

This dwarf compact weigela came to us through the Ottawa Research Station and a royalty is paid to the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation. The plant grows 1 to 4 ft. tall and is a prolific bloomer with pink flowers. The plants are propagated from cuttings and are deciduous, rated at zone four.

Weigela florida 'Red Prince' (Family Caprifoliaceae)

This weigela is not quite as compact as 'Minuet', but it offers bright red flowers that do not fade. The plants are patented with the Iowa Nurserymen's Research Corporation and grow 4 to 5 ft. tall. This weigela is propagated from cuttings and is deciduous, rated to zone five.

Wisteria floribunda 'Texas Purple' (Family Leguminosae)

This wisteria is quite interesting as it produces beautiful lilac purple flowers rather prolifically at a young age, only 2 to 4 ft. tall. Although its mature habit is as large as any wisteria, its profuse flowering continues. This wisteria came from Verhalen Nursery in Texas and has also been known as 'Verhalen's Purple'. The plants are propagated from cuttings and are deciduous, being hardy to zone five.

This report gives an overview of a few new and not so new plants to watch for on the market. There certainly is a plant to please everyone's needs and tastes and space, whether one grows them for a living or to beautify his home.

PROPAGATION OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN NATIVES

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We have been in the West long enough now and I hope that our need to prove that we are masters of the land, to prove we are in control by beating back its flora and fauna is coming finally to an end. We as horticulturists, plant propagators, educators, and landscapers and nursery people may actually be coming to the conclusion that among the best possible plants for our western gardens and landscapes are those that are native to our region. We are, perhaps, at last becoming more aware and appreciative of our superb native flora. A growing segment of the public certainly is.

Along with our colleagues on the East Coast, those in California have been much more involved in the use of native plants than we have here in the Pacific Northwest. Through the efforts of organizations like the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, as well as a number of botanic gardens and arboreta involved in growing and exhibiting native plants, the

industry and the public has been made much aware of the aesthetic value and the supreme adaptability of native plants in California.

In the Pacific Northwest a fine and profound first step has been taken with the publication of Professor Kruckeberg's authoritative book, "Gardening With Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest". Perhaps, we, too, need a Saratoga Horticultural Foundation. Perhaps the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture will address this as a priority in the near future; indeed, perhaps more of us in Northwest Research and Extension will also look more seriously toward the positive exploitation of western native plants.

The ongoing pressure on our resources, particularly water, will continue to make the desirability of using West Coast natives obvious to the gardening public. These plants' long evolution in this region has made them well adapted to our Mediterranean climate, the wet winter/dry summer combination, which frequently puts so much stress on exotic plants introduced from regions of the world with climates quite different than ours. Most need a huge expenditure of water for optimum growth during our arid summers; indeed, this is often necessary just to keep them alive. We may not long be able to continue the unlimited use of such a precious resource.

There is also, I believe, a strong trend toward low maintenance plantings not only in public places like parks and along highways, but also in home gardens where the average "yuppie" homeowner may not have the time or the inclination to devote a great deal of activity and effort toward his plants. The movement toward the use of natives is and will be an integral part of this process.

Certain native plants are so much in danger of being made extinct that their salvation may lie largely in our hands. If we do not collect, propagate, grow, and distribute them, who will? This may especially be true of our rare native western carnivorous flora which will be the subject of one of our speakers.

It will be our job as plant propagators to not only identify which native plant species are appropriate for landscapes, but also to identify the best forms within each species. Those of us in the Pacific Northwest also need to select for hardiness. And, of course, we need to determine the best methods of propagation and production for these plants.

For some of us, as communicators, it will also be our job to educate the public about the advantages of their use. We also need to be educated ourselves: thus, the reason for today's program on the propagation of western North American natives.