# New Plant Forum<sup>©</sup>

# Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

# **Presenters:**

Jack Alexander presenting for: Tim Brotzman, Brotzman Nursery, 6899 Chapel Rd., Madison, Ohio 44057 U.S.A.

Cornus kousa var. chinensis 'Madison' PP# 16129 Crown Jewel™ Chinese dogwood

# Andrea Bonville

Princeton Nurseries, P.O. Box 185, Allentown, New Jersey 08501 U.S.A.

Acer tataricum subsp. ginnala 'Ruby Slippers'

#### Allen Bush

Jelitto Perennial Seeds, 125 Chenoweth Lane, Suite 301, Louisville, Kentucky 40207 U.S.A.

Thermopsis chinensis

# Jeremy Deppe

Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., 12601 120th Ave. Grand Haven, Michigan 49417 U.S.A

Cornus alternifolia 'Wstackman' PP# 11,287, Golden Shadows® dogwood Corylus avellana 'Red Majestic' PPAF Hydrangea paniculata 'DVPpinky' PPAF, Pinky Winky™ panicled hydrangea Hydrangea paniculata 'Bulk' PPAF, Quick Fire™ panicled hydrangea

# **Chuck Flinn**

Musser Forests, Inc, 1880 Route 119 HWY N Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701 U.S.A.

Pinus sylvestris 'Slim Jim'

# Harlan Hamernik

Bluebird Nursery, P.O Box 460, 519 Bryan Street, Clarkson, Nebraska 68629 U.S.A.

Andropogon gerardii Silver Sunrise<sup>™</sup> big bluestem Clematis tenuiloba 'Pixie Parasols' Sedum tatarinowii 'Mongolian Stardust' Echinacea purpurea 'Prairie Giant' Caragana microphylla 'Mongolian Silver Spires'

# Alan Jones

Presenting for: PlantHaven, Inc., 121 West Pueblo Street, Suite 14, P.O. Box 3056, Santa Barbara, California 93130-3056 U.S.A.

Abelia × grandiflora 'Kaleidoscope' PPAF Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of Gold' PPAF

# Susanne Lucas

Pioneer Plants LLC, 9 Bloody Pond Road, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360 U.S.A.

Fargesia rufa 'Rufa', Green Panda<sup>™</sup> bamboo Fargesia robusta 'Pingwu', Green Screen<sup>™</sup> bamboo Fargesia angustissima 'Oprin's Selection', Green Jewel<sup>™</sup> bamboo Fargesia sp. 'Jiuzhaigou', Red Panda<sup>™</sup> bamboo Fargesia scabrida 'Oprin's Selection', Asian Wonder<sup>™</sup> bamboo

# Chad Osborn

Chicagoland Grows, Inc., 1000 Lake-Cook Road, Glencoe, Illinois 60022-0400 U.S.A.

Baptisia × variicolor 'Twilite Prairieblues' PPAF Buxus 'Wilson', Northern Charm™ boxwood Echinacea 'CBG Cone2' PPAF, PBRAF, Pixie Meadowbrite™ coneflower

#### **Peter Podaras**

Presenting for: Harold Pellett, Landscape Plant Development Center, P.O. Box 444 Mound, Minnesota 55364 U.S.A.

Pyrus 'Silver Ball' Clematis 'Center Star' PPAF Physocarpus opulifolius Center Glow™ ninebark

#### **Adam Wheeler**

Broken Arrow Nursery, 13 Broken Arrow Rd. Hamden, Connecticut 06518 U.S.A.

Kalmia latifolia 'Firecracker' Hamamelis virginiana 'Harvest Moon'

#### Abelia × grandiflora 'Kaleidoscope'

**Origin**: 'Kaleidoscope' was selected in North Carolina, from a plant of *Abelia* 'Little Richard'.

Protection Status: Plant Patent Applied For

Hardiness: USDA Zone 6 to 9

Bloom: Light pink buds open to small, white tubular flowers, which persist in fall.

**Foliage:** Leaves are variegated and emerge bright yellow with a light green center in the spring and gradually change to golden yellow with a green center in the summer. Fall foliage is a combination of golden yellow, bright orange, and fiery red. Foliage does not scorch or bleach in full sun. Stem color of new growth is bright red.

**Habit:** Low, mounded, compact, extremely dense. 2 ft to  $2^{1/2}$  ft tall by 3 ft to  $3^{1/2}$  wide.

**Propagation:** Roots easily from softwood cuttings. 1000–1500 ppm K-IBA. License required to propagate.

**Culture:** Full sun to partial shade. Best in full sun. Will tolerate all but heavy, poorly drained soil and extremely high pH. Requires little or no pruning. High fertility increases foliage retention in the winter. Prefers acidic, well-drained, moist soil.

**Use:** Excellent plant for containers, as a low accent plant in the garden and for mass planting.

#### Acer tataricum subsp. ginnala 'Ruby Slippers'

The most outstanding characteristic of this deciduous small shade tree is the brilliant ruby-red samaras that hold their intense red color longer than the species and/or other cultivars of *A. tataricum* subsp. *ginnala*. In mid-summer when seed are turning brown on other *A. tataricum* subsp. *ginnala*, 'Ruby Slippers' trees are abundant with brilliant red samaras, creating the illusion of red flowers and often eliciting the question, "What is that tree?"

This tree was discovered in a Princeton Nurseries seedling block in 1990 and was first selected for its straight stem and dense growth habit. Because *A. tataricum* subsp. *ginnala* as a species tends to be multistem and exhibit variable growth habit, the search was on for a nice single-stem tree with the cold hardiness and durability of an *A. tataricum* subsp. *ginnala*. Later, the selection was "rediscovered" due to the intensity of the red samaras and the fact that the color persisted longer than other *A. tataricum* subsp. *ginnala*. This selection was then named and introduced in the summer of 2004 after being propagated and observed for 14 years.

Fall color is equally intense, with a powerful mixture of red and orange. This tree is hardy in Zones 3–8 and tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions including drought, compacted soil, and air pollution, which is typical of the species. Mature size: 20 ft  $\times$  20 ft. Bud-grafting in mid to late August has proven to be the most efficient method of asexual propagation here in the Northeast.

#### Andropogon gerardii Silver Sunrise<sup>™</sup> big bluestem

2006 GreatPlants<sup>®</sup> introduction. Outstanding colorful cultivar selected from *Andropogon gerardii* 'Champ' by Dr. Donald Steinegger of the University of Nebraska Horticulture Department and evaluated and introduced by the GreatPlants program of Nebraska. Its showy blue basal foliage with rich purple fall color is contrasted with wide golden bands in the flowering culms. Zone 4.

# *Baptisia* ×*variicolor* 'Twilite Prairieblues' PPAF Twilite Prairieblues false indigo

An extremely robust and vigorous bi-color *Baptisia* selected from a controlled cross of *B. australis*  $\times$  *B. sphaerocarpa* conducted by Dr. Jim Ault at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois. Three-year-old plants produce upwards of 100 flowering stems covered with deep violet-purple flowers highlighted by a lemon-yellow keel. The inflorescences are held above the handsome blue-green foliage and can be up to 32 inches long. This selection began flowering its 2nd year in the ground (from a 4-inch pot). Blooms are long lasting beginning in late May and continuing through the first few weeks of June. The flowers fade to an attractive violet-purple. Mature plants measure  $3^{1}/_{2}$  to 5 ft tall and 4 to 5 ft wide. Zone 4–9.

#### Buxus 'Wilson', Northern Charm<sup>™</sup> boxwood

Selected by Wilson Nurseries, Inc., Hampshire, Illinois, for its excellent cold hardiness, a compact, oval-rounded habit, delicate foliage, and good growth rate. The semi-glossy, emerald-green foliage develops an appealing bluish cast during the growing season, changing to rich, deep black-green during winter. The elegant texture, color, and habit of this selection make it an outstanding choice for traditional formal hedges and border plantings. Zone 4b–9.

# Caragana microphylla 'Mongolian Silver Spires'

Sparkling ferny silver leaves, narrow upright habit on this 8–9 ft xeric shrub. Large yellow flowers produce red seedpods. Selected from seed from a Mongolian steppe. For hedge or low windbreak; somewhat spiny. Future GreatPlants designee. Zone 3.

# Cercis canadensis 'Hearts of Gold' PPAF

This is the first known, gold-foliaged *Cercis* for the U.S.A. market. New leaves emerge red then turn to gold and, where leaves are shaded by others, will turn to green. Hearts of Gold<sup>TM</sup> redbud offers a perfect way to darken the grayest day and provides a riot of color in early spring flower, even before foliage emerges. Tiny lavender-purple redbud blooms are early harbingers of spring in the landscape. And in summer, the gold foliage is burn-resistant even in full sun.

A U.S.A. native, this gold redbud is as vigorous as green types and will grow to 10 ft in the first 5 years. At maturity it will reach 15 ft tall by 18 ft wide, making it perfect for hedges or as a specimen planting.

Hardiness: Zone 4 to 10, to be tested. Definitely 5 to 9.

Bloom: Clusters of sweet pea blooms, bright lavender purple, early spring.

Foliage: Intense golden color, heart-shaped. New growth is red, shaded leaves turn green.

Habit: Vase-shaped, pendulous.

# Clematis 'Center Star' PPAF

'Center Star' clematis is a nonvining herbaceous perennial developed from a cross between *C. integrifolia* and *C. hexapetala*. It has the blue flower color from its female parent and upright facing flowers from the male parent. It has an upright growth habit growing to a height of 30 inches but the stems are weak and the plant falls without support. It produces a heavy crop of  $1^{1}/_{2}$ -inch flowers beginning in mid June and lasting to late August. Flowers are sterile. It is an attractive plant in the perennial garden if supported by a wire cage or can be effective if planted above a wall and the foliage allowed to cascade over the top. Foliage is a dark glossy green. Hardy to Zone 4.

# *Clematis* 'Pixie Parasols' (Atragene Group) [syn. *P. columbiana* var. *tenuiloba*] (dwarf Rocky Mountain clematis, matted purple virgin's bower)

Plantsman Claude Barr said in *Jewels of the Plains*, "The prize rock garden clematis of the West, perhaps of the world." It covers its fine-dissected, low-growing, nonclimbing foliage with beautiful bluish purple umbrellas in late spring and later with interesting seed heads. Some reblooming in fall. Makes a high-class groundcover. For sun to part shade. Zone 3.

# $Cornus \ alternifolia$ 'W<br/>stackman' PP# 11,287, Golden Shadows® pagoda dogwood

A new gold-variegated form of pagoda dogwood discovered by Walter Stackman. The large leaves are decorated with a wide golden-yellow band at the margin. The growth is substantially stronger that C. alternifolia 'Argentea'. Propagation is by softwood cuttings or by grafting.

# Cornus kousa var. chinensis 'Madison' PP# 16129, Crown Jewel<sup>TM</sup> Chinese dogwood

Cornus kousa var. chinensis 'Madison' is a new selection introduced by Brotzman's

Nursery, Inc., for its unique characteristic of the new leaves changing to yellow and red in early August and finally a rainbow of colors in October.

Madison dogwood is a seedling out of the Milky Way strain that was observed at Brotzman's Nursery approximately 12 years ago. The plant is very vigorous, producing thick, green leaves throughout the spring and early summer. Growth often times continues well into the summer months or resumes, after a short pause, in August or September. In fact, vigorous, young growth appears to be essential to promote the development of the yellow and red colors. Conversion from green leaves to yellow and red typically involves only 1–5 of the most terminal whorls on any given branch, and may include all or only a small portion of the plant. Coloration appears to be tied to a gradual shortening of day length, as well as proper nutrition, temperature, and vigor. Change in coloration does not cause drying or degradation of the leaf itself, and fresh, new growth often continues during this time period. Coloration may include all or part of the entire leaf surface and veins.

Flowering characteristics are white and typical of the specie, although flowers with extra bracts seem to be produced with greater frequency of occurrence than is expected in the specie as a whole. Bracts may be held until fruit are mature. In addition, fruit are occasionally produced that seem fused together, usually with parts of the bracts attached. 'Madison' has been propagated by grafting, cuttings, and budding. The unique summer color change is not always seen in young plants, and further studies are being conducted to confirm that the desired characteristics do appear and repeat after a few years. Until this is confirmed, licensed propagators should segregate nontypical plants. Late summer coloration has not been observed in plants grown in Oregon, suggesting a temperature (hot) link for optimum desired expectations. In Tennessee the desired color change appears in about 50%–70% of 1-year buds. About 70%–80% of older plants in Ohio display this characteristic.

U.S.A. Plant Patent protection has been sought for this plant, and it is our intent to market it under the trademark name of Crown Jewel. Licensed growers are being accepted, and propagating material for trial has been widely distributed. COPF protection will most likely be sought.

#### Corylus 'Red Majestic'PBR, red-leaf contorted filbert PPAF

'Red Majestic' is a new contorted filbert with reddish-purple leaves. In the spring the entire plant leafs out a vibrant red and darkens as the season progresses. The older leaves transform to green but the new growth continues to flush red. A cross between *C. avellana* 'Contorta' and *C. maxima* var. *purpurea* developed in Germany. Propagation is by grafting or by bed stooling.

# Echinacea 'CBG Cone2' PPAF, PBRAF, Pixie Meadowbrite<sup>™</sup> coneflower

A dwarf pink selection of a cross between *Echinacea tennesseensis, E. angustifolia,* and *E. purpurea.* The plant was bred and selected by Dr. Jim Ault of the Chicago Botanic Garden. A true dwarf, each plant grows to 18 inches tall and spreads 20 to 24 inches wide. The compact yet strong stems branch naturally to produce an abundance of bright pink flowers throughout the late summer, attracting butterflies and gardeners alike. A very drought tolerant selection that propagates and grows very easily. Zone 4–9.

#### Echinacea purpurea 'Prairie Giant'

Huge flowers with narrow pink petals spanning 6–9 inches on 30–40 inch stalks. Beautiful rich dark green basal leaves up to 24 inches long and  $4^{1/2}$  inches wide. Has

been happy and long flowering in our Zone 4 garden for 10+ years. Zone 4.

# Fargesia rufa 'Rufa', GREEN PANDA™ bamboo

Maximum height: 10 ft. Maximum culm diameter: 0.8 inches.

Minimum temperature: -15 °F Zone 5-8.

Sun: Full sun to full shade.

This clumping, non-invasive bamboo has enormous potential in landscapes across North America and Canada. Grows into a large clump (6–8 ft wide) with arching stems. Cultivated as *Fargesia* 'Rufa' in Europe for several years, Oprins Plant NV received a new plant introduction award at Boskoop in Holland for this form in 2003. Subsequently, it was introduced into the U.S.A. in 2003 as Green Panda<sup>TM</sup> bamboo. From Gansu, China.

# Fargesia robusta 'Pingwu', GREEN SCREEN™ bamboo

Maximum height: 18 ft.

Maximum culm diameter: 0.8 inches.

Minimum temperature: - 5 °F Zone 6-8.

Sun: Full sun to partial shade.

A clumping bamboo perfect for use as a hedge or screening plant, with the great benefit of its non-invasive root system and robust size. It has been cultivated as *Fargesia robusta* 'Pingwu' in Europe for several years. It is very upright, with persistent culm sheaths that are white, densely covered with hair. Its leaves are longer when compared to the type species and to the form 'Wolong' which has much broader leaves and is less cold hardy. From Szechuan, China.

# Fargesia angustissima 'Oprin's Selection', GREEN JEWEL™ bamboo

Maximum height: 16 ft.

Maximum culm diameter: 0.8 inches.

Minimum temperature: 5°F Zone 7-8.

Sun: Partial shade.

Graceful clumping bamboo with narrow leaves on arching stems. Makes a beautiful potted plant or specimen in the garden. Not as cold hardy as some temperate *Fargesia*, but very attractive and worthy of garden use in areas such as the Pacific Northwest and the Carolinas. Clumping, non-invasive. From Szechuan, China.

# Fargesia sp. 'Jiuzhaigou', RED PANDA™ bamboo

Maximum height: 18 ft. Maximum culm diameter: 0.8 inches.

Minimum temperature: -15 °F Zone 5-8.

Sun: Partial shade.

Beautiful clumping bamboo with very small delicate leaves. Overall form is very upright, perfect for hedges and screens. Culms develop color with sun exposure, showing green, gold and burgundy all on the same plant. Clumping, non-invasive. From Szechuan, China. Clone selected by Jan Oprins.

# $Fargesia\ scabrida\ `Oprin's\ Selection', ASIAN\ WONDER^{{\rm TM}}\ bamboo$

Maximum height: 18 ft. Maximum culm diameter: 0.8 inches. Minimum temperature: -10 °F Zone 5–8. Partial shade. Fantastic clumping bamboo with very narrow leaves and graceful appearance. New shoots covered in red hairs. Stems show great color, with orange culm sheaths and steely-blue new culms. Culms mature to olive green. Clumping, non-invasive. From Gansu, China.

#### Hamamelis virginiana 'Harvest Moon'

An exciting introduction discovered by Broken Arrow Nursery as a suckering understock on an established witch hazel specimen growing in a client's garden. 'Harvest Moon' has attractive, burgundy-flushed new growth that matures to dark green. In late fall, plants offer numerous clusters of large, lemon-yellow flowers that are closely spaced along the branches. The overall effect is a much showier display than is common for the species. In our trials, plants have flowered up to 2 weeks later than the species and have consistently dropped their foliage prior to flowering. Under cultivation, plants are vigorous growers and assume an upright vase-shaped habit maturing 15–18 ft tall in 15 years. Plants can be successfully propagated by stem cuttings and have consistently rooted in much higher percentages than several other *H. virginiana* selections.

# Hydrangea paniculata 'Bulk' PPAF, Quick Fire™ hydrangea

An extremely early blooming hydrangea noted for its dark pink coloration in summer and fall. The blooms appear in June and begin to change to pink before other selections begin to bloom. It is noted for having compact branching, strong stems, and numerous flower heads. Developed by Mark Bulk of Boskoop, Netherlands. Propagation is by softwood cuttings.

#### Hydrangea paniculata 'DVPpinky', PPAF Pinky Winky™ panicled hydrangea

A new panicled hydrangea noted for its strong upright red stems, large conical blooms, and the intense reddish-pink coloration of the flowers in late summer and autumn. Developed by Johan Van Huylenbroeck of Department of Plant Genetics and Breeding (DvP) in Belgium. Propagation is by softwood cuttings.

#### Kalmia latifolia 'Firecracker'

A 5th-generation cross-hybridized by Richard A. Jaynes of Broken Arrow Nursery. Notable parentage includes the *Kalmia latifolia* selections 'Carol', 'Sharon Rose', and 'Sarah'. Plants offer brilliant, deep-red flower buds that open near white and age to pale pink. The overall effect is a striking, bicolor display of red-budded and white open flowers. This floral affect, combined with the glossy, dark green foliage and excellent disease resistance make it a promising alternative to 'Olympic Fire' and other red-budded cultivars. Plants are more compact than the species maturing approximately  $4 \text{ ft} \times 4 \text{ ft}$  in 10 years under normal garden conditions.

Breeder requests a voluntary royalty of 15 cents for each plant propagated and sold. **Propagation:** Semi-ripe cuttings. License required for propagation.

Culture: Well-drained soils in full sun or partial shade. Drought tolerant.

# Physocarpus opulifolius Center Glow<sup>™</sup> ninebark

Center Glow<sup>TM</sup> ninebark was selected from a population of seedlings resulting from a controlled cross between *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo'<sup>PBR</sup> and *P. opulifolius* 'Dart's Gold'. It was selected for its very attractive foliage that emerges a rosy-red color with a yellow-green blotch at the base. As the foliage matures, it loses the blotch and darkens in color to dark, reddish brown. The plant is a rapid grower

reaching a height of 6–8 ft and width of 4–6 ft. Flower buds are pale pink opening to small white flowers in clusters 1–2 inches wide. Developing seed heads are red, turning to brown as they mature. Plants respond very favorably to renewal pruning. New shoots can be cut and used in flower arrangements.

#### Pinus sylvestris 'Slim Jim'

The 'Slim Jim' Scotch pine was found in 1986 as a chance tree growing in a Christmas tree plantation of Musser Forests in Indiana, Pennsylvania. It was among other trees that had been harvested for 2 or 3 years at the end of the rotation.

This particular tree was 4 ft tall and only 1 ft wide with no obvious shearing or trimming that was ever done on it. Another item of interest is that the terminal and other branches end with a tuft of small needles in a bunch with no bud visible.

This tree was transplanted to a safe location and propagated by grafting on *P. sylvestris* and *P. thunbergii*. All grafts seem to be compatible with the understock and come true to type and growth habit without staking. The original tree is now 8–9 ft tall after approximately 25 years. Some others that were grafted have gone to about 12 ft.

This selection has also been tested for winter hardiness and has survived -25  $^\circ F$  with only slight needle burn on some tips.

There also appears to be a certain amount of disease resistance, because other *P. sylvestris* have died of needlecast disease in the area from two successive wet growing seasons. This selection has held good color and foliage with no fungicide applications.

This tree is not patented and has been released to other collectors and growers for a number of years under the 'Slim Jim' name. This tree would make a beautiful addition to any landscape.

#### Pyrus Silver Ball<sup>™</sup> pear

Silver Ball<sup>TM</sup> pear is a dense, round-headed small tree maturing at a height of 10– 12 ft. It has very attractive silvery-green leaves. The small white flowers emerge after the foliage in spring. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter fruit turn light brown when mature. Plant is hardy to Zone 4. It is very resistant to fireblight. The plants main attribute is its dense compact habit and silvery foliage. Fall color is insignificant and the leaves are held late in the season. It makes an excellent specimen plant in the landscape. It was selected by the Landscape Plant Development Center from an open-pollinated hybrid of *Pyrus calleryana* × *P. betulifolia*. Male parent is unknown. The female parent was growing amongst populations of hybrids with many different *Pyrus* species in their background.

The plant is a slow grower. It can best be produced by grafting on a standard to produce a higher head more quickly.

#### Sedum tatarinowii 'Mongolian Stardust'

A 2004 GreatPlants introduction (syn. *Hylotelephium tatarinowii*) Only 5–8 inches tall and up to 12 inches wide, it is a clumper with a large rootstock. The glaucous dentate leaves will develop rosy pink late summer and fall color. The clusters of dainty flowers are white to pink with large purple anthers. This charmer is best suited for the rockery, trough or raised beds and requires good drainage. Collected by Harlan Hamernik in northern Inner Mongolia. Zone 3. Ten cents from the sale of each plant goes to the GreatPlants group to help fund more plant exploration and breeding.

#### Thermopsis chinensis

This is a species — native to a few locations in central and eastern China — that has been mistakenly confused with *T. lanceolata*, a stoloniferous species with a much wider distribution across China, Russia, and Kazakhstan. The very attractive thick grayish-purple flower buds of *T. chinensis* emerge in mid-March coinciding with the blooms of galanthus, species crocus, and hamamelis cultivars. The emerging buds may still only be 6 inches high a week later and will slowly unfurl coinciding with blooms of hellebores, epimediums, *Primula kisoana, Cardamine (Dentaria) diphylla, Iberis sempervirens,* and *Veronica pedicularis* 'Georgia Blue'. The lovely, frost-resistant soft-yellow flowers will be fully open a week or two before redbuds and dogwoods. *Thermopsis chinensis* grows to 50 cm and has small obovate leaves 2.5 cm long, 0.6–1 cm wide and has erect, linear seedpods.

# Softwood Cutting Propagation of Native Lauraceae (*Lindera benzoin* and *Sassafras albidum*) as Alternatives to Invasive Horticulture Plants<sup>©</sup>

#### Jenna Sicuranza, Nick Castrataro, Bill Johnson, and Brian Maynard

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#### INTRODUCTION

The topic of invasive plants is hotly debated in horticulture. Plant nurseries and horticultural institutions are often identified as sources for a high percentage of invasive plants. Enormous pressure is put on nurseries to discontinue sales of certain high-profile invasive plants, many of which represent large portions of plant sales. In some New England states legislation prohibiting sales of certain invasive plants has been enacted; in others, voluntary action is encouraged. In either case, the potential economic loss to the industry is great. Therefore, the production of non-invasive alternatives to invasive plants is a priority. While native plants are not the only alternatives, they do offer other associated benefits, such as attracting native wildlife. In addition, native plants are becoming more popular with consumers and represent a growing niche market. Native plants have been so far relatively unexplored by the industry; exploring their horticultural possibilities offers many opportunities to bring new plants to the market. Two native plants in the Lauraceae family have potential as native alternatives. Lindera benzoin (L.) Bl., spicebush, has been suggested as an alternative to *Euonymus alatus* (winged euonymus or burning bush). While Sassafras albidum (Nutt.) Nees., sassafras, has not been suggested as an alternative, it has potential to replace invasive trees such as Acer platanoides (Norway maple). Both L. benzoin and S. albidum are produced by the industry, but only by seed propagation. Vegetative propagation, such as softwood cuttings, would allow for cultivar production of these plants, increasing their economic value. Cutting propagation of both plants has shown to be possible, but not worth the effort due to very low rooting percentage. Our goal is to improve the vegetative propagation of these species, to promote more cultivar production, and increase their economic value to the nursery industry.