

– PACIFIC – HORTICULTURE – SOCIETY –

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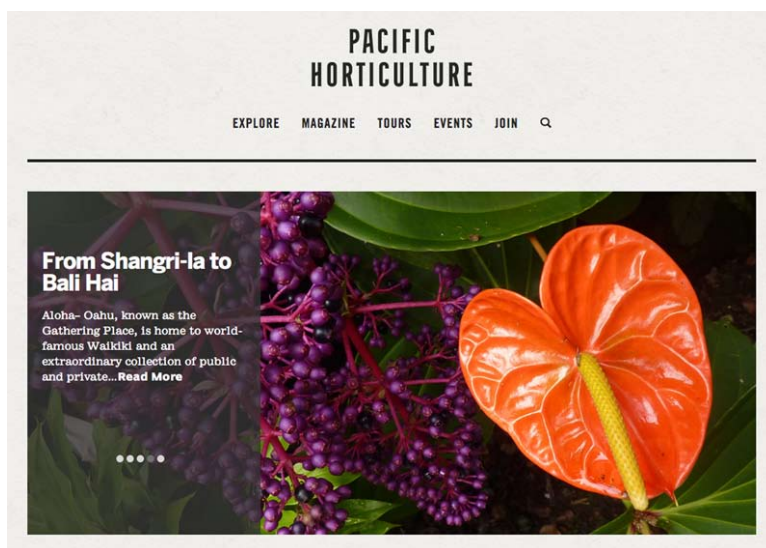
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The Pacific Horticulture Society breaks new ground online and in print.

Quarterly journal and society website are both updated to provide years of invaluable gardening resources to new readers across desktop and mobile devices.

18 July 2012
Berkeley, Cal.

The Pacific Horticulture Society (“PHS”) announces the launch of a dynamic new website that brings years of archived articles, photographs and reviews to a new generation of readers. The new site was developed using responsive design technology, which renders content for optimal viewing on desktop, tablet and mobile devices so that magazine readers can view and share articles wherever they like.



PHS has simultaneously redesigned its quarterly print journal with the goal of making its invaluable content — which has been a resource for west coast gardeners for over 30 years — more accessible to a large audience. The society aims to broaden its appeal to young gardeners, designers, homeowners and urban readers without changing or diluting the high quality of written content.

Horticulture has enjoyed a surge of popularity in the last couple of years, with an explosion of blogs that celebrate plants and design, and countless Pinterest users finding and sharing beautiful images of plants in a range of settings: from city apartments to large gardens and manicured yards. Specialty shops like Flora Grubb Gardens in San Francisco (a friend of Pacific Horticulture) have cropped up in cities across the country, and a new generation of gardeners has fallen in love with plants: from local to exotic, from delicate to hardy.

With a new website that makes content much easier to find and share, PHS looks to become even more of a resource for those who are new to horticulture — by transforming today’s excitement into an informed, lifelong love affair with plants and spaces.

About the Pacific Horticulture Society:

The Pacific Horticulture Society (“PHS”) aims to inspire gardeners from British Columbia to Southern California in the art of gardening, and provide the horticultural knowledge to do so successfully.

The Pacific Horticulture Society began in 1968 when three San Francisco Bay Area societies banded together to publish a common journal. Later joined by groups in the Pacific Northwest, Los Angeles, and San Diego, PHS has become one of the most widely respected west coast gardening societies, best known for its quarterly publication *Pacific Horticulture*.

The Pacific Horticulture Society’s six sponsoring societies are stepping stones along the Pacific coast, a shared path to friendship and the commitment to sustaining the quality of life in our region.

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If you would like to learn more about the Pacific Horticulture Society or set up an interview, please contact Carol Moholt, Executive Director of the Society, at (510) 849-1627.

For inquiries about the print magazine or editorial content, please contact Lorene Edwards Forkner at (206) 938-3913.

Website address: <http://pacifichorticulture.org>.

PERSPECTIVE

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Michael Pollan is right — plants manipulate us.

BY KRISTEN YANKER-HANSEN

I AM NOT SURE HOW ENTOMOLOGISTS OR ANIMALISTS. At first I'm charmed when plants like paperwhite narcissus and *Fuchsia* take up residence in new locations. But some have to be pulled before they smother and destroy other plants.

I will never forget—perhaps 20 years ago—when I first saw *Cerithe major purpurea* on the cover of the Thompson & Morgan catalog. It was the new “hot” plant. When my order arrived, I planted the seed in a protected area and coddled it for fear it would not germinate. My fawning produced spindly plants that managed to produce seed. And so began a wildfled *Cerithe* infestation. The large black seeds, nearly a quarter inch in diameter, have found their way into my backyard and side yard—even my pots. I don't know how it manages to travel so far.

Janet Arnold recommends this plant for “beginning gardeners.” Sure, it's easy to grow. But why torment people for the rest of their gardening lives? In other hands, nearly every gardener who visits when this plant is in bloom wants it. I understand that fascination with the unusual-looking blossoms; after all, I, too, was once seduced by its charms. When they ask how to get the plant, I tell them I'd share one seedling; I have actually seen visitors surreptitiously take a few seeds, and I resist the temptation knowing what they are in for. I suppose I could eradicate them in three or four years if I pulled all the seedlings before they bloomed. But the sight of the blue-green leaves emerging after the first fall rains reminds me of their lovely blossoms and I just can't bring myself to wage that war.

Campagna against aggressive plants are not limited to seed producers. *Campanula* are a desirable garden plant whose romantic common name is bellflower. I am

overly successful with the low-growing *Campanula portulacastrum* but, so far, have managed to keep it within bounds. But I find tall *campanula*—with the exception of *Campanula primifolia*—a challenge.

So it was late at first night when I encountered *Adonis vernalis*, a bellflower (a *campanula* relative), at Sarracenia Nursery. Grower Nevin Smith described it to have 2000 catalog as “a robust perennial” with bushy stems of large, tapered leaves topped with three-foot-tall stems bearing dozens of nodding lavender bells. All true, but “robust” was a bit understated. *Adonis* is a runner. I would have chosen the word “aggressive,” with virtually no possibility of eradication, unless you roundup the whole garden. One can try to pull out the deeply rooted plants but any piece left behind grows back, covering out bulbs and perennials and rooting in wherever it can. An evergreen perennial, the plant has an upper hand against dormant plants and I must be vigilant in protecting my treasures. However, every year bellflower's spring blossoms seduce me into letting them sprout.

One year, a hollyhock managed to serendipitously seed itself right in the middle of the *Adonis*. I was prepping for a garden tour and so removed the offending hollyhock leaves which were coloring their typical springtime rust. The lovely apricot hollyhock blossoms complemented the deep lavender blossoms of the *Adonis* where so well it was the talk of the tour. Still, I continue my battle with this rampant plant and its efforts to smother perennial competitors.

Seductive flowers, bushy leaves, and fibrous seed heads feed us into being their perpetual servants. I've always wondered why other gardeners often ended up with less diversity in their gardens. Now I know. They either lack the will to take average conditions, or perhaps they grow tired of making decisions.

Adonis vernalis flowers in Hawaii, California where she delights in growing about any type of flowering plant, especially those in the *malva* family. This is her genus in a series of names entitled “Thoughts from a Gardener of a Certain Age.”



“Now *Cerithe* germinates in the driveway and along the sidewalk, flourishing in both watered and unwatered areas of the garden.”

See photo: www.pacifichorticulture.org