonly known as the Siberian gooseberry. It is a deciduous vine much like *Actinidia deliciosa*, except that the foliage is narrower and devoid of hairs. This cultivar was selected for the large size of its fruit ($\frac{3}{4}$ in. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter) which has lime-green flesh and a smooth skin; the fruit can be eaten like a grape—skin and all. The fruit ripens in September and October, earlier than *Actinidia deliciosa*. This cultivar is a female plant requiring a male pollinator. This plant is excellent for trellises and arbors, and may be planted as a scrambling shrub. It is hardy to zone 4, growing well at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamiaca Plain, Massachusetts, where it has tolerated -35°F .

Bougainvillea hybrid 'Oo-la-la'[™]. This plant is a sport of *Bougainvillea* 'Rosenka', and was found in a bed of 'Rosenka' by an employee at Monrovia Nursery Company. This new cultivar has the same dwarf, mounding habit, and free-flowering habit as 'Rosenka', except that the flower bracts are a vibrant reddish-purple. The plant is hardy to zone 10.

Catalpa bignonioides × *Chilopsis linearis*. Known as chitalpa, this hybrid from the Soviet Union is a new intergeneric hybrid of two American plants, desert willow and catalpa. The plant is a deciduous small tree growing to 30 feet. A rapid grower, it will reach 15 ft in only 3 years. Large clusters of light pink flowers are produced from March through September. This is an excellent water-conserving plant. This hybrid is hardy to zone 6; in colder areas it may dieback completely and resprout.

Clivia miniata 'Moyna Flame'™. This is a new, exclusive introduction of Monrovia Nursery for which a plant patent is being obtained. The large, bright orange-red flowers are produced in large clusters above the dark green, strap-like leaves. This cultivar is a definite improvement over conventional seedlings due to its wide foliage, large flower clusters, and deep flower color. The plants are excellent for shady locations in zones 9 and 10, and as house plants in colder areas.

Dodonaea procumbens. Commonly known as the trailing hop bush, this plant is prostrate, forming a mat 6 in. in height with a spread of 4 ft. The foliage is wedge-shaped and rich green in color. Flowers are not significant. This plant makes a beautiful groundcover but is not a rampant grower. Plants grow best in full sun on sandy or loamy soils, but will tolerate semi-shade or heavy soils. This plant is hardy to zone 8.

Gordonia lasianthus. This evergreen tree, native to the southeastern United States, is commonly known as the loblolly bay or black laurel. In cultivation, the plant will reach a height of 40 ft with a spread of 25 ft. The foliage is glossy, elliptic, and 3 to 5 in. in diameter. The fragrant, 2½ in. flowers are produced for a two-month period during the summer. The tree tends to retain its foliage through the fall, with some foliage turning a crimson color prior to leaf drop. The plant does best in acidic soils and full sun to partial shade. Plants are hardy to zone 7.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Izumi'. This new cultivar produces long-lasting, double, vibrant-orange flowers. The plants are semi-dwarf with a slightly weeping growth habit and are hardy to zone 10. This cultivar is a hybrid from Earl Izumi, a nursery owner and hibiscus breeder on Maui in Hawaii.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Jason Okumoto'. This plant produces lovely, semi-double cup and saucer flowers that are bright gold with a scarlet throat. Plants are hardy to zone 10. This cultivar is also from hybridizer Earl Izumi in Hawaii.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Ruby Brown'. This new cultivar blooms with large (up to 10 in. across), brown-orange flowers with a red eye. The plants are prolific bloomers. Plants reach 6 ft and are hardy to zone 10.

Hibiscus syriacus 'Aphrodite'. An introduction of the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., this cultivar features a dense growth habit, growing to only 9 ft tall and 8 ft wide in 20 years. Flowers are rose with a dark red-purple eyespot. Plants are hardy to zone 6.

Hibiscus syriacus 'Helene'. Another U.S. National Arboretum introduction, this cultivar features flowers that are white with a red eye. The compact plants grow to only 6 by 6 ft in 20 years. Plants are hardy to zone 6.

Hibiscus syriacus 'Minerva'. This new cultivar produces 4 to 5 in. flowers that are violet with a dark red-purple eyespot. Plants feature an open-branched growth habit, growing to 8 ft tall by 6 ft wide in 20 years. This cultivar was introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum and is hardy to zone 6.

Leptospermum scoparium 'Nanum Tui'. A new arrival from New Zealand, this plant features a dwarf growth habit, rarely exceeding 2 ft in height. White to very pale pink flowers are produced in mid-February. Plants flower at a young age and are hardy to zone 9.

Liriodendron tulipifera 'Aureo-marginatum'. Known as the 'Majestic Beauty' tulip Tree, this cultivar is slower growing and slightly smaller than seedling liriodendrons. The tree is deciduous, pyramidal in shape, and features bright green

leaves that are edged with yellow. Plants are propagated by grafting. This cultivar is hardy to zone 5.

Magnolia 'Monland Timeless Beauty'[™]. This is an exclusive patented cultivar of Monrovia Nursery. A small evergreen tree, it reaches a size of 15 ft by 15 ft after 15 years. Large, creamy white, fragrant flowers 9 to 10 in. in diameter are produced from early May until September. After this cultivar blooms, it resumes vegetative growth and will rebloom the same year, unlike other evergreen magnolias that bloom only once per year. This cultivar is believed to be a cross between *Magnolia grandiflora* and *Magnolia virginiana*, and is hardy to zone 6.

CALATHEAS

STEVE LAZARZ

Rancho Soledad Nurseries, Inc.

P.O. Box 1689

Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067

Included in the genus *Calathea*, are some of the most attractive species of interior foliage plants. In their native habitat, they exist as understory plants in the tropical forests of south and central America, and some of the associated Caribbean islands. As a group, they are very desirable due to their very colorful and exotic foliage, and their ability to flourish under interior light levels as low as 50 foot candles. Until recently, most of the cultivars I will describe have been available in the trade only in very limited quantities, and at a premium price. Calatheas are very difficult to grow from seed, and are commonly propagated by the slow and painstaking method of division of the underground rhizomes. Tissue culture micropropagation techniques are presently making many of these cultivars available to the trade in significant numbers at a reasonable price.

Calatheas are a bit more exacting in their cultural requirements than many other types of interior foliage plants. They have a reputation for being salt and fluoride sensitive, and sometimes exhibit burning along the margins and leaf tip if grown incorrectly. My personal experience is from growing these plants in San Diego, California, where the level of "Total Dissolved Salts" (TDS) in the irrigation water reaches as high as 700 ppm. Under the correct cultural conditions, even with marginal water quality, these problems can be minimized. Calatheas do best in a light soil medium with a high water-holding capacity. They should be grown at a light level of 1500 foot candles, and fertilized at every irrigation with an N-P₂O₅-K₂O ratio of 3-1-2 at a level of 100 ppm N. They should not to be waterstressed, but should be kept evenly moist. Spider mites can be a major pest, and are controlled with Pentac[®] or Avid[®], as needed.

Calathea orbifolia: A Brazilian species to 24 in. with large 8 to 10 in. elliptical leaves exquisitely striped in two shades of green.