

New and Unusual Plants Worthy of Use and Propagation

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***Fraxinus sieboldiana* (Oleaceae).** A true ash, this plant closely resembles its cousin, *Chionanthus virginicus* with profuse white flowers in late spring. It is a small tree or large shrub. Fall color is golden yellow tinged with purple. Propagation is by seed which has a cold-stratification requirement.

***Hibiscus* 'Lohengrin' (Malvaceae).** A seedless hybrid developed by Hal Bruce at Winterthur Museum between *H. paramutabilis* and *H. syriacus*. These are large shrubs and are completely hardy in Zones 6B. Propagated by cuttings.

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Tardiva' (Hydrangeaceae).** An outstanding selection of *H. paniculata* with strong vigorous upright flower spikes. Blooms in late summer to early autumn. Easily propagated from cuttings.

***Camellia sinensis* (Theaceae).** The tea plant of the orient. An excellent fall blooming camellia with masses of tiny white flowers—very fragrant. This plant is not particularly hardy beyond Zone 7, but could be pushed north if planted in the shade. Easily propagated from hardwood cuttings taken in late fall.

***Buddleja globosa* (Loganiaceae).** A South American species which has yellow flowers that occur in rounded clusters, hence its name *globosa*. *Buddleja globosa* is reliably hardy in Zones 7 but can be pushed into Zone 6. Plant is easily propagated from cuttings and presumably from seed.

***Magnolia ashei* (Magnoliaceae).** Native to North Florida this deciduous magnolia is surprising in that it is perfectly hardy in Zone 6. This magnolia has huge 12-in.-diameter white flowers with a center of purple splotches and light lemon-yellow fall color. Propagation is by seed or budding on to *M. tripetala*.

***Magnolia sieboldii* (Magnoliaceae).** This Chinese magnolia is much later blooming than most—it is not unusual for this plant to bloom in June and July. The flowers are small, 4 to 5 in. across, and have bright red stamens. Propagate by budding. Zone 6.

***Magnolia* 'Butterflies' (Magnoliaceae).** Butterflies is a *M. acuminata* hybrid and has the very distinctive cupshaped yellow flowers. Propagate by budding. Zone 6.

***Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra* 'Sommersonne' (syn. 'Summer Sun') (Compositae).** This plant rewards the owner with masses of bright yellow non-stop daisy-like flowers all summer. It is hardy to Zone 4. Propagation is by cuttings, although it is not as easy as most composites. Proper timing and stock plant management is essential for propagation.

***Spiraea fritschiana* (Rosaceae).** A Chinese species with blue-green foliage and excellent flowering both in shade and in full sun. *Spiraea fritschiana* is easily propagated from cuttings. A relatively new introduction into the United States which is hardy to at least Zone 6.

***Clematis stans* (Ranunculaceae).** A species closely related to *C. heracleifolia* which has masses of white flowers in late summer to early fall. This species is hardy to Zone 4. Propagation is by cuttings or seed, but caution should be exercised as it will hybridize freely with its cousin *C. heracleifolia* and other closely related species.

***Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome' (Asteraceae).** Dr. Dick Lighty found this plant and introduced it through the Mt. Cuba program. It is dwarf and displays masses of purple flowers in late summer and fall. It is hardy to Zone 2. Propagation is by cuttings while still in vegetative growth—flowering shoots make poor cuttings.

***Clematis* ×*jouiniana* 'Mrs. Robert Brydon' (Ranunculaceae).** This plant is a hybrid of *C. heracleifolia* and *C. 'Jackmannii'*. It is intermediate between being shrubby and climbing. 'Mrs. Robert Brydon' has sky blue flowers and blooms earlier than the other shrub-type clematis. It is hardy to Zone 4. Propagation is by cuttings. Seed will yield very variable offspring and could be an interesting source of new clematis.

***Viburnum dentatum* 'Moon-Glo' (Caprifoliaceae).** A selection by H.W. Barnes while at Moon Nurseries in Yardley, Pennsylvania. It is more floriferous than the typical seedling and has a deep purple fall color that is consistent. Flowering is later than the species and is heavier. Cutting propagation is very easy.

***Clematis* ×*joshuaensis* 'Blue Star' (syn. *C. ×bonstedtii* 'Blue Star') (Ranunculaceae).** A natural hybrid between *C. stans* and *C. heracleifolia*, it is exactly intermediate between the two species. Its flowers are white on the outside of the petals and deep purple blue on the inside. Leaf shape is a precise combination of the two forms and it combines the open habit of *C. heracleifolia* with the compact form of *C. stans*. It is hardy to Zone 6 but its heritage probably offers a cold resistance to much lower temperatures. Propagate by cuttings.

***Syringa josikaea* (Oleaceae).** Hungarian lilac is a late-blooming lilac with striking pink flowers. This lilac is hardy to Zone 5 and can be pushed into Zone 4. *Syringa josikaea* has clean disease-resistant foliage and makes a medium size shrub. Easy from cuttings. Definitely should be used more.

***Sophora davidii* (Leguminosae).** A shrubby type of *Sophora* growing to 15 ft. Small pinnately compound leaves add to the reduced stature of the plant. Flowering is heavy with racemes of small white to pale blue pea-like flowers. Fruit set is equally interesting with copious amounts of corkscrew pods that hang on all summer and look like silver Christmas tinsel. The plant is remarkably pest free and very drought tolerant. Zone 6. Propagated by softwood cuttings and seed.

***Iris virginica* 'Contraband Girl' (Iridaceae).** This is a tall robust *Iris* getting to 3 ft or more. Large purple and white flowers are born in the spring. It is hardy to at least Zone 6 and is a southeastern U.S. native. Propagation is by division.

***Dendranthema* 'Hillside Sheffield' (Compositae).** Properly this plant is *D. ×grandiflorum*. The botanists have gotten a hold of the *Chrysanthemum* genus and many familiar plants are now in new genera. But this is still a chrysanthemum and rewards us all with superb fall-flowering ray flowers of pale pink with bright yellow centers. An excellent mound-forming plant which is hardy to Zone 6. Propagation is easy from cuttings.

***Aster tataricus* 'Jindai' (Asteraceae).** A U.S. National Arboretum release, this is an excellent fall blooming perennial with soft blue-purple flowers. Cultivar is very hardy to Zone 3. 'Jindai' was found by the U.S.D.A. in Japan. The species, *A. tataricus*, is native to Siberia. Propagation is by the separation of shoots from the main crown.

***Dendranthema ×grandiflorum* 'Venus' (Compositae).** Differs from its cousin 'Hillside Sheffield' in that it is heavier flowering with masses upon masses of white ray flowers turning to pale shades of pink and purple in cool weather. A very robust plant where three small plants set out in spring will yield mounds of 4 ft × 4 ft by fall. Hardy to Zone 6. Very easy to propagate from cuttings.

***Heuchera micrantha* 'Chocolate Ruffles' (Saxifragaceae).** A selection of our native *H. micrantha*, this plant is ideal for spicing up the landscape. Its combination of green and purple foliage is quite distinct and user friendly. It should be hardy to Zone 4 if sited properly. Propagated by cuttings taken from young rapidly growing side shoots.

***Morus alba* 'Green Wave' (Moraceae).** Formerly known as *M. alba* 'Holicong', this is a strong weeping selection that is fruitless. It was found growing in a fence row in Holicong, Pennsylvania. In addition to the unique weeping character, no two leaves are the same. It is hardy to Zone 5. Roots easily from softwood cuttings but resists all attempts at staking and will die back to a low bud that will resume growth laterally. High graft to yield the typical weeping mulberry. Totally different than *M. alba* 'Chaparral'.

***Carex pendula* (Cyperaceae).** Largest of all the *Carex*. Strong dark green heavy textured leaves give a definite vertical accent to the landscape. It is evergreen in spite of the coldest weather. Hardy to Zone 6. This species will tolerate wet sites as well as drought. Species name, *pendula*, comes from the long weeping flowers and the seed pods which hang down like elongated tears. Propagate by seed or division.

***Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Tidal Wave' (Cercidiphyllaceae).** A chance seedling found by H.W. Barnes. 'Tidal Wave' is distinct in having very robust growth that is strongly weeping. It is hardy to Zone 5. Propagation is by grafting. Some cuttings can be rooted if taken early.

***Euscaphis japonica* (Staphyleaceae).** Dr. J.C. Raulston is promoting this plant and for good reason. The fall show of dark green leaves, striking red bracts, and black fruit offer something for everyone. This is a very robust plant and is worth pursuing. Hardiness is a question. Plants at Philadelphia came through a severe winter with little or no problems. Plants at Longwood Gardens died the same year. Site selection could be the culprit. Propagation is difficult as seed is stubborn, to say the least, with warm, cold, warm, and cold stratification working somewhat. Cuttings are hard to root and do not overwinter well. North Carolina State University is working on this.

***Berberis koreana* (Berberiaceae).** Korean Barberry is used heavily in the Midwest. It is relatively newcomer to the East Coast of the U.S. It is normally very clean and pest free with a strong upright character. Most effective use is for its blood-red fall color. Hardy to Zone 5. Propagated by cuttings or seed.

***Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis' (Betulaceae).** A very cutleaf form of the European alder, 'Imperialis' offers something different in texture, especially for a plant that is very tolerant of wet spots where plants like *Acer palmatum* cutleaf forms might not thrive. Cultivar is hardy to Zone 3. 'Imperialis' can be propagated by cutting, grafting, or budding.

***Sambucus nigra* 'Aureomarginata' (Caprifoliaceae).** Splendid white and green variegation set this plant off. Especially useful in shady situations where it both thrives and lightens things up. Cultivar is very hardy to Zone 3. It is also useful in wet areas but does not do well in full sun. Propagated from cuttings in summer.

***Ilex ×koehneana* 'Jade' (Aquifoliaceae).** A U.S. National Arboretum selection. This is a male plant with heavy-textured, lime-green leaves. It is very hardy and vigorous, I believe it could go well beyond Zone 6. Cultivar is propagated by cuttings.

***Maclura pomifera* 'Sudden Splash' (Moraceae).** This is a new variegated selection of osage orange which appears to be fruitless. Cultivar roots easily from cuttings and will graft or bud onto seedling osage orange. Hardiness is uncertain, although the mother plant is a chance seedling discovered in Zone 6—found by H.W. Barnes.

***Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Silver Lace' (Taxodiaceae).** A chance seedling with white variegated tips in early spring. Coloration disappears as the summer heat commences. Propagation is easy from cuttings. 'Silver Lace' will suffer somewhat in hot dry situations and is hardy to Zone 6. Coloration is best in cool weather. Found by H.W. Barnes.

***Poliiothyrus sinensis* (Flacourtiaceae).** A monotypic genus and species native to China. This is large tree species with white to yellow flowers on long pedicels and interesting fall and spring red leaf colors. Plant is unusually pest free and hardy to Zone 6. Responds to cool night temperatures for foliage coloration and not photoperiod. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.

***Quercus aliena* (Fagaceae).** Chinese white oak is a large tree with very-clean, heavy-textured dark-green leaves that change to yellow to brown fall color. This oak is hardy to Zone 5. Propagation is by seed. Appears to be pest free in Pennsylvania.

***Tagetes filifolia* (Compositae).** Threadleaf marigold, or Irish lace as it is known, is an unusual annual with finely cut leaves resembling spruce needles. It has a low-growing mound shaped. Threadleaf marigold blooms late with tiny white flowers that are the size of pencil points. It propagates from seed or cuttings.

***Oxalis tetraphylla* (Oxalidaceae).** A bulbous oxalis with bright—pink flowers and large green leaves with a heart-shaped purple splotch. Not hardy but is worth growing as an annual. Propagation is by bulb division. Does well in the shade.

***Impatiens balfourii* (Balsaminaceae).** A vigorous upright shade-loving species. Can grow from 2 ft to 3 ft. It has jewelweed-type flowers of white and purple. Species is not hardy and propagates easily from seed or cuttings.