

New Plant Forum – Eastern Region IPPS

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PRESENTER

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Prunella vulgaris ‘Magdalena’ PPAF



Heavy blooming lavender purple bi-color flower clusters begin in July on 6 in. plus stems above notched dark green foliage (Figure 9). The spreading clumps reach 1 ft wide plus. In August and September some re-bloom keeps this larger form interesting. Semi-evergreen foliage has some purple highlights in the cool temperatures of fall and spring. The purple seed heads also remain attractive once the flower fade. These adaptable plants prefer some moisture in sun but are tolerant of dry conditions once established. Easy to propagate from cuttings.

Pennisetum alopecuroides ‘Yellow Ribbons’ PPAF



A golden yellow pennisetum with thin foliage on compact plants growing 24 in. tall and wide. The color mellows to yellow going into fall. Easy from division.

Sedum ‘Lime Joy’ PPAF



Vigorous hybrid plants have a lime colored 4 in. buds starting in July, by September the 8 in. flower heads combine to create a large dome of bi-color wine pink flowers (Figure



10) held on strong stems reaching 15 in. Easy from cuttings and division but also propagates from leaf cuttings. One seedling in 2017 yielded 300 plants in 2018.

PRESENTER

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Panicum ‘Bad Hair Day’ PP29,313



Bad Hair Day switchgrass is an intermediate to large-sized grass growing to 71 in. tall by 88 in. wide in full inflorescence after 3 years in trial in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5). Its stems are strongly upright, giving the plant a narrow silhouette until midsummer. The grayish, yellow-green foliage leaves are mostly pendulous, creating

an attractive waterfall effect. The late-summer inflorescences are the most unique feature of this selection, as they are much denser than other switchgrasses, and also cascade like the foliage. The weeping inflorescences sway in the wind, creating a whimsical mop head appearance that gave it its “bad hair day” name. The cascading foliage and inflorescences persist well into autumn, turning an attractive light yellowish brown after going dormant. Plants have been strongly upright and persistent all winter, even with repeated snow loads. To our knowledge, this is the first switchgrass cultivar in the marketplace that is a hybrid of the bitter switchgrass (*Panicum amarum* ‘Dewey Blue’) and of common switchgrass (*P. virgatum*). *Panicum amarum* is native to seashore sand dunes along the East Coast and across the Gulf states; combined with the attributes of *P. virgatum*, our selection is not only heat and cold tolerant, but may be more drought and salt tolerant than most switchgrasses. Readily propagated by division of the culms in spring. Likely hardy to USDA Zones 3-9.

***Vernonia* ‘Summer’s Surrender’ PP28,475**



‘Summer’s Surrender’ ironweed was selected in 2013 from a 2010 cross of *Vernonia lettermannii* and *V. arkansana*. It inherited the bushy habit of *V. lettermannii* and the more robust plant size, larger foliage and larger capitula of *V. arkansana* (Figure 12). ‘Summer’s Surrender’ is no shrinking-violet perennial, as it matures into a robust yet uniform and dense broad mound. Three-year-old plants measured 48 in. tall and 83 in. wide and a 5-year-old plant measured 48 in. tall and 74 in. wide. With excellent resistance to both powdery mildew and rust, the foliage remains clean and attractive all summer and fall. The olive-green leaves grow to 5 in. long and half-an-inch wide. Dark purple florets are packed into nearly 1-inch-wide flower heads

which are borne in profusion on airy inflorescences from early September to early October in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5). A diversity of butterflies, moths, and bees are attracted to the flowers. Plant in full sun and reasonably well drained soil. It has proven adaptable to both moist and to drier soil. Use this selection in the back of larger perennial or mixed borders, near lake edges and other moist sites, in pollinator gardens, and in any situation that calls for a larger yet attractive and uniform perennial plant. Readily propagated by shoot tip cuttings taken in early June in USDA Zone 5 and treated with 1,500 ppm KIBA. Likely hardy to USDA Zones 4 to 8.

Vernonia ‘Summer’s Swan Song’ PP28,556



‘Summer’s Swan Song’ ironweed was selected in 2012 from a cross made in 2010 of *Vernonia lettermannii* and *V. angustifolia* ‘Plum Peachy’. This was the first of our hybrid seedlings to catch our attention, and it never failed to impress in the subsequent trials. Similar in adaptability, bushiness and fine texture to the popular selection *V. lettermannii* ‘Iron Butterfly’, ‘Summer’s Swan Song’ grows somewhat larger, has larger capitula, and never lodges due to the elongated and interlocking inflorescence branches (Figure 13). The stems, leaves, and inflorescence branches also take on a dark red cast in full sunlight, adding to its display. The third-inch-wide capitula with their dark purple florets are born in profusion for 5 to 6 weeks from early September to mid-October in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5). A diversity of

butterflies, moths, and bees are attracted to the flowers. The fine foliage is a moderate to dark olive green and measures upwards of 5 in. long and less than a ¼ inch wide. Three-year-old plants of ‘Summer’s Swan Song’ measured 28 in. tall by 35 in. wide and 5-year-old plants measured 31 in5 tall by 43 in5 wide. It has proven adaptable to both moist and to dry soil and has also exhibited excellent resistance to rust and powdery mildew. Use this selection individually or massed in perennial or mixed borders, in pollinator gardens, near lake edges and other moist sites as long as well drained, and in any situation that calls for a mid-sized attractive and uniform perennial plant. Readily propagated by shoot tip cuttings taken in early June in USDA Zone 5 and treated with 1,500 ppm KIBA. Likely hardy to USDA Zones 4–8.

PRESENTER

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Earlibeauty® Series

The Earlibeauty® series of phlox was introduced by The Primrose Path (Charles and Martha Oliver). The selections are all hybrids of *Phlox* species that are native to the eastern United States. They have been

free of powdery mildew in North Creek Nurseries' trial gardens, range from about 16–36 in. tall, and are hardy to USDA Zone 4. There are five cultivars in the Earlibeauty® series and more coming. North Creek is highlighting our three favorites.

Phlox Earlibeauty® ‘Daughter of Pearl’ PP27267



Phlox Earlibeauty® ‘Daughter of Pearl’ has white flowers with a small purple blush in the center (Figure 6); flowers form in a conical shape. Its name comes from the fact that



‘Minnie Pearl’ is in its parentage. It blooms in mid or late June into July, gets about 30–36 in. tall, and has an upright habit similar to that of *Phlox paniculata*.

***Phlox Earlibea*ty® ‘Rose Bouquet’ PPAF**



*Phlox Earlibea*ty® ‘Rose Bouquet’ has pink flowers (Figure 7) and has its main flush of blooms in May, then sporadically blooms through the summer. It gets 16–20 in. tall and spreads into a large dense mass.

***Phlox Earlibea*ty® ‘Solar Flare’ PP27265**



*Phlox Earlibea*ty® ‘Solar Flare’ has bicolor flowers (Figure 8) that are white with pink centers and form in rounded panicles. ‘Solar Flare’ flowers from late May to June, reaches a height of 24 in., and has a round, mounding, clump-forming habit.

Chrysogonum virginianum
'Quinn's Gold' PP19306



Chrysogonum virginianum is a low growing, shade loving groundcover. It has a long bloom period of yellow flowers that stand out against its dark green foliage. 'Quinn's Gold' was introduced to the trade via Sunny Border Nurseries and is unique in that its flowers exhibit shades of dark yellow, light yellow, and creamy white. It is hardy to USDA Zone 5.

PRESENTER

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Aronia melanocarpa 'UCONNAM012', GROUND HOG™ black chokeberry ppaf, cbraf



The perfect landscape plant for covering ground or filling in difficult spaces such as parking lot beds or areas you don't want to mow (Figure 1). This dwarf aronia grows as a thick, dense mat, eliminating the chores of weeding and mulching. Glossy foliage, white spring flowers, dark purple

berries in summer, and autumn foliage hues of orangish-red make this native plant as showy as it is adaptable. Developed by Dr. Mark Brand at University of Connecticut. USDA 3, AHS 9, height: 8-10 in. tall and 3 ft wide. Spring blooming.

Philadelphus coronarius ‘SMNPVG’, ILLUMINATI TINY TOWER™ mockorange ppaf, cbraf



We’ve been breeding and evaluating *Philadelphus* for over 15 years but have not discovered anything remarkable—until now. A truly unique and striking shrub with dense, upright branching (Figure 5), and notable

dark green foliage. Stems are punctuated in late spring with vertical rows of highly fragrant flowers, creating a four-sided tower effect. USDA 4, AHS 7, height: 3–4 ft tall and 1.5 ft wide, late spring bloom.

Taxus ×media ‘SMNTHDC’, STONEHENGE™ yew ppaf, cbraf



Think of this evergreen as a thin, fast growing ‘Hicksii’ (Figure 11). Perfect for hedging or foundation plantings where a narrow plant works best. It has been in our field trial for over five years and has never needed pruning, shearing, or shown signs of winter burn. This shrub is narrow enough to be useful and interesting, thick enough to look good in a container, and fast-growing enough to be profitable. USDA 5, AHS 7, height: 8–10 ft tall and 2–4 ft wide.

Weigela florida 'Verweig8', MY MONET PURPLE EFFECT™ weigela ppaf, cbraf



Hues of cream, green, and pink, layered with a cast of burgundy-purple, make the foliage of this new dwarf, variegated selection noteworthy (Figure 14). From the renowned plantsman Bert VerHoef, it is exceptionally strong flowering for a dwarf, delivering

purple-pink flowers in mid-late spring. A companion to My Monet, it is a tad faster growing and more heat tolerant. The foliage looks good right up until frost, giving new energy to this long-time favorite. USDA 4, AHS 6, height: 1.5-2.5 ft, spring blooming.