



Container Evaluation of New Ornamentals for Georgia

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Nature of Work: New plants and cultivars are needed to fuel the growth of the nursery industry. Plants held over from 2003 include a selection of *Campsis*, a dwarf selection of *Pittosporum heterophyllum*, *Rhaphiolepis* 'Georgia Petite', two native selections of *Viburnum nudum* and *Viburnum obovatum* and four selections of *Illicium parviflorum*. Many of the *Cotoneasters* from 2003 were also evaluated in 2004. New plants trialed in 2004 included *Rhaphiolepis* seedlings from the following selections: 'Georgia Charm', 'Georgia Petite', 'Pink Pearl', 'Snow Cap', 'Snow White', and 97-14, along with a new compact, pink flowered advanced selection from Tifton. Several seedlings of *Eurya japonica* were also evaluated. Other plants evaluated were *Clinopodium chinense*, *Aster kantoensis*, *Aster ageratoides*, *Beschorneria yuccoides*, *Dianthus japonicus*, *Eupatorium chinense*, *Genista canariensis*, and a compact form of *Ilex x wandoensis*. Plants were shifted from #1 containers to #7's in March, 2004. The substrate consisted of 6:1 pinebark and sand amended with (in lbs. per cu. yd.) dolomitic limestone (4.0), Micromax (1.5), Gypsum (1.5), Osmocote Pro 18-8-8 (14.0), and Talstar (2.0). Plants were topdressed with Scotts 17-6-8 + minors on August 5 at the rate of 36 g/pot.

Results and Discussion: Plants from 2003 continue to perform well. Many of the cotoneasters were devastated by fire blight in 2004. Plants still performing well are *C. amoenus* and *C. applanatus*. Other selections have been discarded.

The advanced selection of dwarf pink *Rhaphiolepis* was resistant to leaf spot but very susceptible to fire blight and has been discarded. Most seedling selections showed little to no leaf spot in 2004. All seedlings flowered white except for those from 97-14 which had ~25% pink flowers.

Eurya japonica seedlings showed differing rates of growth and susceptibility to leaf spot. The compact nature of the plants and dark green foliage is attractive.

Ilex xwandoensis is a natural hybrid between *Ilex cornuta* and *Ilex integra*. The plant grows well in containers and could be a good substitute for 'Dwarf Burford' in the landscape. The parent plant has a wonderful mounding form and has not required pruning in the landscape to maintain its shape.

The *Beschorneria* grew well but has not flowered. *Dianthus japonicus* makes an excellent foliage plant during its first year and flowers in its second year. Colors ranges from white to purple. Several other species under evaluation did not perform as well under the conditions of the study.

Significance to Industry: Cuttings from plants included in the 2003 trials are available by signing a trial agreement. See Donna Heaton for details. Plants from the 2004 trials will be evaluated for another season before release.