

New Plant Forum[©]

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Berberis thunbergii f. *atropurpurea* 'NCBT1', Sunjoy Mini Maroon™ Japanese barberry PPAF
Callicarpa 'NCCX2', Pearl Glam® beautyberry PPAF; CBRAF
Hibiscus 'Rosina', Pollypetite™ hibiscus PPAF; CBRAF
Viburnum cassinoides 'SMNVCDD', Lil' Ditty® witherod viburnum PPAF; cbraf
Viburnum 'NCVX1', Shiny Dancer™ viburnum PPAF

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Hamamelis virginiana 'Ice Queen'
Hamamelis virginiana × *H. vernalis* 'Winter Champagne'
Hamamelis vernalis HAP#1002 (*H. vernalis* 'Holden' × *H. vernalis* 'Amethyst')

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Erigeron pulchellus 'Lynnhaven Carpet'
Eriogonum allenii 'Little Rascal'
Monarda punctata

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Carpinus caroliniana 'JN Select A', Fire King™ musclewood PPAF

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Coreopsis integrifolia 'Last Dance'
Coreopsis tripteris 'Gold Standard'
Pachysandra procumbens 'Silver Streak'

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Calycanthus floridus var. *glaucus* 'Burgundy Spice' PPTBS

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Andropogon gerardii 'Blackhawks' PPAF

Geum 'Coppertone Punch' PPAF

Sedum 'Peace and Joy' PPAF

Sedum 'Pillow Talk' PPAF

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Ilex opaca 'Weston'

***Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks' PPAF**

Andropogon gerardii 'Blackhawks' big bluestem is a 2016 Intrinsic Perennial Gardens introduction. Deeper green foliage of this big bluestem selection takes on a deep purple background in mid-summer, deepening to dark purple and near black in some parts of the plant (Figure 1). Upright 5 ft+ tall plants will stand out in the landscape, especially with other tall grasses. For full sun, average soil.



Figure 1. *Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks' foliage.

***Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea* 'NCBT1', Sunjoy Mini Maroon™ Japanese barberry PPAF**

Introducing the first ever sterile, rust resistant ornamental barberry. This dark, burgundy-purple barberry has a dwarf, low mounded habit that makes it both colorful and sensible (Figure 2). It forms both flowers and fruit but does not set viable seed.

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Figure 2. *Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea* 'NCBT1', Sunjoy Mini Maroon™ Japanese barberry showing the low mounded habit.

***Callicarpa* 'NCCX2', Pearl Glam® beautyberry PPAF; CBRAF**

A whole new look for callicarpa! No longer just a plant for colorful autumn berries, this new hybrid has attractive purple foliage to provide season-long color (Figure 3). White summer flowers and large purple-violet berries add to the attraction. This vigorous, upright plant looks neat in a container and the garden. Developed by Dr. Tom Ranney of North Carolina State University.



Figure 3. *Callicarpa* 'NCCX2', Pearl Glam® beautyberry fruiting plant.

***Calycanthus floridus* var. *glaucus* 'Burgundy Spice' PPTBS**

'Burgundy Spice' sweetshrub represents a radical color change in *Calycanthus* foliage, with lustrous deep burgundy leaves throughout the summer (Figure 4). Richard Hesselein and Daryl Kobesky selected for darker foliage over a number of years, coming up with two beautiful purple colored sports. We chose the best one to name *C. floridus* 'Burgundy Spice'.

The maroon flowers appear in May and June, and have the classic mango and pineapple fragrance of good sweetshrub selections. The fall foliage adds another season of enjoyment, turning attractive shades of yellow and amber.



Figure 4. *Calycanthus floridus* var. *glaucus* 'Burgundy Spice' foliage.

***Carpinus caroliniana* 'JN Select A', Fire King™ musclewood PPAF**

Carpinus caroliniana 'JN Select A' was selected by Michael Vanny at Johnson's Nursery in about 2003 for its consistent orange-red fall color (Figure 5), fast growth rate, excellent form and branching, and superior hardiness.



Figure 5. *Carpinus caroliniana* 'JN Select A', Fire King™ musclewood.

The tree was selected from a crop of 563 seedling whips. Most trees in the crop were damaged by a severe snowless winter. Their roots froze out. The majority of the crop was grubbed. It was an open winter and frost penetration was extremely deep. Twelve trees of the 563 had shown good orange or red fall color the previous fall, had good growth rates, and were not damaged by the severe winter. 'JN Select A' was the best of these 12 trees.

The tree has an upright branching habit as a youngster and develops a round head

with age. A 7-year-old plant from a graft in Wisconsin will be about 1-3/4 in. in caliper and have a head on it that is 5 ft wide by 6 ft tall. This is considerably faster than a typical *C. caroliniana* seedling of upper Midwestern U.S.A. seed provenance. 'IN Select A' has no serious insect or disease problems.

'IN Select A' is useful as a specimen plant because of its outstanding ornamental and carefree characteristics. Like others of this species, it has beautiful smooth gray bark that is similar to beech trees. It is especially valued in the winter time. It has an orange-red fall color that reaches its greatest intensity when grown in full sun. The plant could also be used as a broad screen for sun or shade as it will tolerate both. Care should be taken to mulch all *C. caroliniana* plants because of their roots sensitivity to quick freezes.

'IN Select A' should be grafted onto seedling *C. caroliniana* rootstock for best results. This cultivar has outstanding production characteristics. A 5-ft-branched tree can be easily grown in a container from a graft in 2 years time. Because of its rapid growth rate it should outperform other *C. caroliniana* cultivars of northern provenance in the marketplace. It is an excellent choice for people wanting to become familiar with this fine, little known, native tree.

Marketing and licensing for Fire King™ is being handled by Upshoot, LLC.

***Coreopsis integrifolia* 'Last Dance' fringleaf tickseed**

Coreopsis integrifolia 'Last Dance' is a selection by Sunny Border Nursery (Figure 6). *Coreopsis Integrifolia* is likely the least known species of *Coreopsis* and well underappreciated. Native to Florida stream banks, it likes wet soil, though average garden soil is fine. It is reliably hardy to Zone 5. *Coreopsis integrifolia* 'Last Dance' has beautiful, disease resistant foliage. Our one Horticulturist has never seen a disease spot on it. It is the last *Coreopsis* to flower, beginning in early October. There are several median plantings in Delaware with great preliminary success. At Mt. Cuba Center it is planted at our entrance, right on the edge of the road. This road is heavily treated for snow and ice in the winter and these plants do not suffer from that. It responds well to full sun and part shade conditions. Blooming late in the season it is slow to emerge in the spring. The rhizomatous growth makes it very easy to propagate by divisions. We are currently propagating from cuttings taken August 18, 2016 at Mt. Cuba Center greenhouses. UPDATE: 10/5/16—rooted cuttings potted, rooting success of cuttings 93%.



Figure 6. *Coreopsis integrifolia* 'Last Dance' flowering plants.

***Coreopsis tripteris* 'Gold Standard' tall tickseed**

Coreopsis tripteris 'Gold Standard' is a new introduction from Mt. Cuba Center for 2016 (Figure 7). It is not widely available, yet. North Creek Nurseries is carrying. It was selected from seed collected in Jefferson County, Alabama. I remember cleaning and sowing this seed in the greenhouse in 2009! It is very winter hardy and experienced a span of harsh winters a few years ago. This is a full sun plant and unlike the straight species does not flop or break. The branches are held upright and extremely sturdy. 'Gold Standard' is slightly shorter than the straight species but will still reach 5 to 6 f tall. It blooms in late July for two solid months. We had mildew in the greenhouse on rooted cuttings this summer, but that cleared up with applications of Zeritol and increased air circulation. There was no mildew on the garden plants and otherwise it is disease resistant. It is a rhizomatous plant, spreading slowly, approximately 2 ft in 3 years. In the greenhouse we began 2016 with 11, 2 quart sized stock plants for our first cuttings in May. We took a series of five cuttings until flower buds set in late July. We have nearly 500, 1-qt pots to date and we are not a production greenhouse. One can see how quickly it can be multiplied. Additionally, stock plants are a sellable 3 gal, blooming plant in September. There is a propagation protocol, posted by myself, on the Native Plant Network for the straight species which was based on these plants.



Figure 7. *Coreopsis tripteris* 'Gold Standard' flowering plant.

***Erigeron pulchellus* 'Lynnhaven Carpet' Robin's plantain or fleabane**

This outstanding form of *E. pulchellus* was selected for its relatively large grey-green, pubescent foliage (4 in.), dense, mat-forming habit and astonishing ability to thrive in a wide range of challenging conditions (Figure 8). In early May, individual flower stalks give rise to lightly tinted lavender flowers with a yellow inner eye. Foliage remains less than 6 in. and forms a tight groundcover, while flowering stems top out at just over a foot tall. Originally found growing on the 27-acre property of Clarice Keeling of Virginia Beach, Virginia. 'Lynnhaven Carpet' was named after Virginia Beach's Lynnhaven River by plantsman Charles Cresson. An easy to grow, carefree native perennial perfectly suited for moderate sunlight to full shade. Also deer resistant with a USDA Hardiness Zone 5(4)-9.



Figure 8. *Erigeron pulchellus* 'Lynnhaven Carpet' in flower.

***Eriogonum allenii* 'Little Rascal' shale barrens buckwheat**

This beautiful, long-flowering workhorse is a durable plant that thrives in urban plantings, rock gardens or any consistently dry site. It is drought tolerant and durable. With a tidy, low-growing habit of gray-green, paddle-shaped leaves, it bursts into flower with dense umbels of golden yellow flowers (Figure 9) that age to various shades of bronzy orange in the late summer. A wonderful little plant at 18-24 in. tall, it provides habitat and nectar for valuable pollinator species such as butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, and hummingbirds. It is also a great selection for those who enjoy cut flowers. USDA Hardiness Zone 5-10.



Figure 9. *Eriogonum allenii* 'Little Rascal' in flower.

***Geum* 'Coppertone Punch' PPAF**

'Coppertone Punch' is a 2016 Intrinsic Perennial Gardens introduction (Figure 10). Semi-double saturated-orange flowers in May have shorter petals on top of the full size petals for a layered look. The flowers are borne on airy green stems 18 in. plus tall. Semi evergreen hairy foliage on 10×12-15 in. clumps look good all season. Moist rich soil is ideal, but average soil is suitable. Full sun.



Figure 10. *Geum* 'Coppertone Punch' flower.

***Hamamelis vernalis* HAP#1002 (*H. vernalis* 'Holden' × *H. vernalis* 'Amethyst')**

Hamamelis vernalis HAP#1002 is an unnamed hybrid from Holden Arboretum using *H. vernalis* 'Holden' × *H. vernalis* 'Amethyst' (Figure 11). It has excellent dark green leaves, good autumn leaf color, and good disease resistance. HAP#1002 has red flowers and is in flower between Thanksgiving and Christmas—the only selection we are aware of that does this. Not patented or trademarked, not in general commerce.



Figure 11. *Hamamelis vernalis* HAP#1002 (*H. vernalis* 'Holden' × *H. vernalis* 'Amethyst') flowers.

***Hamamelis virginiana* × *H. vernalis* 'Winter Champagne'**

Purchased as *Hamamelis virginiana* but is probably a *H. virginiana* × *H. vernalis* hybrid—leaves have glaucous undersides, Named by Brotzman's Nursery. Orange flowers between Halloween and Thanksgiving, do not persist into the New Year with a mild fragrance (Figure 12). A large multi-stem shrub, approximately 12 ft and is not patented or trademarked.



Figure 12. *Hamamelis virginiana* × *H. vernalis* 'Winter Champagne' in flower on 25 December 2012.

Purchased as *Hamamelis virginiana*, grew to approximately 12 ft tall, drowned in 2013, named by Brotzman's Nursery. Flowers yellow between Halloween and Thanksgiving and flowers remain intact and colorful into the New Year, usually until early February (Figure 13). All flowers open in the fall but have the ability to persist through the winter without completely drying out or dropping off. The only selection we are aware of that has this characteristic.

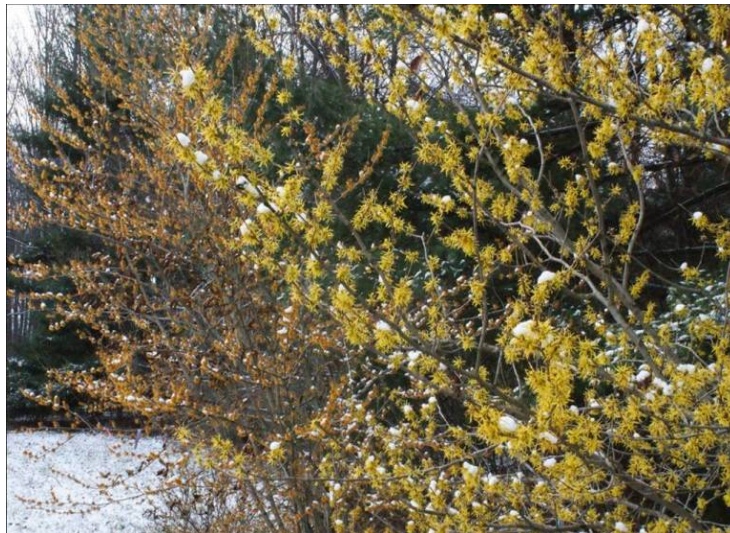


Figure 13. *Hamamelis virginiana* 'Ice Queen' in flower on December 2012.

***Hibiscus* 'Rosina', Pollypetite™ hibiscus PPAF; CBRAF**

A most unusual and beautiful dwarf *H. paramutabilis* × *H. syriacus* hybrid. This ball-shaped shrub has large, rounded, pure lavender-purple flowers with soft ruffled edges and no center eye (Figure 14). Very dark green leaves provide striking contrast. Developed by Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard.



Figure 14. *Hibiscus* 'Rosina', Pollypetite™ hibiscus flowering plant.

***Ilex opaca* 'Weston'**

I first noticed this holly as a volunteer seedling in the 1980s growing beneath a planting of several mature cultivars that my grandfather, Peter J. Mezitt, had installed as a windbreak on the edge of his driveway in the 1950s. One of the cultivars in that group was 'Nelson West', a long-time favorite of mine because of its unique narrow foliage and sufficient winter hardiness to perform well in this location, but sadly a male with no fruit. The seedling that we later named 'Weston' was about 5 ft. tall when I noticed it, and it showed similar leaf characteristics to 'Nelson West', but it also bore fruit—a pleasant surprise (Figure 15). So I rooted a number of cuttings that winter. Within a couple years these propagated plants produced flowers, and to my dismay, some were obviously male. Sorting out and discarding the males, I returned to the original volunteer and saw that I had actually taken cuttings from two volunteers whose trunks (now about ¾" diameter) wrapped around each other. Identifying the true female, I cut and applied herbicide to the severed trunk of male volunteer. Unfortunately, their two root systems were apparently intertwined, so both volunteer seedlings were killed, and we lost the original plant. Luckily I was still able to propagate from the female plants I had rooted earlier.



Figure 15. *Ilex opaca* 'Weston' form.

By the 1990s we had sufficiently evaluated this holly's performance in containers and open-field plantings to realize it was worthy of a cultivar name, so I initially called it 'Mae West' (I don't believe we've sold it using that name). When young it grows rapidly and quite upright, readily trainable to a single trunk, perhaps well-suited for narrow spaces. It has thrived for many years with minimal foliage damage in our Zone 5 winters in the open field, full sun and wind, flowering normally each spring and producing a lot of fruit, making a fine cut branch over the holidays. After a few more years and further testing, we realized that this was an unusually-precocious cultivar, reliably producing profusions of smaller-than-typical berries that were as appealing as its foliage. At that point I chose to discard its original moniker and name it 'Weston' as a more appropriate designation for this superior cultivar.

Monarda punctata

We adore the genus *Monarda* for so many of its wonderful properties including fragrance, ease of growing, willingness to naturalize an area reliably and all of the wonderful things that it can do for beneficial insects and pollinators (a pollinator magnet) (Figure 16). It is the equivalent of a juice bar at the gym for nectar loving/needling insects! We sought out a native *Monarda* to add to our ecological line and landed swiftly on *Monarda punctata*. It produces an aromatic stand that ranges in heights from 6 in. to just shy of 3 ft tall. In bud, it forms saffron-colored rosettes in whorls along the top half of the stem. When the whorls release, watercolor-painted petals with little freckles are exposed and later mature to a soft pinkish-dawn color. These painted petals hold at the end of the flower spike for weeks upon weeks as they peek out through what appears to be leaf bracts. It also resists all other kinds of mites that could impact the bees because it is incredibly high in thymol. USDA Hardiness Zone 3-9.



Figure 16. *Monarda punctata* in flower.

***Pachysandra procumbens* 'Silver Streak'**

Pachysandra procumbens 'Silver Streak', Silver Streak Allegheny pachysandra was selected at Mt. Cuba Center gardens in 2009 (Figure 17). The original plants are of unknown origin. It was selected for striking silver blotches on a green background. This is the winter look, which I think is unique since one can enjoy longer than if it would be only the new growth which emerges differently. In fact, the new growth is traditional green which changes to this silver blotching in late summer, early fall. There is no bronzing in winter. Plants grow well in shade to part-shade and will handle dry shade once established. This *Pachysandra* is highly pH adaptable from acidic to strongly alkaline.

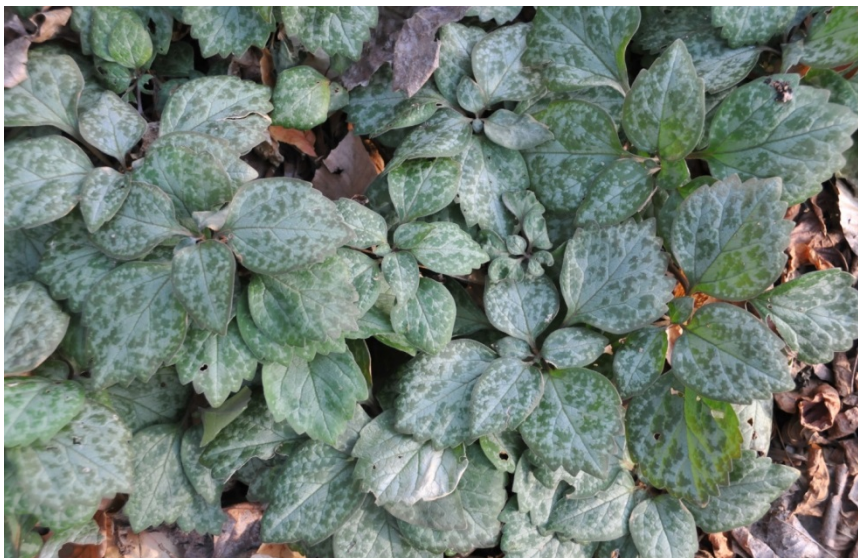


Figure 17. *Pachysandra procumbens* 'Silver Streak' plants.

***Sedum* 'Peace and Joy' PPAF**

An Intrinsic Perennial Gardens introduction. Bears blue-green foliage reminiscent of *S. sieboldii* in tight compact clumps, only reaching around 12 in. high and up to 15 in. wide (Figure 18). Bicolor magenta pink flowers begin in September. Place in full sun, well drained soil.



Figure 18. *Sedum* 'Peace and Joy' in flower.

***Sedum* 'Pillow Talk' PPAF**

A 2016 Intrinsic Perennial Gardens introduction. Substantial plants with hybrid vigor reach 18-24 in. tall and wide. 5-6 in. flower heads of deep pink and magenta stand out from the crowd (Figure 19). Large, gray-green foliage is held on rose colored stems and at times displays reddish edges. Fall color is chartreuse and pink. This selection is resistant to *Rhizoctonia*. For full sun to light shade, well-drained soil is best.



Figure 19. *Sedum* 'Pillow Talk' in flower.

***Viburnum cassinoides* 'SMNVCDD', Lil' Ditty® witherod viburnum PPAF; cbraf**

Outstanding dwarf viburnum is a puffball of creamy-white flowers in late spring (Figure 20). The fruit eventually turns black and remains on the plant to provide winter interest and food for songbirds. An adaptable, easy to grow landscape shrub that is perfect for mass plantings, foundations, and the outer edge of water gardens. Native.



Figure 20. *Viburnum cassinoides* 'SMNVCDD', Lil' Ditty® witherod viburnum flowering plant.

***Viburnum* 'NCVX1', Shiny Dancer™ viburnum PPAF**

An extraordinary compact viburnum, noted for its waxy leaves that are tinged with an attractive red margin. Abundant ivory flowers adorn this shrub in spring (Figure 21). The dark green, heavily textured, semi-evergreen foliage turns burgundy-red in late autumn. This easy to grow, adaptable landscape plant was developed by Dr. Tom Ranney of NCSU by crossing *V.* 'Huron' with *V.* 'Chippewa'. Use either parent as a pollinator for a crop of persistent dark red fruit.



Figure 21. *Viburnum* 'NCVX1', Shiny Dancer™ viburnum plant.