

Willowwood Journal

Volume 7, Issue III

Spring 2000

THE WILLOWWOOD FOUNDATION IS A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO NURTURE AN APPRECIATION FOR AND KNOWLEDGE OF BOTANY, HORTICULTURE AND THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH ITS SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE PUBLICATION OF, AND ACCESS TO, LITERATURE RELATING TO PLANT SCIENCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES TO PROMOTE USE, ACCESS AND INFORMATION ABOUT NATIVE AND EXOTIC PLANTS.

Permanent Plant Labels Available for the Garden

Are you tired of looking at plastic labels from the nursery on your plants? Maybe the labels have broken off and been lost so you don't remember what you have, or worse, the lettering has faded so you can't read it. The Willowwood Foundation is now offering the same permanent plant labels that are used at Willowwood Arboretum for your garden. These deluxe labels are made of lightweight, brown anodized aluminum and will be custom-embossed with your text. Tested in the gardens of Willowwood and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum the brown labels will last for many years and will blend naturally into any garden or landscape setting.

- The label size is 1 3/4" x 3 1/2" and accommodates up to four lines of customized type (29 characters per line).
- The cost is \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10 labels and includes shipping. Add \$1.75 for each additional label you require.

Please call us for an order form or mail your own list directly to us, using the example given below or your own format. Please remember to print clearly and enclose your name, shipping

(Continued on page 5)

Willowwood Plant Evaluation Committee 1999 Recommended Plants For New Jersey Gardeners

"What can I plant?" is an all-too-common question asked by potential buyers in search of the "perfect plant". Garden center and nursery customers face a huge dilemma when confronted with the sometimes overwhelming selection offered for purchase. Don't think homeowners are alone in their conundrum: many green professionals encounter similar problems. How can you be sure the plant will grow without constant fussing, coddling, watering, fertilizing, pruning, wrapping, or worse, chemical de-bugging? Which plants are really worth your hard-earned dollars? Where are the true gems among the rhinestones? They do exist, but most are not household names. We would like to change that.

Some plant buyers gain confidence by relying on grandmotherly advice or the recommendation of a friend or salesperson. But what if your grandmother lived in Trenton and you live in Morristown? What if your gardening friend lives on Long Island? What if the salesperson is only familiar with the plants their company sells or was selling shoes last month? In all cases you may miss the mark. Others persist with an expensive trial-and-error purchasing method, and continue experiencing the frustration of dead plants and wasted time, effort and money. Still others keep wondering why their plants don't quite match the descriptions or color pictures in the mail order catalogs or Sunday supplements.

The truth? There is no perfect plant, one equally happy in any and all situations, locations, exposures and soils; there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution. Many common plants;

Two lectures planned: Asian Woodland Plants & Boxwood. Look on page 6...

1999 Recommended Plants For New Jersey Gardeners (continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

including some of the most popular, most familiar species offered for sale, may not be what you really need. Forsythia, very lovely in its bright yellow spring wake-up call, looks rather like a large unkempt haystack fifty weeks of the year, with little ornamental interest. If you have a small property, your space is too valuable for large, one-dimensional plants like this: you need plants with multiple seasons of interest and plants with restrained growth. Evergreen Azaleas are certainly beautiful and when properly grown, make first-rate shrubs of the highest order. However, if your home is in an open, windy area with no shade, and your soils are compacted heavy clay (e.g., a new housing development), this plant will pose a real challenge. Add to that the staggering number of Azalea cultivars on the market. There might be several selections which might perform adequately under the conditions cited above, but of the hundreds offered, which? You need attractive, tough and virtually worry-free plants to handle these difficult situations, and they're out there. Many outstanding plants are available from growers and suppliers and they stand ready to help you experience all the rewards that gardening can offer.

Each year the Willowood Arboretum Plant Evaluation Committee selects and recommends a number of plants specifically for New Jersey Gardeners. Our charge is to observe and select the best plants using the following criteria. Plants must be:

- winter and summer hardy through zones 5-7 (all of N.J.), and must be adaptable to diverse environmental and cultural conditions;
- highly pest- and disease resistant, not requiring chemical sprays when properly grown;
- non-invasive and not harmful to native ecosystems; useful native plants will be recognized if ap-

propriate;

- user-friendly: reliable, relatively easy to grow, not requiring extensive maintenance, unusual care or placement when planted out;
- useful in a variety of landscape situations and functions; and,
- attractive, possessing ornamental attributes in, ideally, several seasons.

PLANT PORTRAITS

SHADE TREE

Acer saccharum - Sugar Maple Considered by many to be one of our finest native shade trees, growing 60-75 feet high and 30-40 feet wide. Full sun to part shade. Fall foliage is a spectacular combination of red, orange, and yellow. Adaptable to many soil types as long as they are well drained with good fertility. Intolerant of road salt, it is best to plant this species away from paved surfaces. Ideal for residences, parks and golf courses. Recommended cultivars include: 'Bonfire', 'Green Mountain' and 'Legacy'.

CONIFER

Juniperus virginiana - Eastern Redcedar Eastern redcedar is a narrow, generally conical tree reaching 60 feet in height. Mature specimens become broader and develop a thin shredding bark with red and white stripes (resembling peeling paint). The foliage ranges from deep green to bluish to reddish green (particularly on juvenile plants). This native species has separate sexes, with the females producing waxy-blue fleshy cones during the fall and winter. It does well in poor soils and is fairly resistant to salt and drought, making it suitable for a variety of applications. It is also disease and pest resistant. Several cultivars are available, most of which differ in canopy narrowness and foliage color. The species form is suitable for borders and screen plantings.

SMALL TREES

Carpinus caroliniana - American Hornbeam A small to medium sized native

tree reaching 20-30 feet tall with a nearly equal spread. Naturally an understory tree, it can tolerate dense shade. Prefers a well drained rich soil, but is known to grow in heavy wet clays. Related to birches, the flowers known as catkins are interesting to view when they appear in spring. The fall color is usually yellow but some plants may develop a mixture of orange and red. Especially noteworthy is the trees bark; dark gray, smooth and fluted. Essentially pest-free. Excellent for residential, commercial and industrial landscapes as an individual or mass planting.

Cornus officinalis - Japanese **Cornelian Cherry** A small tree to large shrub that grows to 15 feet tall. Clusters of yellow flowers appear in February, well before the leaves open. These flowers lead to showy red fruit in the fall. The most striking feature of this plant is its peeling orange, gray and brown bark. This tree does well in most soils but excels on rich well drained soil in sun to partial shade. Excellent as a specimen tree, plant close to a window to enjoy the early spring flowering and the bark throughout the winter.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Aronia arbutifolia - Red **Chokeberry** An upright deciduous shrub growing from 6 to 10 feet tall, it will tolerate most garden conditions except drought and chalky soils. 'Brilliantissima' is a particularly attractive cultivar, readily available and easy to grow. It has deep green, waxy leaves and small creamy white flowers in May followed in late autumn by brilliant scarlet foliage and clusters of bright red berries that persist well into November. Most spectacular fall color is seen when planted in full sun. Will tolerate moist soil conditions. Suitable for naturalized areas, public parks and private gardens.

Hamamelis vernalis - **Verhal Witchhazel** This shrub flowers in Jan-

(Continued on page 3)

1999 Recommended Plants For New Jersey Gardeners (continued from page 2)

(Continued from page 2)

uary and February bearing pale yellow to orange and copper colored flowers and thread-like petals which withstand very cold weather. Although the flowers are not as conspicuous as some Asian species, they are abundant and very fragrant. In fall the large rounded leaves turn butyry yellow. This is a large shrub, growing to 12 feet, that likes a partly shaded moist location. 'Sandra' is a cultivar with purple young foliage that turns green as the season progresses, and turns to bright orange and red in autumn.

Rosa x 'Meipotal' - Care-free Delight™ Rose A delightful mound of perky pink blooms. One of the most disease free landscape shrub roses to hit the market. 2 to 2½ inch flowers in a myriad of tones from bubble gum pink to crisp white with pink blotches cover this hardy plant from June to October and then give way to Bordeaux colored fall foliage. Maroon stems and new growth in the spring create a delightful display. A wonderful rose for perennial borders and foundation plantings in full sun. Reaches 3 to 4 feet tall by 4 to 5 feet wide.

Viburnum x burkwoodii 'Mohawk' - Burkwood Viburnum Cultivar A cross between *Viburnum x burkwoodii* and *carlesii*, two extremely fragrant parents, has provided us with one of today's most fragrant *Viburnums*. Early, but long lasting dark pink buds unfurl to reveal pearl pink to creamy white blossoms filled with the intense scent of cloves. Blooms open fully in April and last well into May. Leaves emerge silvery green and mature to a rich light olive. The plant can reach 7 feet in height with a 5 foot spread. Fall color is a pleasing reddish orange. Four seasons of interest and intense fragrance make this a shrub for any prominent spot in the garden. Plant this beauty in full sun to partial shade near entrances or under win-

dows to fully experience and enjoy the fragrance.

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Buxus x 'Green Mound'

'Green Mountain' and 'Green Velvet' - Sheridan Hybrid Boxwoods These wonderful hybrids of var. *koreana* x *B. sempervirens* were introduced by the Sheridan Nursery Company of Oakville, Ontario during the early 1970's. The hybrids are widely grown in northern landscapes, where the good leaf color of *B. sempervirens* is augmented by the hardiness and compactness of var. *koreana*. They tolerate very cold winters ('Green Mountain' has survived -30 F without injury), but may discolor with an orange-bronze tinge during the summer months, if placed in full sun. As its name suggests, 'Green Mound' forms an attractive mound approximately 3' by 3' with dark green foliage. 'Green Mountain' is excellent for hedging and is the most upright of the three. 'Green Velvet' is a rounded, full-bodied shrub with small dark green leaves.

Ilex centrochinensis x

***aquifolium* 'Centennial Girl' - Holly Hybrid** The first upright blue holly to be introduced from the breeding program of Mrs. Kathleen Meserve. An extraordinary specimen with deep bluish green foliage with a satin finish. From a distance the foliage appears black in color. The fruits are deep fire engine red and persist on the plant until the first warm spring day. A naturally pyramidal plant that does not need pruning and will mature at 15 feet high and 10 feet wide. A stately tree perfect for screening and property borders as well as a stand alone specimen in full sun.

***Ilex* x 'Dragon lady' - Holly Hybrid** Introduced by Conard-Pyle Company, 'Dragon Lady' is the product of a controlled cross between *I. pernyi* x *I. aquifolium*. It has a stately upright pyramidal habit and beautiful olive green leaves that shimmer in the win-

ter sun due to their heavy gloss. Tolerating winter temperatures to -15 F, 'Dragon Lady' is hardy in zones 6b to 9a. The vivid red fruits persist into the Spring.

PERENNIALS

***Asclepias tuberosa* - Butterfly-Weed** This beautiful relative of the common milkweed has clusters of bright orange flowers that are adored by bees and butterflies. It does well in full sun and is tolerant of dry soil. Growing to between 2 and 3 feet high, this native plant is ideal for perennial borders or naturalizing in open fields. The brilliant flowers are open from June to August and are perfect for cutting for enjoyment indoors.

***Brunnera macrophylla* -**

Siberian Bugloss This lovely perennial has bright green, heart shaped leaves that provide a perfect backdrop for the myriad of tiny blue flowers that appear in April and May. This species prefers partial shade but can do well in full sun with adequate water. It will reseed itself in good conditions or can be divided and moved throughout the garden. Ideal for planting in shade gardens, under trees, or perennial beds.

***Echinacea purpurea* - Purple**

Coneflower This North American prairie native is very underused in America's gardens. Daisy like blooms of deep mauve pink atop deep grass green foliage make a statement in any garden setting throughout even the most miserable of summer months. Highly sought after for its medicinal use, the purple coneflower has started to gain popularity. Blooms are long lasting and perfect for arranging. A perennial garden must. Perfect for hot, dry foundation plantings.

***Eupatorium coelestinum* -**

Hardy Ageratum This hardy plant

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

grows from 1 to 2 feet high on erect stems with coarse toothed leaves. It has a rapidly spreading root system, rather like mint, and is easily divided or removed. It begins to bloom in late August through to late fall as its blue clusters open their fluffy flowers providing good late color as it threads through other plants. Sometimes wilts suddenly in hot weather, but can be cut back and it will spread again in the next season. Cultivars include: 'Cori' with pale lavender-blue flowers and 'Wayside' with deeper blue flowers and a compact growth form.

ANNUALS

Lablab purpurea - Blue

Hyacinth Bean The only species in this genus, *Lablab purpurea* is native to tropical Africa and widely cultivated in India, southeast Asia, Egypt and Sudan for its edible pods and seeds. The fragrant, pea-like flowers and maroon pods are also appreciated for their ornamental value. In the temperate zone, it should be treated like an annual and planted in well-drained soils in full sun once the danger of frost is passed. It is a fast-growing climber that can be trained

on a trellis or fence.

Petunia integrifolia - Petunia

One of today's most versatile annuals. Deep fuchsia petals surround a deep blue-black throat. A twinning plant great for use in borders as a filler and hanging baskets and containers where it can cascade. Mix this annual with deciduous shrubs and roses for a tapestry of color throughout the summer. Thrives in hot dry conditions and blooms well into the first hard frosts of winter.

Zinnia linearis - Narrow-leaf

Zinnia Zinnias have long been an annual staple. This new species has much smaller, more abundant flowers that bloom continuously throughout the summer, resistance to powdery mildew and a finer texture. The plants reach no more than 12 inches tall and require no staking. Blooms come in a range of colors from clear white to deep orange. Slender gray green foliage is the perfect backdrop for the dainty flowers. Perfect for borders and garden spots in full sun that require low growing summer blooming plants.

The committee is a cross-section of the "green profession" and includes a Professional Horticulturist, a Landscape Architect, an Arborist, a horticultural Educator, a local Garden Center/Nursery operator, a Conservationist, a Garden Club of America member, the Director of a major regional arboretum and a Plant Evaluator of a large commercial production nursery. The committee works in conjunction with the Willowwood Arboretum (Chester Township) and Frelinghuysen Arboretum (Morristown) of the Morris County Park Commission to serve the public by obtaining, growing, displaying, evaluating and recommending outstanding plants for amateurs and professionals throughout the Garden State. Selections are made yearly and published in January. To make a suggestion, write to the committee at PO Box 1295, Morristown, NJ, 07962-1295.

Volunteer Gardeners Needed at Historic Village of Waterloo

Did you ever imagine yourself as a gardener? Do you know a little about "old-fashioned favorites" or heirloom plants? Do you enjoy designing and working in flower beds? If so, then you may want to know more about our volunteer program at Waterloo. With three formal gardens, four period kitchen plots, and several smaller mixed beds scattered throughout its 400 acres of parkland, Waterloo needs your help! Join members of the *Sussex County Master Gardeners* as well as other volunteers in assisting with garden research, restoration and maintenance. Volunteers will team up to work on various projects. Hours scheduled for gardening are flexible, so indulge your passion for gardening, being outdoors in a beautiful, historical setting, or just working with other people that share the same interests. Don't forget that the generous donation of your time and talents will provide enjoyment to the hundreds of people that visit Waterloo Village annually. For further information, please contact the Waterloo Foundation office at (973) 347-0900 ext.#31.

Waterloo Village is a National Register site located in Allamuchy Mountain State Park, along the Musconetcong River in Sussex County, New Jersey. Dating back to the 18th century with early involvement in the iron ore industry, the village was revitalized during the 19th century by the construction of the Morris Canal. Remnants of the canal are still extant today, offering a rare view of some important features of its past as a port stop, including parts of the lock, inclined plane, and towpath. Waterloo also includes a life-size reconstruction of a 17th century Woodland Indian settlement along with a simulated excavation site highlighting past cultural materials typical to the area.

(Continued from page 1)

address and a check or money order made out to the Willowwood Foundation. Your labels will be shipped to you in 3-4 weeks.

Actual plant tag size:

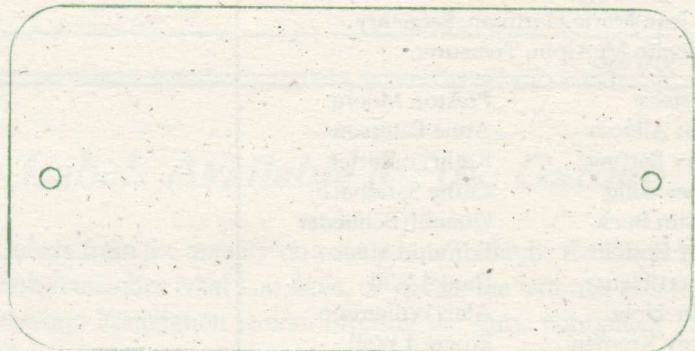
SAMPLE FORMAT (29 characters per line):

(Line 1) Botanical Name

(Line 2) Common Name

(Line 3) Family Name or Flower Color

(Line 4) Planting date



Can't identify your plant material? Call us and we will help arrange a consultation (additional fee applies). Phone: (908) 234-1815. Fax: (908) 234-0767. Email: wwfoundation@earthlink.net

Helen R. Gardiner Propagation Facility To Be Dedicated July 30, 2000

Construction of the Helen R. Gardiner propagation facility is completed at Willowwood Arboretum in Gladstone, NJ. The facility has been under construction since Nov. 1999, as detailed plans were carried out to build a facility that remained faithful to the architectural style of the original building. The details of the building and the materials closely resemble the original structure with a few modern liberties taken such as barrier-free accessibility. Because it is situated on the edge of the Cottage Garden, maintaining the character of the original Tubbs farm was crucial.

The facility will be used for propagation of Willowwood specimens for distribution, propagation of Morris County native plants and propagation of seed from the *Index Seminum*.

Funding for the facility was provided by Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, The Henry Tubbs Trust, Morris Land Conservancy, The Willowwood Foundation and private donations. A dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting will be held on July 30, 2000 before the "Lecture In The Garden" (see page 6 for details).

Detach here

- Yes**, I am interested in information about the Willowwood Foundation. Please send information.
- Yes**, I would like to support the work of the Willowwood Foundation. Enclosed is my tax exempt donation of \$ _____.
- Yes**, I would like information about volunteer opportunities at Willowwood Arboretum.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Office _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please complete the above and return this request to:

The Willowwood Foundation, P.O. Box 218 Gladstone, NJ 07934.

The Willowwood Foundation
P.O. Box 218
Gladstone, NJ 07934

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The Foundation Sponsors Two Lectures: Asian Woodland Plants (July 30) and Boxwood (Oct. 1)

The Willowwood Foundation is sponsoring a "Lecture in the Garden" on Sunday July 30th, 2000. Barry R. Yinger, a plant explorer who has traveled extensively throughout Asia will provide a slide lecture on interesting and unique Asian Woodland Plants. A sale of selected plants from Barry's collection will start at 5:30PM. The lecture will begin at 7:00PM. Guests and their friends are invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy in the gardens before the lecture.

Barry Yinger is currently the New Products Resources Manager for *Hines Nursery Inc.*, a wholesale nursery based in Irvine, California. Barry received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, where he studied plant science and Asian languages. He received his M.S. from the University of Delaware as a fellow in the Longwood Graduate Program. His thesis about Japanese *Asarum* was researched in the Japanese Literature.

Barry worked for 2 years in Korea helping to establish the Chollipo Arboretum, and served as the Curator of Asian Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum where he organized and led a series of plant explorations to Korea. He has conducted many field trips in Asia, with more than 50 trips to Japan. He has also collected in Korea, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, and England.

In the Fall, on October 1, 2000, The Foundation will hold their annual Fall Symposium featuring Paul Saunders, owner of *Saunders Bros. Inc. Wholesale Nursery and Orchard* in Piney River, Virginia. Paul will speak on Boxwood, a subject he is well versed in as he began propagating boxwood in 1947 as a high school freshman. Over the years his nursery has expanded to include an extensive selection of cultivars to suit various sites and soil conditions. Paul is currently conducting a national Boxwood survey in which The Willowwood and Frelinghuysen Arboreta are involved. The lecture will begin at 3:00PM. A sale of selected Boxwood will be held starting at 2:00PM.

We invite you to join us for these interesting lectures. Both lectures will be held at the Willowwood Arboretum, 300 Longview Road, Gladstone, NJ. We are currently taking reservations for the "Lecture In The Garden." Please call The Willowwood Foundation to reserve a seat (908) 234-1815. Both lectures are free of charge. We will be accepting donations at the door.