

Amateur Horticulture Structure competition Class 1, Entry 2: Small Bay Window collection.

Statement of Intent:

The touch, taste and smell of fresh herbs is always a delight, but especially so during a New England winter. A cool room with filtered southern light is all a gardener needs to successfully grow hers and be able to enjoy their fragrance and flavors. It is easy to root basil and other culinary herbs in water to enhance your favorite dishes. Many tender perennials such as scented geraniums can also spend the winter indoors. And it's a perfect time to root stem cuttings in potting mix or water.

Plant List:

Genus	Species	Cultivar	Common Name
<i>Aloe vera</i>			Aloe
<i>Helichrysum</i>	<i>Italicum</i>	Dwarf	Curry Plant
<i>Laurus</i>	<i>nobilis</i>		Sweet Bay
<i>Lavandula</i>	<i>x ginginsi</i>	'Goodwin Creek Grey'	Goodwin Creek Lavender
<i>Menthe</i>	<i>spicata</i>		Spearmint
<i>Ocimum</i>	<i>tenuiflorum</i>		Holy Basil or Tulsi
<i>Origanum</i>	<i>dictamnus</i>		Dittany of Crete
<i>Oxalis</i>		'Burgandy	Oxalis, False Shamrocks
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>denticulatum</i>	'Pine'	Scented Geranium. Pine
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>crispum minor</i>		Scented Geranium, Lemon
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>graveolens</i>	'rose'	Scented Germanium, Rose
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>graveolens</i>		Scented Germanium, Variegated Rose
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>odoratissimum</i>		Scented Geranium, Apple
<i>Rosmarinus</i>	<i>officinalis</i>		Rosemary
<i>Salvia</i>	<i>officinalis</i>	'Berggarten'	Culinary or Kitchen Sage
<i>Santolina</i>	<i>viridis</i>		Olive herb plant or Green lavender cotton
<i>Thymus</i>	<i>vulgaris</i>		English upright thyme ; garden thyme

Featured Plant in Exhibit

Origanum dictamnus

Dittany of Crete

Uses: Culinary, aromatic, medicinal

In Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows, Hermione uses Essence of Dittany to save Ron when he is splinched (in the magic world of Harry Potter, “splinching” is a result of incomplete apparition, a very difficult spell for which the user must be licensed).

In reality, Dittany of Crete (*Origanum dictamnus*) is an aromatic member of the mint family and has long had a reputation as a magical plant; in legend it grew at the birthplace of Zeus. In the Aeneid, Virgil describes an incident in the Trojan Wars where Aeneas is severely wounded by an arrow prompting Venus to go to Mount Ida on Crete to pick some dittany which was applied to the wound causing the immediate expulsion of the arrow and healing of the injury.

It is native only to mountainsides on the island of Crete, Greece, and its rarity sent collectors on dangerous, sometimes fatal, missions.

This plant has a strong connection to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and The Herb Society of America. Dittany was considered a lost plant. In 1935, Mrs. Albert C. Burrage, Jr. heard that her neighbor Mrs. Ellery Sedgwick was going to Greece. Mrs. Burrage asked that Mrs. Sedgwick try to bring dittany back. Mrs Sedgwick was a distinguished horticulturalist and when she returned, she did indeed have a root of dittany with her.

Its strong aroma comes from an essential oil which becomes volatile in high temperatures. The flower is actually flammable on a hot, still night, which probably accounts for its association with enchantment.

Milder flavor than many of the oreganos