

New Plant Forum®

Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

Presenters:

Vern Black

Bailey Nursery, 1325 Bailey Road, Newport, Minnesota 55055 U.S.A.
Email: vern.black@baileynursery.com

Physocarpus opulifolius 'Donna May' ppaf First Editions® Little Devil™ ninebark

Mark Brand

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06269 U.S.A.
Email: Mark.Brand@uconn.edu

Buddleja davidii 'Summer Skies'
Panicum virgatum 'RR1', Ruby Ribbons® switchgrass

Allen Bush

Jelitto Perennial Seeds, 125 Chenoweth Lane, # 301, Louisville, Kentucky 40207 U.S.A.
Email: allen.w.bush@gmail.com

Deschampsia cespitosa 'Pixie Fountain'
Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus Superior'
Alchemilla sericata 'Gold Strike'

Jeremy D. Deppe

Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., 12601 120th Ave., Grand Haven MI 49417 USA
Email: jeremy@springmeadownursery.com

Buddleja Lo & Behold® 'Purple Haze' ppaf, cbraf
Chaenomeles speciosa, Double Take™ Orange Storm flowering quince ppaf, cbraf
Chaenomeles speciosa, Double Take™ Pink Storm flowering quince ppaf, cbraf
Chaenomeles speciosa, Double Take™ Scarlet Storm flowering quince ppaf, cbraf
Hydrangea macrophylla 'Bernier', Let's Dance® Big Easy™ bigleaf hydrangea
ppaf; pbraf

Brent Horvath

Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, 10702 Seaman Rd., Hebron, Illinois U.S.A.
Brentsmac@aol.com

Geum Cocktails™ Series 'Mai Tai' ppaf
Polemonium 'Heaven Scent' pp 20,214
Sedum 'Thundercloud' 21,883

Thomas G. Ranney

Department of Horticultural Science, Mountain Hort. Crops Res. & Ext. Center, North Carolina State University, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, North Carolina 28759 U.S.A.
Email: tom_ranney@ncsu.edu

×*Gordlinia grandiflora* 'Sweet Tea'

***Alchemilla sericata* ‘Gold Strike’**

Jelitto's new *Alchemilla sericata* ‘Gold Strike’ is free-flowering, with grey-green, velvety leaves that are more scalloped than *A. mollis*. ‘Gold Strike’ has a shorter habit and has been remarkably consistent and more durable in Kentucky's heat and humidity.

Our trials have produced plantings with thick, weed-choking mounds and a lovely profuse constellation of tiny chartreuse flowering stars that have been clearly more abundant than the species. These blooms make lovely cut flowers and are especially useful as fillers, tucked-in around the base of arrangements.

The flower color combines magnificently with most colors and looks particularly lovely planted together with, *Geranium macrorrhizum*, *Luzula sylvatica* ‘Solar Flair’, and *Potentilla atrosanguinea* ‘Scarlet Starlit’.

‘Gold Strike’ is adaptable as a groundcover or as an accent plant in sun or partial shade, only requiring evenly moist soils, and is hardy in Zones 3–8. ‘Gold Strike’ is available in easy-to-germinate Jelitto Gold Nugget Seed®.

Family: Rosaceae

Origin (species): Mediterranean to Caucasus

Special Features: Free flowering, bright chartreuse flowering umbels and velvety gray-green, scalloped foliage. Compact and consistent habit

History: Introduced by Jelitto Perennial Seeds in 2009. Folklore suggests that the dew drops on the leaves of *Alchemilla* could turn ordinary metals to gold

Colour: Greenish-yellow

Natural Flowering Period: June–August

Winter Hardiness Zones: Z3-8

Growth Habit: Thick weed-choking mounds

Foliage: Handsome, velvety gray-green scalloped leaves

Height with Flowers: 35 cm (14 in.)

Spacing between Plants: 40 cm (16 in.)

Soil Requirements: Any good garden soil, pH 5.8–6.8

Location: Full sun to partial shade

Use: Plant in the rock garden, front of the border or containers

Specialities: Lovely small cut flowers; first year flowering and also available as Jelitto Gold Nugget Seed®

Cultural Tips:

Grams per 1,000 Seeds: 0.476

Seeds per Gram: 2,100

Seeding Recommendation: 2 g/1,000 plants

Sowing Rate: 8 seeds per cell

Plug tray recommended size(s): 72, 128

Germination: The sowing must be kept warm (about +18 to 22 °C) [about 64 to 72 °F] and moist for the first 2–4 weeks. After this period the sowing must be kept at a cold temperature (between -4 and +4 °C) [between 25 and 39 °F] for another 4–6 weeks. It is not so important if the temperature is higher or lower during the cooling period, but the cooling period has to be prolonged because the synthesis of the germination inducer, hormone-like acid, slows down or comes to a standstill. After this cooling-period the sowing may not be immediately exposed to high temperatures. The most effective temperatures are between +5 to 12 °C [41 to 54 °F], even if germination has started. The best location for this sowing, even in March, April and May, is the open field, the cold frame, or a cold greenhouse.

***Buddleja davidii* ‘Summer Skies’**

This stable periclinal variegated selection was named ‘Summer Skies’ because of its bright white variegation, which appears cloud-like from a distance, and its pale colored violet-blue flowers that are reminiscent of blue sky. This seedling was selected by William Smith and Mark Brand at the University of Connecticut from a group of *B. davidii* Assorted Colors seedlings that had been exposed to ethyl-methane sulfonate to induce mutations. The leaves are distinctly variegated with approximately 60%–80% of the central portion of the leaf a mid-dark green with minor sectoring of a pale green at the marginal interface. The leaf margin is bright yellow under greenhouse conditions, but is creamy white under full sun conditions. There is greater contrast between the green and white portions of the leaves than with ‘Thia’, Santana™ butterfly bush and the white margin is broader than that of ‘Harlequin’. The white leaf margins of ‘Summer Skies’ have been very resistant to scorch and necrosis even in full sun. ‘Summer Skies’ panicles are quite long with initial terminal panicles exceeding 45 cm long by 6.5 cm wide and secondary lateral panicles approximately 35 cm × 6 cm. The panicle color is a light violet-blue which complements well with the foliage. Flowering occurs by mid-August in Connecticut and is about 2 weeks later than early blooming butterfly bushes. Plants grow to about 5 ft tall by 5 ft wide, but could grow larger in mild climates. Winter hardiness is similar to most other *B. davidii* cultivars and plants survive well in Zone 5, but with some stem dieback. Propagation by softwood cuttings is very easy and container culture is rapid.

***Buddleja* Lo & Behold™ ‘Purple Haze’ ppaf, cbraf**

We are pleased to introduce the newest addition to the Lo & Behold series of dwarf, eco-friendly butterfly bush. This gem has a unique, horizontal, low spreading habit with feathery, deep-green leaves, making it an excellent ground covering plant. The dark purple-blue flowers radiate outward and downward like a purple pinwheel. It’s continuous blooming and is sterile so you don’t get unwanted seedlings in the garden. Developed by Dr. Dennis Werner of North Carolina State University. It is a violation of state and/or federal law to use a trademark without permission. The propagation of and/or the sale of plant parts is prohibited without a license. Patent/trademark tag and container required. USDA 5, AHS 9, 24–36 in. tall × 36 in. wide.

***Deschampsia cespitosa* ‘Pixie Fountain’**

Deschampsia ‘Pixie Fountain’ is a new, lower-growing Jelitto introduction, only one-half the height 60 cm (24 in.) of the ordinary tufted hair grass. It is also a marvel-

ous long-lived, dense clump-forming, consistent seed strain with darker evergreen foliage and slightly wider upright leaves. The lovely cloud-like airy blooms appear in June on sturdy stems, opening a bright light green, and maturing to golden tan by early fall. The prolific flowering effect is noticeably enhanced by backlighting.

‘Pixie Fountain’ can be extraordinarily effective when it is planted in large groupings, or as an edging plant, in full sun in cooler summer climates. An open woodland setting would be preferred in warmer summer climates. The foliage of *Deschampsia* ‘Pixie Fountain’ self-cleans and is therefore one of the easiest of all ornamental grasses to maintain.

Mass plantings look outstanding and can be combined with *Euphorbia palustris*, *Luzula sylvatica* ‘Solar Flair’, and *Primula japonica* ‘Appleblossom’. Flowering stems □ fresh or dried □ make nice cut flowers, too.

Deschampsia cespitosa is a species that grows in humus-rich, moist soils, even in bogs, over much of the cooler regions of north temperate portions of Europe, Asia, and North America. Our seeds of this *Deschampsia* originated from the far North, and we estimate it to be hardy in Zones 2–7 — more so than the ordinary species.

Family: Poaceae, Gramineae

Origin (species): Europe, Asia, and North America

Special Features: Brilliant silver-green, followed by golden-brown flower spikes, compact habit. Forms dense evergreen clumps. Especially cold hardy.

History: Introduced by Jelitto Perennial Seeds in 2010

Colour: Silver-green spikes fading to decorative golden-brown

Natural Flowering Period: June–September

Winter Hardiness Zones: Zone 2–7

Growth Habit: Thick clumps

Foliage: Narrow evergreen leaves

Height with Flowers: 60 cm (24 in.)

Spacing between Plants: 45 cm (18 in.)

Soil Requirements: Humus-rich, moist soils — even in bogs — over cooler summer regions, pH 5.8–6.8

Location: Full sun to partial shade

Use: Mass plantings look outstanding

Specialities: Flowering stems — fresh or dried — make nice cut flowers

Cultural Tips:

Grams per 1,000 Seeds: 0,185

Seeds per Gram: 5,400

Seeding Recommendation: 1 g/1,000 plants

Sowing Rate: 5–6 seeds per cell

Plug tray recommended size(s): 128,288

Germination: Rapidly germinating, keep seed in constant moisture (not wet) with temperatures of about +20 °C [68 °F]. Do not cover the seed but tightly press into the earth. Keep in cooler conditions after germination occurs. The germination might be slower and more irregular. This poses no problems.

Scheduling:

Best Sowing Dates: Anytime

Sowing to Germination: 2–3 weeks

Germination to Transplant: 4–6 weeks

Transplanting to Salable Plant: 8–10 weeks

Cutting-Back at Transplanting: Not necessary

Growing on:

Container Size(s): 1–2 plugs per $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.); 2–3 plugs per 15 cm (6 in.)

Vernalization: There is no current research on vernalization but a prudent recommendation for any perennial would be 6–12 weeks (a few might need 15 weeks!) at an *average* daily temperature of 40 °F (5 °C). Exposure to cold may not be necessary for flowering but might improve quality.

Forcing: An obvious place to experiment — following vernalization — would be raising daytime temperatures to 60–65 °F (15–17 °C). Provide 16 h of continuous lighting. During the short days of winter, provide a night interruption lighting of 4 hours between 10 PM and 2 AM.

Fertilization: Medium (150–200 ppm)

Double Take™ Quince Series

Chaenomeles speciosa, Double Take™ Orange Storm flowering quince
ppaf, cbraf

Chaenomeles speciosa, Double Take™ Pink Storm flowering quince
ppaf, cbraf

Chaenomeles speciosa, Double Take™ Scarlet Storm flowering quince
ppaf, cbraf

A double take is what you'll do when you see these new quince selections. The Double Take™ series gives quince a complete makeover, starting with a spectacular display of big, double, camellia-like flowers in early spring. Look further and you'll also notice these plants are thornless! These drought-tolerant plants are excellent for hedging, mass planting, and flower arranging. They generally do not produce fruit. Develop by Dr. Thomas Ranney and his team at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center in Asheville, North Carolina, U.S.A. It is a violation of state and/or federal law to use a trademark without permission. The propagation of and/or the sale of plant parts is prohibited without a license. Patent/trademark tag and container required. USDA 5, AHS 9, 4–5 ft tall and wide.

Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus Superior'

Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' set the standard for coneflowers. The remarkably affordable, uniform seed strain has been one of the most popular perennials world-

wide since Jelitto's 1985 introduction. Named in honor of its originator Magnus B. Nilsson, who spent 10 years of selection work before offering it to Klaus R. Jelitto, it went on to earn the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (A.G.M.) in 2003 and the Perennial Plant Association's Plant of the Year (1998).

But even the standard can be improved, and now celebrating the Silver Anniversary of 'Magnus', Jelitto marks the milestone with the introduction of 'Magnus Superior'. Darker blooms and stem color, plus more consistent growth, are its finest characteristics. The spiny-looking bold cones, even larger than 'Magnus', are decorative, too. (So decorative that the Genus got its name *Echinacea* from the Greek *echinos* which means: *hedgehog*.)

How many of you have simply grown nostalgic for a new, truly improved "purple" coneflower? 'Magnus Superior' is cost-effective. It is a reliable garden performer, and it is easy to propagate. Help us celebrate 25 years of making the best, better.

Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus Superior' Coneflower:

Id-Code: RA 181

Family: Asteraceae, Compositae

Origin (species): North America: Ohio and Michigan south to Georgia, west to Oklahoma and northeast Texas

Special Features: 2010 Jelitto introduction to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the award winning 'Magnus'. The result: darker blooms and stems color, plus more consistent growth

History: Introduced by Jelitto Perennial Seeds in 2010

Colour: Dark carmine-red

Natural Flowering Period: July–September

Winter Hardiness Zones: Zone 3–8

Growth Habit: Upright

Foliage: Ovate-lanceolate; 20 × 10 cm (8 × 3 in.)

Height with Flowers: 100 cm (40 in.)

Spacing between Plants: 45 cm (18 in.)

Soil Requirements: Well-drained soils, pH 5.8–6.8

Location: Full Sun

Use: Plant 'Magnus Superior' in mass plantings or can be combined in the border with *Lavatera* 'First Light', *Penstemon* 'Sunburst Colours', and *Eupatorium aromaticum*

Specialities: Cut flowers and decorative seed heads

Cultural Tips:

Grams per 1,000 seeds: 4

Seeds per gram: 250

Seeding recommendation: 10 g/1,000 plants

Sowing rate: 2–3 seeds per cell

Plug tray recommended size(s): 72, 128

Germination: Rapidly germinating, keep seed in constant moisture (not wet) with temperatures of about +20 °C (68 °F). Seeds must be covered thinly. Keep in cooler conditions after germination occurs. The germination might be slower and more irregular. This poses no problems.

Scheduling:

Best sowing dates: Anytime

Sowing to germination: 2–3 weeks

Germination to transplant: 4–8 weeks

Transplanting to salable plant: 6–10 weeks

Cutting-back at transplanting: Not necessary

Growing on:

Container size(s): 1–2 plugs per $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.)

Vernalization: Some flowering will occur the 1st year without vernalization, but improved flowering will occur the 2nd year; and 3–10 weeks of cool temperatures might benefit fuller flowering in the 1st year.

Forcing: There has been no research on 'Magnus Superior', but an obvious place to experiment — following vernalization — would be raising daytime temperatures to 60–65 °F (15–17 °C). Provide 16 h of continuous lighting. During the short days of winter, provide a night interruption lighting of 4 h between 10 pm and 2 am. Some later flowering species can be forced in 14–16 weeks and perhaps sooner at warmer temperatures. Further experiments are warranted with 'Magnus Superior'.

Fertilization: Medium (150–200 ppm)

Geum Cocktails™ Series 'Mai Tai' ppaf

Heavy blooming plants have single to semi-double blooms of vermilion red fading to peach and then pink starting in May. Clumping mounds are semi-evergreen and reach over 1 ft wide and are topped with burgundy 18-in. stems. Full sun, moist rich to average soils are best.

Propagation of this patented plant is encouraged with a license. Propagate by basal cuttings or division after flowering in June.

×*Gordlinia grandiflora* 'Sweet Tea'

As if ×*Gordlinia grandiflora* (a rare intergeneric hybrid between *Franklinia* and *Gordonia* (see reference by Ranney, T.G., and P.R. Frantz below for more information), wasn't unusual enough, 'Sweet Tea' is a polyploidy form with extra sets of chromosomes. The result...huge (5-in. diameter), showy flowers that look like big fried eggs. Semi-evergreen with large, single, camellia-like flowers from July through September. Why 'Sweet Tea'? Well, it's a member of the tea family, the

flowers have a light sweet fragrance, and it comes from the South where sweet tea runs in our veins. Okay, it's not the toughest tree on the planet, so give it a good site. More resistant to *Phytophthora* than *Franklinia* (see reference to article by Meyer et al. below), but it's still a bit persnickety. Best in full sun or a little afternoon shade as long as it's not too dry. Roots from stem cuttings in a matter of minutes, then takes off growing. Mature height is estimated to be 20–30 ft. Zone 7–10. Developed at North Carolina State University. Not patented or trademarked.

Meyer, E.M., T.G. Ranney, T.A. Eaker, and K. Ivors. 2009. Differential Resistance of Gordoniaeae Trees to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. HortScience 44(5):1484–1486. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/staff/tranney/meyer_et_al2009.pdf>.

***Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Berner', Let's Dance® Big Easy™ bigleaf hydrangea ppaf; pbraf**

Let's Dance® series just got bigger and better. This reblooming, mop-head hydrangea has the largest in the Let's Dance series or any other series for that matter. The huge blooms go through a wonderful progression of color changes, from pink/green to pink, and often back to green. Color ranges from rich pink to blue. It is a violation of state and/or federal law to use a trademark without permission. The propagation of and/or the sale of plant parts is prohibited without a license. Patent/trademark tag and container required. USDA Zone 5, AHS 9, 2–3 ft.

***Panicum virgatum* 'RR1' Ruby Ribbons® pp 17,944 switchgrass**

This plant resulted from a cross between *P. virgatum* 'Haense Herms' and *P. virgatum* 'Heavy Metal' made by Mark Brand at the University of Connecticut. Plants grow to be 3 ft to 4 ft tall and 2 ft to 3 ft wide. The base foliage color is metallic blue that is similar to 'Heavy Metal'. In Connecticut, foliage tips begin to turn burgundy red around July 1st and the burgundy color progresses down the leaves as the summer continues. The dark red foliage color develops earlier and more fully on Ruby Ribbons® than on other red-leaved *P. virgatum* cultivars. Propagation by division is easy and plants grow well in container culture. Ruby Ribbons® switchgrass exhibits more controlled growth than many other larger-growing *P. virgatum* cultivars.

***Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Donna May' ppaf, First Editions® Little Devil™ ninebark**

Bred here in Minnesota by Dr. David Zlesak, a young horticulturist who recently got his Ph.D. in horticulture from the University of Minnesota and is currently teaching at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

David used Diabolo® and made a number of crosses with *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Nanus'. The result is Little Devil which is the smallest *Physocarpus* currently on the market.

Reaching a mature height of 4 ft, with a spread of 3 ft, it has the dark, purplish brown leaf color of 'Diabolo', and the small leaf size of 'Nanus'. It has an upright growing habit with slightly arching branches. It blooms in early summer with that classic *Physocarpus* flower of white to pink, contrasting beautifully against the dark foliage.

Propagating easily from softwood cuttings, it is a good grower, and thrives in full sun situations.

***Polemonium* 'Heaven Scent' pp 20, 214**

Lacey pinnate foliage emerges red and continues to hold red highlights until summer. Grape-scented blue flowers begin in May and continue into June. Plants top out at 18–24 in. tall. Drought tolerant clumps can grow in full sun to part shade. 'Heaven Scent' makes a nice cut flower.

Propagation of this patented plant is encouraged with a license. Tissue Culture stage III available from Vitro Westland in Holland. Basal cutting divisions including a piece of root in June can also be used in addition to division in August/September.

***Sedum* 'Thundercloud' 21,833**

Unique pointed grey-green foliage emerges in spring on strongly mounding domes. Slowly expanding to 10–12-in. mounds with white spectabile-type flowers the end of August into September. Full sun, well-drained soil are best.

Propagation of this patented plant is encouraged with a license. Propagates like *S. sieboldii*. Cuttings should be approximately 2–3 in. and done in spring; keep the cuttings on the dry side. Available as unrooted cuttings.