

less than a month. Thick material from outdoor stock plants may take 2 or 3 months to root. Overwintering may be a problem. Keep them quite dry in the flats then pot them up in the spring when the buds start to swell.

QUESTION: *Nandina domestica* cultivars — is there another time to propagate them other than late fall:

DON KLEIM: We propagate all year long, as long as the plants are actively growing. We use softwood cuttings — no hormones — and use intermittent mist. Rooting takes 20 to 30 days. We retain 2 or 3 leaves on top, with the basal leaves stripped. We use young, soft growth, barely starting to harden. The cuttings are only 1 to 1½ in. long. We are located in Clovis, California, where it is relatively warm all year.

QUESTION: How do you get *Daphne cneorum* to grow on, once cuttings are rooted? Rooting is no problem.

BOB GOUVEIA: We grow them in the field in sandy soil in our area in Massachusetts. It is almost impossible to grow them in containers.

PLANTS FOR THE DISCRIMINATING PROPAGATOR

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New plants are always coming onto the market. Sometimes they are not new at all, but just some old favorites that have gained popularity in our gardens again. The consumer today tends towards more dwarf and compact shrubs and trees because of limited space problems such as in the case of smaller lots, apartments, or condominiums. The consumer also looks for a more maintenance-free landscape. Nevertheless, we are a nation of people who love our gardens. Whether one has acres of land or only a small parcel to work with, one toils hard to keep greenery and flowers around our homes.

I have selected a few plants to discuss, ranging from the subtropical zone to the hardest of zones, from large growers to compact, dwarf growers. Arranged alphabetically, they are as follows.

Aucuba japonica 'Mr. Goldstrike' (Family Cornaceae)

This plant came from New Zealand from Duncan and Davies. It is well noted for its excellent variegation and grows to a height of about five feet. Plants propagate easily from cuttings. Hardiness is to zone six.

Carex buchanani (Family Cyperaceae)

The common name is fox red sedge. It originated in New Zealand, with our first plants being obtained from Skylark Nursery. It grows to about two feet tall with reddish brown foliage in summer. Plants are propagated by division, done preferably in cool weather; it is rated to zone five.

Ceratostigma plumbaginoides (Family Plumbaginaceae)

Originally from China, this is the hardiest of the *Ceratostigmas*. We obtained our first plants from the Huntington Botanical Gardens, in San Marino, California. This plant grows to about 9 to 12 in. in height and has profuse showy indigo blue flowers from June to the first frost. The foliage turns a red bronzy color in the autumn before going deciduous. *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* is propagated from cuttings and is rated to zone five.

Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' (Family Fabaceae or Leguminosae)

This beautiful tree came from Forest Nursery. It has bright pink flowers in early spring just before it leafs out with its maroon red leaves. It grows to about 20 feet. The trees are grafted, usually with the stick bud technique to get best results. This tree is hardy to zone four and is deciduous.

Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam' (Family Asteraceae or Compositae)

This perennial *Coreopsis* seems to be well known in the northeastern part of the U.S. and is now just coming on to the scene on the West Coast. It has single creamy yellow flowers on a plant that grows 18 inches to three feet. It is a prolific bloomer, especially in the summer, and tolerates heat very well. Plants are propagated from cuttings. However, seed was collected to see if they come true and are currently being evaluated. This plant is hardy to zone three.

Deutzia crenata var. *nakaiana* (Family Saxifragaceae or Philadelphaceae)

Originally from Japan and introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., this low growing *Deutzia* is a good ground cover. It grows to about 1½ ft. tall with a 2 ft. spread. The flowers are white and the plant is propagated from cuttings. The plant is deciduous with a rating to zone six.

Hardenbergia violacea 'Happy Wanderer' (Family Fabaceae or Leguminosae)

Hardenbergia violacea, a vine, has been around for years, but the 'Happy Wanderer' strain is new. Introduced by University of California — Santa Cruz, this *Hardenbergia* has bright purple racemes. We obtained ours from Leonard Coates Nursery. Plants are propagated from cuttings, but they are not hardy beyond zone nine.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'All Aglow' (Family Malvaceae)

Also known in the trade as Estelle Kanzer, this hibiscus with bright orange flowers with blotches of yellow came to us through Colors Nursery in Florida. It is a prolific bloomer, the plant itself being well shaped. Plants are propagated from cuttings and is tender at zone nine.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis 'Sunny Delight' (Family Malvaceae)

Also known as 'Kitchen's Yellow', this hibiscus is a prolific bloomer with lemon, chiffon-like flowers with white centers and are 5 to 6 in. across. This hibiscus came to us from Colors Nursery in Florida. Plants are propagated from cuttings and are tender to zone nine.

Hydrangea macrophylla 'Mariesii Variegata' (Family Saxifragaceae or Hydrangeaceae)

Commonly called the silver blue hydrangea, this plant's foliage is variegated with a white to cream border on the leaves. It will grow to about 5 ft. Ours were originally obtained from Western Hills Nursery in Occidental, California. Plants are propagated from cuttings and are rated to zone six. This plant is deciduous.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus' (Family Poaceae or Graminae)

This perennial grass is also called maiden grass. Growing to a height of 6 to 7 ft., the leaf blades are ¼ in. wide or less. The plant makes a good specimen in the landscape with showy feathery inflorescences. Our first plants came from Bluemel Nursery in Maryland. This grass is propagated by divisions during the cooler months and is hardy to zone five.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus' (Family Poaceae or Graminae)

Also known as variegated Japanese silver grass, this grass is very similar to the *Miscanthus* 'Gracillimus' except for its vertical variegation. Not quite as good a grower as 'Gracillimus' and harder to propagate, we received this grass from Bluemel Nursery also and the plants are rated to zone five.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus' (Family Poaceae or Graminae)

This grass is again similar to the other two previous *Miscanthus* except that the leaf blades are a little wider and the variegation is horizontal. From Bluemel Nursery also, the plant is propagated from divisions in the cooler months and is rated to zone five.

Nerium oleander 'Ruby Lace' (P.P.A.F.) (Family Apocynaceae)

This *Nerium* was introduced by a homeowner in Anaheim, California, named Dick Pervis who thought it had merit. The plant is a large growing *Nerium* with very large red flowers two to three inches across. The Monrovia Nursery Company is patenting this *Nerium* which is being propagated from cuttings and is rated to zone eight.

Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln' (Family Graminae)

Also known as dwarf fountain grass, this Bluemel Nursery introduction grows to two to three feet with dark green foliage. The feathery inflorescence does not seed so the plants are propagated from divisions, being hardy to zone five.

Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum' (Family Graminae)

This grass is also known as purple fountain grass. The plants grow to about 4 ft. and their feathery inflorescence does not set seed. The leaf blades have a maroonish coloring to them. Plants are propagated by divisions during cooler weather, and is rated to zone seven.

Photinia × *fraseri* 'Indian Princess' (P.P. No. 5237). (Family Rosaceae)

This is an introduction and a plant patented by the Monrovia Nursery Company. A sport from *Photinia* × *fraseri* found by an employee gave way to a dwarf compact *Photinia* with coppery-orange new growth and red foliage, smaller than the foliage of *Photinia fraseri*. This slow growing plant is difficult to propagate from cuttings however, so grafting onto *Cydonia* understock is also done. *Photinia* × *fraseri* 'Indian Princess' is hardy to zone seven.

Rhododendron 'Bruce Hancock' (Family Ericaceae)

This azalea is a Satsuki type that is excellent for hanging baskets. It is a James Harris hybrid from Georgia. The flowers are white with pink borders and it is a prolific bloomer. This azalea propagates with ease from cuttings and is rated to zone seven.

Spiraea × *bumalda* 'Limemound' (P.P.A.F.) (Family Rosaceae)

This spiraea came to Monrovia Nursery Company via Perron Nursery in Canada. It is a small growing spiraea to 2 ft. with lime-green foliage and pink flowers. The plants get excellent fall color in the leaves and is now under patent application by the Monrovia Nursery Company. Propagation is from cuttings and it is deciduous, being hardy to zone three.

Weigela florida 'Minuet' (Family Caprifoliaceae)

This dwarf compact weigela came to us through the Ottawa Research Station and a royalty is paid to the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation. The plant grows 1 to 4 ft. tall and is a prolific bloomer with pink flowers. The plants are propagated from cuttings and are deciduous, rated at zone four.

Weigela florida 'Red Prince' (Family Caprifoliaceae)

This weigela is not quite as compact as 'Minuet', but it offers bright red flowers that do not fade. The plants are patented with the Iowa Nurserymen's Research Corporation and grow 4 to 5 ft. tall. This weigela is propagated from cuttings and is deciduous, rated to zone five.

Wisteria floribunda 'Texas Purple' (Family Leguminosae)

This wisteria is quite interesting as it produces beautiful lilac purple flowers rather prolifically at a young age, only 2 to 4 ft. tall. Although its mature habit is as large as any wisteria, its profuse flowering continues. This wisteria came from Verhalen Nursery in Texas and has also been known as 'Verhalen's Purple'. The plants are propagated from cuttings and are deciduous, being hardy to zone five.

This report gives an overview of a few new and not so new plants to watch for on the market. There certainly is a plant to please everyone's needs and tastes and space, whether one grows them for a living or to beautify his home.

PROPAGATION OF WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN NATIVES

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We have been in the West long enough now and I hope that our need to prove that we are masters of the land, to prove we are in control by beating back its flora and fauna is coming finally to an end. We as horticulturists, plant propagators, educators, and landscapers and nursery people may actually be coming to the conclusion that among the best possible plants for our western gardens and landscapes are those that are native to our region. We are, perhaps, at last becoming more aware and appreciative of our superb native flora. A growing segment of the public certainly is.

Along with our colleagues on the East Coast, those in California have been much more involved in the use of native plants than we have here in the Pacific Northwest. Through the efforts of organizations like the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, as well as a number of botanic gardens and arboreta involved in growing and exhibiting native plants, the