Joan Sargent’s Summer Survivors

SEPT. 1995  by Joan Sargent

My garden was neglected this summer-- no care and no water. Ignoring the parched and repoachful shrubs and perennials. I came home and fastened my eyes on what looked unperturbed by this brutal summer. Two under-used shrubs were blooming their heads off, *Vitex agnus castus* [aka Chaste Tree] with its violet panicles and fragrant foliage, and *Indigofera gerardiana* with mimosa-like foliage and rose-purple pea-like flowers. These are borderline hardy--do not cut them down until spring. My two favorite hybrid Buddlejas are *Lochinch* and *Dartmoor*. The *Lochinch*, silver-foliaged mauve flower with orange eye, and darker *Dartmoor* with showy long branching spikes were covered with bloom, butterflies and bees. *Heliotrope* did well; unfortunately the seed-raised strains are not fragrant.

*Campanula lactiflora*, [aka Milky Bellflower] cut back after its first bloom in June was back, shorter, but covered in milky blue flowers; *Nierembergia Purple Robe* treated the same way, looked fine. Most established ornamental grasses are drought resistant, but the spring-planted divisions are thirsty. Even *Phlox* and perennial *Lobelia*, well-mulched with cow manure, came through looking colorful and presentable. A list of what did not look prosperous might be longer, but more than likely after a cut-back and fall rains, most of these will be back next year (I hope).


Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote many gardening columns through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.

first row L to R:
*Vitex agnus castus*, a tall shrub. Long branches of the Dartmoor Buddleja.

second row:
*Dartmoor* Buddleja up close. The purple Buddleja *Lochinch*, with orange eyes.

third row:

Left: *Lobelia*, an annual, will grow easily, prefers cool and will flower till frost.