

Horticulture Report – May 2019

Phlomis tuberosa (Jerusalem sage)

This highly architectural plant grows 3-5' high and 2-3' wide. It is drought tolerant, a native of the Mediterranean islands, Turkey, central Asia and China. It is hardy in zones 6 to 9. Of note, the leaves are opposite and decussate (at right angles to the stem) and the seed head provides winter interest and food for birds. It is very stiff and the seed heads and stems hold up well when spray-painted for holiday decorations.

During bloom from late spring through summer, the flowers are sought by bees and butterflies. *Tuberosa* is pink but there are over 100 species in this genus and other species such as *fruticosa* and *russeliana* are yellow. It is an excellent plant for the back of dry, sunny borders.