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REFERENCES

The complete results of these two studies have been published in:

- Dubois, J.-J.B., F.A. Blazich, S.L. Warren, and B. Goldfarb.** 2000. Propagation of *Anemone xhybrida* by root cuttings. *J. Environ. Hort.* 18(3):79-83.
- Dubois, J.-J.B., S.L. Warren, and F.A. Blazich.** 2000. Nitrogen nutrition of containerized *Anemone xhybrida*. *J. Environ. Hort.* 18(3):145-148.

Plant Introductions from Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora[©]

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Over the past 17 years the plant introduction program at Mt. Cuba Center has established a reputation for introducing cultivars that are tough, broadly adaptable, and which possess qualities not found in other plants on the market. The primary mission of this program has been to seek out, evaluate, and introduce garden worthy plants derived from the Piedmont flora and develop commercially viable propagation and production methods for superior plants.

The objectives of plant evaluation and introduction at Mt. Cuba Center are to: (1) introduce outstanding cultivars that exhibit ornamental attractiveness, stress tolerance, longevity, and cultural adaptability; and (2) support the concept of "conservation of natural plant populations through propagation" rather than unsustainable and irresponsible harvesting from wild populations.

In this poster, we highlight some of Mt. Cuba Center's most successful commercially available introductions from the past 17 years. In addition, this poster showcases other planned introductions to be available in the near future.

MT. CUBA CENTER INTRODUCTIONS

***Actaea pachypoda* 'Misty Blue'**. 'Misty Blue' was discovered in 1992 in a planting of unknown origin at Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Flora. It is notable for its soft bluish-green foliage which contrasts well with the greens customarily found in the woodland garden. The large, white "doll's eyes" (fruit) are borne on reddish pedicels. Research is currently underway to determine the best method of asexual propagation. Not yet commercially available.

***Aster laevis* 'Bluebird'**. 'Bluebird' was registered in 1994; found in 1988 in a Guilford, Connecticut garden where it had occurred spontaneously. 'Bluebird' was selected primarily for its clean foliage and large (1 inch) flowers of RHS violet-blue (91B). It has an upright habit to 3½ ft and under most conditions needs no staking. The species blooms in September/October and has a broad tolerance of soil types and moisture levels. A description was published in the 14 Dec. 1994 *American Nurseryman*.

***Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'**. This cultivar was registered in 1989; noted along Pennsylvania Route 100 below Allentown, Pennsylvania. Material was provided to Mt. Cuba Center by Robert G. Seip of Lennilea Farm. Evaluated under diverse garden conditions; publicized as the most compact form (18 inches tall × 36 inches wide) of the species; extremely dense floral display conceals late season foliar damage. Described in *Fine Gardening*, Vol. 25; May-June 1992. Widely offered nationally in mail order catalogs and distributed locally through plant sales, etc.

***Chamaedaphne calyculata* 'Verdant'**. 'Verdant' was registered in 1996 and selected for its superior winter-green color and its neat habit and bloom. The species is hardy to -40° F and is broadly adaptable to both wet and dry soils in full sun. 'Verdant' makes a good rhizomatous groundcover, 2 feet in height, with masses of blueberry-like, white flowers in mid spring. It is a pest-resistant, broad-leaved evergreen with potential for use in stressful sites. It was found by Richard W. Lighty in the New Jersey Pine Barrens (Burlington County) in 1985.

***Cornus sericea* 'Silver and Gold'**. This cultivar was registered in 1988; originated as a sport of *C. sericea* 'Flaviramea' at Mt. Cuba, Greenville, Delaware. Leaves distinctively white variegated, other characteristics the same as 'Flaviramea'. Distributed widely to IPPS members, Cullowhee conference registrants, various nurseries around the country, and to local plant sales and auctions. Published in *The Public Garden*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Jan. 1988 and publicized as a replacement for variegated forms of *Cornus alba* in the hot and humid middle Atlantic region and southward.

***Eupatorium rugosum* 'Chocolate'**. 'Chocolate' was registered in 1994; selected by Richard W. Lighty and descended from a plant found in the early 1970s by Hal Bruce, taxonomist at Winterthur Gardens. It was the darkest of many seedlings grown over a 10 year period. It must be propagated asexually. 'Chocolate' has white compound inflorescences typical of the species, dark bronze leaves which provide attractive color and texture throughout the season and reaches a height of 3 ft. It begins bloom in early September and remains attractive into October.

***Heuchera americana* 'Garnet'**. This heuchera was registered in 1989; selected in 1984 from a variable group of colored-leafed *H. americana* growing at Mt. Cuba, Greenville, Delaware. Original selections made by Marcie Weigelt, evaluation and final selection by R. W. Lighty. Tissue cultured in 1985 for wide evaluation under diverse conditions and distributed in 1989 to nurseries around the country. Described in *American Horticulturist*, 10 Dec. 1992 and *Perennial Plants*, Vol. XXV, Winter 1991.

***Leucothoe axillaris* 'Greensprite'**. 'Greensprite' was registered in 1991; one of 12 clones of *L. axillaris* found and selected for evaluation at Mt. Cuba in 1983. Evaluated for ease of propagation and for ability to quickly grow to saleable size and quality under field nursery conditions; publicized as a solid green leucothoe with narrow leaves, undulating leaf margins and attenuated tips. Its light-catching ability is spectacular and its stiffly arching stems give it a graceful and elegant character. See *American Nurseryman*, 15 Feb. 1991. Distributed to nurseries, universities, public gardens, and horticultural research stations nationally and internationally.

***Pachysandra procumbens* 'Forest Green'**. This cultivar of our native pachysandra was registered in 1992; originally obtained from the teaching garden

at Pennsylvania State University in 1952. This clone has been heavily propagated by the introducer and distributed to friends, nurserymen, and others. It has been observed and evaluated for overall ornamental quality in several different gardens in the Middle Atlantic region and at a number of sites within some of those gardens. Its "surface" as a groundcover is more smoothly undulating than the five other clones with which it has been compared, and the leaf whorls are larger and more regular than most of these; leaf-mottling is not as prominent as in several other clones.

***Pachysandra procumbens* "unnamed selection"**. This selection was discovered in 1998 in a planting of unknown origin at Mt. Cuba Center. It is notable for its silver-variegated winter foliage, without bronzing, and its lustrous green summer foliage. This form remains effective into late winter longer than unselected forms. It is currently under observation.

***Porteranthus trifoliata* 'Pink Profusion' (syn. *Gillenia trifoliatus* 'Pink Profusion')**. This cultivar is an outstanding pink selection of a typically white-flowered species. It was found in the wild by Paul James of Virginia and sent to Mt. Cuba Center in 1987. Like the species, it grows to 2 ft or more in height and has an open, airy habit. The stems and calyces are flushed with pink and the newly emerging, deeply cut foliage is a deep red-purple color. Later it becomes a rich dark green. The flowers are bicolored, pink and white, but at a distance give the overall impression of pink. 'Pink Profusion' performs well in moist, well-drained soil in light shade to full sun. Research is currently underway to determine the best method of asexual propagation.

***Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece'**. 'Green Fleece' was registered and distributed in 1989; discovered in 1985 as a spontaneous seedling in a garden in Eden, North Carolina, and identified in 1986. It was evaluated under diverse conditions at Mt. Cuba Center and determined to be a low, compact form of the species suitable for groundcover use. It won the Internationale Stauden-Union's Award for an outstanding new plant in Switzerland in 1994.

***Trillium grandiflorum* 'Quicksilver'**. A trillium selection registered in 1992; originated in the wild, in northeastern Pennsylvania in 1958; observed and evaluated in many sites for rapid increase. Distributed locally to individuals, nurseries, nonprofit plant sales, etc.; stock plants have gone to nurseries in several states. This clone has a doubling time of approximately one year; for ornamental qualities, it is similar to the species. Not presently offered for sale.

Sources for commercially available introductions can be supplied on request from the authors.