

compact growth, greater flower production, and silver-gray foliage color. The potential for interspecific hybridization in *Buddleja* appears great. Numerous clones already in the commercial trade represent interspecific hybrids, and our initial breeding efforts suggest that controlled hybridization of *B. davidii* Franch. with *B. lindleyana* Fortune, *B. globosa* Hope, *B. fallowiana* Balf., and *B. salviifolia* (L.) Lam. are possible. Other interspecific combinations are currently being explored.

Because *Buddleja* has the potential to spread from cultivation, we are exploring the possibility of developing sterile cultivars. The approach we are using is to develop triploid (plants with three sets of chromosomes) cultivars by hybridizing normal diploid cultivars with a tetraploid clone (four chromosome sets) developed by Dr. Tom Ranney. These hybridizations appear successful. Progeny will be field tested in summer of 2000.

LITERATURE CITED

Ranney, T. 1999. North Carolina State University, Horticulture Sciences Department, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, North Carolina 28732.

New Color Plants for the South

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INTRODUCTION

My lifelong goal is to trial, discover, and develop low maintenance ornamental plants uniquely adapted to the South. Most of the plants I work with are tropical in origin and produced by cuttings. Others are old-fashioned heirlooms and I have a particular interest in perennial bulbs and reseeding annuals. This presentation includes a sampling of my recent projects.

***Lupinus texensis* 'Texas Maroon' (maroon bluebonnet).** An aggie maroon strain of the Texas State flower. This took years of selection from original blue tinges on pink flowers in a production field of pink bluebonnets. This was a joint introduction between Dr. Jerry Parsons and myself of Texas A&M University (TAMU). The selection was introduced by Wildseed of Fredericksburg, Texas, and is a 2000 TAMU CEMAP (The Coordinated Education and Marketing Assistance Program) promotion. This program is an industry - university cooperative program in which Texas A&M University and industry leaders partner in the identification of superior landscape plants for Texas and their subsequent promotion in the market place.

***Consolida ajacis* (syn. *C. ambigua*) (bunny bloom larkspur).** This is a selection of old-fashioned single larkspur by Dr. Jerry Parsons of TAMU. It blooms at Easter and has a rabbit in every flower!

***Petunia integrifolia* (syn. *P. violacea*) 'VIP' (VIP petunia).** 'VIP' is a vigorous, heat-tolerant, cultivar from South America. I made a selection from seed collected in a German garden. It has darker flowers and is more floriferous than the common

form. 'VIP' is propagated from cuttings, but I am working on a seed strain in several colors. It is a 1999 TAMU CEMAP promotion.

***Petunia* 'Laura Bush' (Laura Bush petunia).** A seed-propagated, heat-tolerant, strongly reseeding petunia that occurred as a cross between *P. violacea* and an old-fashioned petunia (*P. ×hybrida*). 'Laura Bush' was introduced by Peterson Brothers of San Antonio, Texas. It is a joint introduction with Dr. Jerry Parsons and a 2002 TAMU CEMAP promotion.

***Verbena* 'Blue Princess' (blue princess verbena).** A prolific, heat-tolerant, perennial verbena that I obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society's nursery at Wisley, England, on a trip with J.C. Raulston. Tops in Texas A&M verbena trials.

It was introduced by Lone Star Growers (ColorSpot), and is a 1998 TAMU CEMAP promotion.

***Verbena* 'Pinwheel Princess' (pinwheel princess verbena).** A lavender and white pinwheel striped sport of 'Blue Princess' I found at the Stephen F. Austin (SFA) Mast Arboretum. 'Pinwheel Princess' has the same super strong 'Blue Princess' vigor. It appears to be an identical sport found by former SFA graduate and friend Matt Welch in North Carolina.

***Verbena* 'Rose King' (rose king verbena).** Perhaps the most vigorous of any perennial verbena I have grown. It has gaudy, magenta-pink flowers. The all-pink version of 'Tiger Rose'. It may occasionally revert to purple striped flowers. 'Rose King' was collected from an old landscape in East Texas, and introduced by Aubrey King at King's Nursery in Tenaha, Texas.

***Ruellia brittoniana* - dwarf cultivars (dwarf Mexican petunia).** Besides the popular dwarf purple ('Katie'), a dwarf pink and dwarf white are now on the market. In addition to developing the dwarf pink, by crossing 'Katie' and 'Chi Chi', I hope to develop others as well.

***Hibiscus* 'Flare' (flare rose mallow hibiscus).** A fantastic development from Sam McFadden of Somerville, Tennessee. 'Flare' has glowing hot pink flowers on a nice compact plant, and is sterile with no seed set. It was introduced by Dr. Jerry Parsons and Lone Star Growers (ColorSpot) of San Antonio. It is a 2000 TAMU CEMAP promotion.

***Hibiscus* 'Moy Grande' (Texas giant hibiscus).** An introduction from Ying Doon Moy of the San Antonio Botanic Garden. This is the largest flowering hibiscus on earth! It is a cross between *H. grandiflorus* and *H. moscheutos*, and has big pink flowers on a huge plant. It is a 2000 TAMU CEMAP promotion.

***Ipomoea battatas* 'Black Beauty' (black beauty sweet potato).** It is a heart-shaped sport of 'Blackie' from Dan Lineberger at Texas A&M. 'Black Beauty' is a nice companion to 'Margarita'.

***Tecoma stans* 'Gold Star' (gold star esperanza).** It is precocious and has prolific flowering "yellow bells"; I selected it in San Antonio. 'Gold Star' was introduced by Lone Star Growers (ColorSpot), and is a 1999 TAMU CEMAP promotion.

***Lycoris incarnata* (peppermint spider lily).** A pink and white striped *Lycoris* from China. It was obtained from Cleo Barnwell of Shreveport who got it from Sam

Caldwell of Tennessee. Peppermint spider lily was introduced by Plant Delights Nursery. Many others species and hybrids are appearing on the market.

***Rhodophiala bifida* (oxblood lily).** Adapted to all parts of the South. It is a spectacular miniature fall-blooming amaryllid from Argentina. It is a German-Texas heirloom, and is also known as schoolhouse lily. Oxblood lily has an August bloom, winter foliage, and goes through summer dormancy.

Selecting and Marketing New Plants

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INTRODUCTION

Hawksridge Farms, Inc. is a production nursery in the western foothills of North Carolina. Although we are a fairly large nursery and produce a lot of the more common plants in the nursery trade, our interest really lies in new or seldom-used plants. We bring in, on the average, around 40 to 50 new varieties per year. Our acquisitions of new material vary from arboretums to mail-order sources. We also acquire many plants from out of the country through our import license. We have made some excellent contacts with various nurseries outside the United States and hope to expand this more in the future.

We immediately begin to propagate these plants once acquired. As soon as possible we try to plant a sample in our test gardens to evaluate its adaptability to our growing conditions. We are located in Zone 7a.

The following is a list of plants that we are currently evaluating. Some of these plants are being sold now and the rest we hope to have in the market in the near future. Only about 10% of the plants evaluated will become production items.

NEW PLANTS UNDER EVALUATION

***Aesculus* × *carnea* 'Fort McNair'**. Rounded-crown tree with dark pink upright panicles that are 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 inches) long. The leaves are more heat tolerant than other cultivars. Reaches a height of 12 to 15 m (40 to 50 ft) and has a 9 m (30 ft) diameter. A Zone 3 plant.

***Berberis* × *frikartii* 'Telstar'**. An evergreen shrub that has a flat top when mature and a height of 0.9 m (3 ft) and a 1.2 to 1.5 m (4 to 5 ft) diameter. A Zone 6 to 9 plant.

***Berberis* × *interposita* 'Wallich's Purple'**. An evergreen with mid-green leaves that are bronze-purple when young. It has a height of 0.9 m (3 ft) and a diameter of 1.2 m (4 ft). A Zone 6 to 9 plant.

***Berberis julianae* 'Spring Glory'**. Leaves and stems are tinted red to bronze-red with brilliant coloration to the new shoot growth. Has a height of 1.8 to 2.4 m (6 to 8 ft). A Zone 5 to 8 plant.