

## New Plant Forum 2019 – Eastern Region IPPS

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### PRESENTER

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*Iris versicolor* ‘Purple Flame’ blue flag iris



We're fortunate to have the splendor and garden grace of Mt. Cuba Center in our backyard. We're even more fortunate to be sharing their new, sultry selection of *I. versicolor* with the trade — welcome *Iris* ‘Purple Flame’. Discovered by a staff gardener along a pond edge on-property —

this drumroll-worthy selection marches to its own beat as it vibrantly announces the return of spring.

An extraordinary performer in Mt. Cuba's gardens (and our trial evaluations as well!), we've been awed by the lasting impression of 'Purple Flame'. Plant along the water's edge, where roots receive consistent moisture to achieve best early season color before foliage slowly transition to green.

Plainly stated, it's a show stopper. Beyond other *Iris* selections on the market, 'Purple Flame' has a richer, more intense cast to stems and flowers, yes. However, the true beauty lies in the irresistible foliage. Emerging in March, the purple flame-like foliage provides an unparalleled performance of vivid and intense eggplant purple foliage followed by an encore of rich and abundant flowers. Height is 2–3 ft. with a USDA Hardiness Zone 2–7.

*Lysimachia lanceolata* var. *purpurea* lance-leaved loosestrife



*Lysimachia lanceolata* var. *purpurea*, or purple lance-leaved loosestrife, is a native plant endemic to North America east of the Mississippi. The wine-red foliage of *Lysimachia* slowly creeps in the garden and grows 1 -2 ft tall with an equal spread. Throughout the summer, the diminutive flowers twinkle and bloom a bright yellow, contrasting with the maroon leaves. Lance-leaved loosestrife is a quiet plant, settling along garden borders and along hillsides and at the base of trees or shrubs. What we love about this plant is its sunny tough-as-nails attitude, heat tolerance, and how it steadily

spreads its rhizomes, covering the ground and suppressing weeds while supporting pollinators and wildlife. It's easy to grow, delightful all year round, and is the living embodiment of 'green mulch'. We couldn't ask for more!

The short stature, continuous sunny bloom, and deep wine coloring of this native plant make *L. lanceolata* var. *purpurea* a new favorite groundcover, winning over our R&D Department by how it keeps weeds at bay and is a carefree plant. Height is 12-24 in. and spread is 12–24 in.; USDA Hardiness Zone 4–8.

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### *Carpinus betulus* ‘Lucas’



‘Lucas’ has a dense form with a narrow, columnar habit staying narrower than *Carpinus betulus* ‘Fastigiata’. The rugose foliage remains dark green through the growing season, turning brown in autumn. The dried foliage remains on the tree until pushed off in late March to early April as buds swell. Other upright cultivars of *C. betulus* hold foliage into winter but drop much earlier than ‘Lucas’. The retained foliage can be an advantage where a winter screen is preferred. Selected in Belgium. ‘Lucas’ has a projected height of 20–30 ft and spread of 10–12 ft; hardy to Zone 4.

### *Diospyros virginiana* ‘WFHgodel’, Golden Delight™ persimmon



The tree was selected from a group of seedlings and displayed unique traits in size of fruit (larger), flavor, and early ripening. In northeast Ohio the flavorful fruit ripens in early October with no astringency. Native persimmon fruit typically ripens after frost and in northeast Ohio this happens around the end of October to early November. Trees are

vigorous when grown from grafts or budding (height: 35–60 ft, spread: 20–35 ft) and can be trimmed into a shapely tree with a broadly pyramidal form. Hardy to Zone 4.

***Carpinus caroliniana* ‘MY1’, Autumn Fire™ American hornbeam**



Autumn Fire™ American hornbeam brings a new form to our native American hornbeam. Not only is it a true fastigiate form with crisp green summer foliage but also sports amazing shades of burgundy, orange, and red foliage in the fall with color that can persist into November. It has proven to be a vigorous

grower and brings a new possibility for design where a narrow upright small to medium sized tree is needed. Selected as a seedling from native trees in Lake County, Ohio. Height is 25 ft and spread is 6–8 ft; hardy to Zone 3.

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*Bouteloua gracilis* 'Honey Blonde' PPAF



An Intrinsic Introduction. Hardy and adaptable plant with good vigor has a similar size and stature compared to 'Blonde Ambition'. Upright wire like stems stand 30 in. plus and begin blooming with eyelash like

flowers, holding yellow pollen in June. The tan colored seed heads lighten with age holding on into winter. Full sun, average to well-drained soil.

*Panicum virgatum* ‘Prairie Dog’ PPAF



An Intrinsic Introduction. Selected for a more reserved habit growing 4–5 ft tall with clean blue foliage on upright stems. Heavy flowering plants bloom on the top third of the plant. Full sun, most any soil.

*Pennisetum alopecuroides* ‘Love and Rockets’ PPAF



An Intrinsic Introduction! After 19 years of breeding *Pennisetum* we finally have a small red flowered fountain grass in league with ‘Hameln’. Dark green foliage blends nicely with the wine-red flowers softening in color

by fall. Mature plants reaching around 24 to 30 in. tall. Red tipped foliage at times adds another dimension. Full sun. Most any soil but wet.

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*Aesculus × bushii* ‘Aaron1’ PP29,092,  
Mystic Ruby™ buckeye



Mystic Ruby™ buckeye was found in a seedling block of *Aesculus glabra* at Johnson’s Nursery in Jackson, Wisconsin by Aaron Jambura. It is thought to be a hybrid between *A. glabra* and *A. pavia*. The plant bears showy, reddish pink flowers in mid to late spring. It is a relatively small-scale tree, growing to about 18 ft tall and 8 ft wide in 20 years. Mystic Ruby™ buckeye has better than average scorch and blotch resistance. It is fruit bearing and is probably the hardiest red flowering *Aesculus* in existence. It survived the polar vortex in Wisconsin in 2013 and -27 °F in 2019. A young, single plant located about 20 miles east of Fargo, North Dakota overwintered fine in the landscape after experiencing temperatures of about -40 °F in January of 2019. Licensing is being handled by Upshoot.

*Buxus* ‘Prostrate 3’ PP29,574, Flat-tery™ Boxwood



Flat-tery™ boxwood is a low growing boxwood for use as a groundcover or accent in shady locations. The plant can grow to 24 in. tall and 4 ft wide in about 25 years. It is maintained by a light annual top shearing and a minimal side shear to keep its round shape. Plants are nearly flat-topped. It maintains a good green winter color and is hardy to Zone 4. No discernable tolerance to boxwood blight has been observed as yet. Selected by Michael Yanny. Marketing and licensing are handled by Upshoot.

*Rhus aromatica* ‘Fine Texture Compact Select A’ PP28,669, Lacette™ Fragrant Sumac



Lacette™ was selected by Michael Yanny for being a well branched, compact plant with small leaves that give it a fine textured look in the landscape. Plants will get 4 ft tall by 7 ft wide in about 8 years with minimal shearing. An annual, heavy spring shearing can keep plants lower for use in mass plantings. Lacette™ makes a nice hedge in tough urban sites. Fall foliage colors can be

red to maroon in most years. The plant is resistant to eriophyid mite gall damage which is common on many *R. aromatica*. This plant roots readily from softwood cuttings and is not as problematic as ‘Gro-low’. Care should be taken when cutting plants because exposure to the sap can cause dermatitis in some individuals. Marketing and licensing is being handled by Plants Nouveau.

*Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula* 'JN Upright Select' PP28,959, Violet Uprising™ Manchurian Lilac



An upright, barrel shaped lilac that is useful as a hedging plant. Individuals can grow to 6 ft tall by 4–5 ft wide when sheared annually. It has violet colored inflorescences in mid to late spring that fade to white. The flowers have a sweet lilac fragrance. Plants should be hedged immediately after flowering to remove the spent flowering stalks. Late

pruning will result in cutting off next seasons flower buds. Violet Uprising™ Manchurian Lilac can have attractive maroon and yellow fall foliage colors. It's likely hardy from Zones 3–7. It roots readily from softwood cuttings in late spring. The plant was selected by Michael Yanny. Marketing and licensing are handled by Plants Nouveau.

*Tilia americana* ‘Kromm’ PPAF, Sweet Street™ Linden



Sweet Street™ is a tight pyramidal form of American linden with fragrant flowers. This cultivar should make an excellent street tree. It shows good resistance to Japanese Beetle feeding in southern Wisconsin. The plant was select by Darrell Kromm of Reeseville Ridge Nursery from a Dodge County, Wisconsin provenance. Licensing is being handled by Plants Nouveau.