

## NEW PLANTS

### PRESENTERS:

**Lynne Caton**, Briggs Nursery, Inc. Olympia, Washington

*Helleborus* Royal Heritage™ hellebore

*Daphne* × *burkwoodii* 'Briggs Moonlight'

*Rhododendron* 'Northern Starburst' PP#10388

*Rhododendron* 'Arneson Pink'

*Rhododendron* 'Lemon Lights'

**Dennis M. Connor**, Monrovia Nursery, 18331 E. Foothill Blvd, P.O. Box 1385, Azusa, California 91702-1385

*Abelia* × *grandiflora* 'Sunrise', Sunrise™ variegated abelia PPAF

*Carissa macrocarpa* 'Tomlinson'

*Citrus* 'Cocktail'

*Coprosma repens* 'Pink Splendor'

*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Kirk Alexander'

*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Moudry'

*Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Overdam'

*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Purpureus'

**Kathy Echols**, Midhill Farms, 197 Midhill Road, Martinez, California 94553

*Salvia muiirii*

**Dennis Perry**, Perry's Panorama, P.O.Box 540, Somis, California 93066-0540

*Protea* (*P. susanae* × *P. magnifica*) 'Susara'

*Protea cynaroides* 'Mini King'

*Leucadendron* (*L. salignum* × *L. laureolum*) 'Jester' (syn. 'Rewa Gold')

*Telopia* (*T. speciosissima* × *T. oreades*) 'Shady Lady'

*Banksia ericifolia* 'Giant Candles'

*Erica cerinthoides* 'Hairy Heath'

**Peter Del Tredici**, Director of Living Collections, Arnold Arboretum-Harvard University, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

*Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Fenway Park'

*Zelkova serrata* 'Green Veil'

**Glen Williams**, Fullerton Arboretum, California State University, Fullerton, P.O. Box 6850, Fullerton, California 92834-6850

*Lysiloma watsonii*

*Ipomoea carnea* subsp. *fistulosa*

***Abelia* × *grandiflora* 'Sunrise' Sunrise™ variegated abelia PPAF**

**Zones:** 6-10.

**Category:** Shrub.

**Origin:** A chance sport found September 1992 on a single branch of an *Abelia* × *grandiflora* growing at Taylor's Nursery, Inc. Raleigh, NC.

**Size:** 3 to 5 ft tall and 4 to 6 ft wide.

**Habit:** Compact growth habit, slightly slower grower than *Abelia xgrandiflora* 'Edward Goucher'.

**Foliage:** Spring coloration is bright gold surrounding dark-green center. Summer color is cream surrounding dark green. The variegation holds year round in full sun to heavy shade (heavy shade produces a lighter variegation) bright orange and red fall color.

**Flowers:** White flowers appear throughout summer and fall.

**Uses:** Mass planting, foundation, or containers.

**Culture:** Grow in a warm, sunny situation in any fertile soil.

Provide shelter from cold winds. In cold areas, grow against a south- or west-facing wall. 'Sunrise' holds up better in full sun, tolerating a medium to heavy shade.

**Pest & Diseases:** None known.

**Propagation:** Cutting grown.

**Family:** Caprifoliaceae.

**Notes:** The North Carolina State University Arboretum has been an important friend to our industry by introducing many new plants for commercial production. 'Sunrise' abelia will have a patent royalty of \$.30 per unit sold, with all proceeds from its sale going to support the work at the NCSU Arboretum.

### ***Banksia ericifolia* 'Giant Candles'**

This is a superior selection of *B. ericifolia*, for the terminal bloom characteristic and adaptability to soils and climate. Clay loam and neutral pH are not usually a problem and this is a rare selection that holds its flowers up to the sky.

### ***Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Overdam'**

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 5-9 AHS Heat Zones 9-1. Semi-evergreen grass with mounding, slowly spreading foliage 2 to 3 ft tall. The broad foliage emerges striped with a soft yellow variegation, becoming white with maturing and taking on pink tones by late summer. Flower spikes are purple, becoming pinkish gray, and appear 3 to 4 ft above the foliage in early summer. Can be planted as a single specimen or in mass throughout the landscape in a formal garden, perennial border, or naturalistic setting around a pond. The pink tones of the flowers and foliage combine well with *Loropetalum* 'Sizzling Pink' and *Imperata cylindrica* 'Rubra'. Plant in full sun to partial shade.

### ***Carissa macrocarpa* 'Tomlinson'**

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 10-11 Tomlinson Natal Plum, AHS Heat Zones 12-1. Dwarf, compact evergreen shrub is slow growing to 2 to 2½ ft tall by 3 ft wide. This cultivar does not have the large thorns along the branches characteristic of *C. macrocarpa*. Lustrous, leathery oval-shaped foliage is mahogany-tinted. Large, white five-petaled star-shaped flowers appear throughout the year followed by wine-colored fruit and flowers, green and ripe fruit often appear together. A superb choice as a tub plant or for foundation plantings. Fruit is edible, should be picked when red and has a flavor that can be described as similar to cranberry. The fruit can be eaten out of the hand, in salads, or used to make jelly, sauce or pie.

***Citrus* 'Cocktail'**

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 9-10 AHS Heat Zones 12-1. A hybrid between pummelo and mandarin from the University of California at Riverside. Evergreen tree 20 to 25 ft tall and wide. Fruit ripens in December and has a greenish-orange exterior and light orange interior. The juice is very sweet and has a unique flavor with a hint of grapefruit. The fruit has many seeds and is prized for its sweet juice, but can be eaten like a pummelo by individually peeling the segments. Grow in full sun. Soil should be kept moist but fast drainage is a must. Can be used as a specimen or container plant.

***Coprosma repens* 'Pink Splendor'**

Cold Hardiness Zones: 9-10. Heat Hardiness Zones: 12-4. Evergreen shrub with bright-yellow variegated margins on very glossy green leaves  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. New foliage emerges light green, and develops a rosy pink cast when mature, hence the name. Leaves curl upwards at the tip and sometimes at the sides providing interesting texture to the plant. Grows best in full sun with regular water, though it can tolerate partial shade. Landscape habit of 6 ft high and wide makes it ideal as a low hedge or container plant. Bright variegation adds color to perennial displays, especially when combined with bright yellow, red, and orange blooming lantanas, daylilies, yarrows, and cannas — spectacular with *Canna Tropicanna*<sup>TM</sup> canna

***Daphne*  $\times$ *burkwoodii* 'Briggs Moonlight'**

This extraordinary new cultivar was discovered at Briggs Nursery among a batch of *D.  $\times$ burkwoodii* 'Somerset' cuttings. Creamy-yellow leaves with narrow margins of dark-green make the plant literally shine in any application. 'Moonlight' is remarkably adaptable to any garden site other than the extremes of heat or shade. Prefers a well-drained site. Fragrant flowers. 4 ft  $\times$  4 ft. COPF. Plant Breeders Rights applied for in Europe.

***Erica cerinthoides* 'Hairy Heath'**

This is a long blooming, winter through spring, hardy *Erica*. Moist, acid soils are best, with summer drought tolerance. Prune and mulch this small shrub.

***Helleborus* Royal Heritage<sup>TM</sup> hellebore**

Briggs Nursery's 1999 Plant of the Year. The Royal Heritage<sup>TM</sup> hellebore is a collection of *Helleborus*  $\times$ *hybridus* developed over the last 15 years by the noted plantsman John Elsley of Wayside Gardens. Progeny for its strain was obtained from excellent parentage initially acquired from the esteemed European hybridizer, the late Helen Ballard. Parent stock includes excellent forms of *H.  $\times$ torquatus* (known for its dark colors), *H.  $\times$ olympicus*, and *H.  $\times$ orientalis*. As a result of long and careful selection, the strain exhibits hybrid vigor, a long flowering period and fantastic evergreen foliage of superior form, texture, and color. We have found the mix to show approximately 70% rich dark red with the remaining percentage a mix of pure white, velvety black, and a variety of spots and stripes on pink blossoms. This seed strain is trademarked by John Elsley.

***Ipomoea carnea* subsp. *fistulosa***

Pink bush morning glory was again brought to Fullerton Arboretum as seed from the southern end of the Sonoran Desert. (The plant is from seed collected in Mexico by one of our long-time supporters. This is the name we have keyed the plant to, but

most of the references are old, so I can only hope it has not had recent name changes.) The seed source is probably not native to the area, but normally found farther south. With good drainage (especially in winter) our plants have taken light frost (~30F) without any problem other than losing lower leaves (it kept right on flowering though). Our plants have only been in the ground for 4 years so they may eventually grow larger than the 8 ft they are now. Once the seedlings began to bloom they have not stopped.

The seedlings took about 8 months to begin flowering, but cuttings frequently start blooming again in 4-inch pots. We grow them in 1-gal containers and with a light pinch, if needed to promote bushiness, they can be ready for sale in as little as 8 weeks (10 to 12 weeks in winter). We produce *I. carnea* subsp. *fistulosa* from cuttings (now that the seedlings have grown) because we get blooming plants more quickly. With bottom heat, cuttings will root in 10 to 14 days in perlite, and during the summer, can be transplanted from the initial 4-inch pot to 1-gal containers in another 2 weeks. Or, the rooted cuttings can be planted directly into 1-gal containers with no problem.

### ***Leucadendron* 'Jester'**

Many new sports of 'Safari Sunset' have been tested and some of the best are becoming available. These selections show the same great adaptability to soils as 'Safari', but with striking variegated foliage. Vigor is reduced prior to full establishment, but heavy pruning is suggested after establishment.

### ***Lysiloma watsonii***

*Lysiloma watsonii* grows naturally in the southern Sonoran Desert at elevations from 1000 to 3500 ft. (This introduction is from seed collected in Mexico by one of our long-time supporters. The name we have keyed the plant to is from old references, so I can only hope they have not had recent name changes.) Although the references indicate it will grow from 25 to 45 ft tall, the plants on the grounds at the Fullerton Arboretum are only 8 to 10 ft tall after 20 years.

Feather tree is one of the common names given to this lovely tree which we market at our plant sale as a good hot climate or hot area replacement for the Japanese maple which looks so poor after a summer in full sun. The feather tree loves the heat and sun, indeed as young plants they do not seem to like more than 20% shade, and they love the heat. This may explain why they do not get larger at our arboretum; it may not be hot enough in the summer. They do lose their leaves, usually fairly late in the year, about Thanksgiving or later. The feather tree is very drought tolerant (one plant on the grounds has had no additional water for at least the last 15 years) but they seem to look better with deep infrequent watering once established. Our plants had no problem in the freeze of 1989-90 when the temperatures went down into the high teens (18F) for more than 8 h, but since they are from low winter rainfall areas feather trees do not like to stay wet in winter; good drainage is important.

*Lysiloma watsonii* is easily grown from seed, which needs to be scarified, and placed on a heating mat (>80F). The seed germinates in 7 to 14 days and once it does, the seedlings need to be moved to very good light (morning sun then 40% afternoon shade is what we use) or they will not develop strong stems. After germinating we transplant into 3-inch pots using a sandy mix (basically a cactus mix) with Osmocote 14N-14P-14K at the label rate. Once the seedlings have developed a good root system we transplant them into 1-gal pots with our standard potting mix for sale or

later into 5-gal pots if they are to be used on the grounds. Usually it takes about 6 months to get a salable size 1-gal plant, and about 14 months to have a nice 5-gal plant.

We have not had any luck rooting cuttings of *L. watsonii* taken at several different times of the year.

### ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Kirk Alexander'**

USDA Hardiness Zones 6-9 AHS Heat Zones 8-1. Deciduous grass with ½ inch wide, horizontally variegated arching foliage to 48 inches tall and wide. A dwarf form of *M. sinensis* 'Zebrinus' with striking bright gold horizontal bands of variegation. Flowers are pinkish copper and appear above the foliage in September. Foliage turns brown with the first frost. Attractive as a specimen or dramatic garden accent when in groups, especially when planted alongside water. The variegation is particularly effective when backlit by early morning or late afternoon light. Prefers full sun or partial shade and moist, fertile soil and can tolerate shallow water.

### ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Purpureus'**

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 7-8 AHS Heat Zones 8-1. Deciduous grass with blazing orange-red fall color which becomes a burnt reddish-brown in late fall through winter. Compact, upright clumps 3 to 4 ft tall of very narrow medium green foliage ¼ to ½ inches wide. Produces silvery plumes in July and August which appear 1 to 2 ft above the foliage. A beautiful focal point in the garden; use in perennial borders, in combination with grasses of different textures and colors, and in containers.

### ***Parthenocissus tricuspidata* 'Fenway Park'**

This unique cultivar of Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) produces yellow-green foliage. The plant originated as a bud-sport mutation on a specimen that was growing on a west-facing wall of an apartment complex in the vicinity of Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts. Arnold Arboretum staff member Peter Del Tredici discovered the plant in August 1988 while on his way to a Red Sox baseball game with his son. The evening sun was setting and the top portion of a mostly green plant seemed to glow in the fading twilight. Upon closer examination, it was discovered that the upper part of the vine was producing bright yellow leaves. With the cooperation of the superintendent of the building, cuttings of the mutant portion were collected and subsequently propagated in the greenhouses of the Arnold Arboretum. The outstanding characteristic of 'Fenway Park' is the color of its leaves during the growing season, which, depending upon the amount of light they receive, are various shades of yellow to chartreuse. When grown in full sun, leaf coloration comes close to Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) yellow-green 151A to C; in shade, it is a uniform lime green (RHS 154D). The coloration of the leaves of 'Fenway Park' is stable throughout the growing season. In the fall they turn brilliant shades of orange, scarlet, and yellow. In full sun, the distal portion of many of the large leaves may lose their chlorophyll altogether, making their tips susceptible to sun-scald during hot, dry summers. For this reason, the plant is best grown on a north- or west-facing wall. 'Fenway Park' is hardy within USDA hardiness Zones 4 through 9, and is useful as a climbing vine to brighten up walls, fences, or buildings, that are located in dark, shady places.

***Pennisetum setaceum* 'Moudry'**

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones 6-9; AHS Heat Zones 9-2. Produces flowers that are nearly black when mature, but emerge brown in late summer. Flowers are 6 to 8 inches long and appear 10 to 18 inches above the foliage. Black flowers contrast against the green foliage and combine well with *Coreopsis*, *Salvia*, and *Rudbeckia* 'Goldstrum'. Deciduous grass with dark green, glossy leaves ½ to ¾ inches wide. Forms a dense, upright, mounded clump 18 to 26 inches tall and wide. Foliage becomes yellow to yellowish-orange in fall, maturing to a straw color by winter. Can re-seed in an irrigated garden situation, but will not naturalize in arid western gardens.

***Protea cynaroides* 'Mini King'**

Many new color selections of smaller flowered 'King Protea' are becoming available. Darker pinks and red are the most sought after colors. These selections are from acidic quick draining soil regions, but their smaller size make for a great patio tub or retail potted plant. The foliage is green, attractive and great with a companion plant.

***Protea* 'Susara'**

A vigorous hybrid with clean foliage and pink flowers on long stems in winter-spring. It is adaptable to soils that are neutral in pH and loam in texture, as well as those soils with an acid pH and free-draining nature. High yield for the cut flower grower, tolerant for the home gardener, and with a great flower made from a superior selection. Prune 'Susara' vigorously and mulch the soils.

***Rhododendron* 'Arneson Pink'**

A stunning new hybrid from Ivan and Robertha Arneson. Strong pink semi-double blooms with wavy margins cover the dense shrub in May. Bud hardiness of at least -15F plus strong mildew resistance make this an outstanding choice. Becomes 3 ft by 4 ft in 15 years.

***Rhododendron* 'Lemon Lights'**

The latest introduction from the breeding program at the University of Minnesota features an abundance of bright lemon-yellow flowers with a vivid orange-yellow blotch on the upper petal. Good mildew resistance. Lightly scented. 5 ft by 4½ ft in 15 years. Plant and bud are hardy to at least -40F. Blooms late May.

***Rhododendron* 'Northern Starburst' PP#10388**

This outstanding new release is a result of years of research in the development of polyploid rhododendrons. 'Northern Starburst' is a tetraploid form of P.J.M. Compact. Significantly larger flowers of greater substance, stronger stems, and larger thicker foliage are of exceptional quality. The leaves are apple-green in summer, changing to a very deep purple-black in winter, dusted with brown. The flower color is bright lavender pink. It has the same reliable cold hardiness (-30F) as its counterpart.

***Salvia muiirii***

The plant I have chosen to speak about is *Salvia muiirii*. I teach a new plant introduction class at a Community College in northern California. In looking at new plants I realized that *Salvia muiirii* has many of the characteristics which make a plant highly desirable for the home garden. One of the most significant advantages it has over other sages is that it is very small and compact. As the trend to smaller

lot sizes occurs in many parts of the world, the public demands smaller plants for the little space they have. This salvia is from South Africa and is new to the trade. It is a small compact shrub to 2 ft tall and 3 ft wide. The plant's growth habit is that of a stiff little shrub with a distinctive odor reminding you of a drugstore. The leaves are small and dark green. It blooms April through October with nice blue blooms with a white bee-landing patch. Cultural requirements are good drainage, sun to part shade, and regular water. It is hardy to 20F or maybe less in short cold blasts. *Salvia muirii* is an easy plant to maintain and requires only deadheading at the end of the flowering season. It is named for Dr. John Muir a botanist in England who discovered and described it. It should make an excellent garden plant. *Salvia muirii* is available at two growers in California. One is San Marcos Growers in Santa Barbara and the other is Rosendale Nursery in Watsonville.

### ***Telopia* 'Shady Lady'**

The breeding work in *Telopia* is beginning to show great results. Shady Lady is a selection that has shown better garden habits, reduced size, soil tolerance, and yet maintains the spectacular flower of *T. speciosissima*. Pruning is advised to keep the plant vigorous and cool acid soils are best.

### ***Zelkova serrata* 'Green Veil'**

*Zelkova* 'Green Veil' was introduced into cultivation in North America by Brookside Gardens of Wheaton, Maryland. It was obtained as grafted plants from the Shibamichi Nursery Company of Japan in 1978. 'Green Veil' forms a somewhat narrow tree, up to 60 ft in height, with a gracefully pendant habit of growth. The distinguishing feature of this cultivar is that the trunk and second order lateral branches are strongly ascending, while the smaller branchlets are strongly drooping. This contrasting orientation produces a dramatic effect in the landscape. The rate of growth of 'Green Veil' is more or less typical for the species, averaging between 1 and 2 ft in height per year. At the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, an 18-year-old plant is 36 ft tall by 20 ft wide, while a similar-aged specimen at Brookside Gardens in Maryland is 32 ft tall by 15 ft wide. 'Green Veil' is a striking specimen plant in most landscape situations. Because of its narrow growth habit and broad ecological tolerance, it has potential as a street tree.