

2018 Plant Discovery Day Silent Auction List

***Abies pinsapo* 'Horstmann'**

Size: #3 container (24" tall)

This semi-dwarf Spanish Fir exhibits an intriguing combination of color and texture, resembling a little blue hedgehog in the garden. Growing only a few inches per year, this highly sought after cultivar can be trained into a compact, pyramidal specimen or pruned to maintain a rounded, bushy habit by trimming back the leader. 'Horstmann' will reach 3-4' tall x 4-5' wide in 10-15 years when grown in a warm, sunny site adequately shielded from wicked winter winds.

***Carpinus betulus* 'Columnaris Nana'**

Size: #3 container (24" tall)

The Fastigate European Hornbeam is among the most familiar of landscape trees, gracing campuses, streets, and parks countrywide. 'Columnaris Nana' offers the neat, columnar habit of its athletic cousin but in a diminutive "mini me" version suitable to just about any garden. It is a perfect choice for a narrow nook or as a vertical accent. 'Columnaris Nana' grows very slowly to 8-10' tall x 2-3' wide in 20 years.

***Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Rotfuchs'**

Size: #5 container (5-6' tall)

Katsura Tree is certainly one of the most desirable landscape trees available to Ohio gardeners. This choice German selection (translated as "Red Fox") offers a stunning flush of deep burgundy foliage each spring that holds well into summer. For discerning *Cercidiphyllum* aficionados (or anyone else), this is a fine way to insert a burst of color into the landscape. 'Rotfuchs' will not achieve the mature dimensions of the species, reaching 25-30' tall x 15-20' wide in 20-30 years.

***Cornus kousa* 'Kristin Lipka's Variegated Weeper'**

Size: #3 container (4-5' tall)

Here's a Kousa Dogwood unlike any you've seen before! Not only does this unique selection produce arching, graceful branches that spread and sprawl, it also features colorful variegated foliage edged in bright yellow. This botanical conversation piece comes from Pennsylvania Plantsman Bob Lipka, who named the cultivar after his daughter following her victory over lymphoma. Bob then decided that all proceeds from his patented plant would go to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

***Cornus kousa* 'Rutpink' (Scarlet Fire®)**

Size: #5 container (4-5' tall)

The latest dogwood introduction from Rutgers University, Scarlet Fire® is the result of decades of breeding for deep pink floral bracts. Unlike older cultivars such as 'Miss Satomi', this bold newcomer delivers vibrant, lasting color each June that laughs in the face of intense heat and humidity. It will form an upright, spreading tree reaching 20-25' tall x 15-20' wide in 20 years. We are very pleased to bring this Garden State product to Ohio.

Corylus fargesii

Size: #2 container (4-5' tall)

The rare Farges Filbert has been creating a frenzy in the Plant Nerd Underground for several years now. This Chinese relative of the edible hazelnut is destined for horticultural fame thanks to incredible exfoliating bark that peels like thin curls of caramel candy. The overall effect is somewhere between that of Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*) and River Birch (*Betula nigra*). Equally content in sun or shade, it also develops handsome buttery-yellow fall color. *Corylus fargesii* matures into a rounded, medium-sized tree approximately 20-30' tall x 15-20' wide in 20 years.

***Cotinus coggygria* 'COTSIDH5' (Velveteeny™)**

Size: #3 container (30" tall)

The attractive foliage and fluffy pink flowers of the purple-leaved Smokebush varieties are a familiar sight during early summer. Unfortunately, for those with smaller gardens, nearly all of the available cultivars grow like racehorses out of the gate and tend to develop a bulky, unkempt look. To resolve this age-old dilemma, Velveteeny™ has debuted as a semi-dwarf bred to offer all the best attributes of Smokebush in a tidy 4' x 4' package. Too good to be true? We will find out together! Secret recently began trialing this brand-new cultivar.

***Deutzia* 'Nikko Blush'**

Size: #3 container (12" tall)

While the original 'Nikko Blush' plant has been thriving for decades at the U.S. National Arboretum, it was only named and formally introduced a few years ago. Quite similar to its famous, white-flowered predecessor, 'Nikko' (also a USNA introduction), forms a low spreading shrub of 2-3' tall x 3-4' wide. Its interesting two-toned white and pink flowers appear in May. It should be more widely known and grown, but, in an unfortunate twist of horticultural fate, 'Nikko Blush' was released on the heels of the similar Yuki Cherry Blossom® *Deutzia* by plant marketing powerhouse Proven Winners. Let's hear it for the underdog!

Euonymus americanus

Size: #3 container (24" tall)

A native *Euonymus*? Yes indeed! In fact, the eastern U.S. is home to two other members of this much-maligned genus (consult your favorite flora for more information). Thanks to an autumnal display of rosy-pink fruit capsules that dehisce to reveal bright orange seeds, this woodland denizen has earned the apt common name of Strawberry Bush and the folksy Hearts-a-burstin'. Equally happy in sun or shade, *Euonymus americanus* provides winter interest thanks to a dense framework of olive green stems that contrast well with surrounding shrubs. This hidden gem reaches 6-8' tall x 5-6' wide at maturity.

Hypericum kalmianum

Size: #3 container (15" tall)

Another overlooked native species, Kalm's St. Johnswort is the next big thing in tough, drought-tolerant, summer flowering shrubs. In mid to late summer, the smallish blue-green foliage is covered by a profusion of golden yellow flowers that serve as magnet for pollinators. *H. kalmianum* is the perfect plant for that hot, dry spot in serious need of a dose of summer interest. It will mature to a size of 4-5' tall x 5-6' wide.

***Magnolia* 'Golden Gift'**

Size: #3 container (24" tall)

Among the dizzying array of beautiful yellow-flowered Magnolias, 'Golden Gift' stands apart from the crowd. Introduced by noted Lake County plantsman (and College of Wooster alum) David Leach, this excellent cultivar offers luminous lemony blooms in early May on a more compact framework than its better-known brethren. Its naturally shorter internodes and slower growth rate produce a tidy, rounded specimen of 10-15' tall x 8-10' wide after 20 years. Definitely a must-have for all Magnolia lovers!

×*Mukgenia* Nova® 'Flame'

Size: 19 cm container

Our lone herbaceous cast member, 'Flame' is a colorful selection of the intergeneric cross of *Mukdenia rossii* 'Karasuba' (aka 'Crimson Fans') and an unidentified *Bergenia* (Pigsqueak) taxon.

The beautiful result combines the best attributes of both parents. This low, creeping perennial features beautiful pink inflorescences that float above the jagged foliage over an extended period in spring. Later, its *Mukdenia* heritage becomes evident in the conspicuous red marginal leaf coloration during the summer and a fine display of long-lasting reddish fall color. 'Flame' will appreciate a home in part-shade and will grow to about 8-10" tall x 12-18" wide.

Neviusia alabamensis

Size: #3 container (24-30" tall)

Alabama Snow-wreath is a little-known flowering shrub seated right next to Japanese Kerria (*Kerria japonica*) and Black Jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*) at the giant Thanksgiving table of rose family taxonomy. This southeastern native boasts an impressive display of pure white, fluffy inflorescences in mid spring and will surely stump your gardening friends as to its identity. Despite its southern fried provenance, *Neviusia* is hardy enough for cultivation well into Zone 5. With time, the species forms an arching, spreading plant approximately 5-6' tall x 6-7' wide.

***Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Goshiki'**

Size: #2 container (12" tall)

The official Secret Test Plan of 2018 is a variegated broadleaf evergreen that has proven "tough as nails" in the Mid-Atlantic and southern New England. Suited to even the deepest of shade and typically unattractive to deer, *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Goshiki' has great potential for use in the middle of Zone 6. This spring, we strategically sited specimens throughout the Arboretum to assess their performance. For a price, we invite you to do the same! Choose a planting location well-protected from desiccating winter winds. With time (and a little luck), 'Goshiki' will become a dense, 3' x 3' mound of mottled, holly-esque foliage.

***Picea abies* 'Perry's Gold'**

Size: #3 container (24" tall)

Not your Grandfather's Norway Spruce! Selected in Vermont by legendary conifer connoisseur Greg Williams, 'Perry's Gold' is a dense, compact evergreen that greets spring with an arresting flush of bright yellow needles that maintain their color for several weeks. This dazzling conifer will definitely illuminate any monochromatic section of the garden. 'Perry's Gold' will become a loosely pyramidal specimen of about 10-12' tall x 8-10' wide in 20 years.

***Pieris japonica* 'Katsura'**

Size: #3 container (18" tall)

'Katsura' is a landmark selection of Japanese Pieris (aka Andromeda). Following a charming display of pink, urn-shaped flowers in early spring, glossy new growth emerges in the deepest shade of red known to mankind (oxblood, perhaps?), before maturing to dark green a few weeks later. This evergreen shade-lover (full sun = lace bugs) produces additional flushes of eye-catching color throughout the growing season. 'Katsura' is a relatively compact clone reaching 4-5' tall x 4-5' wide over several years.

***Platycladus orientalis* 'Franky Boy'**

Size: #2 container (18" tall)

'Franky Boy' is a whimsical selection of the species formerly known as *Thuja orientalis*. Resembling an explosion of lemon lime cord-like foliage, this coniferous extrovert displays a certain "hey, look at me!" attitude. Its distinct color and texture contrast well with less flamboyant neighbors and will make 'Franky Boy' the life of the party. Reaching about 4-6' tall x 3-4' wide over a span of ten years, this horticultural Puli would benefit from occasional grooming to maintain density.

Rhododendron makinoi

Size: #2 container (15" tall)

Exhibiting the narrowest leaves of any Rhododendron, the elongate, strap-like foliage of *Rhododendron makinoi* lends a distinctively finer texture to this beautiful Japanese plant. Although a true standout based solely on its foliar merits, the species also sports a fine crop of light pink flower trusses in mid spring. *R. makinoi* eventually forms a dense 5-6' x 5-6' dome-like shrub and would benefit greatly from placement in a sheltered, shady location. This is a true collector's item and is quite deserving of wider appreciation and use.

***Styrax japonicus* 'Evening Light'**

Size: #5 container (5-6' tall)

'Evening Light' is a game-changer in the world of Japanese Snowbell that is finally becoming more widely grown in the trade. This extraordinary cultivar features bronze-green emergent foliage, transitioning to deep chocolatey purple when sited in full sun—providing the perfect backdrop for abundant pure white bell-shaped flowers in late spring. Though this exciting new selection has not been extensively tested in central Ohio, we are hopeful that it will not fall prey to winter stem hardiness issues seen in other *Styrax* clones. 'Evening Light' forms a dense, pyramidal tree and matures smaller than its green-leaved counterparts at about 12-15' tall x 8-10' wide.

Thujopsis dolabrata

Size: #3 container (15" tall)

Known as Hiba Arborvitae or Japanese Elkhorn Cedar, this unsung evergreen is a great choice for shady, moist sites. Closely resembling the true Arborvitae (genus *Thuja*), this plant is distinguished by its shaggier texture and striking white stomata found on the underside of emerald green foliage. *Thujopsis dolabrata* is famous for spending its juvenile years as a dense, rounded shrub then bolting skyward toward tree status. Over several decades, this maintenance-free conifer will mature into a broad, pyramidal tree of 20-30' tall x 10-15' wide. Deer have yet to molest the *Thujopsis* specimens at Secrest, but we cannot vouch for the particular tastes of your local herd.

***Vaccinium* 'Perpetua'**

Size: #2 container (18" tall)

'Perpetua' represents a remarkable breakthrough in blueberry breeding. Introduced by Oregon State University, it is the first reflowering blueberry cultivar, setting two crops of fruit per year—one in early summer and a second several weeks later. Like all other members of the Ericaceous clan, blueberries demand well-drained soil rich in organic material and a pH around 5.0. 'Perpetua' is a fairly compact plant reaching about 3-4' tall x 3-4' wide within 5-10 years.