

## New Plant Forum<sup>©</sup>

Compiled and Moderated by C. Tubesing  
Presenters:

J.R. Ault<sup>1,a</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Director of Ornamental Plant Research, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Illinois, USA.

*Phlox* × *procumbens* 'Pink Profusion' PP#25,883

*Phlox* 'Violet Pinwheels' PP#25,884

*Tradescantia* 'Tough Love' PP#25,988

B. Hendricks<sup>2,b</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Klyn Nurseries, Perry, Ohio, USA.

*Cephalanthus occidentalis* Magical<sup>®</sup> 'Moonlight' buttonbush

*Penstemon calycosus*

*Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis*, 'WFH2', Great Wall<sup>™</sup> Peking tree lilac

B. Horvath<sup>3,c</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Inc., Hebron, Illinois, USA.

*Allium* 'Windy City' PPAF

*Festuca* 'Cool as Ice' PPAF

*Geum* 'Citronge' PPAF

*Sedum ellacombianum* 'Cutting Edge' PPAF

M.D. Yanny<sup>4,d</sup>

<sup>4</sup>JN Plant Selections, LLC, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

*Aesculus glabra* 'J.N. Select', Early Glow<sup>™</sup> Ohio buckeye

*Juniperus chinensis* 'J.N. Select Blue', Star Power<sup>™</sup> Chinese juniper

*Juniperus virginiana* 'J.N. Select Green', Emerald Feather<sup>™</sup> eastern redcedar

*Spiraea fritschiana* 'J.N. Select A', Pink-a-licious<sup>™</sup> Fritsch spirea

---

<sup>a</sup>E-mail: [jault@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:jault@chicagobotanic.org)

<sup>b</sup>E-mail: [bhendricks@klynnurseries.com](mailto:bhendricks@klynnurseries.com)

<sup>c</sup>E-mail: [BrentH@intrinsicperennialgardens.com](mailto:BrentH@intrinsicperennialgardens.com)

<sup>d</sup>E-mail: [jnplantselections@gmail.com](mailto:jnplantselections@gmail.com)

***Aesculus glabra* 'J.N. Select', Early Glow™ Ohio buckeye**



Figure 1. *Aesculus glabra* 'J.N. Select', Early Glow™ Ohio buckeye.

Early Glow™ buckeye is a seedling selection found by Michael Yanny in 1981 (Figure 1). The original tree, at about 30 years old, is approximately 30 ft tall × 20 ft wide. Early Glow™ buckeye gets its name from its bright red fall color in mid to late September in Southern Wisconsin. It is typically the first tree to get fall color each year at Johnson's Nursery. Its form and growth rate seem to be similar to *A. glabra* seedlings, though it does show better late season foliage quality than straight species plants. Early Glow™ buckeye produces very few seeds giving it great potential as a street tree. It seems the reason for the near seedless nature of the tree is that fewer pistils elongate enough to be easily pollinated.

Grower's licenses are available from Chicagoland Grows® Inc.

***Allium* 'Windy City' PPAF**



Figure 2. *Allium* 'Windy City' PPAF.

An Intrinsic Introduction. Dark green glossy foliage reaches 15 in. tall and wide (Figure 2). Dark rose purple flower clusters of sterile flowers begin to color in June and open in July on 18-20 in. stems. Full sun is best. Average well drained to dry soil. Very drought tolerant.

***Cephalanthus occidentalis* Magical® 'Moonlight' buttonbush**



Figure 3. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* Magical® 'Moonlight' buttonbush.

*Cephalanthus occidentalis* or buttonbush is a native shrub growing naturally in bogs or in moist areas to a height and width of 6-10 ft. Magical® 'Moonlight' buttonbush is a distinctive, compact form with slightly smaller glossy leaves and a mounding habit to about 5 ft height and wide (Figure 3). The distinctive globular white flowers appear in mid summer and are hummingbird and butterfly magnets. A perfect choice for the rain garden or bioswale yet readily adapts as an ornamental shrub in average garden soils.

***Festuca* 'Cool as Ice' PPAF**



Figure 4. *Festuca* 'Cool as Ice' PPAF.

This one was selected for its lighter green spring emergence giving the plant a slight bicolor look and better heat tolerance in summer. Vigorous plants turn blue in summer. Flower stems reach 18 in. with foliage reaching 24 in. wide. Zone 4-8. Full sun to light shade, well drained soil is best (Figure 4).

***Geum* 'Citronge' PPAF**



Figure 5. *Geum* 'Citronge' PPAF.

Creamy orange flowers emerge in May from red stem and buds on 18 in. stems (Figure 5). Wide folded petals overlap giving a nice full effect. Heavy blooming plants have some rebloom too. Full sun, moist rich soil. Zone 4-8.

***Juniperus chinensis* 'J.N. Select Blue', Star Power™ Chinese juniper**



Figure 6. *Juniperus chinensis* 'J.N. Select Blue', Star Power™ Chinese juniper.

Selected at Johnson's Nursery in 1998 by Michael Yanny from a crop of open-pollinated *J. chinensis* seedlings. A 12-year-old plant is 13 ft tall × 5 ft wide (Figure 6). The plant gets its name from the beautiful blue-green, star-like juvenile foliage which gives it a delicate, almost sparkling texture. It maintains the juvenile foliage for about 15 years then slowly begins to develop scaly, non-star-like, soft, bright green, adult foliage. In addition, it begins bearing silvery-blue berries (cones) at this time. They are attractive to birds. It is an extremely fast growing cultivar even surpassing *J. chinensis* 'Mountbatten' by 1 ft of growth on 6-year-old field-grown plants. This is an excellent plant for use as a screen where deer are a problem.

Grower's licenses are available from JN Plant Selections, LLC.

***Juniperus virginiana* 'J.N. Select Green', Emerald Feather™ eastern redcedar**



Figure 7. *Juniperus virginiana* 'J.N. Select Green', Emerald Feather™ eastern redcedar.

Selected at Johnson's Nursery in 1998 by Michael Yanny from a block of seedlings of open pollinated *J. virginiana* 'Canaertii'. A 12-year-old plant is 12 ft tall and 5 ft wide (Figure 7). The plant has an upright, ascending branching habit. Emerald Feather™ grows very fast compared to other selections in commerce and doesn't require staking. The plant has a fresh, bright green color that makes an excellent back drop for plantings of flowering shrubs and perennials. It is an excellent plant for screening purposes. The plant has tiny, silver to blue berries that are relished by birds. Emerald Feather™ performs best in well-drained soil in full sun. Its resistance to deer browsing is presently unknown.

Grower's licenses are available from JN Plant Selections, LLC.

## **Penstemon calycosus**



Figure 8. *Penstemon calycosus*.

*Penstemon calycosus* is an herbaceous 2-3 ft perennial native to the eastern USA. The plant is very adaptable as a garden plant performing far better in eastern gardens than the western natives. It grows well in light shade to full sun in moist but well drained to dry soils. Flowering in late spring to early summer (Figure 8). Flowers can range in color from light violet to purple and are produced on terminal panicles against a background of glossy green lance-shaped leaves. The clone we have chosen has dark bluish-purple flowers. The plant is easily propagated by division or softwood cuttings.

## ***Phlox × procumbens* 'Pink Profusion' PP# 25,883**

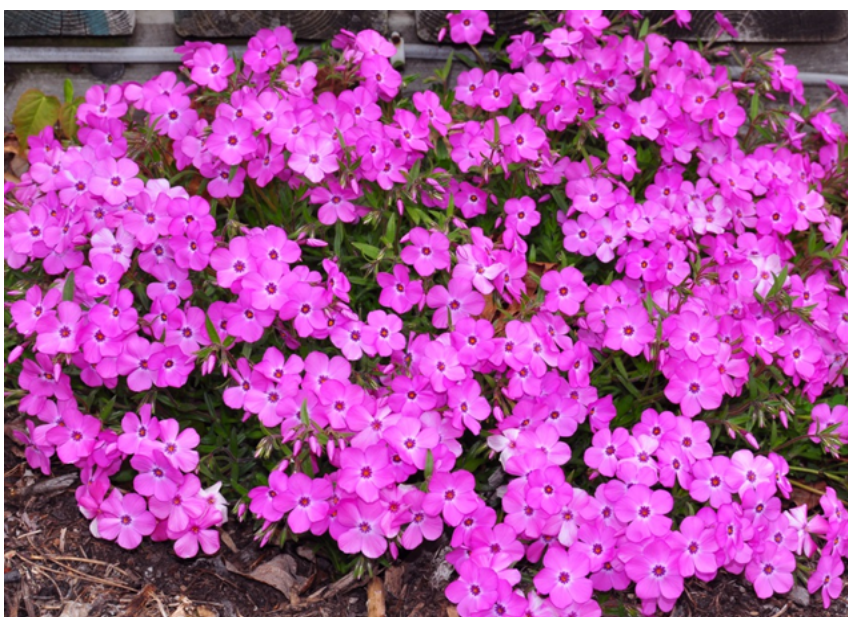


Figure 9. *Phlox × procumbens* 'Pink Profusion' PP# 25,883.

'Pink Profusion' definitely lives up to its name as our trial plants have bloomed for as long as 8 weeks, commencing in mid to late March and extending well into June in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5) (Figure 9). The flowers are quite large for a *P. ×procumbens*, 1 and ¼ inch wide with broad overlapping petals, and the oversized blossoms can completely cover the plant at peak bloom. The petals are an attractive deep purplish pink, and the flowers have a conspicuous deep reddish purple center eye surrounded by a white halo. Two year old plants grew to 13 in. wide × 8 in. tall in bloom and 3 in. tall out of bloom. Like other *Phlox ×procumbens* selections, 'Pink Profusion' produces a dense mass of central stems in the spring, which after blooming become lax on the ground and may or may not layer in to form irregularly spreading mats. Plants may die back during the summer, but will produce a mass of blooming stems anew the following spring. Best grown in full sun to partial shade and on a moist, but well-drained soil amended with organic matter. It is readily propagated by shoot tip cuttings taken from new growth in spring to early summer. Developed by Jim Ault at Chicago Botanic Garden from a cross made in 2007 between *Phlox* 'McDaniel's Cushion' and a pink-flowered seedling of *P. stolonifera*. USDA Zones 6-8 (5b with protection). A Chicagoland Grows® Inc., plant introduction.

***Phlox* 'Violet Pinwheels' PP# 25,884**



Figure 10. *Phlox* 'Violet Pinwheels' PP# 25,884.

This delightful hybrid phlox breaks new ground in the spring blooming moss phlox genre. The notched, upturned petals truly look like they could take flight with a good breeze, hence the "violet pinwheels" cultivar name (Figure 10). The ¾ inch-wide flowers open a vivid purple color and age to a still vivid violet color, rare colors among the moss Phlox. We have observed 5 weeks of bloom commencing as early as late March and extending as late as mid-May, spring temperatures depending, in northern Illinois (USDA Zone 5). The plants consist of low, slowly spreading mounds of dark green needle-like foliage that is soft to the touch. Three-year-old plants have grown to 18 in. wide × 4 in. tall and have been evergreen year around. This plant is a perfect marriage of eastern and western phlox, combining unique beauty with adaptability to heat, cold, alkaline and saline soils. It is best grown in full sun on well drained soils and with an adequate water supply. 'Violet Pinwheels' is readily propagated by shoot tip cuttings taken from new growth in spring or autumn. This plant was developed by Jim Ault at Chicago Botanic Garden from a cross made in 2008 between *P. bifida* and *P. kelseyi* 'Lemhi Purple'. USDA Zones 4-8. A Chicagoland Grows® Inc., plant introduction.

***Sedum ellacombianum* 'Cutting Edge' PPAF**



Figure 11. *Sedum ellacombianum* 'Cutting Edge' PPAF.

Yellow edged, bright green foliage on mounding plants look good from spring to fall providing a bright contrasting plant for full sun to part shade (Figure 11). Well drained soil.

***Spiraea fritschiana* 'J.N. Select A', Pink-a-licious™ Fritsch spirea**



Figure 12. *Spiraea fritschiana* 'J.N. Select A', Pink-a-licious™ Fritsch spirea.

Pink-a-licious™ Fritsch spirea originated from a selection made by Michael Yanny from a crop of open pollinated seedlings of *Spiraea fritschiana* started in 2000 at Johnson's Nursery. The likely pollen parent is *S. ×bumalda* 'Norman'. Unlike its white flowered mother, Pink-a-licious™ has abundant purplish, pink flat-topped clusters of flowers in June (Figure 12). This cultivar has a wonderful, compact habit. It grows to 2-3 ft tall × 2-3 ft wide in Southern Wisconsin. The fall color on this plant can be outstanding, being a combination of the colors of a fruit salad. Often times the plant will have fall colors of pineapple yellow, watermelon pink, honey dew chartreuse, and cantaloupe orange all on the same plant at the same time. Pink-a-licious is easy to grow, requiring full sun to partial shade, and is tolerant of a wide range of soil types.

Grower's licenses are available from Chicagoland Grows® Inc.



***Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis*, 'WFH2', Great Wall™ Peking tree lilac**



Figure 13. *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis*, 'WFH2', Great Wall™ Peking tree lilac.

This is a distinctive Peking lilac with an upright form, ascending branches and cherry-like exfoliating bark and crisp, dark green foliage maturing into a 15-20 ft small tree (Figure 13). Clusters of pure white flowers emerge about 10 days earlier than *S. reticulata*. The distinctive form makes it an ideal choice for use as a street tree. It easily develops a central leader and is a vigorous grower making up quickly to a saleable plant. It is recommended to plant field liners from potted liners rather than bare root. Licensed growers can easily propagate the tree by budding or grafting.

***Tradescantia* 'Tough Love' PP# 25,988**



Figure 14. *Tradescantia* 'Tough Love' PP# 25,988.

A new direction in spiderwort breeding! Most of the hybrid spiderworts in the

marketplace were developed using eastern species that prefer some shade and a moist soil. (Figure 14). 'Tough Love' was developed from two Great Plains species that are naturally found in full sun to light shade on dry rocky, clay, to sandy soils. Try 'Tough Love' in a challenging dry site and see how it performs for you. While best on dry sites, we have found it tolerates a wet clay soil as well. It has performed very well on the trial roof garden at Chicago Botanic Garden. The one inch wide, vivid reddish-purple flowers are borne in great profusion in May, literally covering the centers of the plants. Like all spiderworts, each flower lasts but a day. Plants will repeat bloom through late August. Unlike many spiderworts, 'Tough Love' tends to remain evergreen through the summer months, or if severely stressed, the foliage may disappear but is replaced in autumn. Clump-forming with broad, daylily-like, leathery foliage. Two-year-old plants from division were 11 in. tall × 16 in. wide at peak bloom, making this one of the more compact selections in the marketplace. Easy to propagate by division in early spring or autumn. Developed by Jim Ault at Chicago Botanic Garden from a cross made in 2006 between an open-pollinated hybrid seedling of *T. tharpaii* and the species *T. occidentalis*. USDA Zones 4-8. A Chicagoland Grows® Inc., plant introduction.