



Short Life – Above, pregnant buds at 5 p.m. Friday, June 20. At right, full blossoms in the wee hours on Saturday. Below, just after sunrise, wilted and dying.



June 2008

Ladies for a Night

This year's *Gekka Bijin* blossoms opened the summer, while last year's closed it. Four splendid blossoms at one time. Yoshi snapped the photo above. Somehow she captured the splash of yellow at the center of the flowers. My photo on this night was less successful. The fully opened blossoms offered more perfume than I remember from last summer. The smell makes sense, actually. A flower that blooms in the dead of night and doesn't survive the sunrise requires more than beauty to attract pollinating insects.

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