

VICKI GINGAS: Please distinguish between *Cornus kousa* and *C. kousa* var. *chinensis*.

AL FORDHAM: The variety *chinensis* was named by Wilson in 1908. It is a geographic variation. I don't think that the designation holds any weight because of the great variation found in the seedlings of that plant.

BILL FLEMER: For New Jersey conditions *C. kousa* var. *chinensis* is superior to straight *C. kousa*. It has bigger and wider bracts, and the leaves appear to be thicker. Under hot dry conditions the species will exhibit considerable marginal burn on leaves whereas the variety we originally got from the Arnold Arboretum does not exhibit that burning. Certainly for New Jersey and south the variety makes a better garden plant because it is more showy in bloom and resistant to leaf burn.

## NEW PLANT FORUM

JACK ALEXANDER AND ROB NICHOLSON, MODERATORS

MODERATOR ALEXANDER: Ruth Kvaalen will begin the new plants session with a presentation on *Orixa japonica*.

RUTH KVAALEN: Landscape plants which lack showy flowers or colorful autumn foliage are often overlooked in favor of the brightly colored plants. But a plant with good foliage appearance during the whole growing season can be more valuable in the landscape than one with a week of vivid color but poor appearance the rest of the year.

*Orixa japonica* is a plant with excellent foliage. *Orixa* is a deciduous shrub with rounded growth habit, usable as a specimen, in groups, or naturalized. In the Indianapolis to Chicago region it reaches 6 to 8 ft with equal spread or slightly less. The lower branches sometimes layer where they touch moist soil, so the plants are able to spread and create larger clumps.

Its ornamental character lies in its glossy foliage. Leaves are about 4 in long, giving a medium-coarse texture. Typically leaves are a bright, deep green. Some plants, in some years, develop a yellow autumn color, but usually the leaves fall without much color change. *Orixa* grows well in lightly shaded sites. It also does well in sun if adequate moisture is present. In hot weather in sun, the foliage may turn pale. It is a member of the citrus family, and the foliage is aromatic when crushed.

A form with variegated foliage exists, but it is rare and I doubt if it is in the trade. It appears to be less hardy than the green-leaved form. The green form is root hardy to USDA zone 5 (−20°F) but the variegated form has died in zone 6 (−10°F). In the Morton Arboretum west of Chicago, *Orixa* suffered some dieback after the 1983-84 winter — a severe one — but usually just branch tips or portions of the top of the plant are affected. In milder climates, *Orixa* might exceed 8 ft in height. However, it is easily pruned and kept lower if desired.

It grows well in a range of soils, from highly organic to calcareous clay. Dry soils or light soils that tend to dry out would be less satisfactory.

*Orixa japonica* is a dioecious species with pale yellow-green, axillary flowers followed by small, dark fruits, but both are so small that they remain inconspicuous.

The only problem I am aware of is spider mites on plants stressed by dry conditions. This species is easily propagated. Kris Bachtell of the Morton Arboretum has rooted cuttings. He says a quick-dip in IBA (1,000 to 5,000 ppm) gives rapid rooting on cuttings taken from early or mid-June to mid-July. As a nursery crop, it makes a salable plant in 2 to 3 years.

To conclude, *Orixa japonica* is a plant to consider for its glossy, almost tropical, foliage in a shrub border, edge of a woods, or many other situations.

**MODERATOR ALEXANDER:** Chris Graham has two lilacs to present.

**CHRIS GRAHAM.** *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Maiden's Blush' was developed by Skinner. This early flowering lilac has deep pink buds which open to lighter pink single florets. The trusses are about 23 × 12 cm. It is a medium-sized lilac with a somewhat upright habit and moderate rate of growth. It is easily propagated by softwood cuttings and is moderately susceptible to mildew.

*Syringe vulgaris* 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' was developed in the USSR by L. Kolesnikov. The buds are large and pinkish-lilac. The double white florets have a slight peachy tint and are very fragrant. The flower clusters average 25 × 12 cm and have a pyramidal shape. It is a shrub of medium height and spread with rather stiff branching. It propagates easily from softwood cuttings and is moderately susceptible to mildew.

**MODERATOR ALEXANDER:** Dr. Elwin Orton will present 3 new plants that were developed in his Woody Ornamentals Breeding Program at Rutgers University.

**ELWIN ORTON:** *Ilex crenata* 'Beehive' is the cultivar name of the first plant to be discussed. It originated as a seedling selection from a cross of *I. crenata* 'Convexa' × *I. crenata* 'Stokes'; 21,000 one-year-old seedlings were field planted in beds at a spacing of 9 in. × 9 in. and grown on for 2 years. Early in the spring of the third year, the plants were dug, 10 at a time with a front-end loader. Plants exhibiting a poor root system, or undesirable foliage characteristics, or a heavy infestation of mites were discarded, 5,000 seedlings survived this first screening, or roguing, and were field planted at a spacing of 5 × 5 ft. To assist in screening plants for possible resistance to mites, an annual spray of Sevin was utilized to kill the natural predators of mites and thus encourage a heavy infestation of mites throughout the planting. Each spring and fall the plants were evaluated. In the spring, plants were discarded primarily on the basis of winter injury. In the fall, plants exhibiting a heavy set of fruit and the accompanying yellowing of the foliage were discarded, as were those plants exhibiting poor branching habit, foliage of undesirable size, shape or curvature, and/or a heavy infestation of mites. After 7 years in the second field, some 40 individual plant selections had been made. Cuttings were rooted and 5 plants each of these 40 selections were planted in a replicated field trial, along with 5 plants each of 10 cultivars currently in the trade. Another replicated trial of all these materials was conducted in plant-growing containers through 3 gallon size. After 5 years, (original seedling was 15 years of age) one clone was

selected for naming and has now been introduced as *I. crenata* 'Beehive'. At 15 years of age, the original seedling resembled an old-fashioned conical beehive, hence the name. The plants are very dense and self-compacting, and are unique in possessing minute (5 to 6mm × 10 to 14mm) leaves. Plants under test have been reliably winter-hardy in USDA Hardiness Zone 6b.

'Midas Touch' is the cultivar name given to a clone which originated as a bud sport (branch exhibiting variegated foliage) on a 2½ year-old seedling resulting from a cross of a yellow-fruited plant (P I No 231948) times a male plant of *I. crenata* similar to *I. crenata* 'Microphylla'. Plants of this cultivar have had limited testing. It is known that they are fully winter-hardy in USDA Hardiness Zone 6b, but little information is available regarding the response of the foliage to varying degrees of exposure to the sun under summer and/or winter conditions. The variegation of the foliage is yellow-green in nature. Most leaves exhibit yellow sectors and light green areas in addition to areas with normal green pigmentation. Occasionally, branches arise with leaves of the normal green pigmentation. Such branches (reversions) will have to be pruned out, but they appear so infrequently that this maintenance operation should not be a problem. If their vigor is found to be sufficiently high under a wide range of growing conditions, plants of 'Midas Touch' may constitute a scale-resistant substitute for plants of the golden variegated cultivars of *Euonymus fortunei*.

The last of the new cultivars of *I. crenata* being introduced at this time is to be known as 'Jersey Pinnacle'. The plants are dense and self-compacting, upright in habit, and possess glossy, dark green leaves. The plants should be fully winter-hardy in USDA Hardiness Map Zone 6a. It is my hope that plants of this cultivar will fill a need for an excellent upright *I. crenata*. Most nurserymen would mention the cultivar 'Helleri' if one were seeking a low, spreading plant of *I. crenata*, but I do not know of any cultivar of upright habit of this species that has received widespread distribution and acceptance.

**MODERATOR ALEXANDER:** Bob Hays will next present one plant.

**BOB HAYS:** *Itea virginica* is a medium sized shrub that occurs naturally on moist soils from New Jersey to Florida and west to Missouri and Louisiana. It is valuable for its white flowers which are borne on 2 to 6 in racemes in late June into July, and its fall color which ranges from red to purple.

When grown in shade, the sweetspire tends to be a rather loose, open shrub which, left unchecked, will form a large colony. Grown in full sun, however, it will form a dense, mounded shrub.

The selection 'Garnet Glow' (the purposed name for this clone) was made from a plant growing at the Scott Horticultural Foundation. At 14 years, it is 6 ft high and 8 ft wide. The flower racemes are 6 in long and the plant exhibits consistently good red fall color which is effective for several weeks. The leaves persist late into the fall, and after they drop, the red stems become apparent.

Cuttings rooted 100% during June to November when treated with Hormodin 2 and placed under mist.

Its summer flowers, consistently good fall color, adaptability to a range of soils, and ease of propagation, make this plant worthy of a wider distribution and usage.

**MODERATOR NICHOLSON:** Jack Alexander will next present a plant for Gary Koller.

**JACK ALEXANDER:** Regel's threewingnut (*Tripterygium regeli*) is one of those few woody plants which can be grown as a vine or as a shrub. When allowed to stand alone it forms a plant 6 to 8 ft tall and spreads as wide or wider. Numerous thin shoots arise from the base and, as they become tall, arch outward and hang down touching the ground and creating a skirt like effect. With support, the plant behaves like a vine, twisting around and climbing upward to a height of 15 to 25 ft. If used as vine the plant needs to be provided with a support such as an arbor, trellis, or woven through a chain link fence.

Primary ornamental effect comes from the large terminal panicles of creamy white flowers which are borne in July. The flower clusters, which vary from 8 to 18 in. in length are composed of numerous small blossoms which emit the fragrance of new mown hay. Floral effect lasts approximately 3 weeks. Then the blossoms give way to lime green, bladder-like, winged fruits which ultimately ripen to a tan color. On old stems the bark is cinnamon-brown and peels off in thin strips. Seen without flowers, fruit, or leaves the vine might be mistaken for a bittersweet, for both plants are members of the bittersweet family (Celastraceae).

*T. regeli* is hardy to  $-20^{\circ}$  F, free of insect and disease pests, tolerant of full sun to light shade and it endures wind and salt spray. The only specialized cultural requirements is that the plant requires an ample and dependable supply of water during periods of drought.

Propagation is easily accomplished by seeds which require 3 months of cold stratification at  $40^{\circ}$ F to insure optimum germination. The plant can be increased vegetatively by hardwood cuttings and from root suckers.

I am pleased to make seeds of this little known vine available to you and hope that you will give it a trial in your nurseries and your gardens.

**MODERATOR NICHOLSON:** Phillip Sommer will next present a new grape cultivar.

**PHILIP SOMMER:** *Vitis labrusca* 'Reliance' is a red, seedless table grape with very high dessert quality.

The fruit of 'Reliance' is round and reddish-pink at maturity. Berries weigh about 2.7 g and are medium in size compared to other grapes. Skins are very tender and the flesh is melting in texture. The sugar content of the fruit of 'Reliance' is very high, hitting almost 24% at peak maturity. 'Reliance' has a delicate labrusca aroma and flavor which, combined with the high sugar content, makes for an excellent eating grape. The seedless grapes make good raisins and have also been blended with other grapes to make a good wine.

Clusters are medium large and well filled, but not excessively compact. Vines of 'Reliance' are productive, bearing as high as 12 tons per acre. 'Reliance' is vigorous and very hardy to winter cold. In Wisconsin and Ohio tests, 'Reliance' has withstood minimum temperatures of  $-29^{\circ}$ F. The vines are moderately resistant to black rot, anthracnose, powdery mildew, and downy mildew.

The average ripening date at Clarksville, Arkansas, is July 25th. In Ohio tests 'Reliance' fruit stored well after 3 months in cold storage.

**MODERATOR NICHOLSON:** Carla Pastore has 3 plants to show us.

**CARLA PASTORE:** *Rhododendron* 'Golden Gala', formerly 'Fifty Fine', was originally named to commemorate the Holden Arboretum's 50th anniversary. It was raised and introduced by David Leach and is a cross

between 'Great Lakes' and 'Good Hope' 'Golden Gala' has a dwarf form and, at 13 years of age, is 3 ft tall by 4½ ft wide. It blooms in late May with primrose yellow flowers and is hardy to -20°F. 'Golden Gala' will be available in 1986 from Herman Losely Nursery in Perry, Ohio.

*Kalmia latifolia* 'Star Cluster' originated at the Dexter Estate in Massachusetts. It is a slow-growing dwarf form. The parent plant, after 16 years, is 3 ft tall and 4 ft wide. The flowers have a dark maroon band inside the petals which is similar to 'Fresca' but not as interrupted. The buds are white and provide a nice contrast to the open flower. It is hardy to Zone 5 and will be available from Herman Losely Nursery in 1986.

*Alnus glutinosa* 'Pyramidalis' — pyramidal European alder — is not a new plant but one that merits more attention. Its major attribute is the narrow-growth habit. The plant, after 25 years, is between 30 and 40 ft in height and only 6 to 8 ft wide. As with all alders, it is tolerant of wet sites and might have a useful function in the landscape. Grafted plants will be available in 1986 at Brotzman's Nursery, Madison, Ohio.

**MODERATOR NICHOLSON:** Ann Hruska from the Morton Arboretum has one plant to present.

**ANN HRUSKA:** *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian-sage) is a plant that particularly caught my eye this past year and that I feel warrants more attention.

Russian-sage is a member of the mint family and native to West Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Himalayas. Listed as a semi-woody plant, hardy to Zone 5, it does sustain winter kill in cold climates and performs realistically like an herbaceous perennial. Simply cut back to live wood in spring.

Among its merits, Russian-sage exhibits the following multi-seasonal interests: 1) attractive 1½ in. long silver-green leaves on stems covered with the same silver/white down, 2) aromatic foliage typical of mints, 3) after cutback, Russian-sage grows to about 3 ft with fine, wispy stems of a rather "wind-blown" nature, 4) its crowning glory: 9 to 12 in. panicles of lavender/blue mint-type flowers, appearing in late summer, combine with the silvery vegetative growth to give a striking, cool diversion in the heat of summer, and 5) persistent silvery/white stems that give the plant a "frosted" appearance throughout winter, contrasting nicely with a dark background.

*Perovskia* is of easy culture when grown in full sun on well-drained, average fertility soil. It is shown off to best advantage in a mass planting.

Like most members of the mint family, *Perovskia* is readily propagated by softwood cuttings under mist. Weak concentrations of rooting hormone may be used, although probably not necessary. Remove cuttings from mist soon after roots have formed to avoid decay of succulent tissue. Seedage is another successful means of propagation. Arboreta such as the Arnold, Morton, and Bernheim would be a source of cutting material. Commercial sources include Springbook Gardens in Mentor, Ohio and T-Z Nursery in Winfield, Illinois.

**MODERATOR ALEXANDER:** Allen Bush has one plant to present.

**ALLEN BUSH:** *Helianthus angustifolius* is a sunflower species native from Long Island, New York, to Florida and westward to Missouri. It is a herbaceous perennial found in moist conditions and yet it does satisfactorily in average garden soil. In very dry soils, the so-called "swamp sunflower" wilts and grows poorly. The 3 in. flowers occur in October when there may be very little else in bloom.

*Helianthus angustifolius* eventually grows 8 ft tall, has a bushy habit, and requires no staking. Its northern hardiness range is reported to be Zone 6 but further testing is certainly warranted

**MODERATOR ALEXANDER:** Bruce Briggs has three rhododendrons to show us.

**BRUCE BRIGGS:** *Rhododendron* 'Trinidad' ('Calcutta' × 'Tahiti'). Cross (1960), raised, and introduced by Dr David G. Leach, North Madison, OH. Pictured in *American Horticulturist*, 52:4 (Winter 1973, p 17). Buds Red Purple Group 63B. Flowers of good substance, openly funnel-shaped, 2¾ in across × 2 in long, with 5 wavy lobes. Red Purple Group 62D with ⅜ in. Red Purple Group 66C edging, sparse dorsal, Greyed Yellow Group 162B spotting, reverse Red Purple Group 64C. Calyx variable in length, dorsal lobes 1¼ to 1¾ in. Yellow Group 4D, striped Red Purple Group 63D. Truss 6½ in across × 5¾ in high, ball-shaped, with 14 flowers. Floriferous. Leaves held 3 years, 5¼ × 2⅛ in. elliptic, apiculate, rounded, flat to convex, glabrous, dull, Yellow Green Group 147A, under surface with inconspicuous, golden brown, scattered hairs to patchy indumentum. Plant rounded, semi-dwarf, branching moderately, 4 ft tall × 5 ft wide in 21 years. Blooms in late May. Hardy to at least -20°F.

R 'Normandy' Newburyport Beauty (Fowle #18) × Newburyport Belle (Fowle #19) (Both parents are unregistered Dexter hybrids.) Cross (1968), raised, and introduced (1983) by Dr David G. Leach, North Madison, OH. Flowers of good substance, opening funnel-shaped, 2⅞ in. across × 1¾ in long, with 5-6 wavy lobes, Red Purple Group 73C flushed 73A around the perimeter, with dorsal spotting Orange Group 24B. Calyx of 2⅛ in dorsal lobes, pink. Truss 6½ × 6½ in ball-shaped, with 17 flowers. Leaves held 2 years, 4⅞ × 2¼ in elliptic, mucronate, rounded, slightly bullate, Yellow Green Group 146A. Plant broad, rounded, branching well, 5 ft tall × 6½ ft wide in 15 years. Blooms in late May. Hardy to at least -20°F.

R 'Creamy Chiffon' (H-3) is of unknown origin but probably has *R. campylocarpum* or *R. wardii* in its lineage. 4 ft, -5°F, 4-5/4/- A most unusual rhododendron with its double creamy-yellow flowers which appear in profusion. The rounded deep-green leaves, that hold for 2 to 3 yr make a most attractive plant that looks good in the garden. A compact, semi-dwarf, blooming very young, plant.

## **EASTERN REGION 1984 AWARD OF MERIT**

### **PRESENTED BY J. PETER VERMEULEN**

The individual recognized for the Award of Merit at this, our 34th Annual Meeting, personifies in an exemplary manner the purpose and spirit of our Society, as well as that of our cherished national heritage, which offers to everyone opportunities for success commensurate with their talents, initiative, and efforts.

Our recipient was born in 1934 in Bowling Green, Ohio, into a farming and gardening family. Boyhood employment at Ilgenfritz Nursery, where his father also worked, gave him early life exposure to horticulture and, no doubt, influenced