



Container Evaluation of New Ornamentals

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Nature of Work: Introduction of new plants is a driving force behind the nursery industry. The primary objective of this research is to evaluate several new selections of ornamental plants under nursery conditions for potential release to the nursery trade.

Plants in #1 containers were transplanted into #7 containers at CANR on 13, March, 2003. The substrate consisted of a 6:1 blend of pine bark and sand (v/v) amended with the following in lbs. per cubic yard: Scotts 22-4-6 (14), dolomitic limestone (4.0), Micromax (1.5), Gypsum (1.5) and Talstar (2.0). Plants were grown in full sun under standard cultural practices and received no supplemental treatments of fungicides or insecticides. Plant height and width were measured in mid-August, 2003. All plants were pruned on 25 August, 2003.

Results and Discussion: *Campsis* - a selection found growing in Tift County, Georgia at an old home site. Intermediate in characteristics between our native *C. radicans* and the oriental *C. grandiflora*. The plants have bloomed continuously from mid May to August. Trellising required for nursery production, some leaf spot noted.

Illicium parviflorum - several new selections were evaluated in full sun. Plants were originally selected for large leaves and dark green color. One selection has minor white variegated speckling in the foliage. Height ranged from 32 to 52 inches.

Pittosporum heterophyllum - a dwarf selection growing 3' high by 5' wide in test plots in Tifton. Typical species grows upwards of 15'. Potential foundation plant. Fragrant yellow flowers in late March/early April. Plants in containers were 20" tall by 26" wide.

Raphiolepis x delcourii 'Georgia Petite' - A good Indian hawthorn with excellent resistance to Entomosporium leaf spot. As of 8/14/03 the foliage was clean under nursery conditions and plenty of rainfall. Plants averaged 14" in height by 20" width.

Viburnum obovatum - a selection made from central Florida. Parent plant in the Coastal Plain Research Arboretum is ~12' tall. This form has nice upright growth and looks like a pyracantha when in flower. Plants averaged 40" in height by 43" wide. Bloom period is late March/early April.

Viburnum nudum - a selection from Tift County, Georgia which has dark green leaves and is more compact than the typical species. Fall color and fruit set has been good in Tifton. Bloom period is in April. Plants in containers were 42" tall by 43" wide. Some leaf spot was noted late in the season.

Significance to Industry: Plants will be considered for further evaluation and future release.