

NEW PLANT FORUM

Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

PRESENTERS:

Jack Alexander, The Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Cladrastis kentukea 'Perkins Pink'

Darrel Apps, Woodside Nursery, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Hemerocallis 'Jen Melon'

David Bakker, J.C. Bakker & Sons Ltd., St. Caterines, Ontario, N0M 1G0 Canada

Spiraea thunbergii 'Fujoni'

Bill Barnes, Lorax Farms, Warrington, PA 18976

Sinocalycanthus chinensis

Dick Bir, N.C. State Univ. Research and Extension Ctr., Fletcher, NC 28732

Solidago roanensis var. *monticola*

S. rugosa 'Fireworks'

S. sphacelata 'Golden Fleece'

Don Brennan, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL 60022

Euonymus alatus 'Timbercreek', Chicago Fire™ euonymus

Fraxinus americana 'Tures', Windy City™ white ash

Dan Meier, Briggs Nursery, Olympia, WA 98501

Rhododendron 'Elvira'

R. 'Haaga'

R. 'Hellikki'

R. 'Mikkeli'

R. 'Peter Tigerstedt'

Rosa 'Golden Wings'

R. 'Jan's Wedding'

Charles Tubesing, The Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH 44094-5172

Aster linariifolius

Delphinium exaltatum

Liriope platyphylla

Silene regia

Ken Twombly, Twombly Nursery, 163 Barn Hill Road, Monroe, CT 06468

Cornus kousa 'Variegata'

Aster linariifolius

Stiff aster is an August to October blooming perennial from dry acid open areas. This accession was collected in southern Ohio but the species ranges to Maine. It will grow in average to dry soils amended with peat and sand. Plant height is 1 to 2 ft. Easy to propagate from seed when given a 90-day cold moist stratification. Stiff aster can be propagated from new growth cuttings taken in June. Seed is available upon request from The Holden Arboretum.

***Cladrastis kentukea* 'Perkins Pink'**

The Perkins pink yellowwood, *C. kentukea* 'Perkins Pink', is a new name proposed for a plant that had been known as *C. kentukea* 'Rosea' (syn. *C. lutea* 'Rosea'). This cultivar was discovered growing at the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts. The pink form was noted by Dr. Wyman in his 1951 *Trees for American Gardens*, but the cultivar name 'Rosea' was not published until 1961 [*Arnoldia* 21(3):20 by B. L. Wagenknecht]. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature had by that time outlawed the use of Latin form epithets as cultivar names, making the name 'Rosea' illegitimate. Additionally, this new cultivar name should distinguish the Perkins clone from others also having pink flowers. Anyone that has received scions of this plant from the Arnold Arboretum should note this name change. As all scions would have come from Arnold trees that are of the Perkins Institute lineage.

Hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4, Perkins pink yellowwood becomes a medium-sized tree with a height of 30 to 50 ft and about the same width. It has a gray, beech-like bark and bright yellow autumn leaf color. The light pink flowers appear in pendulous, terminal panicles that are about 10 to 15 in. long and, in the Boston area, appear in early June. It is propagated by grafting onto seedlings of the species.

The flowers of this cultivar are noticeably pink, but are a light pink. Seeking a plant of darker coloration, Gary Koller and I collected seeds from the Perkins tree in 1979 and distributed them at the Eastern Region I.P.P.S. convention that year. I am told that some of the seedlings resulting from that distribution have had pink flowers.

***Cornus kousa* 'Variegata'**

Although not a new cultivar, 'Variegata' is not in widespread use today. It will grow with the same vigor as *C. kousa*, with good variegation in sun or shade, and excellent fall color, when the white margins of the leaves turn a rosy-pink color.

Delphinium exaltatum

Tall larkspur is a July to August blooming native perennial of dry prairie openings—our material was collected from southern Ohio. It is very easy to grow in dry to average soils, but prefers sites amended with limestone gravel, and it will grow in full sun to partial shade. Plant height is 2 to 4 ft. Tall larkspur can be propagated by seed given 60 days warm-moist stratification followed by 90 days cold moist stratification. Seed is available from Jelitto Seeds in 1997 or by request to The Holden Arboretum.

***Euonymus alatus* 'Timber Creek' Chicago Fire[®] euonymus**

This selection was made by Scott Lindemann, Timber Creek Nursery, Woodstock, Illinois, in 1979. Selected for excellent ornamental character, fine-textured branching, and cold hardiness. Midwest evaluation plantings have proven to be dependably hardy through U.S.D.A. Zone 4. The plant has a dense, uniform habit and reaches a height of 8 to 10 ft with a spread of 6 to 8 ft at 15 years. Young twigs and branches are an attractive mahogany-red. Corky wings, typical of the species, become less prominent as the plant matures, creating a more refined appearance. Dark green foliage turns rich crimson-red in fall. Established landscape specimens often produce abundant quantities of red-orange fruit, remaining ornamentally effective into early winter. Propagates easily from softwood cuttings. The selection carries a 10¢ per unit royalty and licensing is available.

***Fraxinus americana* 'Tures' Windy City™ white ash**

This clone was selected for evaluation in 1988 from a block of plants at Matt Tures Sons Nursery, Huntley, Illinois. Prior to its release in 1996, this selection was evaluated for its adaptability and performance under a broad spectrum of nursery conditions, as well as in public and private landscapes. Hardiness is rated to U.S.D.A. Zone 4. This selection exhibits excellent uniformity, strong upright branching, good growth rate, and attractive semiglossy foliage. Fall color is an impressive blend of bronze and burgundy, highlighted by copper, orange, gold, and yellow accents. The narrow, upright-oval habit provides for a greater range of landscape applications due to reduced branch spread. Propagation is by standard budding techniques for the species. The selection carries a 50¢ per unit royalty and licensing is available.

***Hemerocallis* 'Jen Melon'**

In August when most *Hemerocallis* cultivars have stopped blooming 'Jen Melon' is at its peak. When well grown the gold-melon, fragrant, green-throated blossoms are 6-1/2 in. wide on plants that are up to 34 in. tall. Often scapes have 30 or more buds so the heavy bloom season extends from late July through August. Rebloom scapes start appearing in mid August and produce flowers well into September. Plant increase is moderate to fast (4 to 1 or more per year) The qualities listed above make this cultivar one of the most outstanding late-blooming daylilies.

'Jen Melon' was introduced by William S. Oakes Rt. 4 Corryton, TN 37721 in 1987.

Liriope platyphylla

Wide-leaved lilyturf was originally picked out from a group of seedling plants collected in the wild in Korea in 1984. It was selected for its showy 8-in. spikes of amethyst flowers borne well above the foliage. Most cultivars of lilyturf are used for groundcovers or edging and their floral effect is considered negligible. This selection is worth growing as a flowering plant. The flower spikes appear in mid-August, and flowering continues for a month.

Originally collected in a pine forest, this lilyturf will grow in full sun, but will maintain its jade-green leaf color better if shaded during the heat of the day. It will grow satisfactorily in various soils, as long as the drainage is good. It is propagated readily by division at any time during the growing season.

Rhododendrons For Very Cold Climates

New breakthroughs in rhododendron breeding have produced rhododendrons to survive temperatures well below freezing. The new Marjatta hybrids survive -31F. Finland is situated between 60° and 70° north latitude and shares borders with Sweden, Norway, and Russia. The lowest recorded winter temperatures vary from -30 to 48F from south to north, though winters are normally somewhat milder. Since many imported landscape plants do not survive the cold winters, they have developed their own breeding programs.

Hybridization of broad-leaf evergreen rhododendrons was started in 1972 by Dr. P.M.A. Tigerstedt and Marjatta Uosukainen at the University of Helsinki. The program was based on the extremely hardy material that had been naturally selected at the Arboretum Mustilia. The goal was to create winter hardy cultivars that could tolerate temperatures below -31F.

Totally, 148 different cross combinations were made between species, species and hybrids, and between hybrids. Over 20,000 seedlings were obtained and 13,752

plants were planted for trial on eight different test sites. After two extremely cold winters, 1984-85 and 1986-87, only 40% of the plants survived. The progenies of the crosses between earlier mentioned species seemed to carry the best genetic material for better climatic adaptation. The first six cultivars were released for commercial propagation in 1986-87.

***Rhododendron* 'Elviira'** (*R. brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedii* × *R. forrestli*). Very low and densely branched hybrid. A spreading plant under 24 in. covered with bright red flowers.

***Rhododendron* 'Mikkeli'**

A plant of truly wonderful habit. Lush and vigorous foliage. New growth is covered with coarse textured hairs. A well branched, compact plant with white flowers, tinted with pink and a small blotch with green spots. Buds hardy to -31F. *Rhododendron brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedii* × *R. smirnowii* hybrid.

***Rhododendron* 'Haaga'**

Was selected from seedlings of a cross *R. brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* × *R.* 'H.C. Dresselhuys'. Growth habit is upright to a mature height of 5 to 7 ft. Attractive dark green, coarse foliage. Flowers are dark pink. Buds hardy to about -31F.

***Rhododendron* 'Hellikki'**

Dark violet-red flowers. Plant has a dense habit to 5 ft. New leaves are indumented, aging to dark green. Buds hardy to -29F. Worthy of trials in colder climates. A selection from an open-pollinated *R. smirnowii*.

***Rhododendron* 'Peter Tigerstedt'**

One of the hardiest of all rhododendrons. Upright spreading habit to 6 ft. Dark green leaves. Flowers are white with strong violet-red flecks in the upper part of the corolla. *Rhododendron brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* × *R. catawbiense* var. *album* 'Glass' hybrid.

***Rosa* 'Golden Wings'** is a very hardy shrub rose with single (five petaled) golden-yellow blossoms with prominent, attractive mahogany-colored stamens. Very long pointed flower buds open into blooms that are sweetly scented and produced freely all summer long. Flowers are large, usually 4 to 5 in. across. Large orange hips ripen in the fall. The size is perhaps 4 to 5 ft tall × 5 ft wide. 'Golden Wings' is tough and vigorous, but the flowers are delicate and beautiful. There are very few shrub roses with the virtues of 'Golden Wings'. It truly is a rare, first-class shrub rose that is hardy and repeat blooming with golden-yellow flowers. It is hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4 (7.9 Amer. Rose Soc. rating). Introduced in 1956 by Bosley Nursery of Mentor, Ohio, and hybridized by Roy Shepherd a noted rosarian and talented rose hybridizer. National Gold Medal Certificate 1958 (A.R.S.). The parentage is *R.* 'Soeur Therese' × (*R. spinosissima altaica* × 'Ormiston Roy').

***Rosa* 'Jan's Wedding'** is a new, colorful shrub rose with blooms of yellow, pink, and apricot borne in large clusters. Flowers are 2 to 3 in. wide, well formed (like a hybrid tea), and repeat blooming occurs throughout the summer. Plants are healthy, bushy, and tall (to 6 ft). An exciting new shrub that is colorful, floriferous, and hardy. Plants are very vigorous and perform extremely well on their own roots. 'Jan's Wedding' is an outstanding rose from Dr. Neil Adams, an amateur hybridizer. The hybridizer's first daughter is named Jan. Neil brought five flower arrangements of roses for her

wedding taken from just one bush of this rose in early July! 'Jan's Wedding' has been tested in Wisconsin and is fully winter hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4b. The parentage is *R.* 'Dornroschen' × *R.* 'Lichtkonigin Lucia'

Silene regia

Royal catchfly is a July to August blooming perennial from the tall grass prairie region of central Ohio. It grows well in average soils with average moisture. It is very useful as a hummingbird-attracting plant. Plant height is 3 to 4 ft. Royal catchfly is easy to grow from seed when given a 90-day cold moist stratification. Seed is available upon request from The Holden Arboretum.

Sinocalycanthus chinensis

This is a relatively new plant introduced into Europe during the mid 1980s. Dr. J. C. Raultson at North Carolina State University Arboretum has spent some time working with it and he finds it to be a promising ornamental. It is a medium size shrub, 3 m, with large glossy green leaves that turn yellow in fall. It blooms on new wood with the flowers being born singly on the ends of the new shoots. They are white and are about 7 cm across with two whorls of tepals of about 10 each. Flower color can vary from pink to white to pale yellow depending upon the variations in color of the two sets of tepals. There are maroon markings at the base of the tepals. Dr. Raultson has had an opportunity to cross this plant with its American cousin, *Calycanthus floridus*, and he reports the hybrids are quite interesting. The plant itself does have many of the same characteristics of *Calycanthus*. It is thought to be hardy to Zone 6.

***Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'**. Many wild plants when brought into the more fertile conditions found in perennial borders grow larger than in the wild. Such has been my experience with *Solidago rugosa*, which grows to 5 ft tall and flops over in my garden. However, folks at the North Carolina Botanical Garden obtained a plant via plant rescue that did not get tall and fall over plus was highly floriferous with long yellow flower panicles. After about 20 years of observing this plant, NCBG Assistant Director Ken Moore worked with Kim Hawks of Niche Gardens, Chapel Hill, North Carolina to jointly introduce this plant as *S. rugosa* 'Fireworks'. In my garden it has been spectacular for flower show as well as attracting insect pollinators like bumblebees and butterflies. The cultivar name is apt since the flowers look like the tracers in the night sky as part of a fireworks display.

Solidago roanensis* var. *monticola. This plant was discovered by Kim Hawks and Dick Bir while hiking in the southern Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina at an elevation of about 5800 ft. It was about a foot tall, blooming in an exposed, difficult situation. Seeds were collected and sent to the North Carolina Botanical Garden as well as Niche Gardens. The plant, *Solidago roanensis* var. *monticola* or the Roan Mountain goldenrod, has been grown in a variety of gardens but has not exceeded 18 in. in height with an upright flowering pattern and a long period of bloom. It was introduced in the fall 1996 Niche Gardens catalog.

***Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece'**. This cultivar was introduced by Dr. Richard Lighty of the Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware but I am told he first saw this floriferous 15- to 18-in.-tall goldenrod in a local garden the morning after speaking to the Rockingham Co. North Carolina Horticultural Society near Eden, North Carolina. The cultivar name is apt since the flower heads look like recently dyed fuzzy natural wool.

***Spiraea thunbergii* 'Fujino'**

This cultivar originated in Japan and flowers a week before forsythia in most areas. It is hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4. The buds appear very early and give the shrub a reddish glow; the open flowers change from an apple blossom pink to whitish-pink. Summer foliage is light green, turning yellowish-orange in fall. 'Fujino' has a medium growth rate with a bushy upright branching habit and reaches 3 to 5 ft at maturity. It does not like wet soils and is drought resistant. In the landscape it is valued as a hardy, early flowering shrub and would have sales appeal as a tool to bring in early spring customers. No major pest and disease problems have been observed.