

PLANTS IN SOUTH KOREA: MY IMPRESSIONS

PETER CATT

Liss Forest Nursery Ltd., Petersfield Road,
Greatham, Nr. Liss, Hampshire.
GU33 6EX, England

I visited South Korea in April/May, 1984, at the invitation of Mr. Ferris Miller, born an American but who adopted Korean citizenship. He, I understand, works in the Korean Stock Exchange during the week but at weekends and whenever else he can, travels about 100 km south to a small village called Chollipo on the Yellow Sea coast. Here he has his arboretum.

He has collected many species of plants from many parts of the world. Naturally, with China and Japan on either side of South Korea there is a predominance of plants from that area.

My wife and I did get into the hills of the area and we also went south to Kwanju and later flew to the southern island of Cheju and climbed nearly to the top of Mount Halla. Listed below are some interesting plants that we saw¹:

Aesculus species

Carpinus coreana. I thought this small tree with its bushy habit a winner for landscape work.

Cedrela sinensis 'Flamingo'—when this shrub comes into growth in the early spring the glowing pink young growth is really very, very pretty.

Cercis chinensis—a much richer flower colour than *Cercis siliquastrum* and the flowers more densely packed.

Cercis chinensis 'Alba'—a pure white form.

Daphne genkwa—not a plant to put on a big display in our part of the world, but how beautiful it is in its native habitat with its beautiful lilac-blue flowers.

Edgeworthia papyifera—another plant that excels in its own climate with its yellow 'scented' daphne-like flowers.

Epimedium species—large lilac-blue flowers.

Euonymus alata var. *macrophylla* I collected seed from this very wide winged barked euonymus but, unfortunately, they did not germinate.

Euonymus japonica 'Chollipo'—a selection made at the arboretum with gold-edged leaves and an upright habit.

Magnolia 'Maharanee'—a pure white.

Magnolia × *soulangiana* 'Coates', a very good form with deep reddish-purple flowers.

Magnolia 'Woodman'—lovely yellow flowers. (Magnolias are Ferris Miller's first love and he has a very good collection).

¹Mr. Catt showed slides of all these plants (Ed. Note).

Weigela koriana—the flowers, turning as they do from yellow to orange to red, make this plant a winner for me.

The following species were also observed in South Korea:

Abies koreana,

Ginkgo biloba—freshly planted and heavily pruned,

Hepatica asiatica,—in damp shady area,

Juniperus species—clipped “paddle” fashion,

Magnolia liliiflora—A very rich purple,

Paeonia species—a beautiful tree type,

Pinus bungeana—in a school playground,

Pinus densiflora—this pine and *Pinus thunbergiana* are the predominant trees and sometimes one sees hybrids between the two,

Primula sieboldii—growing in damp soil,

Prunus glandulosa ‘Sinensis’,

Pulsatilla species—with brown-red flowers—on a dry area,

Rhododendron poukhanense—covers whole hillsides beneath the pines,

Rhododendron species—a dwarf azalea above the tree line on Mount Halla,

Zelkova serrata—a stock plant for bonsai.