In conclusion, I would like to say that *Acer griseum* has been quite a challenge over the years. In the future we would like to develop a clone with outstanding characteristics, such as exceptional peeling bark and a desirable growth habit, which would propagate easily by cuttings.

SELECTING DAYLILIES WITH COMMERCIAL VALUE

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Selecting daylilies with commercial value is a perplexing problem for plant propagators because of the large number of registrations and introductions each year. In 1983 alone The American Hemerocallis Society (AHS) registered over 800 daylilies. Annual registrations since the society's formation in 1946 now include over 20,000 named cultivars (1).

In actuality only a very few of the plants registered become important commercially. There are several reasons for this: 1) many are not commercially superior to those previously introduced; 2) most breeder-introducers are not effective in marketing new plants over an extensive geographical area; 3) some hybridizers assign names for the convenience of breeders and friends, and do not consider their plants to have commercial value; and 4) slow plant increase has kept some cultivars off the market long enough so that they are rapidly superseded by newer and better cultivars.

With the advent of micropropagation, new cultivars can now be propagated rapidly and distributed in a short period of time (3). This method encourages judicious selection to avoid wasting expensive growing space and capital investments on inferior plants.

At present The American Hermerocallis Society has in place an awards and honors system to recognize the most outstanding cultivars (2). Basically the system has four steps: Junior Citation, Honorable Mention, Award of Merit, and Stout Metal. These awards are based on voting by AHS approved awards and honors judges. In 1984 the 4,500 member society had 445 judges.

The primary purpose of the award system is to recognize new daylilies with several desirable attributes such as: good foliage; graceful flower scapes, bright colored, heavy-substanced flowers; consistent flower form and size; and plants with overall distinction. Unfortunately, it is difficult to quanti-

tate these characteristics and judges do not agree on uniform standards. That aside, those daylilies receiving the highest number of votes by the awards and honors judges are distinctive and often have commercial potential.

The two most significant society awards are Honorable Mention and Award of Merit. The Honorable Mention Award is important because it is presented as early as 2 years after introduction and is based on votes from at least 4 of the 15 regions. A negative aspect of this award is that it only requires 12 votes of the 445. However, voting records are presented in each winter *Daylily Journal* and it is possible to select two or three with the greatest number of votes. Growers in areas of the country with very low winter temperatures should be cautious with award winning evergreen daylilies because some are not hardy.

The Award of Merit is a more trustworthy designation. The award requires votes from half of the regions and is given to the ten plants receiving the most votes. With few exceptions, the top one or two of this group climb to the top of the popularity poll and have high commercial value. These two awards recognized daylilies with distinction (see Figure 1 — distinction side).

Growers can further determine commercial potential by screening AHS award winners through various steps shown in Figure 1 (see monetary side). Cultivars with commercial value possess the qualities listed in the descending hierarchical order. They need to be winter hardy, increase rapidly, stay in bloom for at least 3 weeks, have good foliage all season, be insect- and disease-free, and not set seed (seeding decreases plant vigor and may produce unwanted new forms).

There are other reasons why a cultivar may or may not succeed in commerce. Trends in color preference are the most important. Today greenish yellows are most popular, then pinks, reds, whites, pastels, and finally orange. Flower size is also a significant factor. Gardeners generally prefer large-flowered types (5 in. and over) to the small-flowered (3 to 5 in.) and miniatures (under 3 in.). Finally, growers need to consider flowering time. Most daylily cultivars bloom in July in the mid-western and eastern part of the U.S. With care in selection, a sequence of bloom will continue from mid-June to the end of September. Generally each cultivar will bloom only about 3 weeks.

Combining the distinction and monetary screening sides of this system it is possible to select distinct daylilies with potential commercial value. Because of continued improvements by breeders new cultivars need to be added frequently and older

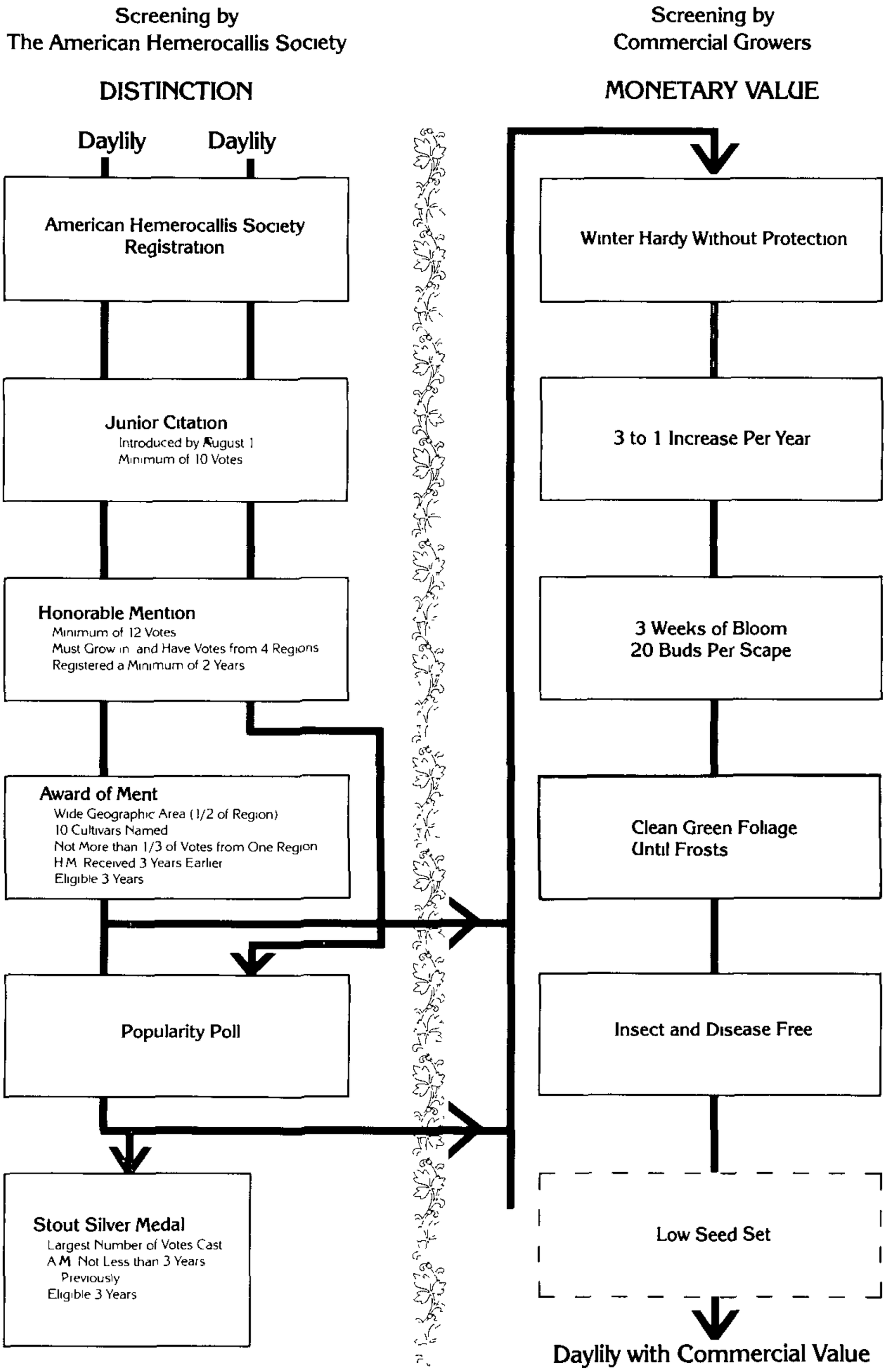

Figure 1. Selecting daylilies with commercial value

Table 1. Examples of daylilies from various color groups that have commercial potential.

Cultivar	Dormant, evergreen, semi-evergreen	Color shade	Flower size (in.)	Season of bloom	Height (in.)
		YELLOW and GOLD			
Bitsy	Evergreen	Canary yellow	2½	Early and repeats	20
Butterpat	Dormant	Medium yellow	2½	Midseason	20
Green Flutter	Semi-evergreen	Canary yellow	3	Late midseason	20
Mary Todd	Semi-evergreen	Buff yellow	6	Early-midseason	20
Stella de Oro	Dormant	Gold	2¾	Early-midseason to late	15
Wynnson	Dormant	Green-yellow	4½	Early-midseason	24
		PINK			
Elizabeth Yancey	Semi-evergreen	Light pink	5½	Late-midseason	28
Yesterday Memories	Dormant	Deep pink	6½	Midseason	20
		RED			
Apple Tart	Dormant	Bright red	6	Early-midseason	28
Ed Murray	Dormant	Black-red	4	Midseason	30
Red Rum	Semi-evergreen	Rusty red	4	Midseason	15
		NEAR WHITE			
Hope Diamond	Evergreen	Very light yellow	4	Early-midseason	14
Joan Senior	Evergreen	Near white	6	Early-midseason	25
		PURPLE			
Little Grapette	Semi-evergreen	Grape	2	Midseason	15
Russian Rhapsody	Semi-evergreen	Violet-purple		Midseason	30
		LAVENDER			
Prairie Blue Eyes	Semi-evergreen	Lavender/blue-eye	5¼	Midseason	28
		ORANGE			
Bertie Ferris	Dormant	Persimmon orange	2½	Early	20
Ruffle Apricot	Dormant	Apricot	7	Early-midseason	28

ones dropped. The cultivars listed in Table 1 are examples of daylilies from various color groupings that have passed through the various screens of Figure 1 and would have commercial value. Commercial sources of these *Hemerocallis* cultivars can be obtained by writing directly to Sandy Goembel, Secretary of The American Hemerocallis Society, Route 5, Box 6874, Palatka, Florida 32077.

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PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS FOR PROPAGATION

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Many Australian plants have been difficult to propagate and many still are in that category. In this paper I do not intend to try to tell you how to propagate all Australian plants, but rather how selection and development of different species has given way to better results in propagation.

We are conducting experiments on Sid Cadwell's property 200 km west of Sydney. Mr. Cadwell's property is situated in a very dry area which receives approximately 300 to 350 mm of rain per year. Summer temperatures reach 40°C and winter temperatures are below 0°C.

Propagation material, such as grevilleas, has been collected with careful attention paid to selection of parent materials from all over Australia. Cutting material is harvested in very early morning or late evening during spring, summer, and fall (October to April). It is recorded and packed in plastic bags with very little water. In most cases cuttings are wrapped first in clean white paper, then packed in styrofoam boxes and air-freighted to their destination.

Propagation takes place either under mist with bottom heat, or in a small glasshouse without mist or bottom heat.