

Introducing New Plants

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This is an introduction to some plants new to the North American market. They've all been registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF). We are a nonprofit foundation, established in 1964 to encourage new plant development by strengthening relations between growers and breeders for the benefit of the horticulture industry. Our main function is to collect royalties on new plants. We return 90% of the royalties collected to the plant originators. Last year we collected close to \$1.2 million.

Our membership base is primarily in Canada, including the well-known Plant Introduction Scheme of the University of British Columbia and Agriculture Canada's Morden Research Station. Also, we are fortunate to count most of the major propagating nurseries in the United States as our members, and others in more than 10 overseas countries.

This morning I have two shrubs, four roses, and four perennials for you. I will name nurseries where you can get these plants. For contact information, please call the COPF office at 1-800-265-1629.

***Philadelphus lewisii* 'Blizzard'**

Botanical Name: *Philadelphus lewisii* 'Blizzard'.

Common Name: Blizzard mockorange.

Plant Type and Habit: Hardy shrub with a vigorous, upright habit, growing to 5 ft (150 cm) high by 3 ft (100 cm) width.

Description: An abundant bloomer (like a blizzard), with 2-inch (5 cm) white flowers which are about 1 inch (2 cm) larger than generally reported for the species (Fig. 1). Fragrant.

Special Features: The abundance and size of the blooms make this plant stand out.

Landscape Use: Well suited to many situations, particularly as accent plant. Blends well with other plants in a shrub border, especially where a fragrant plant is desired.

Rights & Trademarks: Registered with COPF.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 2.

Origin & Parentage: This species is native to southern British Columbia and Alberta. John Wallace of Beaverlodge Nursery made several cycles of selection from seed collected in southern Alberta.

Cultural Information: Similar to other mockoranges. Periodic renewal pruning is beneficial. Plants cut back to near the soil line recovered well in 2 years at Morden, Manitoba.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings taken in late June under traditional mist propagation average 90% success rate.

Testing: Tested at Morden Research Station since 1977.

Availability: Aubin Nurseries, Carman, MB.



Figure 1. Flowers of *Philadelphus lewisii* 'Blizzard'.

***Lonicera* 'Marble King'**

Botanical Name: *Lonicera* 'Marble King'.

Common Name: Marble king honeysuckle.

Plant Type and Habit: Hardy shrub with rounded habit.

Description: Has dense foliage with creamy-white or yellow spots and blotches irregularly displayed on dull green leaves. The variegation persists in shade or part shade, fades to all green in full sun. Flowers are creamy white turning yellow as they mature. Bears red fruit. 4 to 5 ft (120 to 150 cm) tall by 3 ft (100 cm) wide.

Special Features: The variegated foliage is uncommon in honeysuckles. An excellent container plant.

Landscape Use: In a shrub border in part or full shade, for a brighter contrast. The red fruits will attract birds.

Rights & Trademarks: Registered with COPF.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 3.

Origin & Parentage: Probably related to *Lonicera canadensis*, selected by Tony Huber, formerly of W.H. Perron, from plants in the wild.

Cultural Information: Tolerant of most soils, best in part shade.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings.

Testing: Done at Norseco in Boisbriand, Québec.

Availability: Contact Norseco in Laval, Québec.

***Rosa* 'Hope for Humanity'**

Botanical Name: *Rosa* 'Hope for Humanity'.

Common Name: Hope for Humanity rose.

Plant Type and Habit: A low-growing everblooming shrub rose.

Description: Plants are relatively open, 22 inches (56 cm) high by 24 inches (59 cm) wide. Flowers are intense dark red with about 25 petals. There are, on average, 4 to 5 flowers per inflorescence. They are slightly fragrant and bloom over a 10 to 14 week period in Manitoba. There is a moderate number of thorns, and hips are formed, but often do not fully ripen.

Special Features: The long bloom period, profuse flowers, and disease resistance to powdery mildew and rust are good. Resistance to black spot is fair to good.

Landscape Use: Wherever a low-maintenance, flowering shrub is useful.

Rights & Trademarks: Distribution rights have been assigned to the Canadian Red Cross until 1998. Aubin Nurseries and Bailey Nurseries have propagation rights until 1998. Available to COPF members after that.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 3

Origin & Parentage: Developed at Morden Research Station by Lynn Collicutt and Campbell Davidson. Part of the Parkland series of hardy roses. The complex parentage includes *R. arkansana*, *R. rugosa*, 'Prairie Princess', 'Morden Amorette', and 'Morden Cardinette'.

Cultural Information: Full sun, well drained soil.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings of 1 to 3 nodes, taken in late spring through to mid-summer, treated with 3000 to 5000 ppm IBA, placed under intermittent mist or fog will root with 85% or greater rates. Also can be budded or started in tissue culture.

Testing: Done at Morden Research Station.

Availability: Contact Bailey Nurseries or Aubin Nursery.

Rosa 'AC Marie Victorin'

Botanical Name: *Rosa* 'AC Marie Victorin'.

Common Name: ExplorerTM Marie Victorin rose.

Plant Type and Habit: Hardy shrub rose.

Description: The unopened bud is deep peach and the bloom is pale peach, fading to pink when fully open. The flowers average almost 4 inches (9 cm) in diameter, have 38 petals, and are borne in clusters of 1 to 7 blooms. The plant reaches 56 inches (140 cm) in height and 50 in. (125 cm) in width in southern Québec.

Special Features: The peach color is unique in hardy roses. Also it flowers abundantly and repeatedly. Highly resistant to blackspot and powdery mildew.

Landscape Use: Wherever a low-maintenance, flowering shrub is useful.

Rights & Trademarks: Will be introduced in 1998. U.S. Patent and Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights applied for. Distribution and propagation rights by special arrangement with the Agriculture Canada Research Station at St. Jean, Québec. ExplorerTM name has been trademarked.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 3.

Origin & Parentage: A cross between the floribunda 'Arthur Bell' and a breeding line derived from a cross between *R. kordesii* and 'Applejack' done at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, Ontario.

Cultural Information: Best in full sun and well drained soil.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings are best.

Testing: Was done for 2 years in Ottawa and 3 more years in Québec.

Availability: Several growers have paid for distribution and propagation rights, contact the COPF office for a list.

Rosa 'AC William Booth'

Botanical Name: *Rosa* 'AC William Booth'.

Common Name: ExplorerTM William Booth rose.

Plant Type and Habit: Hardy shrub rose with spreading to trailing growth.

Description: Deep red buds open to medium red, then fading to light red in the fully opened flower. The flowers average 2 inches (5 cm) in diameter, have 5 petals, and are borne in clusters of 8 to 10 blooms. Reaches a height of 5 ft (150 cm) and a spread of 9 ft (300 cm).

Special Features: The wide-spreading habit is worth noting, and the single flowers are charming for those who like the look of old roses. Excellent resistance to blackspot and powdery mildew.

Landscape Use: Good for low maintenance areas, especially because the wide spreading habit allows you to use fewer plants.

Rights & Trademarks: Will be introduced in 1999. U.S. Patent and Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights applied for. Distribution and propagation rights by special arrangement with the Agriculture Canada Research Station at St. Jean, Québec. ExplorerTM name has been trademarked.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 3.

Origin & Parentage: Similar to 'Marie Victorin'.

Cultural Information: Full sun and well drained soil are best.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings.

Testing: Was done for 2 years in Ottawa and 3 more years in Québec.

Availability: Several growers have paid for distribution and propagation rights, contact the COPF office for a list.

Rosa 'AUSmum'

Botanical Name: *Rosa* 'AUSmum', Pat AustinTM rose.

Common Name: Pat Austin rose.

Plant Type and Habit: Shrub rose growing 4 ft (120 cm) high by 3½ ft (105 cm) wide.

Description: The flowers are bright copper on the inside of the petals, with pale copper-yellow on the outside, similar to Austrian copper rose (*R. foetida* var. *bicolor*). They are large and deeply cupped. Strongly fragrant. Dark green glossy foliage that starts out red.

Special Features: Brilliant and unique flower color; the only English rose of this color.

Landscape Use: Can brighten up any rose garden or border by contrasting with other flowers.

Rights & Trademarks: U.S. Patent and Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights applied for.

Hardiness Zone: On its own root, to Canadian Zone 3.

Origin & Parentage: David Austin prefers not to disclose this aspect of his breeding program.

Cultural Information: Grow like other roses, in full sun and well drained soil.

Propagation: Budding, softwood cuttings, and tissue culture.

Availability: In the U.S., contact Jackson & Perkins. In Canada, contact the COPF office. There are about 15 growers licensed by David AustinTM Roses in Canada.

***Aster novae-angliae* 'Bianca'**

Botanical Name: *Aster novae-angliae* 'Bianca'.

Common Name: Bianca aster.

Plant Type and Habit: Tall, hardy perennial.

Description: Has semidouble white flowers, 1³/₄ inch (4 cm) diameter, with yellow center, in late August to October. Grows 3 to 4 ft (90 to 120 cm) tall by 2 ft (60 cm) wide.

Special Features: Part of the Fall Fashion series, which were selected for their bright, vivid colors. 'Bianca' has larger and thicker flowers than the parent species.

Landscape Use: For the back of the perennial border, where you want lasting, fall color. Good cut flower and in mass plantings.

Rights & Trademarks: Registered with COPF.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 3.

Origin & Parentage: Selected by Tony Huber from Plants in the Wild.

Cultural Information: Best in full sun, well drained soil. For more compact plants, prune back to 18 inches (45 cm) height in July before flower buds appear. Divide every 3 years.

Propagation: By division or softwood cuttings.

Testing: Done by Norseco in Québec.

Availability: Contact Norseco.

***Oenothera fremontii* 'Lemon Silver'**

Botanical Name: *Oenothera fremontii* 'Lemon Silver'.

Common Name: Lemon silver evening primrose.

Plant Type and Habit: Hardy perennial with prostrate, spreading habit. Grows 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 cm) high by 15 inches (40 cm) wide.

Description: Dense foliage is silvery green. The lance-shaped leaves have slightly wavy edges. Stems are green with rosy tips. Flowers are 3 in. (7.5 cm) wide, lemon yellow, and have a silky texture. As they fade, they turn orange. Seed caps are winged and attractive. Blooms from June to October.

Special Features: 'Lemon Silver' is more compact than the species, the foliage is more silvery, and it has a longer blooming period.

Landscape Use: Excellent for a sunny perennial border, rock garden, or landscape bed where a low-growing accent plant is desirable.

Rights & Trademarks: Registered with COPF.

Hardiness Zone: Canadian Zone 4.

Origin & Parentage: Selected from seedlings of the species by Tony Huber.

Cultural Information: Plant in full sun in a well drained location.

Propagation: By division or cuttings.

Testing: Evaluated at Norseco in Québec.

Availability: Contact Norseco

***Geranium* 'Janette'**

Botanical Name: *Geranium* 'Janette'.

Common Name: Janette geranium.

Plant Type and Habit: Low-growing hardy perennial.

Description: Striking magenta-pink flowers are borne at the top of the plant in early June for about 6 weeks. The foliage grows about 10 in. (25 cm) high by 18 in. (50 cm) wide.

Special Features: This is a showy, compact perennial that looks great in a pot over a long period. The flowers are more abundant and deeper colored than *Geranium cinereum* var. *subcaulescens*. Disease resistant. Can produce a second flowering in late August/September, especially if cut back after the first flowering. Sold 100,000 plants in England last year.

Landscape Use: In mass plantings, landscape beds, perennial borders, as a replacement for annuals.

Rights & Trademarks: U.S. Patent applied for. Has Plant Breeders' Rights in England and European Community Variety Rights.

Hardiness Zones: 3 to 7.

Origin & Parentage: Selected by C.M. Lowe of Border Alpines in England.

Cultural Information: Full sun and tolerant of different soil types.

Propagation: By division or cuttings.

Testing: Evaluated by the Plant Varieties Office in England.

Availability: In the U.S.: Monrovia, Sunny Border, Zelenka, Wight, and Willoway Nurseries. In Canada: Cannor and Mori Nurseries.

***Heuchera* 'Ebony & Ivory'**

Botanical Name: *Heuchera* 'Ebony & Ivory'.

Common Name: Ebony & ivory coralbells.

Plant Type and Habit: A vigorous, low-growing, hardy perennial. Spreads to an 18 inch (50 cm) wide mound. Flower stalks can go as tall as 20 inches

Description: Has extremely dark, ruffled leaves, which are evergreen in milder climates. The flowers are large, ivory colored, and profuse in June and July. Resistant to mildew, spider mite, and white fly.

Special Features: The very dark leaf color is unique, and it doesn't go woody like some *Heuchera* spp. The emerging leaves in spring are quite attractive. Does well in full sun.

Landscape Use: Excellent for borders, rock gardens, and crevices. The foliage stays remarkably neat all season. Try with gold-leaved plants, dwarf astilbes, or ferns.

Rights & Trademarks: U.S. Patent applied for. Registered with COPF.

Hardiness Zones: 4 - 9.

Origin & Parentage: [(*H. micrantha* × *H. americana*)(*H. villosa* var. *purpurea*)] × *H. sanguinea* 'June Bride'.

Cultural Information: Plant in sun or shade and well drained soil. Prefers soils rich in organic matter.

Propagation: By division or tissue culture.

Testing: Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon.

Availability: Contact Terra Nova.