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SUMMER HOURS - PLEASE NOTE!

Office & Yard/Will Call Open
6:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Thursday
6:00 am to 3:00 pm Friday
Closed Weekends and Major Holidays

UPCOMING EVENTS / NOTICES

May 4-5

Shigo Science – Let the Tree be the Teacher

Sponsored by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, Community College of Southern Nevada, Henderson Campus
Info: Call 714.639.3610 or visit: www.wcisa.org

May 18

16th Annual Desert Horticulture Conference

Sponsored by the University of Arizona Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ
Info: Call 520.621.1582 or visit: www.ag.arizona.edu/deserthort/

May 18

Equipment Innovations and Safer Palm Work

Sponsored by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture
Encanto Park, Phoenix, AZ
Info: Call 714.639.3610 or visit: www.wcisa.org

May 19-20

Western Chapter ISA Tree Climbing Championship

Sponsored by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture
Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Superior, AZ
Info: Call 714.639.3610 or visit: www.wcisa.org

June 21

Fourth Annual Evening of Wine and Roses to benefit the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

May Arboretum, Reno, NV
Hosted by Moana Nursery and cosponsored by Diageo Chateau & Estate Wines.
Info: Call 775.825.0602 ext 130

June 26

Grangetto's Horticulture Seminar & Trade Show

San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, CA
Info: Call Jennifer McCarthy at 760.745.4671, ext. 233 or visit: www.grangettos.com

June 29

2007 Facility & Grounds Management Expo

Utah Valley State College, Orem, UT
Info: Call Susan Palmer at 801.863.8894

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mountain States family would like to announce the arrival of Guenevere Jane Grass who was born on March 13, 2007 at 6 pounds and 19 ¼ inches long to her proud parents, Tiffany and Jeff Grass. Jeff is our retail Arizona and California sales representative. We wish to congratulate the Grass family and welcome baby Guenevere!

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Professor Emeritus Warren Jones on Saturday April 7, 2007. Warren was a dear friend of the nursery and provided great inspiration to us all during his years at the University of Arizona. Services to celebrate his life of 92 years were held on April 14th in Tucson. Donations to his scholarship fund within the ANAFund may be made by mailing to ANA, 1430 W. Broadway Suite 110, Tempe, AZ 85282. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

What's In A Name?

Have you ever stopped to wonder why we name plants the way we do? Well the story is pretty interesting. First off we ought to get the taxonomy correct. Plants are named with the binomial system. This type of nomenclature was adopted by the scientific community following a proposal by Carl Linnaeus in the middle of the 18th century. Often referred to as the Father of Taxonomy, Linnaeus developed the scientific method for naming and placing plants in ranked order so that biologists could systematically classify all living organisms, including plants.

Prior to the binomial system, the manner in which plants were named was disorderly and awkward. Plants often had long, tedious Latinized names derived from descriptions about growth habits or physical characteristics. Dr. Michael Dirr in his excellent work *The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* uses this example: the common carnation, whose scientific name today is *Dianthus caryophyllus*. Prior to the binomial system it was, are you ready for this, *Dianthus floribus solitarius, squamis calycinis subovatis brevissimus, corollis crenatis*. Our plant catalogs would be huge if we had not adopted the Linnaean system! Thanks Carl.

Several years ago Mary Irish and Terry Mikel were asked to do a presentation at a green

industry luncheon in Phoenix. Both of these individuals are noted horticulturists and capable lecturers, and being avid readers and writers on all things related to plants, they named their presentation *A Guide to Botanical Names and Their Meanings*, or something to that effect. Each succeeded in getting the entire room rolling with laughter about this and that scientific name. During the talk, a small little pamphlet was distributed that listed numerous specific names. As an exercise, each person in the audience was to talk to the person to their right for a few minutes, and then quickly prepare a brief, but concise description of the other. The results were hilarious. For example (please forgive my Latin) the young lady to my right was described as *Homo sapien foemina auricomus erubescens* with a literal translation of human being of the female gender, golden haired and blushing. By this time the young lady was actually blushing.

The importance of scientific or botanical names is profoundly evident when plants are placed in commerce. Plants known by one name in a particular region would be called something entirely different elsewhere. A good example of this would be the species within the genus *Leucophyllum*. Native to the Chihuahuan Desert, this plant is commonly referred to as Ceniza by native populations, but could also go by the

names silverleaf, purple sage, Texas Ranger, Texas sage, or barometer plant depending on to whom you are talking. Obviously the use of common names can be, and often is confusing.

Most of us are still mystified by the nomenclature of the binomial system, especially with the use of Latin and Greek to further complicate things. Let's see if we can simplify this. The scientific name is composed of two parts (binomial) with the generic name always listed first, and always capitalized. The second name is called the specific epithet or name. The species name is always in lower case even when the specific epithet is derived from a person's name or a proper place. Examples would be *greggii*, named after Josiah Gregg, early plant explorer, or *mexicana* after the obvious county. Both genus and species should be underlined or italicized when used in written form.

A genus may contain a number of different species, or just a single entity. *Quercus* is the generic name for oaks and there are numerous species within it. *Ginkgo biloba* is the scientific name for the maidenhair tree which has a single species within the genus. The term species is derived from the Latin word for "kind", as in the kind of organism. It is never referred to in singular form, like specie, which means coin or

(continued)

money. The specific epithet is meaningless without the use of the generic name. Often species names are used to describe origin, or the most common habitat where the plant is found, a particular characteristic of the plant, or to honor a person.

To be entirely correct, the scientific name should also include the name of the person, or persons, who actually named the plant. This is called the author citation and it is often abbreviated when used in texts. When you see the capitalized letter L after the genus and species you will know that Linnaeus himself initially named the plant. Fortunately again for nurseries, the author citation is not commonly used in catalogs and other gardening literature.

We thought you might enjoy some enlightenment as to why some of the more commonly used plants are named the way they are. Enjoy!

Places of Interest (no-brainers)	Givens
Arizona - arizonica	Eastern - orientalis
California - californica, californicus	Western - occidentalis
Colorado - coloradoensis	Southern - australis
Nevada - nevadensis	Northern - aquilonius
New Mexico - neomexicana	Basal - basilaris
Texas - texensis	Above - superus
Utah - utahensis	
Mexico - mexicana	

Genus Names

Acacia - From the Greek name *akis* (a sharp point) in allusion to the thorns.

Agave - Gk. *agave* (noble) in reference to the tall flower spikes.

Aquilegia - From the Latin name *aquila* (an eagle) in reference to the talon shape of the petals.

Artemisia - After the Gk goddess *Artemis*, goddess of the wilderness.

Asclepias - After the Gk god *Asklepios*, god of medicine.

Buddleja - After the Rev. Adam Buddle (1160-1715)

Caesalpinia - After Italian botanist Andreas Caesalpini (1519-1603). And you always thought it was Caesar, right?

Erigeron - The classical name for a plant, most likely groundsel, from the Greek *eri* (early) and *geron* (an old man), in reference to the fluffy, white seed heads.

Fallugia - After Italian botanist Abbot Virgilio Fallugi (Falugi) (1627-1707).

Hesperaloe - From the Gk words *hespero* (western) and *aloe*, the classical name for the plant.

Krascheninnikovia - After Stepan Petrovich Krascheninnikov (1713-1755), a Russian botanist. And you thought we were just trying to add a tough twister to the catalog.

Larrea - After Bishop Juan Antonio Hernández Perez de Larrea (1731-1803), a Spanish clergyman.

Leucophyllum - From the Gk words *leukos* (white) and *phyllon* (a leaf), referring to white leaves.

Nolina - After Abbé Pierre Charles Nolin (1717- ?), French arborist.

Oenothera - From the Gk words *oinos* (wine) and *thera* (to imbibe) as some European plant was thought to provoke a taste for wine. Now we're talking!

Opuntia - From the Gk word for a different plant that grew near the ancient Greek town of Opus in reference to the genus *Opuntia*.

Penstemon - From the Gk words *pente* (five) and *stemon* (a stamen) in allusion to the five stamens.

Simmondsia - After Thomas William Simmonds (1767-1804), an English botanist and physician.

Sphaeralcea - From the Gk words *sphaira* (a globe) and *alcea*, a related genus in reference to the spherical fruits.

Tecoma - An abbreviation of the Mexican name *tecomaxochitl*. The word means “a flower resembling a certain earthenware vessel.” We must thank someone for this reduction!

Thymophylla - From the Gk words *thymos* (thyme) and *phyllon* (leaf), meaning thyme-leaved.

Ziziphus: From the Arabian name *zizouf*, in reference to a shrubby tree of the Mediterranean.

As you can see the generic names can be quite descriptive and are often used to honor famous or nearly so people.

Specific Epithets

Colors

Red - rubens	Green - viridis
Yellow - flavidus, lutea	Silver - argenteus
Blue - cyaneus	Gray - griseus

Textures

Smooth - glabra	Velvety - velutina
Rough - asperimma, scabra	Woolly - floccosus, tomentosa
Hairy - hirtus	Mealy or Powdery - farinosus
Hairy w/ white appearance - canescens	

Descriptions of Beauty

Beautiful - bellus	Ugly - malus
Very beautiful - perbellus	Unclean - foedus
Pretty - pulcra, pulchella	Swollen - varicosus
Very pretty - pulcherrima	Vulgar - vulgaris
Graceful - gracilis	Nauseating - nauseosus

By the way *Dianthus floribus solitarius*, *squamis calycinis subovatis brevisiumus*, *corollis crenatis* roughly translates to Divine flower full of single blossoms with scaly persistent calyxes with somewhat ovate, short flower with scalloped edges. If you have a different translation, we would love to hear it!

Other Helpful Terms

Latin	English
acanthos	claw or thorn
acaulis	stemless
ambiguus	uncertain classification
baccata	pulpy fruit
barbatus	bearded
basilaris	bottom
dumosus, dumosa	bushy
elata	tall
filifera	thread-like
frutescens, fruticans	shrubby
grandiflora, grandiflorus	large flowers
juliflora, pubescens	downy leaf
lanceolata	sword-like leaves
macroacantha	large thorn
macrocarpa	large fruit
microcarpa	small fruit
microphylla	tiny leaves

multiflifera	many threads
multiflora	many flowers
nocturna	night-blooming
orthocarpa	upright fruit
pallens	pale, sallow
paradoxa	unexpected
parviflora	small flowers
parvifolia	small leaves
pinifolius	pine-leaved
praecox	early bloomer
rigens	rigid, stiff
rupicola	rock loving
salicina	willow-like
scandens	climbing
schidigera	bearing splinter of wood
scoparius	broom-like
spectabilis	remarkable
stenophyllus	narrow-leaved
superbus	superb
tenuissima	slender, thin
tridentata	three-toothed
trilobata	three-lobed
virens	evergreen
virgatum, virgatus	twiggy

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Neal, Wm. 1992. *Gardener's Latin: A Lexicon*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC.

Oregon State University Department of Horticulture web page on Scientific Plant Names

oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/sci-names.htm

California Plant Names: Latin and Greek Meanings and Derivations, A Dictionary of Botanical Etymology web page compiled by Michael Charters www.calflora.net/botanicalnames/