

## New Plant Forum®

Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

### Presenters:

**Rod Ackerman**, Bluebird Nursery, Clarkson, Nebraska U.S.A.

*Baptisia australis* var. *minor*

*Iris setosa* subsp. *canadensis*

**Bill Barnes**, Lorax Farms, Warrington, Pennsylvania U.S.A.

*Austrocedrus chilensis*

*Tsuga chinensis*

*Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Sasaba'

*Pinus pinaster* var. *hamiltoniana*

**Vern Black**, Bailey Nurseries, St. Paul, Minnesota U.S.A.

*Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger' PPAF, Tiger Eye® cutleaf sumac

*Monarda* 'Coral Reef'

**Peter Bristol**, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois U.S.A.

*Rhus copallina* var. *latifolia* 'Morton', Prairie Flame™ shining sumac

*Echinacea* 'Art's Pride' PPAF, Orange Meadowbrite™ coneflower

**Brian Maynard**, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island U.S.A.

*Ilex verticillata* 'Upright Red'

**Peter Orum**, Midwest Groundcovers, St. Charles, Illinois U.S.A.

*Cotoneaster* cv., Nordic Carpet® cotoneaster

**Sid Waxman**, University of Connecticut (retired), Storrs, Connecticut U.S.A.

*Pinus strobus* 'Sonya'

*Pinus strobus* 'Outreach'

*Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Tumbleweed'

*Larix laricina* 'Beehive'

***Austrocedrus chilensis*, Chilean cedar.** *Austrocedrus chilensis* is an evergreen conifer superficially resembling plants in the Genus *Thuja*. It is native to Chile and Argentina and is closely related to the incense cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*. It makes a tall tree with a crown that narrows to a cone. It has brown exfoliating bark and in the Northeast seems far more cold tolerant than most references indicate. In the Year 2002 during winter it withstood temperatures of near 0°F for several days without any damage. It is easy to root after several sharp cold periods and in the propagation phase is almost identical to *Thuja occidentalis*.

***Baptisia australis* var. *minor* (syn. *B. minor*).** A plains native from Kansas to Northern Texas. This early spring bloomer with indigo-blue flowers fits nicely into the garden, rarely reaching over 24 inches in height compared to *B. australis* that often reaches up to 4 ft. Preferring a sunny location with spring moisture and hot dry summers. Watering bans will not effect this plant unless you live in a desert. Hardy to Zone 4.

***Cotoneaster dammeri* cv., Nordic Carpet® cotoneaster.** This cotoneaster is an evergreen, low-growing (5 to 8 inches) ground cover which has the following features: (1) white flowers in spring; (2) beautiful green leaves on red stems in summer; and (3) bronze-green foliage and red berries in the fall and winter. This introduction is non-invasive and fast growing.

***Echinacea* ‘Art’s Pride’, Orange Meadowbrite™ coneflower P.P.A.F., P.B.R.A.F.** Orange Meadowbrite™ coneflower is the first orange coneflower ever in cultivation. This plant is truly novel with its brightly colored, deep-orange ray florets, dark maroon cone, and intensely sweet fragrance.

**Botanical Name:** *Echinacea* ‘Arts Pride’ P.P.A.F., P.B.R.A.F.

**Common Name:** Orange Meadowbrite™ Coneflower.

**Family:** Asteraceae.

**Origin:** A selection from controlled crosses made by Dr. Jim Ault of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

**Hardiness:** U.S.D.A. Zones 4 to 9.

**Bloom Season:** This selection starts blooming in northern Illinois (U.S.D.A. Zone 5a) in mid-June with a heavy flush in early to mid-July, then a continuation of at least a few flower heads well into September.

**General Description and Habit:** Orange Meadowbrite™ coneflower is the first orange coneflower ever in cultivation. This plant is truly novel with its brightly colored, deep-orange ray florets, dark maroon cone and intensely sweet fragrance. It is a vigorous plant with lance shaped, semi-glossy, deep green foliage, reaching a height of 2½ to 3 ft.

**Size:** 2½ to 3 ft high × 2½ to 3 ft wide in 2 years.

**Growth Rate:** Medium.

**Ornamental Characteristics:** A breakthrough in ornamental plant breeding! Vibrant, perfectly formed tangerine-orange blooms float above deep grass-green foliage. A sweet orange-spiced tea fragrance surrounds each plant. This is a vigorous, free-blooming cultivar with incredible drought tolerance. A welcome addition to any garden.

**Culture:** Prefers well drained, but moist soils and full sun.

**Pest and Disease Problems:** None known

**Landscape Value:** Mixed borders, perennial borders and foundation plantings for home gardens as well as commercial landscape use.

**Propagation:** Division, vegetative and root cuttings, tissue culture  
For more information about Chicagoland Grows®, contact: Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022 (847) 835-8301.

***Ilex verticillata* ‘Upright Red’.** A compact heavy-fruited selection discovered by Mr. Dixon Hoogendoorn of Hoogendoorn Nurseries, Inc., 408 Turner Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02840 (401-847-3405). Ten-year-old plants are only 4 ft tall and 3 to 4 ft wide. Foliage is glossy dark green with a wavy edge, early-flowering, and fruit set is very heavy with large dark red fruit that is typically held to mid-Janu-

ary. Professor Dirr includes this cultivar in his book as 'Hoogendoorn', but 'Upright Red' is the name offered by the nursery. Also sold in the past as 'Hoogendoorn No. 2'. Pollinated by 'Jim Dandy'.

***Iris setosa* subsp. *canadensis*.** This iris is small in stature, usually less than 12 inches in height. It forms tight clumps topped by purplish to bluish flowers in late May to early June. Even after flowering the tight diminutive, dark green foliage remains attractive throughout the summer making it a perfect edger. Tolerant of damp and hot conditions also makes it a perfect addition to the rockery. Native to the North-eastern U.S.A. and eastern Canada. Hardy to Zone 4 maybe 3 with snow cover.

***Larix laricina* 'Beehive'.** 'Beehive' was selected from a group of semi-dwarf seedlings. These seedlings, which were intermediate in size, were grown from seeds taken from a witches-broom found in Prospect Harbor, Maine. In 23 years it has grown to a height of 14 ft and a width of 17 ft. Its silhouette is similar to a stylized beehive without having been pruned. It can be propagated by grafting and by rooting cuttings. Its autumn color is an attractive light tan. Its annual growth is approximately 6 to 7 inches.

***Monarda* 'Coral Reef'.** From the *Monarda* breeding program at Morden Research Centre, Morden, Canada, comes an exciting new tall *Monarda*, Coral Reef® Bee Balm PPAF. The flower color is an almost neon pink with coral tones. The plant reaches a mature height of 3 ft, and is similar in form to 'Marshall's Delight' (another Morden introduction). Will bloom for approximately 2 to 3 weeks in early to mid July. Good resistance to powdery mildew. Hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 3 (and probably Zone 2 as well). Bailey Nurseries is introducing this plant in the U.S.A. for Morden and is licensing propagators. Propagation is by softwood cuttings.

***Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Sasabo'.** This is a new form of *O. heterophyllus* with very fine leaves that are about 1 inch long. Causal observation would not even place this plant along side of the more common forms of *O. heterophyllus* because it lacks the typical "Ilex-type leaf". It is said to be hardy in the Philadelphia region and makes a small compact plant that is slow growing. Presumably propagation is similar to *O. heterophyllus*. Prefers shade in the colder limits of its zone range.

***Pinus pinaster* var. *hamiltoniana*.** Maritime pine grows to 35 m high with an irregular form. Dark green stout needles occur in fascicles of two and when juvenile looks superficially like a Japanese black pine, *P. thunbergii*, but appears to be a more refined tree than *P. thunbergii*. It occurs from Atlantic Europe to Greece and the Mediterranean. Propagation would be from seed or grafting onto other two-needled pines. Some references assign it a Zone of 8 but this is an error, as Zone 6 seems more appropriate.

***Pinus strobus* 'Outreach'.** This selection is another witches'-broom seedling. While most witches'-broom seedlings have dwarf characteristics, 'Outreach' is an exception. It is large coarsely textured pine. Its newly developing stems are almost 1/2 inches in diameter and covered with clusters of needles that are blue/green and arranged like fox tails. Its main characteristic is its horizontal branching. After 18 years it has grown to a height of only 5 1/2 ft and a width of 13 ft. It's a very attractive plant that will require lots of space.

***Pinus strobus* ‘Sonya’.** ‘Sonya’ was selected from a group of witches’-broom seedlings. It was selected because of its form, its dense branching, its dark green color and its short needles. It is a low miniature dwarf with cloud-like branching where most other miniature dwarfs, like sea urchin, are mound like. At 13 years, it has grown to a height of only 20 inches and a width of 4 ft. Its branching is dense and tends to be close to the ground. Its needles are 1½ inches long and deep green. On the whole it is a very appealing plant whose annual growth is only 1½ inches.

***Rhus copallina* var. *latifolia* ‘Morton’, Prairie Flame™ shining sumac.** Selected for its dwarf habit and conservative growth rate, dark green, extremely glossy foliage, excellent drought tolerance, and bright red fall color.

**Botanical Name:** *Rhus copallina* var. *latifolia* ‘Morton’.

**Common Name:** Prairie Flame™ shining sumac.

**Family:** Anacardiaceae.

**Origin:** Selected from the collections of The Morton Arboretum of Lisle, Illinois, from seed collected in Iroquois County Conservation Area, near the Illinois/Indiana border.

**Hardiness:** U.S.D.A. Zones 5 to 7.

**General Description and Habit:** A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub with a refined, compact habit making it much smaller than the species. Prairie Flame™ shining sumac has extremely glossy, attractive foliage, creamy-white blooms in late July and striking deep red fall color. This compact sumac can be grown in a wide variety of soils and landscape conditions. It is very drought-tolerant and grows best in full sun.

**Size:** Measures 7 ft in height with a 10 ft spread after 15 years of growth.

**Growth Rate:** Medium.

**Ornamental Characteristics:** Prairie Flame™ shining sumac is an excellent colonizing plant. Plant it in front of evergreens to maximize its glorious fall color. This selection is fruitless and thrives as a companion for native or naturalized plantings. It is also useful for soil stabilization on slopes.

**Culture:** Our selection of shining sumac tolerates very poor soil conditions. It has shown excellent adaptability to a broad range of soil types and landscape applications. Plants prefer full sun for maximum bloom production and dependable fall color.

**Pest and Disease Problems:** Excellent overall. Has shown slight susceptibility to verticillium wilt and powdery mildew in evaluations.

**Landscape Value:** A superior selection for massing and naturalized plantings. Planted as a specimen or en masse, this sumac will provide a colorful display from late spring with its extremely glossy foliage through a full frost with its dependable, fire-engine red fall color. Also useful for slopes, open areas and roadside plantings.

**Propagation:** Vegetative and root cuttings.

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***Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger', Tiger Eyes® cutleaf sumac PPAF.** This beautiful new golden-leaved form of cutleaf staghorn sumac was discovered in our bareroot fields over 10 years ago. The new growth is a lively chartreuse green, quickly changing to bright yellow, both colors contrasting nicely with the rosy pink leaf stems. The branches angle upward while the deeply cut leaflets drape downward, giving it a rather oriental effect. The foliage in autumn is a beautiful combination of yellow, orange and scarlet. Reaches a mature height and width of 6 ft. Hardy in U.S.D.A. Zone 4. We are propagating it both from root pieces and softwood cuttings.

***Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Tumbleweed'.** Was selected from a group of 55 seedling grown trees. Growing umbrella pines from seeds often result in a population that shows much variation in color and slight variation in form. In this particular group many showed excellent form but with poor coloration. Most were pale green in the summer and slightly bronze during the winter. There were, however, a couple that were exceptional. One was very dark green. The other named 'Tumbleweed' was selected for its form. It was as wide as tall, and oval in shape, while most umbrella pines are usually much taller than wide. Its needles are 5 to 5½ inches long, slightly longer than most umbrella pines. At 16 years it has grown to a height of 10 ft and a width of 9 ft. It retains its excellent color in winter in spite of its exposed location.

***Tsuga chinensis*, Chinese hemlock.** This hemlock occurs in two forms: *T. chinensis* and *T. chinensis* var. *formosana*. Both superficially resemble one another but *formosana* (Zone 9 but examples are found in Zone 6) is less cold hardy than the straight species. They can make fine ornamental trees 20 to 25 m high with shiny dark green needles and have the added advantage of being resistant if not immune to the wooly adelgid. This makes them desirable candidates for using in situations where *T. canadensis* cannot be grown do to the insect problem. They do root easily from cuttings with 2-year wood being more likely to root. Cuttings taken in late fall to winter and give a medium level of rooting hormone and stuck with a sandy mix and bottom heat will root after a course of a couple of month.