Surprising Plants That Survived Last Winter

Last winter was tough on almost everyone's plants. The early December snow, which stuck around for awhile and froze, wreaked havoc on our plants and our beloved oak trees whose branches couldn't take the weight. There were a few surprising plants, however, that not only survived last winter, but performed better than we thought they would (given their tenderness). Here are few that we noticed did well in our own yards, and you might want to try:

Hebe – this evergreen shrub is borderline in our area. It prefers partial shade in our hot summers and can be damaged by frost. It made it through the winter quite well in the yards of employees who live in Shingle Springs and Placerville.

Lavatera – also called Tree Mallow, this evergreen shrub has fairly delicate maple shaped leaves with beautiful pink flowers in the late spring/early summer. It not only survived the winter, but looked bright and happy with snow and frost on its foliage.

Phlomis fruticosa – Jerusalem Sage – This perennial like shrub has woolly gray/silver leaves with yellow whorls of flowers in spring. It was another plant that wasn't affected by the snow, ice, or frequent frost last season.

Tagates lemmonii – Copper Canyon Daisy – a shrubby perennial known for its very pungent foliage (and therefore very deer resistant), and one of our few winter bloomers. Another plant typically heavily affected by frost, this guy bloomed throughout the snow at one employee's house.

Employee Spotlight

Fall 2010

Mary Scott is in our employee spotlight this fall. You might recognize her since she has been in our spotlight two other times in the past. Mary is our bookkeeper and all around problem solver. We learned just how valuable Mary is when she went on her first vacation in five years to bring her son to college in Michigan this past June.

Mary is a diligent, dependable, and conscientious employee. She puts up with all of our little (and big) mistakes, and Richard too! We are glad to have her and we're so happy she decided to come back from vacation. ☺ Mary lives in Garden Valley with her husband, Mark, and a farm full of animals. Thank you, Mary, for all that you do! You keep us *balanced.*

Have you tried Peruvian Gold?

We now offer **Peruvian Gold Organic Llama Manure** products. They work by stabilizing the soil pH and providing a variety of macro and micronutrients. They feed the beneficial life that lives within the soil. Plants growing in soil or media enriched with Peruvian Gold Organic products will be able to use nutrients from the soil/media more effectively, be less stressed, healthier, and more resistant to pest and diseases. All of this contributes to a holistic approach to a long-term, low stress, healthy environment for your lawn and plants. We have llama manure in 1 c.f. bags and Micro Builder liquid fertilizer (32 fl. oz.). "Mother Lode" fertilizer will be coming soon. Peruvian Gold products are made by Winterfalls Ranch. These folks (and llamas) are from Pollock Pines, so support your community and try something new and organic.