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News Release

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Salvia Spectacular Returns to the Fullerton Arboretum, September 12 & 13, 2009

(Fullerton, CA)--The Fullerton Arboretum is pleased to announce its annual "Salvia Spectacular" plant sale on September 12 & 13, 2009. This weekend marks the official reopening of The Potting Shed, the Arboretum's retail nursery plant sales and garden shop. This event will feature more than 100 salvia species and varieties for sale.

Salvias are the largest genus in the mint family and commonly known as sages. They grow throughout the world, from sea level to altitudes of more than 11,000 feet. Salvias occur in many forms: perennial, biennial, annual, herbs, and evergreen or deciduous shrubs. These amazingly varied plants are also noteworthy for their remarkable resistance to pests and diseases, easiness to grow and their beautiful flowers, which are a magnet to hummingbirds and butterflies.

For salvia enthusiasts and gardeners interested in expanding their gardens, this year The Potting Shed will feature several hard to find Sages. Look for **Salvia tubiflora**, an unusual herbaceous perennial that is native to Chile and Peru. It grows profusely on the slopes of the

coastal hills and the mountains. In cultivation *S. tubiflora* reaches 3 to 4 feet tall and has showy flowers with petals of blood red. Representations of the flowers often appear on Inca wooden cups and pottery. An infusion of the flowers and the flowers themselves were used by the Incas during their rituals to placate the God of Earthquakes.

Salvia lycoides will be available also and this herbaceous perennial is native to the southwest and Mexico. It typically grows on dry limestone hills and canyons above 5,000 foot elevation. It was named in 1886 by Asa Gray, the most respected American botanist of the 19th century. *S. lycoides* reaches about 12 to 18 inches in height and width sprawling gracefully with many branches growing up and out from its base. The flowers are bright cornflower blue and appear in spring and fall when the nights are cooler, with sparse blooming during the hotter summer months. It is relatively unknown in horticulture and rarely found for sale.

Look for ***Salvia leucantha* ‘Delilah’**, the familiar Mexican Sage takes on a new look with its variegated form. Possessing a distinct white leaf margin and a silvery grey interior it grows to 4 feet tall. Summer through fall the deep purple flowers look striking against the marbled foliage. The color combination is a knockout!

***Salvia* “Scarlet Spires”** is an outstanding garden performer that grows 3 ½ feet tall by 18 inches wide. Hummingbirds love this plant with its tall spikes of scarlet flowers that bloom spring through fall. *S. Scarlet Spires* is a cross between *S. Darcyi* and *S. Raspberry* delight which are both great garden performers.

Established in 1979, the Fullerton Arboretum has served the community as a premier resource for ecological, horticultural and historical education. The Fullerton Arboretum is the largest botanical garden in Orange County. Encompassing 26 lush acres, The Fullerton Arboretum has assembled a permanent collection of over 4,000 unique and unusual plant species from around the world. With its ponds, streams and wildlife, the Fullerton Arboretum offers a tranquil retreat from a fast-paced urban life.

The Fullerton Arboretum is normally open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., but will be open until 7:00 p.m. in September on Monday through Thursday nights only. For more information, go to www.fullertonarboretum.org or call (657) 278-3407.

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