

receive advanced education and employers win dedicated and skilled employees.

Current Illinois Participants:

Midwest Groundcovers
 The Growing Place
 Platt Hill Nursery
 Green View Companies
 Somonauk High School
 Willowbrook High School

No Excuses Accepted: Plants You Should Already Grow!!

Phill King

Greenwood Propagation, PO Box 1 90, Hebron, Illinois 60034

Hamamelis vernalis 'Autumn Embers'

This selection of vernal witchhazel was made by Mr. Roy Klehm of the Beaver Creek Nursery in Poplar Grove, Illinois.

Mr. Klehm first noticed the impressive fall coloration in a large block of *H. vernalis*. He at first felt that the plant was perhaps another species or cultivar mistakenly mixed in with its more common sisters. The fall coloration is a rich red with overtones of purple, yellow, and orange. The breathtaking effect is that of a glowing campfire on a crisp fall evening. Best fall coloration is triggered with the hard frosts of colder climates and the plant is at its best there.

The flowers are colored in shades of ripe grain and are quite fragrant.

A national mailorder nursery firm has sought this plant as its "cover girl" and many have been quite surprised that Mr. Klehm did not wish to patent the plant.

Unlike the recent published reports of rootability of witchhazels this plant roots quite well in June-July.

Perhaps the best selection of witchhazel to date within the realm of fall color, 'Autumn Embers' is the equal of fothergillas in the north.

Ilex verticillata 'Stop Light'

This "sister" to 'Red Sprite' appears to exhibit the growth form of its sibling.

The size of the fruits and their retention lead to the name that is quite descriptive. Fruits are often found to be 60% the size of a marble and are born in rich abundance. A traffic light in the landscape is an apt metaphor for this excellent plant. We have seen fruits retained to March if not taken by songbirds. 'Jim Dandy' works well as a male pollinator. Summer foliage is a rich green and the plant is a strong grower in youth.

Softwood cuttings root well in late June (Chicago). Growth from a rooted cutting will be 18 to 24 inches by the end of the second season.

Acer tegmentosum 'White Tigress'

This exceptional small tree was selected by Charles Brotzman of Brotzman's Nursery in Madison, Ohio.

Its most prominent characteristic is the stunning bark. The striking bark occurs when the lenticels join together to form a white striping over the rich green background. Plants as young as 1 year in age exhibit this trait.

A national mailorder nursery feels that the bark effect of this maple is more striking than that of any birch and much more unique. A number of nursery operators and landscape architects who have seen the plants at our northern Illinois nursery have been shocked to find such a stunning selection which is hardy.

Plants provided with winter shade (under established oaks) have proved completely hardy during a snowless winter to -24 F at Trevor, Wisconsin. This is the finest snakebark maple for those of us living in Zones 4 to 5.

. Propagation by softwood cuttings rooted in June under fog has been quite successful.

Second year growth of 36 inches plus is easily achieved. Mature plants reach about 20 ft in height with a rounded form in Madison, Ohio.

***Fothergilla gardenii* 'Beaver Creek'**

This excellent selection of *Fothergilla* is from Mr. Roy Klehm of Beaver Creek Nursery. Mr. Klehm selected 'Beaver Creek' from a single plant and has rooted all further generations from that selection. The uniformity and superior form of this selection is unsurpassed in the selections of *F. gardenii* presently available. The growth form is that of a full low-growing mound about 35% wider than tall in youth.

Field-grown specimens are "cookie cutter" in form with no variation in shape, making choosing of finished nursery plants a delight. Other selections of *F. gardenii* that we have seen vary from upright to wide spreading in shape within the same crop. This variation is probably due to the fact that many *F. gardenii* being rooted use seeding-grown mother plants as stock sources.

'Beaver Creek' also exhibits a flower bud hardiness not often seen in *Fothergilla* in northern climates. Unlike most *F. gardenii* the flowering occurs evenly over the entire plant; not the one-sided flowering most often seen.

Fall coloration is a rich combination of red, purple, and gold with yellows and oranges intermixed.

The plant is a good grower and will tolerate up to 50% shade quite easily.

Softwoods are rooted late June and overwintered without disturbance of the root system.

It took much cajoling to get Mr. Klehm to name this selection which we can now use as a standard for future selections of *F. gardenii*.