

Plants in Flower on Christmas Day 2011

California, London and North West England

Ian Cooke – Palm Springs, California

“I think maybe I got the easy one – Palm Springs, in Southern California - yes it’s warm and sunny! We have had a light frost a couple of weeks ago which has browned off soft growth but at the moment we’re enjoying daytimes around 60-70°F, (16-21°C) dropping to the chilly 40’s (4°C) at night. It’s a typical desert climate, so in summer it rises to a stifling 120°F+ (49°C) meaning that everything, except native plantings, needs year round irrigation. Annual rainfall is just over 5in (12.5cm). My own little yard is tiny, so the following is a list of what’s in flower in local gardens.”

[Palm Springs is a desert city in Riverside County, California, within the Coachella Valley. It is located approximately 37 miles east of San Bernardino, 111 miles (177 km) east of Los Angeles and 136 miles (225 km) northeast of San Diego.]

Abronia villosa - sand verbena (Californian native)

Abutilon ‘Rosalie’

Aloe arborescens (probably?)

Antirrhinum

Bougainvillea – many cultivars

Calliandra californica (Californian native)

Callistemon citrinus ‘Little John’

Callistemon citrinus ‘Splendens’

Encelia farinosa - Brittle bush (Californian native)

Euphorbia millii and ‘Lutea’

Euphorbia millii ‘Lutea’

Euryops chrysanthemoides

Hesperaloe parviflora

Hibiscus – various cultivars

Lanata montevicensis and ‘Alba’

Lanata montevicensis ‘Alba’

Lantana camara – many cultivars

Lobularia,

Narcissus ‘Paper White’ (surprising find but it needs no chill factor)

Nerium oleander – various cultivars

Osteospermum,
Gazania
Pentas
Bacopa
Papaver nudicaule Iceland Poppy,
Pennistemon setaceum 'Rubrum'
Petunia
Plumbago capensis
Podograria ricasoliana
Roses – many cultivars – they just don't look right here!
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'
Russelia equisetiformis
Salvia 'Mystic Spires'
Salvia leucantha
Strelitzia regina
Tecoma 'Orange Jubilee'
Tecoma 'Sunrise'
Tecoma stans – just love it!
Tecomaria capensis
Viola (pansies)

Not a flower but Citrus in fruit everywhere – as common as apple trees in the UK!

Julia Boulton – Surbiton, Surrey
[On the south west edge of London.]

Alcea rosea 'Creme de cCassis'
Bergenia cordifolia
Erysium 'Bowles Mauve'
Hebe 'Purple qQueen'
Hebe 'Sapphire"
Hydrangea paniculata
Lunaria purpurea
Pyracantha 'Firelight' (flowers *with* berries - lovely!)
Rosa 'Ballerina'
Rosa 'Lady Hamilton'
Rosa 'Mary Rose'

Verbena bonariensis
Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price' (of course!)
Vinca minor f. *alba*

Clive Lane – Betley, Cheshire

[Betley is about half way between Birmingham and Manchester.]

Clematis cirrhosa var. *balearica* 'Freckles'
Erysimum (perennial) various
Genista monspessulana
Hebe (white cv)
Helenium cv
Helleborus niger 'Potters Wheel' seedling
Helleborus foetidus
Helleborus foetidus 'Italian form'
Jasminum nudiflorum
Jasminum officinale
Linaria purpurea
Linaria purpurea 'Cannon Went'
Lonicera fragrantissima
Mahonia x media 'Winter Sun'
Pulmonaria rubra 'Bowles Red'
Ulex europaeus.
Viburnum tinus
Vinca difformis
Viola (various)