

our catalog we print a special list. As these groups usually sell out quickly this relieves some of the need to update our catalog frequently.

SUMMARY

We are well aware that "forecasting" future sales in the nursery business is ticklish and that a wide margin of error is possible. However, we feel that this system, carefully monitored and regularly updated, provides us with a plan. We feel it is essential to know well in advance what we have in the pipeline for future sales in field and container production. Knowing well in advance affords us opportunity to decide when it is most advantageous to sell our field-grown material and to select those container-grown plants that best complement field sales to produce a predetermined gross sales income.

EUROPEAN GEMS: WHAT LOOKS GOOD

RICHARD J. STADTHERR

117 Horticulture Building
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

BULBS

The Netherlands is noted for their bulbs, and many new hybrids are seen among amaryllis, daffodils, tulips and lilies. There is variegated foliage with stripes of white, maroon, or purple in species hybrid tulips as well as multiflowered stalks with up to 6 flowers on each. The best new daffodil seen was a dark yellow, large-cupped cultivar named 'Cyclops'. *Crocsmia masoniorum*, a bright orange-red montbrietia, blooms from June into September at Inverewe.

HERBACEOUS MATERIAL

'Beatrix', a beautiful rose-flowered gerbera, is outstanding in the greenhouse of Keukenhof. Two excellent members of the smartweed family are *Polygonum affine* 'Donald Lowndes' and *Polygonum bistorta* 'Superbum'; both bloom over a long period of time but are most effective in late summer to early fall. They are best when given part shade and moist soil.

In spring wallflower, *Cheiranthus cheiri*, a biennial, was seen frequently, especially in England. *Astilbe* × *arendsii* hybrids from white to pink to red make a colorful display from late summer to early fall. The Venidio-Arctotis hybrid African

daisy is an excellent cut flower as seen in the Chelsea show. In late summer and early fall a small-flowered calceolaria hybrid was found planted with fibrous begonias, ageratum and other bedding plants. These floriferous plants in bright yellow to red shades were seen throughout the Alpine countries. There were several genera with the common name of dusty miller. They are seen most often in the British Isles where their silvery fern-like foliage is used for contrast. Most of these are *Senecio cineraria*.

SHRUBS

Forcing azaleas, 'Madame Joseph Huersel' (rose), and 'Joseph Huersel' (red), have large semi-double flowers and are exquisite. *Cytisus* × *praecox*, Warminster broom, is an irregular mass of yellow flowers in May in the Netherlands and England. Similar, but with dark pink flowers, is *C.* 'Hollandia'. The flowering red currant, *Ribes sanguineum* 'Atrorubens', is seen frequently flowering with the spring bulbs. Darwin's barberry, *Berberis darwinii*, is seen in Dijon, France in early May. *Choisya ternata* is in full bloom in mid-September in Inverewe Gardens in northern Scotland. Many cultivars of the Knaphill and Exbury azaleas give much color to the early spring gardens throughout Europe. The big-leaved, large evergreen rhododendrons flower prolifically and are tree-like in stature. One of the most attractive white-flowering shrubs is *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Lyken'. This cherry laurel with lustrous green leaves is covered with pure white upright racemes about 3 in. long. 'Lord Louis', a hybrid tea rose, created quite a stir in the Chelsea show for it is reputed to be both black spot and mildew resistant. *Ceanothus* hybrid 'Glorie de Versailles' has beautiful blue, rounded flower clusters in late August and early September and attractive shiny, dark green, round leaves. The hydrangeas, with fertile center flowers surrounded by sterile ones, come in white and a dark rose pink. These were seen at the Chelsea show. A tricolor cultivar is growing in the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh and flowering in September. These are probably all cultivars of *Hydrangea macrophylla*, or hybrids.

Itea ilicifolia has interesting long catkins about a foot long in late July in Villa Taranto in northern Italy. The holly-like leaves are around 4 in. long. Just a few days earlier, *Aesculus parviflora*, bottlebrush buckeye, can be seen in Heidelberg, Germany near its famous castle. *Euphorbia amygdaloides* has interesting purplish leaves near the tops of the plants. *Fuchsia magellanica* 'Variegata' is seen frequently in Europe. The plants are in bloom and are very attractive from late spring into September. A large rounded shrub with white fragrant

flowers blooming at Inverewe, Scotland, is *Eucryphia* × *nymansensis*, according to a workman. It was most attractive. Not far from this shrub is a big specimen of *Eucryphia glutinosa*, which was past maturity in flowering on September 20. This Chilean native listed for Zone 9 and 10 was growing well at Inverewe located at a latitude north of Moscow, Russia. The Inverewe area climate is obviously moderated greatly by the Gulf Stream. 'Sharoban' is a very dwarf form of *Pinus parviflora*, the Japanese white pine, which is frequently used for bonsai. *Fascicularia pitcairniifolia* is a most unusual bromeliad also seen at Inverewe. It probably would grow only in Zone 10 in the continental U.S. Another more tropical shrub thriving there is *Olearia moschata*, a member of the tree aster or daisy-bush genus. It is a large rounded shrub with grayish leaves. Eucalyptus, callistemon, and magnolia are a few other exotic plants which will grow there.

Several different cotoneasters are also there. Most interesting is *Cotoneaster fulgens*, a large sprawling bush covered with reddish fruits. *Cotoneaster bullatus* has red cherry-like fruits. This shrub is grown as a standard. Another cotoneaster, seen in a park in Heidelberg, appeared to be *Cotoneaster salicifolius*; however, no label was found on this very attractive arching shrub with bright red berries and glossy green lanceolate rugose leaves.

TREES

Near the castle in Heidelberg is a fine specimen of *Fraxinus excelsior* 'Pendula', weeping European ash. Another weeping tree seen at Bodnant in Wales, was called *Betula pendula* 'Tristis', weeping European birch. However, the most spectacular tree seen is *Acer* × *heggi*. A beautiful specimen was seen in the Canterbury area, England. In early May the newly-expanded leaves are colored a yellowish-beige tinted pink on the margins. When a remark was made about the beautiful coloration, the owner replied, "You should see it in fall. It would knock your eyes out." This cultivar was not listed in Hortus Third nor in Hilliers' Manual of Trees and Shrubs. Hillier's lists an *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' that comes close to fitting the description of these gorgeous leaves in spring. The Nikko maple, *Acer maximowiczianum*, a beautiful specimen small tree, is seen in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Throughout much of Europe, the most prevalent big flowering tree is the flowering chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Most common are those with white flowers, but there are pinks and reds also. The only variegated-leaved specimen

was seen in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. Probably the most unusual bark on a big tree is on *Arbutus* × *andrachnoides*, a strawberry tree, seen in Bodnant Gardens in Wales. The smooth, flaky bark is rusty-red in color. Another attractive, unusual, variegated-leaved tree is *Quercus cerris* 'Variegata'. This variegated Turkey oak with its very spreading top is seen at Inverewe. A very columnar form of *Pyrus calleryana* was seen at the Floriade in Amsterdam. It is patented and developed primarily for street-tree planting. In Paris, where many streets are lined with trees, a cultivar of *Crataegus laevigata*, a double pink English hawthorn is seen on one of the more centrally located avenues.

VINES

Finally, some unusual vines seen in Europe are of interest. *Actinida kolomitka* at Wisley Gardens has attractive multi-colored leaves. *Polygonum aubertii*, silver lace or Chinese fleece vine, is seen throughout Europe in bloom in late summer and early fall. The long twining rampant stems are covered with long upright paniced racemes of white fragrant flowers. Widely seen also is the *Clematis montana* var. *rubens*. It is in full bloom in May and June with fewer flowers thereafter. Many newer clematis hybrids can be seen at the Chelsea show. They included: 'Walter Pennell', a fully double old rose; 'William Kennett', lavender; 'Mrs. Cholmondeley', a large pale lavender-blue; 'Dr. Ruppel', a burgundy red with a lavender-tinted border on each petal; 'Souvenir de Capitaine Thuilleaux', a picotee with the inner petal burgundy and a rather large white border on each petal; 'Lincoln Star', a large picotee with a reddish-purple center and a narrow white border on each petal. The smaller flowered *Clematis montana* 'Elizabeth', a pastel pink with slightly fragrant flowers, completes the picture.

These are only a few of many outstanding plant specimens seen during several trips abroad. These were the most easily identified, but if others suited an American propagator's needs, it would be well worth his time to determine precise names and sources of material.

REFERENCES

1. Bailey Hortorium Staff. 1976. *Hortus III*. 1290 pp. New York: Macmillan.
2. Hillier and Sons. 1977. *Hilliers' Manual of Trees and Shrubs*. David and Charles, England. 575 p.