

## New plant session: Western region<sup>©</sup>

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*Ribes sanguineum* 'Oregon Snowflake'

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*Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan Pink' (PPP)

*Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan Purple' (U.S. Patent PP24,422)

*Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan White' (U.S. Patent PP25,156)

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*Lagerstroemia* 'Miss Francis'

*Lagerstroemia* 'Miss Gail'

*Lagerstroemia* 'Miss Sandra'

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*Ilex crenata* × *I. maximowicziana* 'RutHol1' Emerald Colonnade<sup>®</sup> holly PP23,905

*Rhaphiolepis umbellata* 'RutRhaph1' Summer Moon<sup>®</sup> Indian hawthorn PP20,730

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*Weigela* 'Slingco 2,' Maroon Swoon<sup>™</sup> weigela (PPAF, CPBRAFF)

*Weigela* 'Velda,' Tuxedo<sup>™</sup> weigela (PPAF, CPBRAFF)

### NEW PLANTS

#### ***Ilex crenata* × *I. maximowicziana* 'RutHol1', Emerald Colonnade<sup>®</sup> holly PP23,905**

Emerald Colonnade<sup>®</sup> holly is the result of hybridization program at The University of Georgia in an attempt to get a faster growing, upright form of small-leaved holly. This plant is a cross between *I. crenata* 'Sky Pencil' and a male form of *I. maximowicziana*. The resulting plant is faster growing than its female parent (24 months from cutting to a finished #5), is resistant to spider mites and is female sterile so invasiveness is not an issue. Both parents and Emerald Colonnade<sup>®</sup> have survived -5°F with no foliar or stem damage. Mature size

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after 10 years is 8 ft by 8 ft. Emerald Colonnade® holly is useful for hedging where larger plants are not needed or for topiary work since it is easily shaped and grows vigorously (Figure 1).



Figure 1. *Ilex crenata* × *I. maximowicziana* ‘RutHol1’, Emerald Colonnade® holly.

### ***Lagerstroemia* ‘Miss Frances’ (CM224)**

‘Miss Frances’ has a round, spreading growth habit with approximate dimensions of 5.5 m (18 ft) tall and 6 m (20 ft) wide after 9 years growing under ambient field conditions in south Mississippi. Crown branching is vigorous and dense with good foliage cover. Good leaf retention has been observed from spring through fall. Flowers are red (RHS Red 46A) and flower panicles average 16 cm (6.4 in.) in length and 8 cm (3.2 in.) in width on the terminal ends of branches. Plants flower from late June into August in south Mississippi. ‘Miss Frances’ displays a high level of field resistance to “rabbit tracks”, bacterial leaf spot and powdery mildew, with moderate resistance to *Cercospora* leaf spot. Disease resistance is combined with other desirable horticultural traits including a large growth habit (5 to 7 m), dark red flowers over an extended bloom season and attractive persistent green foliage. Plants are more vigorous than many dark red-flowered cultivars such as its male parent, ‘Arapaho’, and its female parent, ‘Gamad I’ (Figure 2).



Figure 2. *Lagerstroemia* ‘Miss Frances’.

### ***Lagerstroemia* ‘Miss Gail’ (CM223)**

‘Miss Gail’ has an upright, tight, vase-shaped growth habit with approximate dimensions of 6.5 m (21.5 ft) high and 3 m (10 ft) wide at 9 years of age under ambient field conditions in south Mississippi. Plants develop thick crown branching with good foliage cover of large dark-green leaves. Foliage retention is excellent from spring through fall. Inflorescences average 14 cm (5.6 in.) in length and 8 cm (3.2 in.) in width on the terminal ends of branches. Flowers are colored dark-purple (RHS Purple Violet N80A). Yellow

stamens contrast nicely with the purple petal color. Flowering occurs from late June into August. 'Miss Gail' displays a high level of field resistance to *Cercospora* leaf spot, powdery mildew, and "rabbit tracks" and moderate resistance to bacterial spot. In addition to disease resistance, 'Miss Gail' has a combination of other desirable horticultural traits including a large growth habit [7 m (23 ft)], dark-purple flowers over an extended bloom season and attractive persistent green foliage. 'Miss Gail' resulted from a cross-pollination between 'Catawba' as the female parent and 'Arapaho' as the male parent (Figure 3).



Figure 3. *Lagerstroemia* 'Miss Gail'.

***Lagerstroemia* 'Miss Sandra' (CM078)**

'Miss Sandra' has an upright spreading growth habit with approximate dimensions of 6 m (20 ft) high and 3 m (10 ft) wide at 9 years of age in south Mississippi under ambient field conditions. Plants develop thick crown branching with good foliage cover. Foliage retention is excellent throughout the summer. Flowering occurs from late June into August. Inflorescences average 14 cm (5.6 in.) in length and 7 cm (2.8 in.) in width on the terminal ends of branches. Flowers are dark-purple (RHS Purple Violet N81A) and measure 4 cm (1.6 in.) in width. Petals are fan-shaped with a ruffled apex and ruffled margins. 'Miss Sandra' displays a high level of field resistance to bacterial spot, powdery mildew, *Cercospora* leaf spot, and "rabbit tracks", combined with other desirable horticultural traits including a large growth habit [6 to 8 m (20 to 26.5 ft)], dark-purple flowers over an extended bloom season and attractive persistent green foliage. 'Miss Sandra' resulted from a cross-pollination between an unregistered, purple-flowered *L. indica* seedling collected in San Antonio, Texas as the female parent and 'Tonto' as the male parent (Figure 4).

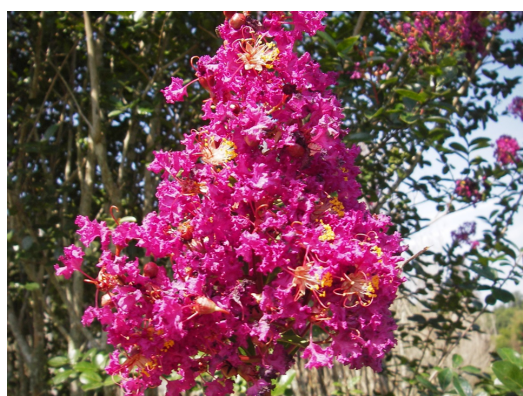


Figure 4. *Lagerstroemia* 'Miss Sandra'.

***Rhaphiolepis umbellata* 'RutRhaph1' PP20,730 Summer Moon® Indian hawthorn**

Summer Moon® Indian hawthorn (Figure 5) was selected from a group of

approximately 1000 seedlings growing at Wight Nurseries in South Georgia in the late 1990s. It was selected for its excellent disease resistance to entomosporium leaf spot under nursery conditions and its wavy, dark-green, waxy foliage. Summer Moon® Indian hawthorn is ideal for the lower south and along the Pacific Ocean in USDA hardiness Zone 8. Plants in Athens, Georgia have survived 6°F with minimal leaf burn. This is a great landscape plant for foundation and/or mass plantings. After 10 years, the mature size is roughly 4 ft tall by 6 ft wide.

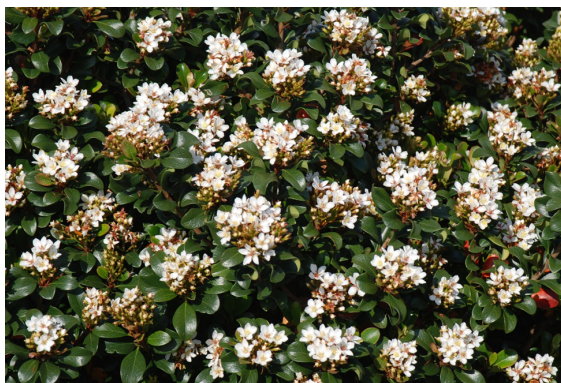


Figure 5. *Raphiolepis umbellata* ‘RutRhaph1’ Summer Moon® Indian hawthorn.

***Ribes sanguineum* ‘Oregon Snowflake’ PP26763**

‘Oregon Snowflake’ is a new and distinct cultivar of flowering currant being released as an alternative to White Icicle™ currant, the most popular white flowering cultivar in the trade. ‘Oregon Snowflake’ was selected for its dissected foliage and compact, mounded, and semi-dwarf growth habit that is novel and superior to other available cultivars. A morphological comparison of ‘Oregon Snowflake’ to White Icicle™ currant for leaf and growth habit characteristics has demonstrated the distinctness of ‘Oregon Snowflake’. After 3 year, field-grown plants of ‘Oregon Snowflake’ were more than 30 cm shorter than White Icicle, but 15 cm wider, demonstrating its semi-dwarf, mounding habit (Figure 6). More details on this cultivar may be found by reading its release (Contreras and Friddle, 2015).



Figure 6. *Ribes sanguineum* ‘Oregon Snowflake’.

***Ruellia simplex* ‘Mayan Purple’, ‘Mayan White’, and ‘Mayan Pink’ Mexican petunias**

Wild *Ruellia simplex* was introduced to Florida from Mexico in the 1940s and is now the third most important herbaceous perennial landscape plant in the state (after pentas

and lantana). However, *Ruellia simplex* is very fertile and has become invasive in natural areas in seven Southern USA states, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The *Ruellia* breeding program at the University of Florida was started in 2007 with the objective of developing new, sterile cultivars with a range of flower colors and growth habits.

The first two sterile cultivars released at the University of Florida were *Ruellia* 'Mayan Purple' ('R10-102', U.S. Patent PP24,422) (Figure 7) and 'Mayan White' ('R10-108', U.S. Patent PP25,156) (Figure 8), which have great landscape performance and profuse flowering. 'Mayan Purple' has large purple flowers and a more full growth habit than 'Purple Showers', which is also sterile but grows very tall and tends to lodge. 'Mayan White' has large white flowers profuse flowering, and a fuller growth habit than 'Snow White'. These two cultivars are patented and unrooted cuttings are available from Horticultural Marketing Associates.



Figure 7. *Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan Purple'.



Figure 8. *Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan White'.

*Ruellia* 'Mayan Pink' ('R10-105Q54', PPP) has medium-sized pink flowers, has a compact growth habit and is shorter than 'Mayan Purple' and 'Mayan White'. In some environments it may produce a very few fruits, which usually abort before maturing. 'Mayan Pink' is a good replacement for the very fertile and invasive 'Chi Chi'. The patent for 'Mayan Pink' is pending and this cultivar will be commercially available later this year (Figure 9).

These *Ruellia* cultivars can also be grown in containers and we are working on developing blueprints to grow them using plant growth regulators.



Figure 9. *Ruellia simplex* 'Mayan Pink'.

***Weigela* 'Velda' (PPAF, CPBRAf) Tuxedo™ weigela**

Tuxedo™ weigela is the only dark-leaved, white-flowered weigela on the market (Figure 10). Plants add an upscale, refined tone to the landscape and are best grown in full sun so that the leaves will be dark green. Tuxedo™ weigela grows 2-3 ft tall and 3-4 ft wide and the plants can handle temperatures down to -34°C (Zone 4).



Figure 10. *Weigela* 'Velda', Tuxedo™ weigela.

***Weigela* 'Slingco 2' (PPAF, CPBRAf) Maroon Swoon™ weigela**

Maroon Swoon™ weigela is an improvement over 'Red Prince' weigela, with Maroon Swoon™ weigela exhibiting a deeper flower color, heavier flowering and a more compact growth habit (Figure 11). Plants may be grown in full or part-sun. Maroon Swoon™ weigela grows 4-5 ft tall and 2-3 ft wide and the plants can handle temperatures down to -34°C (Zone 4).

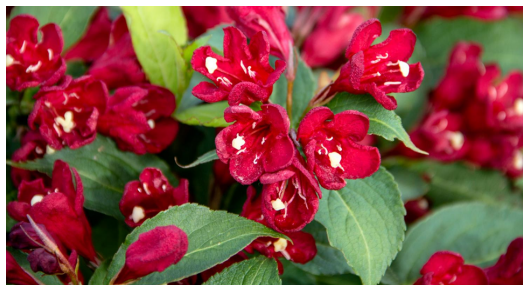


Figure 11. *Weigela* 'Slingco 2' Maroon Swoon™ weigela.

**Literature cited**

Contreras, R.N., and Friddle, M.W. (2015). 'Oregon Snowflake' flowering currant. *HortScience* 52, 320–321.