

New Plant Forum 2021 – Eastern Region IPPS

Kris Bachtell, Moderator

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Summary

New plants for 2021 are highlighted and described. This year six IPPS-ER breeders

presented herbaceous and woody perennial plants.

PRESENTER

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***Hydrangea macrophylla* Tuxedo® Series** have deep-purple flushed foliage and occur in both mophead and lacecap form (for different preferences). They are mid-size shrubs (3ft tall × 3ft wide) that flower for 3-4 months from summer to first frost. They can be used in indoor or outdoor containers or also in the landscape. Plants perform best in shade to part-shade but will tolerate some (morning) sun. Available in red and pink. Hardy in USDA Zone 6-9.



Showpiece™ Roses Series are from the breeder of Flower Carpet® Roses. Plants grow up to 2ft wide × 3ft tall. They have full, large, double flowers with a glorious old-world look and a strong pleasant fragrance. Cutting grown (not grafted) plants bloom from late spring to mid fall, are self-

cleaning and exhibit excellent disease resistance. They are available in four colors including Berry (dark pink-red), Blush (soft pink), Champagne (creamy orange-peach) and Lipstick (rich reddish-pink). Hardy in USDA Zone 5 – 10.



Lipstick
(rich reddish-pink)



Champagne (creamy
orange-peach)



Blush
(soft pink)



Berry
(dark pink-red)

PRESENTER

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***Solidago* ‘Sugar Kisses’ (Sugar Kisses solidago PPAF)** hybrid *Solidago* has upright woody stems with lime yellow buds in July. Blooms appear August and last into September. Mature plants size is 18 to 24 inches tall by 15 to 18 inches wide with thin foliage that remains clean throughout the season. Plants can be used like a short aster for the front of a mixed border and mix well with short grasses. It is hardy in USDA zones 4 – 9.



PRESENTER

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***Acer* ‘Morton UW’ Morning Starburst™ maple** is a s new maple selection from The Morton Arboretum is a chance seedling selected from our China collection (644-81*1). Originally received as seed from the University of Washington Botanic Gardens as *Acer circinatum* (vine maple) in 1981, today we recognize this tree as a putative hybrid originating from seed of *A. circinatum* and possibly the pollen of *A. pseudo-sieboldianum*.

What makes this selection so special? While there were additional seedlings of *A. circinatum* propagated from the original seed packet shared by UWBG, this is the only individual that has survived the hot and humid summers as well as frigid winters marked by polar vortexes of the Chicago suburbs. It was first noted by Kris Bachtell due to its stunning and consistent fall color and gracefully spreading form. A small specimen tree, this selection has also demonstrated its resilience in commercial nursery production following the 2021 heat wave of the Pacific Northwest region. While others in the field suffered from burned foliage, the Morning Starburst™ selection showed no signs of heat stress.



Fall color

Several clones (grafted onto *A. palmatum* rootstock) were planted in various sites on the grounds of the Arboretum in the fall of 2018 just before the record-breaking 2019 polar vortex. While many of the trees on Arboretum grounds suffered from die-back and decline due to the unprecedented low temperatures, the freshly planted Morning Starburst™ have shown no signs of stress due to cold damage. A low branching small tree with a height of approximately 20-30 ft at maturity and a spread of approximately 15-20 ft, USDA hardiness zone 5 – 8.

Available from: Kuenzi Turf & Nursery, Heritage Seedlings & Liners, and J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.

***Gymnocladus dioicus* ‘Morton’, Skinny Latte® Kentucky coffee tree** is an upright and columnar male selection of Kentucky coffee tree is a chance seedling discovered in The Morton Arboretum collections. Originally accessioned as a seedling purchased from Cole Nursery in 1958, the first clonal propagation of this selection took place in 1968. Four of the original clones currently growing in the Arboretum tree breeding nursery are pictured in the photo below.

This selection has tight upright branching forming a narrowly fastigiata habit, and there has been no evidence of branch sports producing female flowers and fruit. Will make a great street tree and can provide some architectural interest in a winter landscape. Height 50’, Width 15-20’, USDA Hardiness zone 3-8



Summer



Winter

PRESENTER

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Mt. Cuba Center conducts trials on native species and their related cultivars to determine their horticultural merit and ecological value in the mid-Atlantic region. The *Echinacea* trial, which included 75 cultivars and species, was evaluated over three growing seasons from 2018-2020.

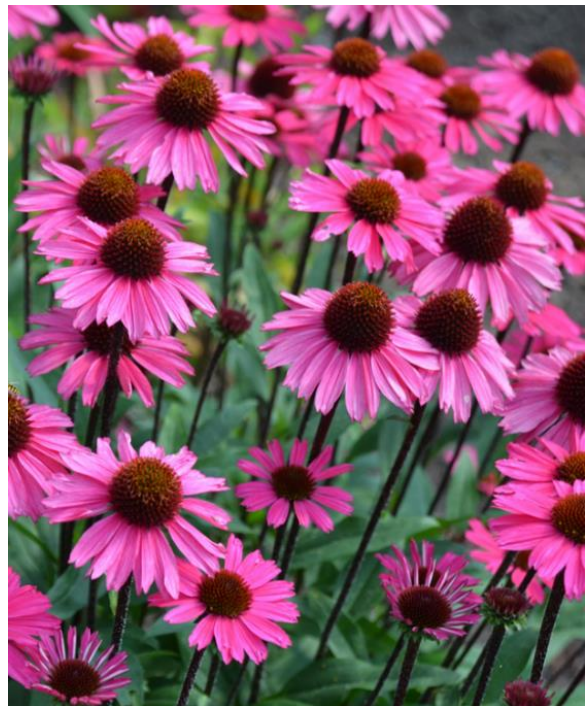
Why trial *Echinacea*?

Echinacea purpurea ‘Pica Bella’ (5.0) was a top performer in our latest trial and tied for first in our original trial of the genus. It is vigorous and uniform and a more compact selection compared to the species. Ranked in the top 15 cultivars for pollinator attraction.



- Evaluate new cultivars in the mid-Atlantic for horticultural appeal
- Re-evaluate a selection of previous top performers from Mt. Cuba Center’s first trial of the genus *Echinacea* conducted in 2007-2009.
- Observe plants for disease resistance and longevity
- Record pollinator preference (bees, wasps, and butterflies)

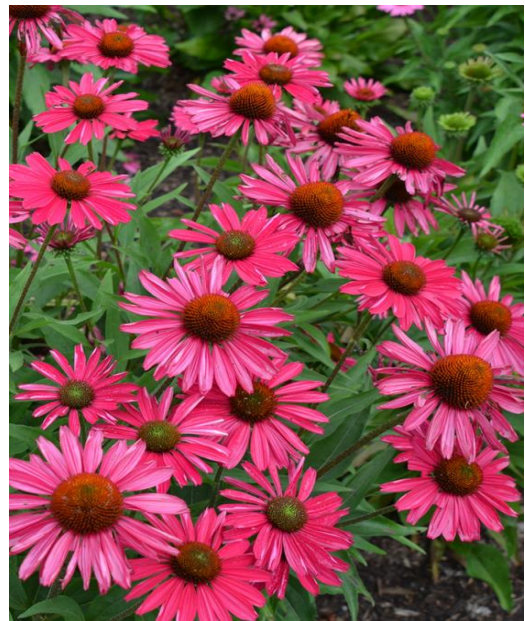
Echinacea ‘Sensation Pink’ (4.9) was bred by Marco van Noort in the Netherlands. It has incredible neon pink blooms on contrasting dark stems. It ranked in the top five cultivars for pollinator attraction.



Echinacea ‘Santa Fe’ (4.8) is a Proven Winners® introduction and is also known as *Echinacea* Lakota® Fire in the trade. It was the top rated red/orange cultivar in the trial. Minor variations between plants but, overall, they formed tidy 2’ mounded plants with exceptional floral displays. A top-five pollinator visitor favorite in 2018 and 2019.



Echinacea ‘TNECHKR’, KISMET® Raspberry (4.7) is one of several Terra Nova Nurseries introductions that are included in our top performers list. It is a vigorous semi-compact plant that has oversized saturated pink blooms and extra wide petals creating tremendous floral impact.



PRESENTER

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***Echinacea* Fine Feathered™ ‘Parrot’ PPAF** originates from AB-Cultivars, Netherlands. It has bright, golden yellow petals with a pumpkin orange halo surround a velvety brown cone for a stunning combination. Not only is the color brilliant, but the number of flowers is also astounding. Each retail-ready plant can have up to 50 flowers per pot. That’s amazing!

Plants are 18-24 in. tall by 24 in. wide. Use in borders, containers, cutting gardens, foundations, mass plantings and urban gardens. Hardy in USDA zones 6-9. They are tissue culture propagated and available for purchase from TC - AB-Cultivars; Liners - Garden World, Creek Hill, Jardins de Paquette.



***Leucothoe axillaris* 'ReJoyce' PP#30821**
from Greg Joyce of Edgar Joyce Nursery
Plants grow 24-36 in. tall by 36-42 in. and
offer year-round interest. Beginning in
spring, new leaves erupt in a blaze of red
over tidy green mounds. White, urn-
shaped flowers form in short clusters on
gently arching, yet dense branches, adding
a graceful elegance to any setting, whether
it be container plantings or your favorite
garden path. As summer begins to fade,
'ReJoyce' ignites again with the entire
plant bursting into autumn colors of deep

wine red- persisting through winter. Re-
Joyce is also a grower's dream because
cuttings can be rooted throughout the
growing season, the plants do not get leaf
spot in the nursery and they are much more
resistant to root rot. Use in borders, founda-
tions, woodland gardens, and slopes.
Hardy in USDA zones 6-9. Plants from
vegetative cuttings are available for pur-
chase from Manor View Farms, Edgar
Joyce Nursery, Overdevest Nurseries,
Saunders Brothers, Piedmont Carolina
Nursery.



Summer color



Winter color

***Metasequoia glyptostroboides* ‘Soul Fire’ PP#32580** originates from Andrew Schenck. This new gold needled redwood was found by one of our favorite plant geeks, Andy Schenck, owner of Sam Brown’s Nursery. It has extraordinary spring, summer and fall color that will light up any garden space. Each spring, bright, lime-green needles emerge with a rosy-orange frosting, making for a two-toned effect. As the summer days grow longer, and the heat and humidity pick up, the needles change to bright, chartreuse and don’t fade until fall brings on a bright, orange hue. Plants can grow 15-18' tall by 10-15' wide. Soul Fire can take full sun, but will be just as colorful in part shade. Dawn redwoods are also good for urban sites where temperature and soil moisture extremes can often be extreme. Use as a specimen focal point, urban gardens, or wet areas. Hardy in USDA zones 4-9. Grafted liners are available for purchase from Hans Nelson and Sons.



PRESENTER

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Rhododendron × *kosteranum* ‘FireDak’,
Fireflare Orange® mollis azalea is a single plant selection originating from a hybrid Mollis azalea seedling population. It has performed admirably for over 40 years of evaluation. This NDSU deciduous hybrid azalea cultivar has proven to be pH adaptable and winter hardy. It is a dense, compact semi-dwarf shrub with a medium growth rate to four feet tall and five feet wide.

The deciduous foliage is a medium green summer color with outstanding yellow orange to reddish-purple autumn color. USDA hardiness zones 3b – 8. Propagation is from stem cuttings or tissue culture (microcuttings will be available Spring 2022 from Mountain Shadow Nursery, Washington).



Flowering plant



Fall color

***Betula tianshanica* ‘EmerDak’, Emerald Flare® Tianshan birch** is a distinctive narrowly pyramidal form. Attractive white exfoliating bark with gray and slight orange undertones. Cold hardy and tolerant of higher pH soils (>8.0 pH) and drought. It has an upright, pyramidal habit with a medium to fast growth rate to a height of 30 feet and 12 feet wide.

Summer foliage is of high quality without blemishes resulting from birch leafminer or

leaf spot. During summer drought conditions, no foliar stress symptoms such as leaf scorch or early leaf drop which is seen on many other birch species. Fall color is a bright golden-yellow. Hardy in USDA zones 3b – 6. Tissue culture plants are available from Baker’s Nursery (Ontario, Canada), Knight Hollow Nursery (WI), Evergreen Nursery (WI). Birch tissue culture liners typically do not grow 1st year after transplant and will put on growth 2nd year; Emerald Flare® starts growing 1st year.



***Pinus mugo* ‘HyDak’, Hyland Splendor® mugo pine** is a single plant selection originating from a population of *Pinus mugo* seedlings. The selection has darker green foliage and maintains this high quality dark green needle color during the winter months as compared to the other sibling trees from the original seedling population. It has an upright, pyramidal habit with a slow to medium growth rate to 15 to 18 feet tall and 8 to 10 feet wide.

Nursery trials have shown that Hyland Splendor® grows 20% faster in a controlled commercial nursery production setting as compared to ‘Tannenbaum’. This increased growth rate will increase profitability with growing this selection. The species and prominent cultivar, ‘Tannenbaum’, often develop an undesirable yellowish-green winter needle color. Hyland Splendor® is unique in that it doesn’t develop this typical winter needle color and stays a superior dark green. USDA hardiness zone 3a to 7.



Form



Standard *Pinus mugo* on left and Hyland Splendor® on right