



## Plant Introductions from Mt. Cuba Center

The introduction of native landscape plants with exceptional ornamental attributes and garden adaptability has been among the top priorities of Mt. Cuba Center since 1988. The late Mrs. Lamot du Pont Copeland enthusiastically supported efforts to evaluate and introduce selections that could be nursery propagated and distributed widely to the gardening public. Early plant introductions from Mt. Cuba Center focused on combining strong ornamental appeal and broad regional adaptability. Plant evaluation and introduction continues today following the tradition established by our first director, Dr. Richard W. Lighty and Mrs. Copeland with several bright prospects for additional introductions in the future.



Misty Blue white baneberry  
*Actaea pachypoda* 'Misty Blue'

Introduced 2009

Misty Blue white baneberry is an herbaceous perennial, selected for its unique and highly attractive soft, bluish-green foliage. It was discovered in a planting of typical green-leaved plants of unknown origin growing at Mt. Cuba Center. In spring 1" to 2" tall bottlebrush-like clusters of white flowers are borne on stems above the foliage. By September, large, white fruit with dark purple to black spots ("doll's eyes") mature on reddish pedicels. It is a carefree, long-lived, 24" to 36" tall plant, growing best in partial to filtered shade in evenly moist, well drained soils with a pH from slightly acidic to neutral.



Chocolate white snakeroot  
*Ageratina altissima* var. *altissima* 'Chocolate'  
(formerly *Eupatorium rugosum*)

Registered 1994

Chocolate white snakeroot is an herbaceous perennial selected by Dr. Richard W. Lighty and descended from a plant found in the early 1970s by Hal Bruce, Taxonomist at Winterthur Gardens. It had the darkest burgundy foliage of many seedlings grown over a ten year period. 'Chocolate' grows up to 3' tall and has white, compound inflorescences typical of the species along with dark burgundy leaves which color best in full sun. They provide attractive contrast and texture throughout the season. It performs best from sun to filtered shade and flowers from early September, remaining attractive into October.



**Verdant leatherleaf**  
*Chamaedaphne calyculata* ‘Verdant’

Registered in 1996

Verdant leatherleaf is a rhizomatous groundcover to 2' tall which under ideal conditions retains superior winter-green color; otherwise it is semi-evergreen. It has a neat, compact habit; delicate, bell-shaped white flowers in mid-spring; and is broadly adaptable to both wet and dry soils from full sun to partial shade. It is a pest-resistant shrub with potential for use in stressful sites. ‘Verdant’ was found by Dr. Richard W. Lighty in the New Jersey Pine Barrens in 1985.



**Silver and Gold red-osier dogwood**  
*Cornus sericea* ‘Silver and Gold’

Registered in 1988

Silver and Gold red-osier dogwood is a yellow-stemmed, shrub dogwood which originated as a mutation on *Cornus sericea* ‘Flaviramea’ at Mt. Cuba Center. Its leaves are distinctively white variegated; other characteristics are the same as ‘Flaviramea’. ‘Silver and Gold’ is easily grown, adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions and recommended as a replacement for variegated forms of *Cornus alba* because it better withstands the hot and humid climate in the mid-Atlantic region. Prune 2 to 3 year stems to the ground in late winter to encourage new stems displaying brightly colored bark. Published in *The Public Garden*, Vol. 2; January 1988. Received the 1990 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Styer Award of Garden Merit.



**Amber Blush calamint**  
*Clinopodium coccineum* ‘Amber Blush’

Introduced in 2011

Amber Blush calamint is a unique new amber-flowering selection of the typical late summer/autumn red-flowered southeastern U.S. native shrub, scarlet calamint. As flowers open, faint reddish streaks are evident on the lower inside lip and exterior of the corolla tube. This characteristic is particularly prominent on plants flowering late in the growing season. Amber Blush calamint is a fast growing, multi-stemmed, semi-evergreen drought-tolerant shrub with aromatic grayish green leaves. While the mature size of ‘Amber Blush’ has yet to be determined, the species is irregularly spreading, typically reaching 2' to 4' tall and 2' to 3' wide at maturity. This is the first joint plant introduction made by Mt. Cuba Center and Birmingham Botanical Gardens.



**Pink Profusion bowman's root**

Registered 1997

***Gillenia trifoliata* 'Pink Profusion'**

(formerly *Porteranthus trifoliatum*)

Pink Profusion bowman's root is an outstanding pink selection of a typically white-flowered, herbaceous perennial species. It was found in the wild by Paul James of Virginia and sent to Mt. Cuba Center in 1987. Like the species, it grows to 2' or more in height and has an open, airy habit, though it is more uniform and erect in stature. The stems and calyces are dark red and the newly emerging, deeply cut foliage is a deep red-purple color which later becomes a rich dark green. The flowers are actually bicolored, pink and white, but at a distance give the overall impression of pink. 'Pink Profusion' performs well in moist, well-drained soil from light shade to full sun.



**Garnet American alumroot**

Registered in 1989

***Heuchera americana* 'Garnet'**

Garnet American alumroot a clump forming, herbaceous perennial groundcover, selected in 1984 from a variable group of colored-leaved *Heuchera americana* growing at Mt. Cuba Center. The original selections were made by Marcie Weigelt; evaluation and final selection was by Dr. Richard W. Lighty. 'Garnet' was among the first of many American alumroot cultivars. Its chief attraction lies in its deep garnet winter foliage which is most intense in full sun. Summer foliage is soft green. It performs well from sunny to lightly shady, moist to dry sites and has proved hardy to -15° F. Described in *American Horticulturist*, December 1992 and *Perennial Plants*, Vol. XXV, 1991.



**Greensprite mountain leucothoe**

Registered in 1991

***Leucothoe fontanesiana* 'Greensprite'**

(formerly *Leucothoe axillaris* var. *editorum*)

Greensprite mountain leucothoe was one of twelve clones of mountain leucothoe, an evergreen shrub, selected for evaluation at Mt. Cuba Center in 1983. It was chosen for its ease of propagation and ability to quickly grow to salable size and quality under field nursery conditions. 'Greensprite' is a solid green leucothoe with narrow leaves possessing undulating edges and attenuated tips which are attractively light catching. Its stiffly arching stems, reaching a height of 4-5' give it a graceful, elegant character. Pendulous, creamy white, urn-shaped flowers appear in the leaf axils in early spring. See *American Nurseryman*, Vol. 173, Issue 4.



**Forest Green Allegheny pachysandra**  
*Pachysandra procumbens* 'Forest Green'

Registered in 1992

Forest Green Allegheny pachysandra is a semi-evergreen, shade-loving, herbaceous perennial groundcover, originally obtained from the teaching garden at Pennsylvania State University in 1952. This clone has been observed and evaluated extensively for overall ornamental quality throughout the mid- Atlantic region. Its "surface" as a groundcover is more smoothly undulating than the five other clones with which it was compared. The leaf whorls of 'Forest Green' are larger and more regular than other forms and leaf-mottling is not as prominent as in several other clones. It performs best in moist, fertile soil and is rarely troubled by pests and diseases.



**Silver Streak Allegheny pachysandra**  
*Pachysandra procumbens* 'Silver Streak'

Introduced 2009

Silver Streak Allegheny pachysandra is the most unique and attractive form of Allegheny pachysandra yet to be introduced. It was first observed at Mt. Cuba Center in a planting of unknown origin. 'Silver Streak' was selected for its striking silver blotches on a green background in winter. In spring the new foliage emerges uniformly dark green color, remaining green until early autumn when the silver blotches begin to appear. The foliage of 'Silver Streak' remains attractive throughout winter unlike many forms of Allegheny pachysandra that become bronze-brown. 'Silver Streak' grows particularly well in part-shade to shade with evenly moist to dry soils. It tolerates a wide range of soil pH from acidic to strongly alkaline.

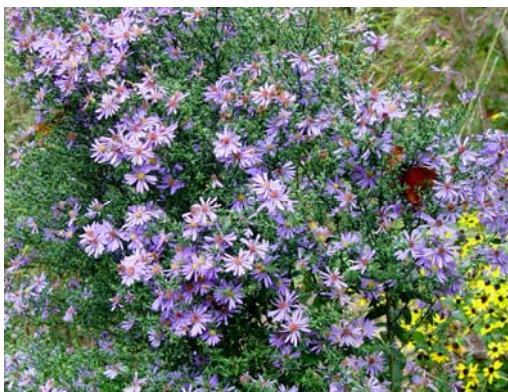


**Golden Fleece autumn goldenrod**  
*Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece'

Registered in 1989

Golden Fleece autumn goldenrod was discovered in 1985 as a spontaneous garden seedling in Eden, North Carolina. It was evaluated under diverse conditions at Mt. Cuba Center and determined to be a low-growing, compact form of the species suitable for use as an herbaceous perennial groundcover only reaching 18" tall. Multi-branched stems arise from basal rosettes of broadly rounded foliage and are covered with a profusion of golden-yellow floral spires from mid-September to October. It performs best in full sun with average moisture but is tolerant of a range of conditions from sunny and dry to partial shade. 'Golden Fleece' is hardy in zones 3-8. It won the Internationale Stauden-Union's Award for an outstanding new plant in Switzerland in 1994.

## Plant Introductions from Mt. Cuba Center



### **Bluebird smooth aster**

*Introduced 1994*

#### ***Symphotrichum laeve* var. *laeve* 'Bluebird'**

(formerly *Aster laevis*)

Bluebird smooth aster is an herbaceous perennial, selected for its attractive, pest-free foliage and large (1"), violet-blue flowers which appear in abundance. It was found in 1988 in a Guilford, Connecticut garden as a spontaneously occurring seedling. It has an upright habit to 4' tall and generally needs no staking. 'Bluebird' blooms in September/October in full sun to light shade with a broad tolerance of soil types and moisture levels. It was first described in *American Nurseryman*, Vol. 180: 12.



### **Pink Pearl rue anemone**

*Introduced 2007*

#### ***Thalictrum thalictroides* 'Pink Pearl'**

(formerly *Anemonella thalictroides*)

Pink Pearl rue anemone is an attractive lavender-pink selection of the typically white flowered rue anemone. Numerous 1", upward facing flowers comprised of petal-like sepals are highly attractive in April just as the earliest blooming spring wildflowers emerge. 'Pink Pearl' produces its flowers atop 4" to 10" tall stems, with delicate, slightly lobed foliage, reminiscent of maidenhair fern. The wiry stems rise from a cluster of tuberous roots that look like miniature dahlia tubers. 'Pink Pearl' should be planted in part sun to shade in moist but well drained soil that ranges from slightly acidic to neutral. It typically goes dormant by early summer.



### **Purple Dome New England aster**

*Registered 1989*

#### ***Symphotrichum novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'**

(formerly *Aster novae-angliae*)

Purple Dome New England aster is an herbaceous perennial selected for its compact size, forming a solid purple mound, 18" tall x 24" wide, of semi-double flowers in September/October. Its dense floral display and short stature minimize its lack of resistance to foliar problems. 'Purple Dome' was first observed along Pennsylvania Route 100 below Allentown, PA by Robert G. Seip of Lennilea Farm and given to Mt. Cuba Center. It performs best in full sun to light shade in moist, well-drained soil. Published in *Fine Gardening* magazine Vol. 25; May-June 1992.

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### **Quicksilver large-flowered wakerobin** *Trillium grandiflorum* 'Quicksilver'

*Registered in 1992*

Quicksilver large-flowered wakerobin originated in the wild in northeastern Pennsylvania in 1958. It was observed and evaluated in many sites for rapid increase unlike the typical species which is very slow to spread. Ornamentally, it is similar to the typical species, an attractive herbaceous perennial plant, found in rich woods, bearing spectacular white flowers in early spring. This clone doubles in size in approximately one year.



### **Silver Gem prostrate blue violet** *Viola walteri* 'Silver Gem'

*Introduced 2010*

Silver Gem prostrate blue violet is an attractive multi-stemmed herbaceous perennial that was selected for its tidy mound of striking silvery colored, heart-shaped leaves with contrasting green veins displayed prominently throughout the growing season. Adding to its appeal, the undersurface of the leaves vary from pale purplish-green to burgundy. 'Silver Gem' is a low-growing, compact plant reaching 3" to 5" tall with a 10" to 15" spreading habit. While 'Silver Gem' is generally deciduous in northern Delaware, basal leaves can remain nearly evergreen where winters are milder. 'Silver Gem' grows best in filtered to partial shade in moist, well-drained, neutral to alkaline soils and is drought tolerant once established. 'Silver Gem' originated as a natural seedling variant found in Bibb County, AL in 2003.