

# Letters

## More Teucriums

Alex Pankhurst's article on Teucriums in the Autumn 2011 edition of the Journal, plus Tim Ingram's letter in Spring 2012, prompts me to mention a couple of other first class species.

Like Tim, we lean toward the smaller kinds, suitable for the rockery, and the following three are under about 10cm tall. *T. aroanium* has relatively large violet flowers over silvery leaves. It spread to about 30cm in a raised bed before succumbing in a very dry period. Two species that have held their own for perhaps 15 years without any particular attention are *T. ackermannii* with mauve flowers over a mound of grey-green foliage and *T. subspinosum* which is a neat little shrublet with tiny grey leaves and small pink flowers. None of these would be considered a knockout but they all have a quiet charm, are easy to maintain without becoming thuggish and remain evergreen or, more properly, evergrey. All three are at home on rockeries or raised beds. Elsewhere, *T. scorodonia* and *T. hircanicum* seed around profusely but we have never had a seedling of any mentioned above. They are all easy from cuttings however.

Alex's mention of *Scutellaria orientalis* also reminds me of another long-term subject, *S. o.* subsp. *bicolor*, which has a curious mix of yellow and mauve flowers. After five years or so it is a mat about 12cm tall and 40cm wide and has produced nearby a seedling of identical colouring.

**Mike Brett, Kent**

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*Scutellaria orientalis* subsp. *bicolor*