

wood. Flowering occurs in alternate years. Seedlings appear to take 12 to 14 years to begin the flowering cycle. Fruit resembles that on *C. lutea* but differs by having a marginal wing.

The foliage canopy of the tree is light enough to allow grass to grow up to the base of the tree. While root flare is visible directly at the base, rooting does seem to be deep. Arboretum trees are growing on a slight slope in a dry, gravelly loam of acid pH. We grow a number of specimens and the lowest winter temperatures our trees have endured is approximately -10°F , with no apparent tissue damage or dieback.

The seeds available today were collected from Arnold Arboretum, accession number 10928. Germination is inhibited by a hard seed coat. In order to obtain maximum sprouting scarify the seeds for one hour in a bath of concentrated sulfuric acid, or soak the seeds for 12 hours in hot water, just off boil and allowed to cool gradually while steeping the seeds.

Thursday Evening, December 8, 1983

The thirty-third annual banquet was held in the Constellation Ballrooms of the Hyatt-Regency Hotel, Inner-Harbor, Baltimore, Maryland.

On behalf of the Society, an award was presented to Mr. Craig R. Adkins, Department of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, for the best graduate student award paper and to Dr. Frank Blazich, who was the advisor for the work presented in the paper by Mr. Adkins.

John McGuire made the following presentation:

AWARD OF MERIT

I will concentrate on the personal history of the 1983 recipient in an attempt to show you how his determination and courage led to his success as a plantsman of the highest regard. I could simply catalog his accomplishments which were many since his professional career spans 60 years but as I looked into this personal history, I was fascinated with it.

He first entered the world of horticulture at the age of 13 as an apprentice in a market garden. He continued to work as an apprentice at estates and gardens for 5 years when he went to a large nursery. He was now near a large city (Copenhagen) where he had the opportunity to go to school at night while working during the day. This was the first time he was exposed to plant breeding which would eventually become his profession. It was also here where he met a young lady who would eventually be his wife.

He began to think about coming to America and in 1922 he got the opportunity. His lady friend was not as enthusiastic about moving as he was but he promised her if he did not like it, he would return in 2 years. Otherwise, he would send for her. He migrated to Jewitt City, Connecticut where he worked

as a carnation grower and, after 2 years, he attempted to bring his friend to American but she could not get into the country. He had to return and marry her there to get her into the country.

After a short time he went to work in landscaping and then the 1932 depression came and jobs disappeared. He decided to get a college education so he could find a job. He went to the University of Connecticut and sought admission but he was told that with no high school diploma and the fact he was 26 years old and married, he was a bad risk. They discouraged him from attempting a full-time enrollment.

They suggested he take a few courses as a special student with the understanding he must attain a grade of "C" or he would be dismissed. He enrolled for the full freshman program, including ROTC, for both the freshman and sophomore years, and while he was doing this he worked 30 hours per week in the nursery industry. His wife also worked and lived in Jewitt City.

He was then admitted with full status and he graduated in 4 years in botany with highest distinction. During this time, while studying and working to support himself, he was also conducting his own breeding projects with carnations in the university greenhouses.

When he graduated he met Dr. Sam Emsweller, who came east to take a position with the USDA. Dr. Emsweller was impressed with his breeding work and encouraged him to go to graduate school at the University of California at Davis. However, it was unclear if he would get an assistantship. After spending 4 years working night and day for his B.S. degree he was not sure he should go but his wife supported him and he wanted to do it.

The funds came through and he transferred to the University of California at Berkeley to work in genetics. Once again, because of his age, he was encouraged to work directly for the Ph.D. instead of starting first with the M.S. degree. He got the degree and a position as an instructor in floriculture. In 1945 he was offered a position at the Missouri Botanical Garden along with an Associate Professorship at George Washington University in St. Louis. In 1952 he was offered a professorship at the University of Connecticut, and he was back home.

During all of these years he continued to carry on his research in plant breeding. When he went from Connecticut to California he carried with him a pocketful of seeds; when he went to Missouri his research material took up so much room there was barely room in the car for his wife, and when he

returned to Connecticut he needed a 2½ ton truck to transport his research materials.

By this time you know of whom I speak. He has received honors for his work with orchids, carnations, and rhododendrons — the list of awards spans over 30 years.

His standards have always been of the highest and his work is highly regarded by all knowledgeable plantmen, both at the commercial and the academic level.

Though he retired from the University of Connecticut in 1976, he is still active as a Professor Emeritus. He is still doing breeding work with rhododendrons in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Our recipient for the Award of Merit for 1983 is Dr. Gustav Mehlquist.

Friday Morning, December 9, 1983

The Friday morning session convened at 8:00 a.m. with Chris Graham serving as moderator.

TEN YEARS OF PLANT PROPAGATION PROGRESS

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From time to time it is good to reflect on past accomplishments to assess one's rate of progress. This presentation will deal with some of the changes in plant propagation that have occurred during the past 10 years. The first item of progress that I want to bring to your attention is the printing in 1983 of a 4th edition of the Hartmann and Kester plant propagation text. This new edition deals extensively with findings that have occurred since the 1975, 3rd edition.

Significant changes in plastics and their diverse uses have occurred in the past 10 years. The new greenhouse coverings, which include UV inhibitors, have greatly extended the life of greenhouse coverings. Milky opaque plastics have greatly simplified winter protection of container-grown stock and now show promise in providing an ideal environment for winter propagation. Plastics are now available that include reflective surfaces to control light intensity; others include mesh structure for increased strength; some are perforated with tiny pores to allow for water penetration; and some are black on one side to exclude light and white on the other side to reflect