

## New Plant Forum 2024 – Eastern Region IPPS

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### Summary

New plants for 2024 are highlighted and described. This year six IPPS-ER breeders

presented herbaceous and woody perennial plants.

## PRESENTER

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*Vitex agnus-castus* ‘Bailtexfour’ PP36,066

First Editions® Violet Mist™

Violet Mist® Chasetree is a highly compact cultivar, maturing to only 3.5’ tall and wide. Drought and salt-tolerant, Violet Mist® has a heavy load of blue-purple flowers in early summer. It will naturally rebloom after 60 days when deadheaded, adding to the floral display.

The colorful flower spikes are a pollinator favorite, providing nectar all season long. In production, Violet Mist® is a vigorous grower that fills liners quickly, making the plant salable in record time. Bred at Bailey Innovations™. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 6-9.



**Figure 1.** Violet Mist chastetree plant habit and flowers.

***Hydrangea arborescens* ‘BAiful’ PP35,613  
First Editions® FlowerFull™**

FlowerFull® Smooth Hydrangea boasts superior genetics that produce significantly bolder blooms and sturdier upright stems. With two-to-three times more blooms per season than other *Hydrangea arborescens*, FlowerFull® is a major improvement to the industry standard. That proliferation of blooms is held high on strong stems that don’t flop in the wind and rain. With fewer

touch points from day one, this low-maintenance marvel has improved resistance to bacterial leaf spot and makes for an outstanding focal point in smaller landscapes and commercial settings alike. Maturing at 3-4’ tall and 4-5’ wide, FlowerFull® fits well into a modern landscape. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 3-8.



**Figure 2.** Flowerfull smooth hydrangea plant habit and landscape use.

*Gardenia jasminoides* 'Baildeniaone' PP36,284  
First Editions® Big Beauty Gardenia™

Big Beauty® stands out with double blooms and strong fragrance. Massive numbers of pure white flowers cover the plant in summer, allowing the fragrance to spread through the landscape. Its naturally round

habit eliminates the need for pruning, keeping it low maintenance. At six-to-seven feet tall and wide, this larger gardenia is ideal for hedges or foundation plantings. Introduced by Bailey Innovations™. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 7-9.



**Figure 3.** Big Beauty gardenia plant habit and semi-double flowers.

## PRESENTER

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### *Rosa x damascene*

#### Flower Carpet® shrub roses

Flower Carpet Shrub Roses have large blooms with an old world look and are intensely fragrant. The foliage is mid green, lush and is highly disease resistant.

Will thrive in Zones 4-10 and best planted in well drained soils with some degree of organic matter. The plants will tolerate dry conditions once established. Typical growth depending on variety is around 3 feet tall.

**Figure 4.** Flower Carpet® shrub rose ‘Berry’ has rich dark pink-red fragrant blossoms.



**Figure 5.** Flower Carpet® shrub rose ‘Lipstick’ has red-dish-pink fragrant long-lasting flowers that continue throughout the summer.





**Figure 6.** Flower Carpet® shrub rose ‘Champagne’ has creamy orange-pink fragrant blooms that continue to unfurl petals.

## **PRESENTER**

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### ***Scirpus pendulus* ‘Stars and Stripes’ PPAF**

*Scirpus* 'Stars and Stripes' is a grass-like plant native to North America, known for its easy and fast growth. It thrives in well-drained soil, requires low fertility, and has minimal pest issues. It is best planted in early spring and prefers medium moisture. The plant is intolerant of shade and needs at least 80 frost-free days. It blooms in mid-spring and has a long lifespan with slow-spreading rhizomatous roots. Plants grow approximately 24 inches tall and 18 inches wide and are hardy in USDA Zones 3-9.

#### **Growing conditions**

- Easy, fast grower
- Best in well-drained mix, allowed to dry between watering
- Low fertility requirement, max pH 7.0, low salinity tolerance
- No significant pest or disease pressure

#### **Planting and care**

- Splits in a cool greenhouse in February/March
- Plant plugs in pots or just below the surface of the growing media

- Can be trimmed to control height
- Best planted when temperatures are at least 65 degrees
- Avoid transplanting when not actively growing

#### **Fertilization and media**

- Performs well with control-release fertilizer for perennials
- Adapted to all soil textures, grows in conventional peat or bark-based media
- Low drought tolerance, needs medium moisture

#### **Garden transplanting**

- Trade gallons recommended for success
- Well-developed root mass critical for survival
- Planting bare root not recommended

#### **Additional information**

- Bred by Intrinsic Introductions
- Intolerant of shade, needs 80 frost-free days
- Blooms mid-spring, fruiting June-August
- Long lifespan, slow-spreading rhizomatous roots



**Figure 7.** *Scriptus pendulus* ‘Stars and Stripes’.

## PRESENTER

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### *Bignonia capreolata* ‘SMNBFW’

#### Proven Winners® Dressed to Thrill™

Climbing plants grow 12-18 feet tall and 5-8 feet wide. Orange-red trumpet shaped flowers are attractive to hummingbirds.

It is the heaviest flowering bignonia in our trials. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 6-9.



**Figure 8.** Dressed to Kill bignonia as a container plant and in full bloom.

### *Styrax japonica* ‘RNI-RIXRED’

#### Proven Winners® Stairway to Heaven™

Plants grow 12-18 feet tall and 5-8 feet wide. They have glossy foliage and red new growth.

Plants have white pendent flowers will re-bloom. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 5-9.



**Figure 9.** Stairway to Heaven snowbell plant habit and flower close-up.

*Diervilla x 'SMNDSN'*

**Proven Winners® Kodiak Jet Black™**

Plants grow 3-4 feet tall and wide. They produce jet black foliage that lasts all summer.

Bright yellow flowers are produced in summer. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 3-8.



**Figure 10.** Stairway to Heaven snowbell plant habit and flower close-up.

## PRESENTER

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### *Paeonia* 'Smithopus10' Candy Apple™

Candy Apple is the first commercially available double red ITOH peony on the market from breeder Don Smith. Plants grow 3 feet tall and wide. Truly red flowers and the plant is perfectly round with the flowers are on stems held tight to the leaves for an overall rounded look. All the Garden Candy® ITOHS make perfect foundation and middle-of-the-border plants. Each

flower is 4-6" wide and full of crimson red petals that last for weeks. Maroon fall color gives an added season of interest. Like all the Garden Candy® peonies, Candy Apple is deer and mildew-resistant. Tissue culture propagated. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 4-9.



**Figure 11.** Candy Apple ITOH peony plant habit and flower close-up.

***Thuja standishii x plicata* ‘Junior Giant’**

Junior Giant is a fast-growing evergreen with dark-green, fragrant, feathery foliage. Junior Giant will mature at 15-20 feet tall and 8-10 feet wide, making it a much better fit for sites where space is limited.

However, it is as long-lived as its predecessor, Green Giant. It is appropriate for hedges, screening or as specimen plants. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 5-8.



**Figure 12.** ‘Junior Giant’ arborvitae plant habit and landscape use.

***Picea* ‘Kolmschagi’**

**Spruce It Up™**

Spruce It Up™ is a year-round evergreen that does not need a lot of trimming. Plants will mature at 7 feet tall and 3 feet wide. Use it in foundation plantings, a mixed border, or anywhere you'd like a cone-shaped, upright accent. It grows more quickly than other selections, but no taller, so you won't

have to wait as long for this dwarf evergreen to mature. The branches are just a little more open, allowing airflow between needles, so it gets no mites. It can take extreme heat without burning, does not revert, and has not been known to get needle cast. Winter-hardy to USDA Zones 3-7.

**Figure 13.** Spruce It Up plants in production and its use in the landscape.



## PRESENTER

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### *Fraxinus sogdiana*

*Fraxinus sogdiana* is a medium size tree from the “Stans” region of Asia Minor and western China (Fig. 14). Glossy green compound leaves are about 3 inches long and 1.5 wide and taper to a point in the middle of the leaf. Being an ash chances are each plant from seed is either a male or female. Fall color is yellow with tints of red.

Culture is basically the same as other *Fraxinus*. Tolerant of most soils and shows no preference for pH differences or for variable moisture conditions.

Full sun is preferable but will tolerate some shade. Cold hardy easily in zone 6, probably can extend well into zone 5. Hardy in Denver, Colorado. Since Emerald Ash Borer rarely attacks non-blooming trees, it is not known if it is resistant to EAB.

Propagation can be from seed, cuttings and presumably grafting on suitable root stock. Efforts underway to ascertain the potential for grafting. Cuttings root well under mist.

**Figure 14.** A) *Fraxinus sogdiana* in an urban setting in Bologna, Italy fall 2024. Some yellow fall color just beginning to form. B) and C) Close-up of leaves. D) Fully rooted cutting from material stuck in mid-June.



### *Elaeagnus multiflora* (Cherry silverberry)

*Elaeagnus multiflora* is amongst 10 species of *Elaeagnus* found in China and the *Elaeagnaceae* in China has attracted considerable interest as potential food sources (Cheng et al. 2022) It is a medium to large deciduous shrub with heavy flowering and subsequent fruit set (Fig. 15). It is not demanding with soils preferences ranging from moist to considerably dry. Soil pH is

not a particular limiting factor and can range from 6 to 8. It can tolerate some shade but does perform better in full sun. In general, it is documented to zone 6 hardiness and observations here in Western Pennsylvania suggest that hardiness could well extend into Zone 5, but studies affirm that Zone 4 is impractical.



**Figure 15.** *Elaeagnus multiflora*. A) Heavy fruit crop. B) Flowering shrub and C) flower close-up.

At least 4 cultivars are recognized, *Elaeagnus multiflora ovata*, *E. multiflora* “Sweet Scarlett”, a Ukrainian selection (McCree, 2016) and “Red Gem” (Planting Justice, 2024). The Nursery for Uncommon Plants lists an Austrian form as SSP (Carya, 2024). Heppy.org (2024) lists a cultivar with soft spines as “Tillamook”.

A closely related species, *Elaeagnus longipes*, is sometimes considered to be a variant of *Elaeagnus multiflora* (Plants of the World, 2024).

Work at BHS has shown that seed is useful for propagation but unless reliably fresh can be slow to germinate. Suggestions by McCree (2016) indicate that a warm

moist period of at least 4 weeks followed by a cold moist period of 12 weeks is effective. McCree goes on to say that both hardwood cuttings taken in fall and allowed to remain in situ for close to a year will root. He indicates that softwood cuttings will also root but I have not found that to be true, at least in a traditional mist system as they seriously resent mist, although the close cousin *Elaeagnus umbellata* roots readily from cuttings in summer. *Elaeagnus multiflora* will graft readily to *Elaeagnus umbellata* as a standard side veneer graft in late summer.

Cheng et al, (2022) discuss the nutritional value of the fruits produced by this plant and related species.

Culturally *Elaeagnus multiflora* is an easy plant to “farm”, and it has its own mechanisms for nitrogen fixation. Interspecific hybrids of the various Chinese species have been reported and has attracted much interest as a potential food crop. One member of the group, *Elaeagnus umbellata* is closely related to *Elaeagnus multiflora* and is under investigation by the USDA (Carya, 2024). Dr. Dick Zimmerman (2024) requested of me some 20 years ago seed of a large, fruited *E. umbellata* from the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts for research into it as a food crop. He suggested that it was found to have the highest Vitamin C content of any known fruit. While many members of the tribe including *Elaeagnus multiflora* have high concentrations of Lycopene, vitamins A and E and essential fatty acids (Heppy, 2024).

*Elaeagnus multiflora* has a great potential as a food crop either as fresh fruit, dried or as jams or jellies. Even greater potential is possible if crossed with *Elaeagnus umbellata*. With new hybrids already under development as a food crop. The heavy

fruit load characteristics of *Elaeagnus umbellata* when bred to *E. grandiflora* could greatly enhance the fruit bearing qualities of a hybrid.

To date there have been no reports of *Elaeagnus multiflora* as being invasive. It is presumed that a hybrid of *E. multiflora* x *E. umbellata* will not be invasive opening the door to a useful food crop.

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