

## SUMMARY

In summary, green roof installation in the U.S.A. is just beginning to take off. Its success, however, will only be insured if the services of diverse groups such as roofers, architects, and horticulturists are brought to bear in the installation. To be successful sealed roofs must be coupled with a light-weight, long-lasting growing media that meets plant demands and yet will slow down storm water as not to overburden municipal sewage systems. Finally, where will the plants come from? These must be supplied by nurseries that work in concert with roofers and architects. This represents an entirely new market for propagators.

---

## New Plants! What's Good for Nurseries?®

### F. Todd Lasseigne

The JC Raulston Arboretum, Department of Horticulture Science, North Carolina State University, Campus Box 7609, Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-7609 U.S.A.

The JC Raulston Arboretum (Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A.) continues to acquire and evaluate multitudes of new plants for landscape adaptability and garden performance in the Piedmont of North Carolina (USDA Cold Hardiness Zone 7b). The following plants are but a few of our newer acquisitions, representing continued introductions from many sources including nurseries, other botanical gardens and arboreta, and index semina from abroad.

***Acer oblongum*, smoothleaf maple.** Supposedly an evergreen maple, but one shouldn't believe all that the books say, as our plant has displayed vivid red fall color. In all respects, our plant is correctly identified. This illustrates the inadequate testing that many uncommon species undergo in the U.S.A.

***Spiraea thunbergii* 'Fujino Pink'.** A superior form of a commonly grown spirea in the U.S.A. with better "flower power." Flowers are tinged pink in bud, but open white. Newly introduced from Japan and named after its discoverer.

***Cotinus coggygria* 'Ancot', Golden Spirit™ smokebush.** A wonderful new gold-foliaged selection from the United Kingdom, soon to be released in U.S.A. I have heard reports of fabulous fall color, but have not yet seen this on our plant in North Carolina. The gold leaves neither scorch nor bleach in our humid, hot summers, based on observations over the 2 years we have had our plant.

***Berberis xottawensis* 'Silver Miles', variegated purple-leaf barberry.** Very interesting gray-mottled variegated foliage. A plant worthy of widespread cultivation.

***Cyrilla racemiflora* 'Graniteville'.** Variation in the wild waiting to be selected, as evidenced by differences in flower form (erect racemes versus pendulous racemes). 'Graniteville' represents a dwarf (or pendulous, if grown in shade) cultivar now available.

***Wisteria frutescens* 'Amethyst Falls' and 'Lynn Lowrey'.** Two excellent cultivars, differing in inflorescence form, representing the emerging importance of this overlooked southeastern U.S.A. native. 'Amethyst Falls' has compact inflorescences produced from spring through summer. 'Lynn Lowrey', newly released

through Stephen F. Austin State University's Mast Arboretum (Nacogdoches, Texas), exhibits striking, long pendulous lavender inflorescences on a more vigorous plant than 'Amethyst Falls'.

***Lonicera sempervirens* f. *sulphurea* (syn. *Lonicera sempervirens* 'Sulphurea')**. This gold-yellow color phase of our native "coral honeysuckle" is fairly common. Unfortunately, a second yellow-flowering native, *Lonicera flava*, is scarcely known. Do not confuse these two outstanding native honeysuckles. *Lonicera flava* produces smaller, two-lipped yellow flowers (aging to orange) that are borne in terminal clusters inside a cup-like structure formed by the two terminal leaves that are fused together.

***Lonicera* 'Mandarin'**. This exciting, new orange-flowered cultivar from the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden is better than *L. xtellmanniana* in its production of multitudes of pure orange, tubular flowers. We have been highly pleased with its growth and floral profusion in North Carolina.

***Meliiodendron xylocarpum***. A rarely cultivated Chinese native deciduous tree, somewhat related to *Halesia*. We have been most impressed with its larger flowers, faster growth rate, and more attractive summer foliage than any of the *Halesia* taxa we have grown (including *H. diptera* var. *magniflora*).

***Cytisus battandieri* (syn. *Argyrocytisus battandieri*), pineapple broom**. This wonderful, summer-flowering shrub is much hardier than we ever realized. Having seen plants growing splendidly at Chanticleer Gardens (near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.), I soon acquired a plant for the The JC Raulston Arboretum. We have not been disappointed by its stunning performance, growing in our perennial border amidst tall herbaceous perennials.

***Mespilus canescens*, Arkansas medlar**. This newly described species, only the second species in the genus, has escaped the attention of both botanists and horticulturists. We are impressed by both its abundant white flowers (produced in clusters, each flower ½ inch wide) and very good fall color (ranging from red to purple).

***Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Ogon' (or 'Gold Rush'), golden dawn redwood**. This fabulous new import which we acquired from nurserymen representing the Japanese Nursery Association, Saitama Branch, exhibits bright gold to chartreuse foliage, holding this rich color through summer into the fall months. Surprisingly, the growth rate is nearly as fast as the species.

***Ilex opaca* 'Christmas Snow', variegated American holly**. This superb variegated cultivar is worthy of more widespread use, especially since cultivation of *I. aquifolium* cultivars in the southern U.S.A. is problematic at best. Although 'Christmas Snow' is a slower grower than nonvariegated cultivars, it is still worthy as an accent/specimen plant status.

***Liquidambar styraciflua* 'White Star', variegated sweet gum**. This beautiful new cultivar was received by us from North Carolina nurserymen Ben Brown. 'White Star' displays broad white-margined leaves that for us exhibit minimal scorch. In fact, any scorch that does occur is soon overtopped by new foliage produced after the initial spring flush, this later-produced foliage does not scorch during the summer months.

***Prunus persica* 'Corinthian Pink', columnar flowering peach.** This new ornamental peach is derived from North Carolina State University's (NCSU) Dr. Dennis Werner. Dr. Werner selected this plant for its upright growth habit, attractive double flowers, and purple foliage. The Corinthian series also includes 'Corinthian Mauve', 'Corinthian Rose', and 'Corinthian White'.

***Prunus persica* 'NCSU Dwarf Double Red', dwarf flowering peach.** This is an old cultivar released long ago by the peach-breeding program at NCSU, but unfortunately, it never has caught on widely. A fabulous dwarf tree (to 8 to 10 ft tall after 10 to 15 years), displaying bright reddish-pink flowers. For us, it comes true-to-type from seed.

***Tsuga sieboldii* and *T. chinensis*, Asian hemlocks.** We are continually amazed by these very heat-tolerant hemlocks displaying lustrous green (almost plastic-like) foliage. If these species also display resistance to woolly adelgids, they have the potential to become major landscape plants.

***Fokienia hodginsii*, Hodgins' cypress.** This eastern Chinese native conifer is vastly "underknown" in U.S.A. Native to a part of China that has given us both *Sinocalycanthus chinensis* (Chinese wax shrub) and *Heptacodium miconioides* (seven son's tree), both of which display outstanding cold hardiness (to Zone 6), we feel that this *Calocedrus*-like evergreen may hold potential as a screening hedge plant throughout the southeastern and mid-Atlantic areas of the U.S.

***Ilex purpurea*, peachleaf holly.** This is a hardy evergreen holly from China that has been cultivated for many decades in the southern U.S.A. In fruit, this is a holly that cannot be rivaled. Recently, I learned that a 35-ft tall specimen growing at the famous Biltmore Manor gardens in Asheville, North Carolina survived the vicious 1985 winter, when temperatures dropped to -18°F with no damage. Clearly, this plant merits further attention!

***Edgeworthia chrysantha*, golden paperbush.** A fabulous, deciduous, winter-flowering shrub of exceptional form, producing beautiful sweetly-scented clusters golden-yellow flowers, covered with silky white hairs outside, from December through March. Confused with the shrubby *E. papyrifera*, *E. chrysantha* instead produces a vigorous central trunk and rounded canopy.

***Cornus sanguinea* 'Winter Beauty', multicolor twig dogwood.** Yellow, orange, and red twigs all at once in winter. What more can we ask for?

***Cornus florida* 'Autumn Gold', goldtwig flowering dogwood.** This is a fabulous introduction from Don Shadow, Shadow Nursery (Winchester, Tennessee) with yellow fall color(!) and great winter twigs that color orange and yellow. It also produces the typical 4-bracted flowers in spring.

***Albizia julibrissin* 'Summer Chocolate', purpleleaf mimosa.** This knockout new plant from Japan's Dr. Masato Yokoi, a world expert on variegated and color-leaved plants, was recently received by the The JC Raulston Arboretum from our friend, Mr. Mike Ishii (Ishii Plants, Saitama City, Japan). To our amazement, the purple color intensifies(!) with increasing heat. The leaves emerge green and quickly change to purple.

***Emmenopterys henryi*, Chinese emmenoterys.** This is a fabled plant of the great plant hunters, and one that is finally proving itself well worthy as a superb small- to medium-sized flowering shade tree. Our plant flowered for the first time 2 years ago (although only sparsely), but this year produced hundreds of inflorescences bearing sweetly fragrant flowers. Each inflorescence occurs in a lace-cap formation with tubular white flowers in the center, and white (later turning pale pink) bracts on the outside.

***Daphniphyllum himalense* var. *macropodum*, courtesy-leaf.** A mounding evergreen shrub with attractive lustrous dark green foliage, set amid striking red petioles. Our plants are derived from germplasm collected in South Korea by the U.S. National Arboretum expedition in 1985, and the resulting plants have proven hardier than realized even back then.

***Daphniphyllum himalense* var. *macropodum* 'Kimidorinakafu', gold-variegated courtesy-leaf.** A fabulous new cultivar from the Japanese Nursery Association, this plant exemplifies the hundreds of new cultivars waiting to be introduced to the U.S. nursery industry from Japan. We do not yet have this plant but should acquire it in 2002.

***Prunus laurocerasus* (Batumi form), red-berry cherry laurel.** New germplasm collected in the European nation of Georgia by the "2001 Georgia Boxwood Expedition" team. This clone is derived from an upright plant (15 to 20 ft tall by 4 ft wide) bearing stunning bright red fruits (½ inch wide) on 8- to 12-inch-long drooping racemes. Presently, this germplasm is under evaluation.