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Friday Morning, December 1, 1978

NEW PLANT FORUM

Alfred Fordham served as moderator.

MODERATOR FORDHAM: Our first speaker on this portion of the program will be Tom McCloud who has four plants which he would like to discuss.

TOM McCLOUD: The four plants I would like to tell you

about today are releases from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Lagerstroemia 'Muskogee' is a multiple-stemmed, large shrub or small tree with exfoliating bark. The heavy, glossy, dark green leaves turn good shades of reds and yellows in the autumn. The abundant inflorescences are a light lavender. Under field conditions the plant is highly mildew tolerant.

Lagerstroemia 'Natchez' is a multistemmed, large shrub or small tree. The most outstanding characteristic is the dark cinnamon brown exfoliating trunk bark that remains spectacular all year. The foliage turns orange and red in the autumn. Under field conditions the plant is highly mildew resistant.

Both cultivars are reliably hardy to Zone 7b.

Pyracanta × 'Navaho' has a low dense branching habit. It is a semi-evergreen to evergreen shrub with dark green leaves. The abundant white inflorescences in May are followed by a spectacular fruit display. The fruit clusters are 4-5 cm in diameter. The fruit ripens to a luminescent orange red and persists throughout most of the winter. The plant is scab resistant, highly fire blight tolerant, and hardy to Zone 7.

Pyracanta × 'Teton' has a distinct upright growth habit. The semi-persistent leaves are a medium green. The abundant white flowers in May are followed by 4-6 cm clusters of yellow-orange fruit that persists until January. The plant is scab resistant, highly fire blight tolerant and hardy to Zone 6b.

MODERATOR FORDHAM: Paul Meyer has two plants to present.

PAUL MEYER: *Prunus* 'Okame' has several features that make this cherry valuable for landscape purposes. Most cherries flower for only a short time in the spring (5-7 days). *P.* 'Okame' has an effective color period of three weeks. The buds are a maroon color and open to a bright pink. After the petals fall the stamens give a red color to the plant for another week. The form is upright oval. It can be propagated from softwood cuttings in June.

Clethra barbinervis, the Japanese clethra, is far superior to *C. alnifolia*. It grows to be a large shrub or small tree. The main feature that it has going for it is the flowers in late July and early August. The white flower clusters are 6 to 8 inches long. Another good feature of this plant is the mottled striations of the bark. Softwood cuttings in June, treated with Hormodin 2, root readily.

MODERATOR FORDHAM: Dr. Elwin Orton has two *Pyracantha* selections to show us.

DR. ELWIN ORTON: *Pyracantha* × 'Firey Cascade' is a relatively low growing form. The fruit starts out as more of an orange color that changes to red. Foliage is small and dark green. Although the last two winters have not been kind to it, the cultivar is hardier than most of the red cultivars in the trade. No fire blight or scab has been detected on this plant.

Pyracantha coccinea 'Rutgers' is fully winter hardy. It reaches a maximum height of 24 to 30 inches and has orange fruit. The selection is similar to 'Low Boy', however, it is totally resistant to scab and no trace of fire blight has been detected on the plant.

MODERATOR FORDHAM: Ed Mezitt would like to present a series of azalea hybrids he has made.

ED MEZITT: *Rhododendron* 'Gibrosea' flowers before any of the Exbury types. It is very floriferous and fragrant. The plant has a compact growth habit and is hardy.

R. 'Circus' has color variation within the flower cluster which makes it more attractive. Pink, yellow and red colors occur.

R. 'Popsicle' has a good clean foliage and flowers after most other rhododendrons. The June flowering date allows extension of the flowering season and the new growth is no problem because it is very floriferous.

MODERATOR FORDHAM: Joerg Leiss has four plants that he would like to tell you about.

JOERG LEISS: *Syringa* 'Slaters Elegance' is a very large flowered hybrid. The flowers are single and white in color.

Syringa 'Agincourt Beauty' is a large single flowered hybrid. The flowers are violet in color.

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk' is a sturdy, compact Japanese tree lilac with an oval growth habit. It flowers when young with large creamy white flower clusters in early July.

The last plant is an American ash we found growing. The main feature of this plant is its growth habit which is narrow like a pool cue. The first year's growth is purple and it has a good purplish color in the fall. It can be grafted on any ash understock. We are calling it *Fraxinus americana* 'Manitoo'.