



NEWS FROM

SUMMER HILL

Winter/Spring 2008

50 years - WOW!

NATIVE PLANTS

Fifty years ago when I started Summer Hill Nursery, Taxus was the king and Rhododendron the queen in the nursery industry. I'm sure someone was growing what we now think of as native plants, but I don't remember any listed. I also don't remember exactly when I realized that Clethra gives good summer color and Ilex verticillata can be spectacular in the fall. However, we started growing some along with Azalea viscosum. We were one of the first to grow "native plants" and have expanded our numbers dramatically over the years.

However, the question always arises - what is a native plant? One that grows in your area or one that grows near your area and survives your weather conditions? There are plants that grow in the Southeast and are hardy in New England. Perhaps they were here before the last ice age and haven't moved back this far North but are surviving happily at the right altitude of the Allegheny Mountains.

Below is a list of native plants we are growing. All are from the East Coast, most from the Northeast and some from the Southeast. I've added a few words on where they should be used, etc.

1. **Acer pensylvanicum** This is an understory tree - it has green bark with whitestripes. The variety 'Erythrocladum' has pink bark with white stripes - very striking.

continued on page 4

OUR INTRODUCTIONS

Over the years, we have introduced to the trade many new varieties - some that we discovered and some that were discovered by others but not grown for sale. Here is a list of these plants, plus a list of their origins and short descriptions.

Acer japonica 'Branford Beauty'

A seedling from a tree at Ernie Egan's Nursery that was collected by Nick Nickou. This is a mounding spreading maple with an Acer jap. 'Aconitifolium' type leaf.

Acer palmatum 'Harriet Waldman'

This is a very interesting Japanese Maple that has variegated leaves and striking pink new growth in mid summer. It's believed to be a seedling of A. palm. 'Oridono Nishiki' that was found by Phil Waldman of Roslyn Nursery and named for his wife.

Andromeda polifolia 'Breton Blue'

Mike found this one in a bog on Cape Breton, Nova Scotia - good blue color on a very low growing plant.

Azalea 'Hot Frost' Our propagator, Rick Carlson, found this variegated sport of Azalea Hot Shot. It will be introduced in the summer of 2008.

Azalea mollis 'Lemon Twist' Mike found this yellow flowered Azalea mollis with twisted branches when we grew A. mollis from seed.

Azalea mucronulatum 'Bright Pink' We found this one here in a group of A. mucronulatum liners but can't remember where they came from. It's a darker pink than A. mucronulatum 'Cornell Pink'.

continued on page 3

Time goes by fast when you're having fun - it certainly doesn't seem as though 50 years have passed since I built a little greenhouse and started Summer Hill Nursery. How fortunate I was to know some of the great nurserymen of the generation before me - Jim Wells, Case Hoogendoorn, Martin Van Hof, Hendrik Verkade, Lud Hoffman and so many others willing to share their knowledge of propagation, growing and new plant discoveries. I could tell stories for hours about how the nurserymen of that generation helped me and contributed to the success of Summer Hill Nursery.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

When I started the nursery back in 1957, I envisioned a field growing nursery operation similar to the one I had been working for before I started my own. We rented some land and planted Taxus, Tsuga, Thuja and Juniperus. It wasn't too long before deer let me know this was not going to work, with the exception of junipers and hemlocks, which they seemed to leave alone.

At the time I started, there were only three other container operations in New England. Cliff Corliss was growing a few plants in wire mesh containers that were made of hardware cloth with a tar paper lining. Gerry Verkade in New London had quite a few containers, using metal cans they bought from Lorio Corporation, and Arie Rader was starting to fool around with some containers at Imperial Nursery. At Summer Hill, we tried a thousand containers our
continued on page 2

first year (1958), all Pyracantha, which was popular at the time and hard to dig for B & B. Since we had no knowledge of how to overwinter them, they all died. Not too long after that, we learned their roots died at 20° above zero, and we had only protected them with snow fence and felt paper.

In our second year we grew other plants, as well as Pyracantha, in containers increasing the number to two thousand. The containers went along with landscaping, which did bring in some income, and the field growing operation, which had nothing large enough to sell. Overwintering containers continued to be a problem until Ken Reisch at Ohio State came up with the idea of covering plants with plastic for the winter. I learned about this at a Plant Propagator's meeting, and when I came home, we took some plants from the barn where we were overwintering them that year, covered some with plastic, and realized it worked. After that the container operation expanded, growing more and more varieties and covering them first with plastic that was held up with cement blocks and snow fence, then graduating to A-frames which were used by many nurseries throughout the country. Finally, we went to the typical quonset hoop house. I'm not sure if it was his own idea, but Dick Vanderbilt of Conard Pyle preached the value of using hoop houses to all of us in the container business - it is, of course, now standard.

It's funny how little things can change the course of your life. After I had been in business a few years and was buying some plants for a landscape job from Dick Van Heiningen, he mentioned that if I really wanted to have a decent wholesale nursery, I should give up landscaping as soon as



Mike in the 1960's

possible. He was never able to get his wholesale nursery off the ground and devote full time to growing, because he had monetary problems and had to keep landscaping. Since I was still single and living on about \$5.00 a week, I felt that I could probably handle this so I gave up the landscaping and increased the container production part of the nursery in order to bring in dollars faster.

By the end of the 1960's, I had to make the decision of whether to make the nursery much larger or continue the same size and just try to get better. Since I could see the specter of working in the office rather than working with plants ahead of me if we became much larger, we have kept the nursery basically the same size since approximately 1970. We have added some area but not a considerable amount. We have, however, added many, many new varieties.

Over the years, our success can be attributed to a lot of people who

gave us expert information. I think of John Ahrens from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station who did so much work with us on herbicides, and John Shred who, in the early years, helped us with our insect problems. In general, the Connecticut Experiment Station has been able to answer many of our questions and has solved problems for us over and over again. We can't thank the entire staff enough for their help through the years.

I can't say enough about the employees we've had over the years, especially the ones that have stayed with us for a long time. Of our 25 or so full time employees, 14 have worked at Summer Hill for more than 10 years - of these, 6 have been here over 25 years and 2 for more than 30 years. This loyalty to Summer Hill has made it possible for us to produce high quality nursery stock and for me to really enjoy the nursery business. These and all our newer people are not only employees but friends, and I really appreciate their effort to make us the best.

Of course, most important are our customers. Many of our first customers are no longer in business, but we have some that have been buying from us for 45 years or so. Young's Nurseries in Wilton, CT comes to mind, as well as Rosedale Nurseries in Hawthorne, NY. We started selling to Mahoney's in Winchester, MA when Paul only had one garden center. There are others, too many to mention, that have been good customers for over 25 years. The original owners and buyers may be long gone, but the businesses continue with us. We thank them, as well as our newer customers. It is great working with you, and we hope to do so for many years in the future.

- Mike Johnson

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Introductions continued. from page 1

Azalea nudiflorum 'Deep Pink' Mike spotted this one on the side of the road not too far from the Nursery. The flowers are a darker, more interesting, color than the common *A. nudiflorum*.

Azalea roseum 'Marie Hoffman' This was discovered by Lud Hoffman before World War II in a group of collected *Azalea roseum* brought from North Carolina. This is a great plant, one of the best, with large pink, very fragrant flowers on a good sized plant.

Azalea viscosum 'Pink Mist' Mike found this one in the woods near the Nursery. It was in a stand of *Clethra*, and two years after he found it the *Clethra* had killed the original plant. Lucky he saw it when he did. Its flower has pink suffused through it, and it has red stems.

Buxus sempervirens 'Mount Ventoux' Cuttings from a boxwood on Mt. Ventoux in southern France somehow found their way to Mike's garden, and they became a very interesting evergreen shrub. 'Mt. Ventoux' shows what a good looking plant boxwood can be growing naturally and not sheared - this one should definitely not be sheared.

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Cross' Compact' A seedling of *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Filicoides' was given to Tom Dilatush by Jim Cross. Tom gave it to Mike and said we could name it. It has the same foliage as *C. obt.* 'Filicoides' on a tighter and slower growing plant.

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Gracilis Select' A fuller and somewhat slower growing form of *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Gracilis', this was found by Dave Rydholm who worked at Summer Hill years ago.

Clethra alnifolia 'Ann's Bouquet' Mike first saw a flower of this plant in an arrangement his wife, Ann, made in Rhode Island. He took some cuttings from the plant and found it to be a superior white flowering *Clethra*. It has practically no winter die back of branches so common with container grown *Clethra*.

Clethra alnifolia 'Compacta' This is a very compact form of *Clethra*, much more hardy than *C. aln.* 'Hummingbird' and *C. aln.* 'Sixteen Candles'. The trial garden at Longwood Gardens rated it the "best compact *Clethra*". Tom Dilatush found this plant and gave us cuttings years ago. The new name is *Clethra alnifolia* 'Tom's Compact'.

Cornus kousa 'Everbloom' This was a chance seedling in Ann and Mike's garden. In a shady area, it will hold its bracts until September - fast growing.

Cornus kousa 'Morning Sunshine' This was an understock that was almost cut off by Mike when he noticed the variegated leaf and saved it. It was probably a seedling of *Cornus kousa* 'Gold Star' - good upright growing with yellow margin. It will be introduced in 2009 or 2010.

Cytisus Seedlings These are seedlings from some stock plants of *Cytisus scoparius* and *C. scoparius* 'Andreas'. We had plants in the ground at our Rockland Lot, which is a cold spot, and they survived very well.

'Albert's Choice' This is an excellent, hardy *Cytisus* with multi-colored flowers - the only one we have for the other multi-colored varieties from the West Coast didn't make it here. Albert Villanueva likes this one best.

'Butter and Eggs' This is two tone yellow - very nice.

'Red and Gold' Two colors as the name implies but this is very different from *C. scoparius* 'Andreas'.

All are very good selections of the fast growing *C. scoparius* type.

Diervilla lonicera 'Wilbraham' Jeff Thompson, who worked for Northern Nurseries at the time, brought us this one - a nice form of *Diervilla* from Wilbraham, MA.

Enkianthus campanulatus 'Summer Hill' For years we grew *Enkianthus campanulatus* from seed but had too many short shrubby ones. 'Summer Hill' is a selected seedling that grows fast and tall so you can see the flowers which have very good color.

Euonymus fortunei 'Frosty Green' Mike found this years ago - he thinks it is a branch sport of 'Sarcoxii' with a white edge on a green leaf. It is fairly upright with good habit, hardiness, etc. The Nurserymen's Garden at the Connecticut Experiment Station had a spectacular 20 year old plant.

Euonymus fortunei 'Rydholm's Gold' This is a branch sport of *E. 'Sarcoxii'* - gold edge to green leaf. It does better in containers than most of the gold variegated varieties. David Rydholm found it here in the Nursery.

Ilex aquifolium 'Beanie Johnson' This male, hardy form of English Holly with shiny leaves comes from a chance seedling of a discarded Christmas wreath in New Britain, CT. The story is too long for this newsletter - ask us sometime. This very nice plant survived 18° below zero here in 1980.

Ilex aquifolium 'Grandma' This is a fairly hardy female English Holly that needs some protection in Connecticut - another long story.

Ilex pedunculosa 'Frosted Edge' John Nassif, our Production Manager, found this variegated *Ilex pedunculosa* here at the Nursery. It has a white edge on its evergreen leaf and makes a very interesting large evergreen tree.

Ilex verticillata 'Kennebago' Mike found this on the shore of Kennebago Lake, Maine. It's a female winterberry with good fruit set on a very compact plant, much more compact than 'Red Sprite', and provides a new use for winterberry.

Juniperus communis 'LaHave' and 'Nova Scotia' Tom Dilatush sent us some interesting plants of *Juniperus communis* from LaHave Island in Nova Scotia. We planted several in the ground and selected two. 'Nova Scotia' grows quite rapidly, forming a low slightly mounding spreader. 'LaHave' is compact - we have the original planted in front of our office.

Kalmia angustifolia 'Kennebago' & 'Poke Logan' These are selections Mike found near Kennebago Lake, Maine. 'Poke Logan' has light pink flowers on a fast growing plant. 'Kennebago' has darker pink flowers, almost red, and grows more compact although not as compact as *K. angustifolia* 'Hammonasset'. Dick Jaynes found 'Hammonasset' near our nursery years ago.

Kalmia latifolia 'Hoffman's K', 'Hoffman's Pink' and 'Nathan Hale' These laurels were all hybridized by Lud Hoffman. 'Hoffman's K' (the letter he used to identify it) has a nice pink bud with light pink open flowers. 'Hoffman's Pink' is a deeper pink with an upright habit. 'Nathan Hale' was one

Introductions continued from page 3

he labeled #4, and in 1976 when the Daughters of the American Revolution in New London wanted a plant to name after Nathan Hale, Mike thought of this one and Lud said okay. It's an excellent grower, red bud, and the best red bud laurel we grow.

Magnolia grandiflora 'Beysdorfer' Years ago, forty at least, George Beysdorfer gave Mike cuttings of, he claimed, a hardy Magnolia grandiflora. We probably shouldn't have named it since we don't know its background. However, it's the hardiest one we grow with the possible exception of 'Edith Bogue'.

Picea glauca 'Ed Hirle' This is a branch sport of Alberta Spruce found, approximately, in 1969 by either Tony Vitti or Don Andrukatis, both of whom worked here at the time. It is a very, very slow growing form of Alberta Spruce. Mike named it after his mother's father.

Picea mariana 'Cape Breton' This is from some plants given to Mike by Tom Dilatush. It forms a fairly rapid growing globe shaped spruce. Some produce a tear drop shape. It is from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia - "right on the ocean".

Pieris japonica 'Summer Hill' This is one of the first selections Mike made. While shearing small Pieris japonica grown from seed, he spotted one that had grown faster, with a thicker, shinier leaf than the others, and he has grown 'Summer Hill' from cuttings ever since.

Pinus strobus 'Blue Jay', 'Lily Pond' and 'Soft Touch' These are all Sid Waxman's - propagation of dwarf White Pine from witches' brooms. They were given to Mike with letter identification, along with many others. When Mike liked "J" which had a blue cast, Sid named it 'Blue Jay'. It grew into a large blue globe - needs plenty of room. Sid named 'Soft Touch' because the needles are thin, short and soft, growing slower - maybe 10 ft. wide and only 4 ft. tall. 'Lily Pond', which Sid never named, is by Mike's lily pond and he thinks it is one of the best. Growing a bit faster than 'Soft Touch', it will be twice as wide as tall.

Pinus strobus 'John's Find' John Nassif found this. It grows in many directions, is somewhat contorted and will make an interesting specimen. We have several interesting seedlings from 'John's Find' crossed with Pinus strobus 'Torulosa'. We will no doubt propagate and name these in the future.

Spiraea latifolia 'Pink Mountain' This was found in Maine by Mike. It has a bit darker flower than the typical Meadowsweet.

Spiraea x 'Mini-Gold' One of our best, it is a chance cross of Spiraea japonica 'Alpina' and 'Gold Mound'. It grows like S. japonica 'Alpina', slow and tight, but with golden foliage - a great little plant.

Styrax japonica 'Blush Pink' We have been trying to select a pink flowering Styrax that grows better than 'Pink Chimes'. We are halfway there with 'Blush Pink' which is a good grower with light pink flowers. We are still looking for a darker pink flowering variety.

Thuja occidentalis 'Piccolo' This is an upright growing sport of Thuja occidentalis 'Green Midget', which Mike found here at Summer Hill. It makes a very slow growing columnar Arborvitae. The name comes from Mike's wife, Ann, study-

ing Italian before taking a trip to Italy.

Viburnum cassinoides 'Deep Pink' There are plenty of Viburnum cassinoides around Kennebec Lake in Maine, and Mike spotted this one as having a much darker pink berry than the others.

Viburnum x 'Summer Hill' This is a seedling of Viburnum carlesii that grows much more heavily branched than V. carlesii. Normally, in poly tents, and outside during mild winters, it will stay evergreen. Not quite as fragrant as V. carlesii but produces a better plant.

Native Plants continued from page 1

2. **Acer spicata** An understory tree for northern areas. It has very interesting flower and seed racemes.

3. **Amelanchier species** We grow several species of Shadblow which can be used as an understory tree but flowers best in full sun. Its gray striped bark and small leaves are a plus.

4. **Amelanchier stolonifera** This is a low growing, much wider than tall, shrub with the same white dainty flowers as other Amelanchiers.

5. **Andromeda polifolia varieties** They can take shade or sun but must have moist, almost wet, soil - it's a slow growing ground cover.

6. **Arctostaphylos uva-ursi** This creeper likes full sun but can tolerate some shade - needs dry conditions and loves sandy soil.

7. **Aronia species** This medium size shrub has white flowers, excellent red berries and fall color. It does best in the sun.

8. **Azalea arborescens (White Lightning)** Lower growing than the type plant, this deciduous shrub has white flowers that are very fragrant.

9. **Azalea atlanticum** The leaves have a blue cast and the flowers are pink-white on a medium size shrub.

10. **Azalea calendulaceum** This medium size shrub can have flowers of almost any bright color from yellow to red.

The three azalea mentioned above come from the southern Appalachian Mountains and are hardy in New England. They are usually found as understory plants and need moist soil with good drainage.

11. **Azalea nudiflorum** This has pink flowers on a medium size understory shrub.

12. **Azalea viscosum** A medium to large shrub, the leaves have a blue hue inland and are shiny and green near salt water. It not only tolerates but wants wet conditions - blooms late with white flowers. A. viscosum 'Pink Mist' is our selection with pinkish flowers.

13. **Betula michauxi (nana)** This is a low ground cover from northern bogs.

14. **Cephalanthus occidentalis** This medium shrub likes very wet soil - white flowers form a small globe.

15. **Cercis canadensis** This small, wide tree with small red to pink flowers on the stems and trunk is for southern New England only.

16. **Chamaecyparis thyoides** An open, good size

Native Plants continued from page 4
evergreen tree that can grow in standing water, White Cedar swamps are a thing of beauty in southern New England and further south.

17. **Chamaedaphne calyculata** This small evergreen shrub with white flowers in the spring (brown leaves in the winter) grows in bogs and needs wet feet.

18. **Chionanthus virginicus** Spectacular white flowers appear in the spring, especially on the male plants. It is a large open shrub, or small tree, and likes moist soil in either sun or shade. While it is native from New Jersey south, it is hardy in southern New England.

19. **Clethra acuminata** This medium size shrub or small tree has cinnamon colored, exfoliating bark and white flowers. It likes dry soil.

20. **Clethra alnifolia** One of the first native plants we grew, there are now several named varieties in the trade. The type plant has white flowers in mid summer, but now there are pink flowering and dwarf clones. It likes wet soil but can tolerate dry conditions.

21. **Comptonia peregrina** This has fernlike leaves and can take dry or wet conditions - does best in the sun. It will spread by rhizomes.

22. **Corema conradii** This rare, slow growing ground cover has tiny leaves and needs acid soil.

23. **Cornus alternifolia** This is a low branching tree.

24. **Cornus amomum** An understory small tree or good size shrub, it can take wet conditions.

25. **Cornus florida** We all know this one. Ours are from seed collected at Summer Hill - beware of a southern seed source.

26. **Cornus sericea** Noted for its bright red stems in winter and cluster of white fruit in late summer, this large shrub likes very wet conditions - it will spread.

27. **Decumaria barbara** This climbing vine has small white fragrant flowers. It is from the Southeast but is hardy in New England.

28. **Diervilla lonicera** Yellow flowers are produced on this low growing shrub in mid summer. It is a good understory plant.

29. **Dirca palustris** We rarely have this great plant. It is an understory plant with small leaves and small yellow flowers on a rounded shrub. It likes moist soil.

30. **Euonymus atropurpurea** This small deciduous tree has interesting fruit and fall color.

31. **Ferns** We usually have available: American Maiden Hair, Christmas, Cinnamon, Hay Scented, Interrupted, Lady, Ostrich, Royal, Sensitive and Toothed Wood.

32. **Fothergilla gardenii** This is a small shrub that can grow to 7 to 8 ft. It has bottlebrush-type flowers and great fall color - needs good drainage and likes sun.

33. **Gaultheria procumbens** A low evergreen ground cover with large red edible berries, it takes sun or part shade. It can be difficult to get established, but if it likes the area, will quickly spread.

34. **Gaylussachia baccata** - Huckleberry is a small shrub with white flowers and small blue berries - good game food. It is very hardy but likes sun and good drainage.

35. **Gaylussachia brachycera** This is another low evergreen ground cover that has very good color in the fall and winter. It likes good drainage and organic soil (see comments on Gaultheria).

36. **Gaylussachia dumosa** This small shrub is similar to *Gaylussachia baccata*.

37. **Hamamelis virginiana** Yellow flowers appear in October and November on this large open shrub that is an understory plant.

38. **Hydrangea arborescens** A medium size shrub with many canes, the white fertile flowers are somewhat showy, very much so on the variety 'Annabelle', which purists would not want in a native plant garden.

39. **Ilex glabra** All of a sudden, this evergreen shrub has become very popular. It has many branches with black berries on the female plant. It is used so much as a landscape plant, it's usually not thought of as a "native".

40. **Ilex opaca** This is a medium size evergreen tree with red berries on the female plant. It should be used only in southern New England, and even there not all clones are hardy.

41. **Ilex verticillata and varieties** This deciduous shrub can grow to 10 ft. tall and wide but dwarf clones (see 'Kennebago' in Our Introductions) are available. The females can be covered with red berries in the fall. It likes wet areas and will take sun or shade but more berries are produced in sun.

42. **Itea virginiana** Native to the Southeast but hardy in southern New England, this has white flowers in the spring and great fall color. It will suffer some tip damage in tough winters.

43. **Juniperus communis** This tough, low growing evergreen shrub needs sun and good drainage.

44. **Kalmia angustifolia varieties** This low growing shrub has pink flowers growing up and down its stems. It will take either dry or very damp conditions.

45. **Kalmia latifolia** Everyone knows Mountain Laurel. It needs good drainage and will do best in full sun, although it does very well as an understory plant.

46. **Lindera benzoin** This large, open shrub is usually found in very wet spots as an understory plant. The flowers are light green (chartreuse) and appear very early in the spring - makes a real show. The females can produce red berries in the fall, but unless the plant is grown in full sun, there will be very few.

continued on page 6

Native Plants continued from page 5

47. **Magnolia virginiana** Fragrant white flowers appear throughout the early summer, and there are red berries in the fall. It is a very heavily branched, large shrub or small tree and does well in wet or dry soil. Unlike other Magnolias, it likes acid soil.

48. **Myrica gale** This many branched shrub loves wet feet so it is good for stream banks or edges of ponds - also salt tolerant. It has blue to green leaves on a plant that generally will not grow over 4 ft. tall.

49. **Myrica pensylvanica** This tough low to tall shrub, depending on the clone, can take dry or wet conditions and is very salt tolerant. In the fall, the gray waxy berries are food for tree swallows as they fly south.

50. **Nemopanthus mucronatus** This medium size shrub is usually found near lakes or streams, and the female plants produce showy red berries in August. It is seldom available in nurseries.

51. **Oxydendrum arboreum** This small to medium size tree has white flowers in the summer and great fall color. It prefers moist but well drained soil and sun.

52. **Pachysandra procumbens** With white flowers held erect in the spring, this ground cover prefers partial shade but will do all right in full sun.

53. **Parthenocissus quinquefolia** This climbing, rampant, deciduous vine has great fall color.

54. **Paxistima canbyi** This very low evergreen ground cover spreads rapidly if in a spot it likes. It thrives on neglect in sun or part shade and does well in high pH soils.

55. **Pinus strobus** White pine, unlike most pines, can stand rather wet conditions although it prefers good drainage - a great tree.

56. **Potentilla tridentata** White flowers stand above this very low growing semi-evergreen ground cover. It likes rocky, well drained areas.

57. **Prunus maritima** This plant is very salt tolerant. It is a medium size shrub that has white flowers in the spring followed by small fruit in the fall.

58. **Prunus pumila depressa** A deciduous, very fast growing ground cover, this plant takes sun or light shade.

59. **Rhododendron canadensis** This low growing, shrubby plant is native to bogs and lake shores - it needs damp, acid soil. The lavender flowers appear in early summer.

60. **Rhododendron groenlandicum** Native to the edges of the conifer forest, this plant needs damp, acid soil but not as wet as *Myrica gale* and *Rhododendron canadensis*.

61. **Rosa carolina** This plant, with pink flowers, likes damp areas - it suckers and spreads.

62. **Rosa virginiana** A very salt tolerant plant that likes sandy soil, it has pink flowers and red fruit in the fall - a good mix with *Myrica pensylvanica*.

63. **Salix discolor** Our native pussy willow is a fairly large shrub that loves wet areas and sun.

64. **Spiraea latifolia** This small shrub can tolerate poor soil conditions. It likes sun and has white to pink flowers.

65. **Spiraea tomentosa** Interestingly, the pink spike flowers bloom from top to bottom on this small 4 ft. shrub - it likes sun and moisture.

66. **Taxodium distichum** This large deciduous conifer is more hardy than most people think if the seed is from a northern source. It likes wet areas and can even tolerate standing water.

67. **Thuja occidentalis** The closest we come to growing our native northern White Cedar is *Thuja occidentalis* 'Nigra' which grows much like the type - with darker green leaves. This plant likes to be close to water and is usually found on lake shores - it does best in full sun. It is a favorite deer browse.

68. **Vaccinium angustifolium** This low growing ground cover shrub has white flowers in June and blueberries in August. It does best in full sun and can tolerate poor soil.

69. **Vaccinium corymbosum** White flowers are followed by edible blueberries on this small to medium shrub. It can grow in dry or very wet locations but needs acid soil.

70. **Vaccinium macrocarpon** - American Cranberry Although I have seen this growing in sand near a salt pond, it generally likes bogs or moist areas. It has berries and good fall color and does best in full sun - a great ground cover.

71. **Vaccinium vitis-idaea minus** A very slow and low growing evergreen ground cover, it likes full sun but will take partial shade - will grow in rocky areas. Moist, but not wet, soil is best.

72. **Viburnum alnifolium** This is an understory plant that likes damp woods. It has large leaves and white flowers that are followed by red turning to black fruit.

73. **Viburnum cassinoides** With shiny leaves unlike most Viburnums, this has white flowers followed by pink to blue fruit. It is a medium size shrub that likes sun and wet areas.

74. **Viburnum dentatum** This plant can grow into a fairly large, many branched shrub. It has creamy white flowers and blue to black fruit. It needs good drainage and will do well in poor soil - it is somewhat salt tolerant.

75. **Viburnum trilobum** Another Viburnum that likes wet areas, this is a large shrub that has white flowers and bright red fruit which stay red well into the winter. The fruit is edible for humans as well as birds. Turkeys have perched in large plants by our nursery ponds to get the berries.

76. **Xanthorhiza simplicissima** This 2 ft. tall deciduous ground cover will spread rapidly in moist well drained soils. It needs sun or partial shade.

77. **Zenobia pulverulenta** This tall shrub has arching branches and bell shaped white flowers. It likes moist to wet soil and sun.

While we grow some of the ground cover plants in 1 gallon containers, most of our native plants are grown in 2 gallons for garden center sales. If 1 gallon plants are needed for reclamation projects, we can produce most species in large quantities if given a year or so notice. That is, we would propagate plants one summer to grow in 1 gallons the next summer for fall or spring delivery. If you see projects coming up, let us know - we will be glad to work with you.

These are very short descriptions of our native plants. If you would like more detailed information ask for our Native Plant brochure or download it from our website - www.summerhillnursery.com.

NEW PLANTS

Betty is constantly after me to write about "new plants" that are not included in *The Plants We Grow*. I have written about some of the plants listed below, but customers keep asking her about them so I'm doing so again.

Acer palmatum 'Trompenburg' We have been growing this variety for many years, but customers still ask for Acer palm. 'Bloodgood' first - I think it's my habit. I like 'Trompenburg' for it holds its color better in late summer, each leaf has 2 extra lobes which make it more interesting, and it has excellent plant habit. Try it - you'll like it.

Acer yatsubusa 'Kiyohime' A green, small leaved maple, this is a great plant. I have one planted by our porch that is 12 to 15 years old - it's 10 ft. across and only 2 1/2 ft. high. For a very low mound, it can't be beat.

Abelia mosanensis This Abelia, unlike *Abelia grandiflora*, blooms in the spring and is very hardy. The pink flowers are extremely fragrant and much appreciated at that time of the year. It grows into a rather open plant and will require a bit of trimming each year after it blooms. It should create a lot of interest in the garden center.

Azalea Ruth May I've written about this before - this hardy plant is the best pink azalea we have ever seen. You have to see it to appreciate it.

Buxus sinica 'Justin Brouwer' Slow growing small leaf boxwood, its leaves stay dark green all year. It forms a small globe shape.

Clethra barbinervis This is fast becoming my favorite small flowering tree with *Pieris* type flowers in mid-summer on a well branched tree that has exfoliating bark similar to *Stewartia*. We've been selling 2 gallon plants but are trying to hold on to some so we can offer 6 to 7 ft. specimens.

Cornus controversa 'Variegata' We don't have many yet, but this is a really great small tree - horizontal branches and leaves with a creamy white margin.

Corylus avellana 'Contorta' While this is not new, I want to mention that we are now selling plants on their own roots rather than grafted - therefore, no suckers. I should also mention we are now grafting 'Red Majestic', which is a 'Contorta' that has maroon leaves in the early summer.

Daphne transatlantica This used to be "Daphne caucasica" but has been renamed *D. transatlantica* 'Jim's Pride'. A nice shrub, it will grow 3 to 4 ft. in height and width and has white flowers from mid summer to late fall. We also have a variegated form which is even more interesting. The plants we sell do not look too great since *Daphne* does not like to be grown in containers, but they grow rapidly after being planted in the ground.

Forsythia 'Hamden Golden Bells' This *Forsythia* has flowers that are much larger than 'Lynwood Gold'. Because of this, the plant looks better in a 3 or 5 gallon container than in a 2 gallon. - a large plant of 'Golden Bells' is spectacular.

Hamamelis vernalis 'Purpurea' Early spring flowering witch hazel with purple flowers, it can produce a nice mix with yellow clones.

Hibiscus syriacus 'Lohengrin' and 'Tosca' These hybrid *Hibiscus* from Winterthur Gardens grow much faster

and have much larger flowers than the usual *Hibiscus syriacus*. 'Lohengrin' has a white flower with a red center. 'Tosca' has a pink flower with a red center. Both need room to grow, but what a show! The Dupont that owned Winterthur was an opera buff, hence the names.

Hydrangea preciosa This has large pink or blue flowers (depending on the soil pH) on a very rugged plant.

Hydrangea serrata This dwarf *Hydrangea* has small blue flowers on a small, low growing shrub. This is a real beauty when in bloom - a plant for the real garden enthusiast.

Ilex aquifolium 'Beanie Johnson' I've written about this hardy English Holly before - it makes an outstanding specimen but not many have the courage to try it. You should!!! (see Our Introductions).

Indigofera Rose Carpet A little plant that creeps along the ground, it is covered with pink flowers in mid summer. It looks dead in the spring and has to be thought of as an herbaceous perennial. We gave up growing it because plants looked poor when we ship, but it looks so good later, we starting growing it again.

Larix decidua 'Pendula' We have been growing this variety as a staked upright weeping plant for years, but lately we've been growing some with no stakes. It makes a very interesting deciduous ground cover.

Larix kaempferi 'Diane' Very interesting tree with contorted branches, watch out though for it grows fast and needs room.

Leptodermis oblonga This is really a gem with light lavender flowers on a tight growing little shrub. It blooms for a long period all summer.

Magnolia grandiflora varieties We have been growing these hardy Southern *Magnolias* for some years now and they have done quite well for us in our garden. Keeping them from bright sunlight in the winter and out of very windy spots helps. I would rate them for hardiness - 'Edith Bogue' tougher than 'Beysdorfer', then 'Tulsa' and last is 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'. Nick Nickou has a very large 'Edith Bogue' in Branford, CT and a 'Beysdorfer' in Madison is spectacular.

Magnolia x 'Elizabeth' We are now grafting *Elizabeth* and several other yellow flowering *Magnolias*. We should have some available for Spring 2009.

Poncirus trifoliata Hardy Orange is an extremely hardy shrub with coarse green stems and large spines. It will produce small inedible oranges and is perfectly hardy in New England. Quite a conversation piece.

Sophora davidii When I first saw this in Nick Nickou's garden, I knew we had to grow it. Blue and white small flowers cover this plant which is a large shrub or small tree.

Weigela subsessilis A typical *Weigela* shrub, but covered with pale yellow flowers that slowly turn to pink as they age, giving a multicolored effect - very striking. We've also started to grow *W. s.* 'Canary', which stays yellow.

Wikstroemia trichotoma I love this plant - a small shrub with small leaves and many branches. It gives a nice appearance all summer and then in August it produces small yellow tubular flowers that continue until frost - will take sun or partial shade. A real little gem!

Summer Hill Nursery, Inc.
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WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER 2008

Guaranteed Weekly Deliveries

This spring we are adding a box truck to our "After Shipping" delivery schedule to allow us to reach all our sales areas within one week. Therefore, we can guarantee that if we receive an order from you by Monday afternoon we will be able to get that order to you by the weekend. More detailed information will be mailed in the Spring.

We will continue to update our Availability List weekly on our website during the spring months. If you do not have internet access just give us a call and we can fax you the most current list.

Spring Pick-up Orders Please FAX or Phone

This coming spring, if you would like to pick up a few plants from us that have not already been ordered, we would appreciate receiving a FAX of your request before 8 o'clock in the morning, or a phone call, letting us know what you would like. We will get back to you and let you know exactly what we have available. With all the varieties we are growing, it takes some time to check on availability (computers don't go out into the field and count). After April 20, if you want to come to the nursery and assemble an order from our surplus area, that is fine; but if you know the items you need, it is much better to call ahead for it could save you a trip if we don't have them available. In any case, if we can assemble the order in advance, it will save you quite a bit of time as we can load you as soon as you get here.

FAX: 203-421-5189

Phone: 203-421-3055