

Another new clone of Carolina jasmine is a ground cover, mounding, non-vining form, which we will name 'Lemon Drop'.

The oakleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, has recently become very popular. Two cultivars were produced very early, Snowflake™ oakleaf hydrangea and 'Snow Queen'. Recently, other selections have been made. Our selection, 'Dayspring', is now adapted to heat and humidity. It has outstanding purple-maroon fall color. Dr. Michael Dirr's 'Alice' is robust and easy to produce.

*Magnolia grandiflora*, the most famous Southern tree species in the last few years, has exploded with commercial opportunities. The challenge of being a successful producer of southern magnolia is the challenge of propagation. Each successful propagator has a different technique. Some of our best cultivars are 'D.D. Blanchard™' southern magnolia, and 'Little Gem'. One to look for in the future is 'Teddy Bear', a very columnar, compact brown-black clone with dark-green leaves.

Production of native species is now a major factor in Southern nurseries and Southern landscapes. Many species are being recognized beyond the native ranges because of their beauty and hardiness and they are finding niches in the Midwest, Northeast, Europe, and occasionally in other horticultural markets around the world.

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## Question and Answer Period: Thursday Morning

### General Session I

**Bruce Briggs:** What effect, if any, did the recent hurricanes have on southern nurseries?

**Jim Berry:** It could have been a hair-raising experience, but it wasn't for me. One of our nurseries is on the shore of Mobile Bay. Hurricane Frederick emptied the Bay in 1979, but Hurricane George filled the Bay up and we had lots of rain, lots of high tide, and we had quite a few plants go under water. It was slightly salty. When it receded we checked the EC and we did leaching. Some of the azaleas were affected, but by next spring we think they will be alright. We had minimal plant damage.

**Mary Irish:** Can pollarding actually shorten the life of a tree?

**Peter Del Tredici:** Pollarding and coppicing were developed as agricultural systems in Europe to promote the continuous yield of firewood. Pollarding is essentially coppicing at a higher level so that grazing animals cannot destroy the new developing wood. If it's done right by starting the technique at a young age, it can increase the life span of the tree. Problems arise when mature trees are pollarded.

**Elizabeth Davison:** Do you see any gradation or gradient in juvenility in root systems? Are suckers from roots closer to the trunk more juvenile than suckers that emerge 10 ft from the trunk?

**Peter Del Tredici:** There is work that has addressed this question. I believe the same general rule applies below ground as above ground. The further out you go on the root system the less juvenile it is.