



# NEWS FROM SOQUEL NURSERY GROWERS

April 2009

Open weekdays 8 am to 4:30 pm

## What Does Soquel Have?

We have several options to keep you informed of what we have available:

**By mail:** Once a month we send out this newsletter and availability by postal mail.

**By fax:** We update our availability every Friday. If you need the most current copy, call and ask for one. We can also fax it to you automatically every week.

**By email:** You may receive our availability every Friday by email. We send it as an attachment in three different formats: PDF, Windows Excel 2000, and HTML.

**Our website:** [www.soquelnursery.com](http://www.soquelnursery.com) has our weekly availability list without prices. **The web edition of this newsletter now has photos of our featured plants.**

**Our email address** is [info@soquelnursery.com](mailto:info@soquelnursery.com)

If you would like to be put on or taken off any of these lists please call (831) 475-3533.

## Spring Hours Begin April 1<sup>st</sup>

We are open weekdays 8:00 – 4:30  
until further notice.

## Orthrosanthus

**Orthrosanthus multiflorus**, aka **Blue Flag** or **Morning Iris**, is an Australian native in the **Iris** family. It has sprays of lovely sky-blue star shaped flowers spring through fall. Its grasslike foliage is attractive all year. It forms a clump 18" tall and wide. It is drought tolerant, needing only an occasional deep watering in the summer. It is also low-maintenance and deer resistant. Plant it in sun or light shade.

## Solanum crispum 'Glasnevin'

We sell this relative of **Potato Vine** staked up as a vine, but you can train it as a topiary, espalier or informal shrub. It grows fast with sturdy, flexible stems to 6' tall or more. Clusters of purplish-blue stars with bright yellow centers appear in late spring and continue through fall. **Solanum crispum** likes full sun or light shade and rich, moist soil.

## Celebrate Earth Day April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Every day is Earth Day if you are a gardener. On the official holiday you can celebrate with others in your community. Try a beach cleanup party, a wildlands restoration project, or helping seniors or children plant a garden. Every human should get a chance to put her fingers in the soil and feel the power of spring.

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## South African Daisies

We grow two varieties of clumping **Gazanias**, **Chansonette** and **Talent**. Both are a mix of many oranges, yellows, pinks, purples, and creamy white, most with an intriguing little geometric pattern at the base of the ray petals. **Chansonette** mix has green leaves and **Talent** mix has grey leaves. Both grow to about 1' x 3' and require full sun. They require very little maintenance or water.

## Artichoke 'Green Globe'

**Artichokes** are not just for dinner anymore. Use this wonderful bold-textured plant as an accent in your sunny perennial border. Ours are seed grown, so they don't produce as heavily as clonal types, but they will still give you large, flavorful flower buds for several months each year. Eat them or let them develop into fabulous fuzzy purple flowers.

## Helictotrichon sempervirens

**Helictotrichon sempervirens** or **Blue Oat Grass** forms a 2' clump of finely textured blue-grey leaves. It makes a wonderful contrast with bronze foliage such as **Phormium tenax atropurpureum**. It is native to the Mediterranean and thrives in Pacific Northwest climates. It is drought tolerant once established and needs good drainage. As the species name suggests, it does not go dormant in winter. By springtime it will have some dead leaves mixed in with the new growth. Instead of cutting it back, stroke it with a rake or your fingers and the dead leaves will pull out easily.

## Penstemons

Where would we be without **Penstemon gloxinoides** hybrids? They are untroubled by snails or deer, thrive without fertilizer, and bloom profusely in the sunny low-water garden. We have five varieties in 1 and 2-gallon cans:

**Appleblossom:** Pale pink and white  
**Bev Jensen:** Raspberry pink with white throat.  
**Firebird:** Deep scarlet red (like a fire engine)  
**Garnet:** Like the gemstone, dark raspberry red.  
**Midnight:** Purplish dark blue.

We also have 1-gallon **Penstemon campanulatus**, Pale lilac-blue and white. 2' x 2'.

## Gaura 'Siskyou Pink'

**Gaura 'Siskyou Pink'** is spectacular in the summer and fall, when it looks like a cloud of little pink butterflies. The foliage is dark purple. **Gaura** is not bothered much by pests or diseases. Sometimes the leaves will be covered with darker purple spots, which may appear to be a disease, but is a naturally occurring pigment that will spread out into a mottled look as the leaves mature. **Gaura 'Siskyou Pink'** has a deep taproot, which makes it drought tolerant but makes it difficult to transplant. Give it a sunny spot with good drainage and it will grow to about 2'x2', beautifying your garden for years. If it sprawls you can prune it a bit, but its open, airy form is part of what makes it so lovely.