

New Plant Forum®

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Alnus × spaethii

Cercidiphyllum japonicum 'Rotfuchs' (syn. 'Red Fox')

Ulmus × hollandica 'Dampieri Aurea' (syn. 'Wredei')

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Rudbeckia grandiflora 'Sundance'

Scabiosa lachnophylla 'Blue Horizon'

Scabiosa columbaria subsp. *ochroleuca* 'Moon Dance'

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Eryngium 'Big Blue' (PPAF)

Gillenia (syn. *Porteranthus*) *trifoliatus* 'Pink Profusion'

Vernonia lettermannii 'Iron Butterfly'

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Leonotis menthifolia 'Savannah Sunset'

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Agapanthus 'Blue Yonder'

Agapanthus 'Summer Skies'

Camassia quamash 'Midnight Mystique'

Wisteria sinensis 'Pearl Drops'

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Kalmia latifolia 'Show Time'

Kalmia latifolia 'Starburst'

Pinus strobus 'Little Giant'

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Cotinus coggygria 'Black Velvet'

Cotinus coggygria 'Daydream'

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Viburnum 'Nantucket' (NA 69852; PI 651840)

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Celastrus scandens 'Bailumn', Autumn Revolution™ bittersweet

Lonicera × brownii 'Bailelle', Honeybelle™ honeysuckle

Syringa reticulata 'Bailnce', Snowdance™ Japanese tree lilac

***Agapanthus* 'Blue Yonder'**

- Perennial Deciduous
- Zone: 6–10
- Sun Exposure
- Height to 36 inches, spread to 24 inches
- Dense round showy clusters of intense cobalt blue star flowers on long sturdy stems
- Narrow green strap leaves
- Prolific summer bloomer July–Sept
- Excellent container plant
- Propagated by division and tissue culture
- Selected in 1994 as a unique color with excellent form in a population of the hardy form of *A. Headbourne Hybrid*
- A planting becomes more impressive each passing year

***Agapanthus* 'Summer Skies'**

- Perennial deciduous
- Zone: 6–10
- Sun exposure
- Height to 40 inches, spread to 24 inches
- Large showy round clusters of numerous sky blue star flowers on long sturdy stems
- Narrow green strap leaves

- Prolific summer bloomer July–Sept
- A long-lasting cut flower
- Excellent container plant
- Propagated by division and tissue culture
- Selected In 1991 as a unique color with excellent form in a seedling population of the hardy form, a Headbourne Hybrid

Alnus* × *spaethii

This is a rapidly growing large tree, extensively planted as a boulevard tree in Germany and Holland. It is widely pyramidal in form to a height of 50–60 ft with excellent green foliage and beautiful catkins in the late winter. Very tolerant of all soils and good wind resistance. It originated in 1908 in Germany from cross of *Alnus japonica* and *Alnus subcordata*. Hardy to at least Zone 6.

***Cercidiphyllum japonicum* ‘Rotfuchs’ (syn. ‘Red Fox’)**

A relatively recent introduction from Germany, apparently named after the discoverer, whose last name is Fuchs. The chief attribute is the deep maroon color of the new growth that fades to a deep green over the growing season. The growth habit is more upright than a seedling katsura tree, forming a small-statured tree of 20–25 ft; hardiness should be similar (Zone 5).

***Camassia quamash* ‘Midnight Mystique’**

- Northwest native wildflower
- Perennial bulb
- Deciduous — dormant July–Feb
- Full sun to part shade exposure
- Height: to 30 inches, spread: 12 inches
- Upright clump habit
- Large dark blue starry flowers
- Blooms May–June
- Grass-like foliage
- Emerges in early spring
- Foliage dries soon after bloom
- Plant 4 inches deep
- Best in moist soils
- Tolerant of heavy soils
- Forms impressive colonies with age
- Zones 4–10

***Celastrus scandens* ‘Bailumn’, Autumn Revolution™ bittersweet**

- Mature height: 15–25 ft tall
- Exposure: Full sun
- Foliage: Glossy green
- Fall Foliage: Yellow
- Flower color: Insignificant
- Fruit: Orange to red
- Attracts birds and is drought tolerant
- Great as a cut fruit plant
- Zones: 2–8
- Introduction year: 2009

Generally you need a male and a female bittersweet plant to get the much loved orange fruits. But you'll only need one Autumn Revolution™ bittersweet to be guaranteed a beautiful crop of the biggest berries you ever saw.

Autumn Revolution™ bittersweet is a revolutionary breakthrough in bittersweet culture. Imagine never having to wonder if you're buying or selling a male or female plant again? The majority of the flowers formed on Autumn Revolution™ bittersweet are perfect, meaning that the flower itself has both male and female parts. In other words, you only need one plant to bear fruit. Perhaps because of this unique characteristic the fruit production is absolutely extraordinary and the berry size is twice that of the species. Should most definitely be considered for commercial production.

Cotinus

The genus *Cotinus* is an interesting and worthy group of plants for the garden. Commonly referred to as smoketree or smokebush, *Cotinus* is grown for their unusual long lasting "bloom." These summer blooming plants are either shrubs or trees. *Cotinus* are tough plants. They are fairly drought tolerant and generally pest and disease free. Plants are tolerant of a wide array of soil types and pH. And *Cotinus* is generally cold hardy — some types being grown in USDA zone 4b.

Cotinus is placed in the Anacardiaceae or cashew family. It is botanically related to *Rhus*, *Toxicodendron* (poison ivy), *Pistachia*, and *Mangifera*. The genus, *Cotinus* was originally grouped in the genus *Rhus*. There are two to four species in the genus *Cotinus* depending upon interpretation of origin. The two major species are *C. obovatus* and *C. coggygria*.

Our American smoketree, *C. obovatus*, is the only species of *Cotinus* found in North America. It is native to rocky, alkaline sites in the South Central United States — including limited sites in Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. It is a delightful ornamental that deserves to be grown in American gardens and landscapes.

The smokebush, *C. coggygria*, received its common name due to the distinctive smoke-like floral plumes held in masses above the plant in summer. This species has a extremely broad and scattered native range. It can be found in areas of southern Europe, the Mediterranean, the Himalayas and into central China.

There is quite a bit of variation that can be found in *C. coggygria*. There is variation in the following characteristics:

- Growth habit and plant size
- Leaf size, shape and color
- Bloom size, color and proliferation of bloom
- Cold tolerance

There are many named selections of the smokebush. Several were named for their ornamental leaf colors. A few of the more popular selections:

- 'Ancot' – Golden Spirit™ – (PP 13082)
- 'Grace'
- 'Nordine' (Nordine red)
- 'Pink Champagne'
- 'Royal Purple'
- 'Velvet Cloak'
- Young Lady™

In addition to the above mentioned selections, the remainder of the report will describe two additional worthy selections.

***Cotinus coggygia* 'Black Velvet'**

Was originally described and identified by Steve Campbell of Campbell Nursery, Sebastopol, California. This selection was discovered in a batch of purple smoke bush seedlings. It has very distinctive foliage that is a deep velvety purple black color. The plant is very floriferous with a great amount of plumes or "smoke" produced. The fall color is a delightful mix of yellow, orange, red and purples. Plant hardiness for us is untested. It has been grown in California, Kansas, North Carolina and Washington.

***Cotinus coggygia* 'Daydream'**

This selection was originally issued a United States plant patent (PP1844) in 1959. 'Daydream' was named and introduced at Newport Nursery of Newport, Michigan. This is a superb selection, but still unfortunately rare in commerce. The dense shrubby plants are well clothed in foliage that is bluish green in color. Plants are extremely hardy for most smokebushes — being hardy to USDA Zone 4b. What makes this selection so ornamental and unique is the "smoke" covering the plant. The inflorescences are very fluffy, larger and more persistent than other *Cotinus*. The plumes mature from cream to a rich reddish pink color. 'Daydream' can be found growing in several arboreta scattered across the United States.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COTINUS:

- Capiello, P. "We're not just blowing smoke; *Cotinus coggygia* is a winner" NM Pro – Nursery Management & Production July 2004
- Dirr, M.A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants. 5th Edition Stipes Publishing LLC, Chicago, IL ISBN 0-87563-795-7
- Jacobson, A.L. 1996. North American Landscape Trees. Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, CA ISBN 0-89815-813-3
- Macdonald, B. American Nurseryman 200(3):34–36, 38 (2004) Aug. 1.
- Tripp, Kim E. "Considering *Cotinus*." *Arnoldia* 1994 summer 54(2):21–30.

***Eryngium* 'Big Blue' (PPAF)**

This patented member of the Apiaceae family is wonderful *Eryngium* selection made by the breeders at Blooms of Bressingham. Like most eryngiums, it's native to Mediterranean regions.

Description: *Eryngium* 'Big Blue' doesn't just have a blue flower, it has a remarkably iridescent blue flower with blue, silvery stems and silver leaves. *Eryngium* 'Big Blue' is a sturdy, upright plant that has a remarkably long, mid-summer bloom time, and is the kind of plant whose electrifying blue and iridescent silver colors can stop you in your tracks. Hardy from Zones 4–9, it is a highly adaptable plant that absolutely thrives in hot, dry, infertile, sandy, full sun locations. Whether used as a specimen plant, or planted in masses, *Eryngium* 'Big Blue' provides a dramatic effect in the landscape.

Maturing at a height of 28–30 inches tall, this deer-resistant plant is a spectacular and long-lasting cut flower. It will unquestionably drive "impulse buys" at the retail level. It is propagated vegetatively in 50-cell trays and can be easily grown for 1-gal production. *Eryngium* 'Big Blue' has survived 2+ years in North Creek's Mid-Atlantic trials.

Growing in popularity, this great new Blooms introduction fits well in any sunny, dry location including perennial borders, rock gardens, Xeriscapes, and dry meadows.

Available through North Creek Nurseries as well as propagators in the Blooms network of growers.

***Kalmia latifolia* ‘Starburst’**

A little-leaf laurel with a bright full band on a pronounced star-shaped flower. The foliage is clean and glossy dark green. There are some similarities to ‘Minuet’ but the cinnamon-maroon color fills the inside of the corolla, the five-pointed corolla lobes are distinct and the plant habit is broader in habit. A 25-year old plant is 5½ ft tall and 6 ft across. The foliage is dark green, glossy, and the leaf is somewhat v-shaped in cross section.

The breeder requests a voluntary royalty of 15¢ for each plant propagated and sold.

***Kalmia latifolia* ‘Show Time’**

Flowers are oversized, up to 1½ inches across, red in bud and open rich pink. Flowers are reminiscent of ‘Sarah’, but the corolla is strongly lobed and does not recurve. A 20-year old plant, grown in considerable shade, has clean, dark green foliage and is 5 ft × 5 ft. It is derived from a series of five crosses begun in 1969 with ‘Pink Surprise’ as one parent. ‘Sarah’ is in the parentage, plus 10 other unnamed, richly colored selections.

The breeder requests a voluntary royalty of 15¢ for each plant propagated and sold.

***Leonotis menthifolia* ‘Savannah Sunset’**

Imagine a lion’s tail held aloft and you can begin to see this wonderful flower. Furry, orange, tubular flowers emerge from a perfectly round clustered ball on a tall stem. A pettable blossom for a unique container centerpiece or the middle of the border. Vigorous grower.

Height	60–72 inches
Spread	36 inches
Bloom	July–October
Zone	8
Pests	watch for mites
Soils	general garden soil
Exposure	full sun
Care	Easy to grow but prefers plenty of water.

***Lonicera* × *brownii* ‘Bailelle’, Honeybelle™ honeysuckle**

Exclusively from Bailey Nurseries and First Editions™, a versatile easy-to-grow vine for novice and expert gardeners alike. Its first flush of flowers is like a waterfall of golden blossoms and the repeat is extraordinarily consistent. Honeybelle™ honeysuckle is exceptionally hardy, withstanding temperatures to -39 °F with no damage. This compact twining vine will bloom well into fall and produces some red berries. Although it will grow in semi-shaded areas, full sun will ensure the best show of blooms. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Selected by Steve Gessel, elementary school teacher of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Mature height	10–20 ft.
Exposure	Full sun
Shape	Twining
Foliage	Medium green
Flower color	Deep gold well into autumn
Fruit	Red
Attracts	Hummingbirds and butterflies
Zones	3–8
Introduction year	2009

***Pinus strobus* 'Little Giant'**

Propagated from a witches broom found in 1991 by Andy Brand in Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden, Connecticut. Plants have exceptional dark blue-green needles and develop a broad, conical habit. This unique growth form contrasts the habit of most dwarf white pine cultivars that tend to be rounded or spreading. A 14-year old plant stands 42 inches tall and 33 inches broad and has averaged 3 inches of growth a year.

***Gillenia* (syn. *Porteranthus*) *trifoliatus* 'Pink Profusion'**

Gillenia trifoliatus 'Pink Profusion' is a non-patented plant and is a member of the Rosaceae family. It is native to the U.S. and is found in the eastern half of the U.S.A., North to South from Massachusetts to Georgia and centrally from Michigan to Arkansas.

Description: We've enjoyed observing this great native for the past 7 years in the garden, ever since it was presented to us by the Mt. Cuba Center in 2001. We are thrilled to finally be able to offer it to you, thanks to a breakthrough in propagation! At 24–30 inches tall and eventually equally as wide, its deep red stems are adorned with reddish tinted leaves and clear pink flowers which are held daintily above the foliage.

Its early summer flowers shimmer in a light breeze, as though they are butterflies that will take flight at any moment. 'Pink Profusion' is an adaptable plant with a compact habit that prefers average to moist shade, but is quite tolerant of drier conditions once established. It is perfect for mass plantings, along woodland's edge, or in woodland settings and perennial borders.

Gillenia trifoliatus 'Pink Profusion' is propagated through tissue culture and vegetative cuttings and available exclusively from North Creek Nurseries in 72-cell trays.

***Rudbeckia grandiflora* 'Sundance'**

Just when you thought you had seen the last, and the best, of the black-eyed Susans, along comes another excellent one. *Rudbeckia grandiflora* is a not-so-common, drought-resistant species of black-eyed Susan that grows in a few scattered sites around the Southeastern, Midwestern, and Central United States. It is an elegant species with oblong basal leaves and a narrow, upright habit, featuring prominent parasols of golden yellow with tall brown cones. 'Sundance' is Jelitto's select seed strain.

A side-by-side comparison between a few black-eyed Susans might be useful since this species is so little known. 'Goldsturm' is round, medium-sized, and solid. *Rudbeckia laciniata* is tall and has extra large flowers with very good cut-leaf foliage.

Rudbeckia grandiflora ‘Sundance’ is long and lean and represents the best qualities of both. ‘Goldsturm’ remains the clear champion of mass plantings while *R. laciniata* is too tall for most borders. ‘Sundance’ will work in any border and is a stylish, new selection that can be planted as an accent plant or in smaller groups with *Sporobolus wrightii*, *Eupatorium maculatum*, and *Eryngium leavenworthii*.

‘Sundance’ is sturdier than the species with strong flowering stems to 120 cm (48 in.) that have fewer leaves, allowing the lovely, big blooms to stand majestically above the basal foliage below. Dozens of long, slender stems each yield a single flower and make this a worthy cut flower candidate, too. Cold hardy to Zone 4.

***Scabiosa lachnophylla* ‘Blue Horizon’**

William Robinson, in *The English Flower Garden* in 1933, called *Scabiosa caucasica*, “the finest perennial in my garden, it flowers from early summer to late autumn.” A writer who minced no words, it is a pity he didn’t have a chance to grow *S. lachnophylla*. He enjoyed many of the pincushion species but not this one. This species native to East Siberia, China, and Japan is exceedingly rare in cultivation today.

It has performed magnificently on the Jelitto trial field and proven to be more reliably perennial than others. It is cold hardy to Zone 4. Slender, wiry stems push through finely dissected filigreed foliage and initially reveal buds resembling small pale green saucers before opening into frilly violet-blue pincushions. This first year flowering species grows to 70 cm (28 inches) and is a butterfly and bee magnet from July until frost. The delicate but numerous flowers bring vibrancy to favorite floral arrangements.

Scabiosa lachnophylla, in the wild, grows in sandy, non-acidic conditions. Plant this in well-drained soils in the cutting garden, mixed planters, or the border with *Eryngium* ‘Blaukappe’ (‘Blue Cap’), *Malva moschata* ‘Alba’, and *Penstemon* ‘Sunburst Ruby’.

***Scabiosa columbaria* subsp. *ochroleuca* ‘Moon Dance’**

Jelitto is proud to introduce ‘Moon Dance’, the consistent seed strain version of ‘Lemon Sorbet’ — the University of Georgia’s lovely, patented, tissue cultured selection. Both ‘Moon Dance’, and its clonal Georgia cousin, are neater and lower growing than the species, and have proved cold hardy in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. They have also passed muster with Professor Allan Armitage, of the University of Georgia, after withstanding the heat and humidity of the Southeastern U.S.A.

Short wiry stems carry dozens of long-flowering hemispherical light yellow blossoms with stamens that look like tiny pins on a pincushion. Gone are the tall rangy flowering stems, common to so many *Scabiosa* taxa. Jelitto’s seed strain is compact growing, drought resistant, and it does not need a lot of care. ‘Moon Dance’ is happy in normal well-drained soils, too. Use the flowers from early summer on for small bouquets and ‘Moon Dance’ will continue to flower until frost.

‘Moon Dance’ grows to 40 cm (16 inches) and can be spaced 40 cm (16 in.) apart. It is ideally suited for containers, the rock garden, or the front of the border with *Penstemon* ‘Sunburst Ruby’, *Goniolimon* ‘Sea Spray’, and *Stachys* ‘Silky Fleece’. Plants are cold hardy from Zones 5–8.

***Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis* 'Zhang Zhiming',
Beijing Gold® Peking lilac**

Beijing Gold Peking lilac is a selection of Peking lilac (*Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis*) selected by Zhang Zhiming at the Beijing Botanical Garden in People's Republic of China. The Morton Arboretum and the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium obtained the plant from him and introduced it into the U.S.A. market through the Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program.

Beijing Gold Peking lilac is unique for several reasons. Unlike common shrubby lilacs, it is a tree form. It can grow 20 ft tall with 15 ft spread. When young, it forms a narrow upright habit gradually developing into a vase-shaped, wide-spreading crown as it matures. Flowers are primrose-yellow which are produced in great profusion in mid June. The fragrance is not as strong as common lilacs, but pleasant. Ovate leaves are soft green throughout the growing season, turning yellow-gold in the fall. When leaves are defoliated, its attractive cinnamon-colored bark can be fully appreciated. One of the important attributes of this selection is its apparent resistance to phytoplasma, a virus-like disease that killed many common hybrid lilacs.

Beijing Gold® Peking lilac is hardy to U.S.D.A. Zones 4–7. As a small-statured tree with excellent adaptability, it is suited for several different landscape uses including residential landscape, street planting in urban and suburban situations, and near large buildings.

***Syringa reticulata* 'Bailnce', Snowdance™ Japanese tree lilac**

Selected by Rod Bailey because of its exceptionally heavy bloom. Although the species tend to flower biannually, Snowdance™ Japanese tree lilac flowers well annually and begins flowering at an earlier age than the species with large, fragrant panicles of creamy white bloom in June. This sterile cultivar produces no untidy, brown seedheads. Lustrous, dark green foliage is slightly larger and darker than the species. It has a graceful, vase-shaped habit with attractive, shelved branching. A pest- and disease-free lilac tree for residential and park use. Snowdance™ Japanese tree lilac is equally attractive as a specimen as it is in group plantings.

Mature height	18 ft tall × 20 ft wide
Shape	Vase shape, spreading
Exposure	Full sun
Foliage	Dark green
Fall color	Insignificant
Flower color	Creamy white
Attracts	birds
Fragrant	yes
Zone	3–7
Introduction year	2007

***Ulmus* × *hollandica* 'Dampieri Aurea' (syn. 'Wredei')**

This tree is not a recent discovery, its origin dating to 1877 in Germany, where it originated as a sport on *Ulmus* × *hollandica* 'Dampieri'. Known in Europe as "golden elm", it is extensively offered and planted in England, Holland, and Germany. Foliage is a rich gold color fading to lime-green over the growing season. Full sun is required for best color development, although burning may occur in hot, dry cli-

mates. Dutch elm disease resistance is uncertain; some European sources declare it resistant while literature states that 'Dampieri' is susceptible. Form is upright to eventually broadening to a height of 15–20 ft. There may be several clones in existence. Hardy to Zone 5a.

***Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly'**

This patented member of the Asteraceae family is a wonderful new U.S.A. native introduction. It's been named by North Creek, and it was brought to us by the great educator, horticulturalist, and perennial guru, Dr. Allan Armitage of the University of Georgia.

Description: *Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly' is a great new selection of the Arkansas native that has fine-textured foliage like the ever popular *Amsonia hubrichtii*. We gave the plant its name 'Iron Butterfly', because of the plants vigorous, upright, yet compact habit, with its sturdy stems that reach 30–36 in. tall, and grows fantastically as wide. By mid August, to early September, like other Vernonias, it's covered with true, deep purple flowers that attract a multitude of butterflies. Though Vernonias are typically native to moist meadows, *Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly' is most definitely tolerant of hot dry locations. It has performed undeniably well in North Creek's un-irrigated trials for the past 3 years.

Propagated vegetatively in 72-cell trays, this great native selection is hardy in zones at least 4–9 and requires zero maintenance throughout the growing season.

Perfect for quart, 1-gal, or even 2-gal perennial production, it's a must-have addition for every type of garden, including perennial borders, rain gardens, and moist meadows.

***Viburnum* 'Nantucket' (NA 69852; PI 651840)**

'Nantucket', released in July 2008, is the 20th viburnum cultivar introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum. It was selected for its large, lightly fragrant white inflorescences, dark semi-evergreen foliage, and upright relatively compact growth habit. It resulted from a cross made in 1988 of *V. 'Eskimo'* (seed parent) with *V. macrocephalum* f. *keteleeri* that was wild-collected in 1980 from Zhejiang Province, China. Like many viburnums, 'Nantucket' is adapted to a range of environmental conditions, but performs best in full sun to part shade in USDA Hardiness Zones 6–8. It reaches a size of 12 ft tall by 7 ft wide in 16 years of growth, and is well-suited for use as a specimen plant or screen or part of the shrub border. Softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings root in 4 weeks under mist with 1000 ppm IBA. 'Nantucket' performs well in production, often producing flowers on 1-year-old plants.

***Wisteria sinensis* 'Pearl Drops'**

- Vine.
- Deciduous.
- Hardy Zone 5–9.
- Exposure: Sun to partial shade.
- Height and spread: 12–20 ft.
- Need support to climb by twining stems.
- Unique bloom color in May.
- Long clusters of white flowers with a blue eye, give a bi-color effect.