



Container Evaluation of New Ornamentals for the Southeast

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Nature of Work: New plants and cultivars are needed to fuel the growth of the nursery industry. Numerous species and selections have been brought to the Center for Applied Nursery Research since 2003. In general, plants are shifted into appropriate sized containers using the following substrate and are grown under standard conditions.

Results and Discussion:

The following plants died or were removed from the trials for various reasons in 2005: *Aristea major*, *Aster ageratoides*, *Aster kantoensis*, *Beschorneria yuccoides*, *Clinopodium chinense*, *Dianthus japonicus*, *Eupatorium chinense*, *Genista canariensis*, *Geranium maderense*, *Silene diocia*, and *Tephrosia grandiflora*.

Acacia fimbriata is an attractive species of wattle native to Australia. A plant in Tifton has been cold hardy to 14F and flowers profusely in February. Thirty seedlings were shifted from liners to #3 containers in April. Height was measured in November. Mean height was 42" with a range from 14" to 62" with a standard deviation of 10.8. Several seedlings flowered in February of 2006. Many visitors commented on the attractive foliage and form of these plants. Plants were shifted in #15's in November of 2005. Plants were cut back in May of 2006 and height in November of 2006 ranged from 14" to 60".

One plant of *Berberis kunmingensis* was grown in a #3 container and reached a height of 21". This plant has been transplanted into the field for further evaluation. Numerous seedlings from *Berberis xcarminea* 'Buccaneer' and 'Pirate King' are being grown in containers. *Callicarpa longissima*, *C. pedunculata*, and *C. rubella* were grown in containers, with the first two plants attracting attention. Breeding work with these species is planned for 2007.

Deutzia taiwanensis (2-6) continues to perform well. This species blooms heavily in April and remains attractive throughout the summer when other deutzia's have defoliated. *Dissotis pulchra* is a relative of the commonly grown *Tibouchina*. Plants grow vigorously but are not cold hardy and flower in February under short days. *Euonymus carnosus* were grown in containers in 2006. Selections were made for fall color in November. A dwarf, summer-flowering selection of *Hibiscus mutabilis* caught the eye of several visitors in 2006.

One yellow-foliaged seedling selection from *Ilex xattenuata* 'Sunny Foster' was planted in the field. The foliage is more like *Ilex opaca* than *I. cassine*. A dwarf selection of *Ilex cornuta* that is female and a male selection of *Ilex xwandoensis* with attractive foliage and a mounding form has also been planted in the field trials. Two selections of *Illicium parviflorum*, Morman Branch and 1.1 are growing in the field. Twenty three seedlings of

Several seedling batches of Nandina were grown out. Parental selection made a difference in height of the seedling populations. Seed from a yellow-fruited plant also produced seedlings that have a yellow hue to the foliage. Seedlings are being selected for compact form, branching, fall color, and sterility.

Rhaphiolepis seedlings from several cultivars are being evaluated for fall color, flowering, and disease resistance. Several plants are in the field and numerous seedlings are still in containers.

Significance to Industry: Certain plants are available for grower evaluation by signing a trial agreement. See Donna Heaton for details.