

# VarCon

## Variety Conservation Group

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### Resource Links

Cultivated Plant Code (International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants) - <http://www.ishs.org/sci/icracpco.htm>

Heirloom Roses (popular source for old garden cultivars) - <http://www.heirloomroses.com/>

Heirloom Seeds (1400 non-hybrid seed strains) - <http://www.heirloomseeds.com/>

International Cultivar Registration Authorities (ICRA) (ISHS. These experts catalog old cultivars and can assist in most genera) - <http://www.ishs.org/icra/index.htm>

New Ornamentals Society (encyclopedia of both new and old cultivars, many described for the first time in decades) - <http://www.cultivar.org>

North American Plant Collections Consortium - <http://www.publicgardens.org/content/what-napcc>

Old House Gardens (Heirloom bulb cultivar conservation project, many rare clones of Tulipa, Narcissus, Hyacinthus, etc.) - <http://www.oldhousegardens.com/>

Plant Heritage (The National Council for Conservation of Plants and Gardens, UK. They have a journal and newsletter) - <http://www.nccpg.com/>

Tomato Bob (700 heirloom veggies, herbs, flowers) - <http://www.tomatobob.com/>

Tomato Fest (600 cultivars of heirloom tomatoes) - <http://www.tomatofest.com/>

Victory Seeds (rare, open-pollinated, and heirloom seeds) - <http://www.victoryseeds.com/>

### Mission Statement

The Variety Conservation Group (VarCon™ ) is devoted to the conservation and study of rare and endangered horticultural varieties (cultivars) with specific focus on ornamental plants of North American origin and introduction. The initial concentration of the group will be woody plants, followed by the addition of hardy herbaceous perennials and bulbs.

## History

VarCon™ was started in 2006 by Laurence Hatch, Director of the New Ornamentals Society and has since been managed by society members.

The New Ornamentals Reference Library (NORL), formerly called the New Ornamentals Database (NOD), now includes substantial research on the history and descriptions of old, rare, and endangered cultivars from around the world. New research is funded by subscriptions to the [NORL](#) as well as members with self-funded research projects. Recently, the society implemented expansion of the reference files to include bulbs. A sample of our Hyacinthus encyclopedia follows, integrating modern (2000-2012) cultivars with older cultivars dating back to 1562, all highlighted in general corolla colors on a black background. Historical catalog, article, and advertisement scans are included.

*Empress of India* - double, red

'Eros' - extremely full double, tepals very crowded for a very atypical look in this genus, light pink with darker tints, some green tints. A unique cultivar and more for specialty collectors than classic bedding where uniformity are required. The heads are not uniformly

'Etna' - single, bright rose-pink, carmine or darker stripes

'Fabriola' - rich rose-pink, "striped carmine", spike and bells large (BS)

FAIRY™ 'Fairly White' ('Fairy White') - pure white, very huge flowers, dense conical-cylindrical head, very gold centers, rich scarlet centers as to whether the correct name is based on the word fairy or fairly. Plantscope.nl, the official Dutch trade site for exported plants has the trademark or trade name, the other the cultivar!

'Fireball' - "deep scarlet, dwarf, compact" (BS)

'Firelights' - reflexed tepals in light tangerine or pale melon with cream and gold.

'Fleur d'Or' - single, "clear yellow" (EL)

'Flore Duplici' - double, large, 15 flowers per spike. A very early double noted by Camerius in 1611.

'Florence Nightingale' - double, white, "pure white, fine truss, some double" (FI)

'Fondant' - pale phlox pink tints on light pink, very full conical head.

'Freestyler' - single, flowers very huge, freestyling in irregular but generally reflexed positions and angles, light pink margins with a central bar.

'Fresco' - single, large mauve-lilac flowers with a slight reflex and inner tepals slightly concave and boat-shaped.

'Garibaldi' - single, red, "glowing carmine, magnificent spike" (FI)

'Garrick' - "dark lavender, shades puce, compact handsome truss, distinct" (BS)

'General Havelock' - single, "deep black purple" (FI)

'General Gordon' - single, blue

'General Kohler' - double, central tepaloids much reduced compared to the ultra-wide outer tepals, light bluish-lavender color. In 2012.

'General Pelissier' - single, dark crimson-red to carmine-red, very early in season, a proven forcer. Plate from Florilegium Harlem was close to a true red. That publication is very good compared to others of the time for color accuracy. There are other reports in Mass. Hort. Society that this name was used for a silvery-lilac to light blue form as well. Barr and Sugden described their material and the RHS did not have their stock.



Occasionally our NORL research results in the rediscovery of cultivars not found in modern or traditional literature because we go back to primary documents. In our recent study of more than 162 *Aucuba* cultivars we found the generally unknown 'Bruantii' (sample scan below), 'Youngii', 'Undulata', 'Macrodontha', 'Longifolia Dentata', 'Marmorata', and 'Walthamensis'. All of these are thought to be lost from the worldwide trade. With the newly unearthed descriptions, translations, and plates we have some hope that material can be found and matched.

## Aucuba japonica 'Bruantii' (A.j. bruanti, H. Witte in Sempervirens 1889: 53 (scan show below))

Overzicht van aanbevolen nieuwe Planten.  
(*Vervolg van blz. 43.*)

**Aucuba** japonica, var. Bruanti, uit Frankrijk tot ons gekomen, is een mooie vrouwelijke verscheidenheid die zeer goed gekarakteriseerd is. De plant onderscheidt zich door een krachtigen maar toch gedrongen groei en is bolvormig vertakt, de bladeren zijn sierlijk met levendig geel gevlekt en gestippeld, maar 't zijn vooral haar zeer talrijke en vroeg kleurende scharlakenroode vruchtjes of bessen, die aan deze variëteit zulk een bekoorlijk aanzien schenken.

Is als een zeer fraaie kamerplant tijdens de wintermaanden aan te bevelen. Met een bijna vorstvrij vertrek waar niet gestookt behoeft te worden, nemen deze en meer andere mooie **Aucuba**-variëteiten het voor lief, daarbij zorg dragende dat zij geen dorst behoeven te lijden.

## Project Goals

1. Identification and status coding of rare and endangered cultivars, mainly those of North American origin. One chart is shown below.
2. Notification and education of collection holders about the rarity of specific cultivars. Many owners and growers of rare cultivars do not know their true status and are very willing to conserve and propagate them if politely informed by a knowledgeable expert. We hope to prevent premature removal of old cultivars from the trade and older collection grounds.
3. Propagation assistance for rare and endangered cultivars, including distribution to secure, stable collections. We will attempt to link and enhance communication among germplasm holders and persons willing to propagate, sell, or maintain material.

4. Study of the history and documentation of rare and endangered cultivars. This includes INCA (Internet Nursery Catalog Archive) which archives digital nursery catalogs, collection inventory lists, academic and popular articles, and ads for study by scholars. The NORL project to development very large cultivar encyclopedia in more than 80 genera, these compilations exceeding leading reference manuals and guides, continue each year.

5. Identification and clarification of confused, rare cultivars, leading to redistribution of original clones and characterization of known imposter clones. We place high value on old stock traceable directly to the originator or originating nursery as a valuable benchmark on original clone taxonomy.

## Supporting VarCon™

Financial support of VarCon is managed via the New Ornamentals Society. Subscribing to our reference library at the NORL 2 level goes directly to VarCon and other research projects on ornamentals history and documentation..

If you wish to assist with propagation or in-ground conservation of rare cultivars please write us at [ornamentals@lycos.com](mailto:ornamentals@lycos.com) with a summary of your interests and qualifications. We are especially eager to find partners who can root or graft rare plants who are willing to share their extra stock with other gardens and collectors in North America, donating these services as volunteers to the project.

## Special Terminology in Cultivar Taxonomy

**Botanical form (f.)** - a wild-occurring variation within a species, usually distinguished by single trait or continuum of a character status such as corolla color (f. rosea), habit (f. pendula), leaf shape (f. angustifolia), leaf size (f. macrophylla), fruit size (f. microcarpa), fruit color (f. xanthocarpa), etc. These traits are often based on a single gene mutation, frequently a recessive gene which is expressed occasionally in wild populations. The garden-created or cultigenic version of these variations is usually treated as a Cultivar Group, grex, strain, and other concepts. Be aware that the botanical form was used in literature for garden clones (including sports from Japanese gardens) before L.H. Bailey created the rank of Cultivar. Thus some published *formae*, especially woody plants named by Alfred Rehder are now correctly considered cultivar or cultivar groups because they did not originate in the wild. So when is a variation (let's say a pink-flowered strain or weeping tree) really a botanical form versus a cultivar or cultivar group? Red-bracted dogwoods (*Cornus florida* f. *rubra*) were regularly found in the wild so the botanical or wild-created rank seems best. The same frequency of wild appearance is true of double-flowering (f. *pluribracteata*) and gold-fruited dogwoods (f. *xanthocarpa*). Weeping dogwoods came once or twice so we use 'Pendula' or Pendula Group instead f. *pendula* there. Weeping beeches (*Fagus sylvatica* f. *pendula*) have been found in the wild perhaps less than a dozen times. Is that regular enough to be called a form or not? You decide.

**Imposter clone** - a genotype or stock line clearly differing the from originator's introduction (or described intent in literature), resulting from mis-naming in the trade and gardens. Imposters often originate from 1) labeling errors, 2) database errors, 3) sale of originally monoclonal cultivars as seedlings, 4) genetic decline or partial reversion over time, 5) mutation of stock, and 6) propagation changes to the genotype or phenotype from such phenomena as cultivariancy and chimera shift. Not all

imposter clones are ornamentally inferior to the original but many are. We are alarmed at nurseries and even well-known plant societies which offer named, clearly monoclonal cultivars in seedling or seed form such as 'Silver Heart Seedlings' or allowing seed list distribution of named cultivars which only partially come true. Imposter clones, especially those of taxonomic or ornamental interest should be given new, vernacular cultivar names and be characterized by detailed DNA and taxonomic documentation.

**Monoclonal cultivar** - a cultivar represented in the trade and gardens by a single, generally uniform clone, which is typical the originator's original choice of scion or cutting stock.

**Original clone** - the genotype or stock line traceable or compatible with the first, earliest introduction of the cultivated variety.

**Polyclonal cultivar** - a cultivar represented in the trade and gardens by two or more distinct, definable clones. One of them may be the original clone (if originally monoclonal) but some originations consist of similar seedlings and thus a cultivar may be polyclonal from the start. Before the modern era of easy rooting and tissue culture, nurserymen often selected a group of similar mutations and used these different clones (cuttings, layers, or grafted scions) as a single cultivar name. In other cases, cultivars with are polyclonal today came from a single, original clone but has been corrupted by subsequent imposter clones. In some instances, polyclonal cultivars are treated as Cultivar Groups and in other cases they are roughly the taxonomic equivalent of botanical taxa such as a *formae* (forms or f.) and botanical varieties (var.)

## Missing or Confused Cultivars

We have decided to list missing or "presumed extinct" cultivars separate from the threatened list going forward. We hope to emphasize plants likely to exist somewhere if informed cultivar detectives make a solid effort. Please write us at [ornamentals@lycos.com](mailto:ornamentals@lycos.com) with any leads you may have.



RETINOSPORA OBTUSA, VAR. FULLERII.

### **Chamaecyparis pisifera (Plumosa Group) or C. obtusa 'Fulleri' ('Fullerii) (MC-2012-001)**

This clone was selected as a sport of 'Plumosa Aurea' by Andrew Fuller of Ridgewood, NJ in the late 1890's as being more elegant in outline and richer gold in both summer and winter. It was sold by P.J. Berckmans of Fruitland Nursery, Augusta, GA about 1898 and also by Parsons Nursery of NY about that time. While it was known to winter kill in 1898 and 1899 in the north, there is some chance it could still exist in such places as Long Island (where Parsons built many gardens) and certainly the warm haunts of Georgia where the Augusta National Course was formed around the Fruitland operation. It has not been heard of since 1900 when published in the March 1900 issue of Gardening Magazine (US). The plant in the photo there was said to have already been killed in the winter. Since the plant grown as 'Plumosa Aurea' is always considered a Chamaecyparis pisifera, we believe the connection to C. obtusa, especially when viewing the image, is incorrect. The cultivars of these two species were placed under both species names after their introduction from Europe and Asia.

### **The Glenmore conifers (MC-2012-002)**

First visit this Arnoldia paper for background info:



<http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1383.pdf>

Robert More established his Glenmore Arboretum in Buffalo Creek, CO, naming a good number of unique mutations, some of which are world famous under the 'Glenmore' name, but many are unheard of today, never reaching the trade. While we do not have hard photographic evidence, friends from Colorado tell us there is no remaining conifer garden in that original area. We would however like to find more detailed information and perhaps an opportunity to interview residents of the area who might have met Mr. More. Obviously, any old conifers in that general area could be examined to determine if they might be lost material. This could be a fascinating project for someone living or traveling to this area.

### **Cornus florida f. rubra 'Belmont Pink' (MC-2012-003)**

This clone with pale pink bracts was found around the well-developed area in Belmont, Long Island, NY and has not been reported since 1930 or so. Henry Hicks of the famous Hicks Nursery in Westbury named it about 1930. As a young resident of Long Island c. 1978 your editor (L. Hatch) combed the streets of Belmont NY one spring looking for interesting pink-bracted dogwoods but found nothing of that description, having read Dr. Wyman's and Dr. Howard's comments on this lost clone. The research in 1978 was limited in time and scope so it could be there or even somewhere the Hick's old Westbury operation. Anyone willing to give this a more determined look?



ts. ten feet but it was not hardy North and  
in only in the spring was it brightly colored.  
ful The next great improvement was *Biota  
semperaurea*. I planted several thousand  
seeds of this and secured *Biota nana  
aurea* which is not only more compact than  
its parent but probably the hardiest of the  
genus, since it has stood uninjured for  
several years near New York where the old  
aurea usually failed. It has withstood 10  
degrees below zero. In the vicinity of New  
York it turns to a bright copper red by New  
Year's day — a striking and unique color.  
It is a miracle of compactness, for the sprays  
are packed as closely as so many sheets of  
paper. It grows about three feet high.

Two other gems came from that same  
lot of seedlings. *Biota aurea conspicua*  
is even redder in winter at New York than  
the preceding variety, being quite the most  
conspicuous conifer in midwinter. Its win-  
ter color is not so refined as that of the Colo-  
rado blue spruce, but it is decidedly warmer  
and at a distance it lights up the whole  
landscape. During the growing season some  
of the branches are an intense golden color  
while others are suffused with green. It  
grows six to ten feet high.

My pyramidal golden Chinese arborvitæ  
(*B. aurea pyramidalis*) is the tallest as it  
attains a height of fifteen or twenty feet.

## Platycladus orientalis Berckman clones (MC-2012-004)

J.P. Berckmans of Fruitland Nursery in Augusta, GA named three golden seedlings of 'Semperaurescens' ('Semperaurea') before 1902. One was dense and dwarf, sold as 'Aurea Nana'. Unfortunately that name was already in use for another clone in Europe (a smaller form of the Aurea Group aka 'Aurea') and is what taxonomists call a "later homonym"; a newer name which can be accepted because of confusion with it's original, first published meaning. This plant was given the common name Berckman's Golden Biota and is thus correctly called 'Berckmans Golden' today. His second seedling was a bit larger, looser, more erect, and had even more conspicuous red winter colors when grown in cold climates. He listed it separately in ads and his articles, calling it 'Conspicua'. Most authors including the influential denOuden and Boom in their 1965 Manual of Cultivated Conifers considered Berckmans Golden arborvitae to be correctly named as 'Conspicua', not knowing of it's separate origin and clearly stated different traits. Most conifer authors since have repeated this mistake, doubtless because they did not have access to American periodicals and catalogs in Europe or from our shores did not go original research. (We at the New Ornamentals Society are always challenging literature assumptions and are reguarly overturning old errors with evidence from old papers and catalogs). Since then, perhaps even earlier than 1965, the dwarfer, smaller 'Berckmans Golden' has been merged or lumped with 'Conspicua', causing nursery and collection material to be renamed and confused. Berckmans also had a third more narrow

goldie he called 'Aurea Pyramidalis'. This is not in the US trade under this name (we think) but may exist still in Europe as the post-1959 Latin name 'Pyramidalis Aurea'; which cannot be linked to nor separated from the Fruitland seedling. No one in Europe is sure of the 'Pyramidalis Aurea' origin so an American Georgia origin is possible, given that his other material made it there and remains popular today. This history includes scans of Berckman's articles and ads appearing in PINETUM NOVUM Platycladus published in August 2012 by the New Ornamentals Society. It is available by subscription to our NORL service at [cultivar.org](http://cultivar.org). Old material of all three clones requires documentation. We can guess on some old material in southeastern US cemeteries, parks, and estates but much more work is needed. Anyone interested in propagating very old plants likely from the Berckman era can contact us for location data.

measures which result, have been the best answer to these objections. The Board of Agriculture could, by means of existing data, easily satisfy itself and others that the cost of the introduction and administration of sanitary laws for plants was money well spent. A series of epidemics, causing great losses to farm crops and other plants, would no doubt produce a different feeling in the matter; but would it not be wiser to learn by experience already gained, and not wait for further lessons from this expensive though effective teacher?

Looked at from the point of view of insurance against possible losses, or as an investment which will ensure greater profits, plant sanitation should commend itself to the business man. It is the duty of those whose interests are at all affected by the prosperity of agriculture—a fairly extensive class—carefully to weigh the evidence in other countries and at home in favour of sanitary methods for plants, and having convinced themselves as to their practical value, to lose no opportunity of furthering the cause of *Planta sana in plantario sano*, by inculcating the aims and methods of plant sanitation, and where advisable taking means to obtain the support of the State. *J. B. Carruthers*, in "Contemporary Review" for May, 1902.

### HYDRANGEA HORTENSIA NIVALIS.

To many of our readers the variegated *Hydrangea* illustrated in the present issue (fig. 153), will not be regarded as a novelty. A basketful of small plants was shown by Messrs. Ball & Sons, Chelsea, S.W., at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society at the Drill Hall on December 9 last, which showed well the striking variegation of the leaves. These had a margin three-quarters of an inch wide, of a deep green tint, surrounding an irregular central patch of creamy-white. It is an effective greenhouse plant.

### MARKET GARDENING.

#### SOWING TOMATO SEEDS.

From this date onwards seeds will have to be sown. A high degree of fire-heat must be avoided even in sharp weather, more especially if the seed-boxes are placed on the shelves in the houses. A vinery in which forcing is begun affords a good place in which to raise the seeds. Sow thinly in shallow trays. The young plants have many enemies to devour them as soon as they peep through the soil. I would advise the seed-boxes to be stood upon pots, &c., and to search diligently for the several kinds of derredators.

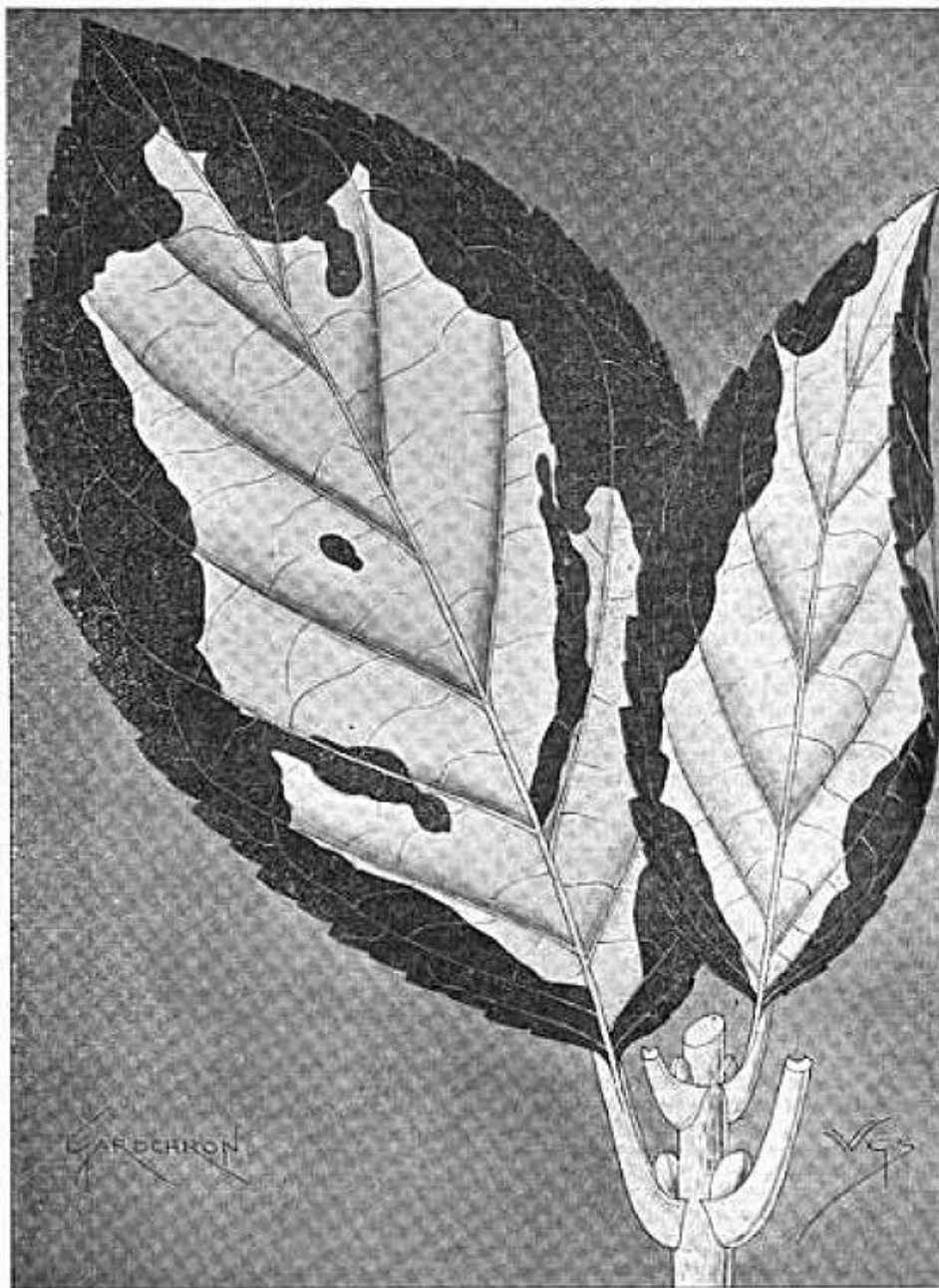
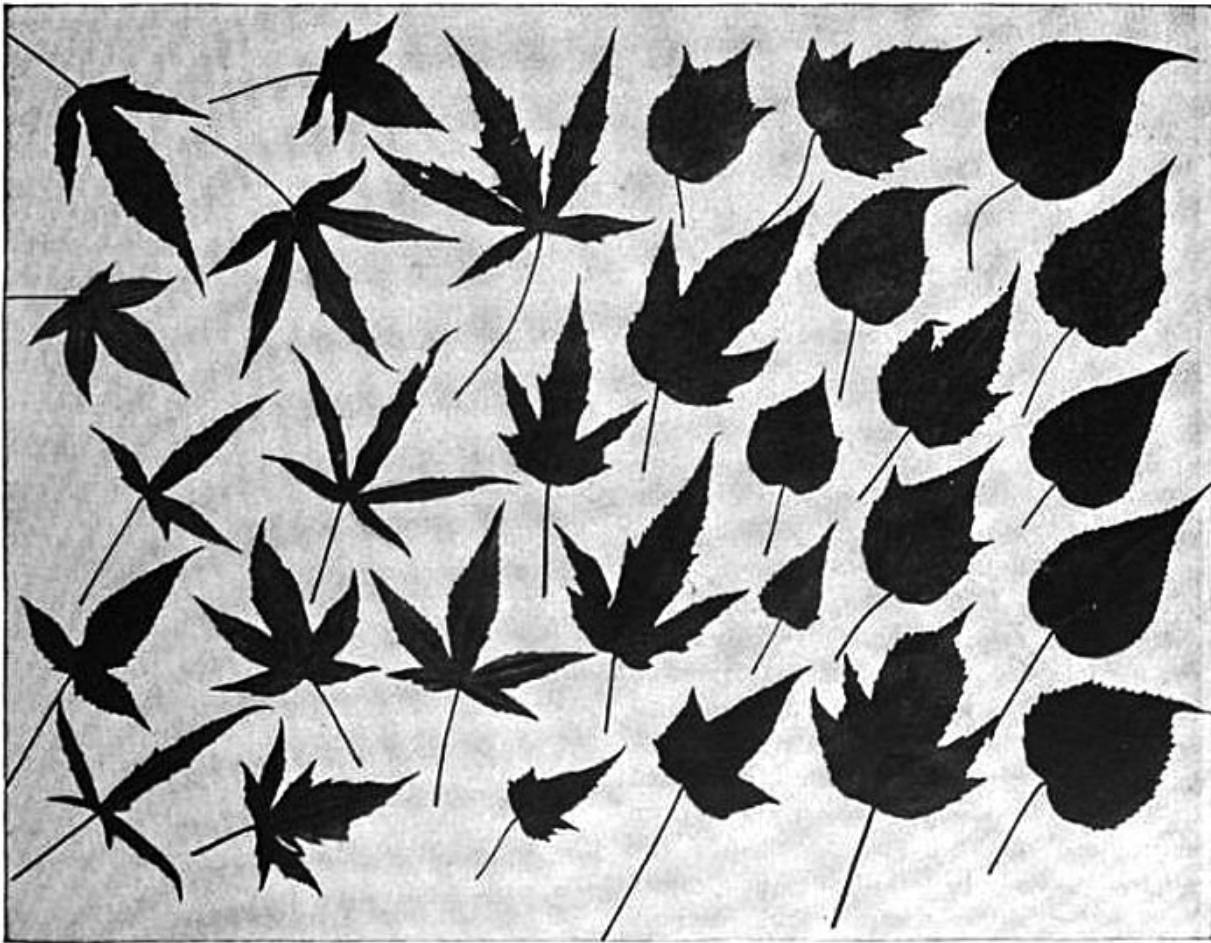


FIG. 153.—*HYDRANGEA HORTENSIA NIVALIS*.

## **Hydrangea macrophylla (Hortensia Group) 'Nivalis' (MC-2012-005)**

While there are some Japanese-found variegated leaf hortensias, this European find with a bold, creamy-white central chimera is thought to be long lost, especially under this name. Could it be hiding somewhere in an old garden or forgotten nursery row?





These varied types of leaves show the results secured in foliage in Meehans' Mallow Marvels.

### **Hibiscus 'Meehans Mallow Marvels' (MC-2012-006)**

The famous Meehan Nursery of Pennsylvania, and particularly their breeder Ernest Hemming, was the first we believe to crossbreed the various hardy Hibiscus species for both flower traits and incised leaf shape. We sometimes think our modern maple-leaved and cut-leaved clones from the Flemings and others are unique or recently breakthroughs. It turns out this seed strain from Meehan existed back in 1903 but was not sold in the trade until about 1907. *Hibiscus coccineus* provided the narrow, cut-bladed influence on this variable group. When bred to *H. moscheutos* with a wide, ovate leaf, a large number of intermediate sizes and shapes appeared, as shown in this scanned plate from the August 1911 issue of Meehan's Garden Bulletin. White, pink, red, and scarlet substrains or color forms were offered in their 1907 adverts. Does anyone know of old stock which might have come from this seed? Old clumps of these hybrids probably do not survive intact (without division) for more than 20-30 years to our knowledge - or could they?

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The Liquidambar, Bilsted, or Sweet Gum, (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), is one of the finest among our native deciduous trees, and we have often called attention to its merits as a valuable

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roots must be kept  
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both. Some of the



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## Liquidambar styraciflua 'Longworthii' (MC-2012-007)

The May 1868 issue of American Agriculturist published this plate of a curious sweet gum mutation, mainly crowded, 3-lobed, star-like, narrow-angled leaves we think, found by Mr. Joseph Longworth of Cincinnati OH and moved to his grounds. The name *Longworthii* was suggested in the original paper but subsequent literature does not record this plant being propagated or entering the trade. Given the wealth and prominent status of the Longworth family in that part of Ohio, we suspect this old mutation might exist somewhere on a former estate or land owned by the Longworth family or elsewhere in an old Cincinnati park or nursery. It just might exist again if someone goes looking for a wierd sweet gum shaped like this. Joseph's father Nicholas is widely known as the Father of the American Wine Industry.



A **WEeping** FORM OF THE CHINESE ELM, *ULMUS PUMILA* L. (SEE S. P. I. No. 40507.)

The extreme hardness of this Chinese elm, which has been widely distributed throughout our Northwestern States, will make this picturesque **weeping** form, which is a rare variety even in China, particularly welcome in that **region** for use in cemeteries and parks. The specimen shown was photographed by Mr. Frank N. Meyer on an old grave near Fengtai, Chihli, China, Mar. 27, 1908 (P5429FS).

### **Ulmus pumila 'Pendula' ex Meyer via China PI40507 (MC-2012-008)**

This clone was introduced by Frank Meyer to the US as shown on the USDA plant inventory record of 1916 above. While there are a few 'Pendula' plants listed in collections today (ie. Longenecker Gardens at the University of Wisconsin), we are not sure they are from the

Chinese-Meyer clone. Plants under this name do not seem to be as torulose or arching as Meyer's photo and are more regular, straight-stemmed mounds. Meyer's clone seems to be either missing or confused with other material.

Botanical Name	English Name	1 Deciduous 2 Evergreen 3 Vine 4 Herbaceous Perennial				Ultimate Height in feet	Color	Time of Bloom	Remarks
<i>Acer laetum</i> var. <i>rubrum</i>	Colchicum Maple	1			15-20			T. Bark brilliant red. Foliage large and open. Spreading in growth and good for shelter planting. <i>C. D. G.</i>	
<i>Acer Negundo</i>	Ash-leaved Maple or Box Elder	1			40-50			T. Of spreading growth and excellent for shelter belts. Leaves light green, pinnatifid. <i>A. D. G.</i>	
<i>Acer Negundo</i> var. <i>aureo-marginatum</i>	Variegated Box Elder	1			20			T. Leaves margined with yellow. <i>B. D. H.</i>	
<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	Striped-barked Maple or Moosewood	1			20-30			T. Bark greenish, striped with white. Leaves turn a beautiful yellow in autumn. Upright and dense. Excellent for undergrowth. <i>A. D. G.</i>	
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	1			50-60			T. Spreading in growth, making a good shade tree. Particularly beautiful while in bloom. Flowers yellow green. Leaves turn pale yellow in autumn. Petioles of leaves with milky juice. <i>E. A. G.</i>	
<i>Acer platanoides</i> var. <i>Schwedleri</i>	Schwedler's Maple	1			30-40			T. Leaves bright red while young, changing to dark green. A very attractive tree, with round, spreading head. <i>A. E. G.</i>	
<i>Acer platanoides</i> var. <i>Geneva</i>	Geneva Maple	1			30-40			T. Foliage dark green in spring, turning deep red in midsummer. Irregular and spreading in growth. <i>A. E. G.</i>	



## TREE NOTES FROM ROCHESTER (THE FLOWER CITY).

AMONG ornamental trees characterised by their showy inflorescence, as well as by the beauty of their fruits in autumn, none may surpass many of our native Thorns ; and, perhaps, no region is as rich in the variety of this genus as the immediate surroundings of Rochester and the district of the famed Genesee Valley, justly termed "The Garden of the Empire State." In several recent visits to this section, the eminent botanist, Dr. Charles S. Sargent, author of "Silva of North America," discovered many new species and varieties of the *Crataegus*, some of which he has described in *The Botanical Gazette* of February 1902. Illustrations of some of the most distinct types of these, when secured at a later date, may prove of interest to the readers of *FLORA AND SYLVA*.

In recalling the Thorn, however, two other well-known native flowering trees, the Shadblow and the Dogwood, perhaps equally picturesque in their grace of contour and drift of snowy bloom, should not be lost sight of, whether imparting an added charm to their natural habitat or supplying a vivid ornamental adjunct to the home-grounds. Of these three graces among native flowering trees of medium growth, the Thorn or May-tree alone possesses in most of its forms the added charm of pronounced fragrance. The common English Hawthorn or quick, so largely employed as a hedge-plant in Europe, does not always weather the severity of our winters in some of the northern states. It is, moreover, apt to become sunburned, and suffers from mildew and the attacks of the aphid. Many handsome specimen trees of the double English Hawthorn, however, lend a lovely note of colour to many of our gardens.

In the list of comparatively new and little-known trees may be mentioned a variety of the handsome Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, var. *monumentalis*, a stately tree of pyramidal habit, very regular in its growth, and distinguished for the brilliant crimson colouring of the second-growth foliage. Another comparatively new Maple is a purple-leaved form of

the well-known Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides*, var. *Geneva*, raised in the town of that name in this state. This is a variety of robust growth, quite distinct from Reitenbach's or Schwedler's, and that may be said to combine the good qualities of each. Other trees of recent introduction are the globe-headed Norway Maple, with a perfectly rounded head, and Thurlow's Weeping Willow, a graceful pendulous tree with leader of erect growth and drooping side branches.

Among ornamental flowering trees and shrubs which, though not unfamiliar, are not nearly as well known abroad as they deserve to be, are *Pyrus angustifolia*, or Bechtel's double-flowering American Crab, perhaps the most interesting of the genus when laden with its exquisite violet-scented, rose-like flowers of delicate pink, in early spring. Still more showy in its snow-white vernal garb is a form of the favourite Japanese Deutzia, *D. crenata*, var. *Pride of Rochester*, a variety raised and disseminated by Ellwanger and Barry from *D. crenata*, fl. pl., producing large double white blossoms, the back of the petals being slightly suffused with rose. Excelling all the other sorts in size of flowers, length of panicle, profusion of bloom and vigorous habit, it also blossoms nearly a week earlier than *D. crenata*, fl. pl.

A word of praise may likewise be added with reference to a new native Elder, *Sambucus canadensis acutiloba*, just introduced by the Mount Hope Nurseries—a distinctly novel and highly ornamental shrub, surpassing *S. heterophylla*, the well-known fern-leaved variety. This will form a fine companion for the cut-leaved Sumach ; and, with its deeply and delicately cleft dark green foliage, it will become valuable on account of its graceful beauty, as well as its perfect hardiness, rapid growth, and the ease with which it bears transplanting.

GEORGE H. ELLWANGER.

Mount Hope Nurseries,  
Rochester, N.Y.

**Acer platanoides 'Geneva' (MC-2012-009)**

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# Saved, Found, and Recovered Cultivars

These will be our good news, success stories.







*Cercis glabra* 'Celestial Plum' at the Charles R. Keith Arboretum in 2010.

## ***Cercis glabra* (yunnanensis) 'Celestial Plum'**

Following his untimely passing, JC Raulston's named clone could not be identified among living collections in 2007 including his own *Cercis* Collection at the arboretum where it originated. The staff there at the NC State Arboretum (now the JC Raulston Arboretum) had no plants of this name in the computer nor on the grounds; though one *C. yunnanensis* (*C. glabra*) of a dark plum-rose color existed but merely labeled as the species *C. yunnanensis*. It was subsequently determined that the clone was still in propagation by two NC nurseries though not then advertised. A small plant also appears in the Charles R., Keith Arboretum of Chapel Hill, NC. It has since been replanted at JCRA in Raleigh. Mailorder growers today include Meadowbrook Nurseries ([www.we-du.com](http://www.we-du.com)). A browser search turns up other growers which do not ship.





## **Juniperus chinensis (Japanica Group) 'Sylvestris'**

This more plumose, more divergent (juvenile) variant on J.c. Japonica Group (aka 'Japonica') was thought to be lost, at least in North America. These three very healthy examples turned up in a spot at the Morris Arboretum but had not been reported by conifer collectors or juniper experts in recent decades. People copying old conifer



books mentioned it in modern times but no one seemed to actually have seen it or a source thereof! It is also allied to 'Oblonga' which may in fact be the correct name for it.

# Chart of Threatened Woody Plant Cultivars

Since 2006, the society has used these codes to label the status of old, rare, or endangered clones.

## Living Specimens

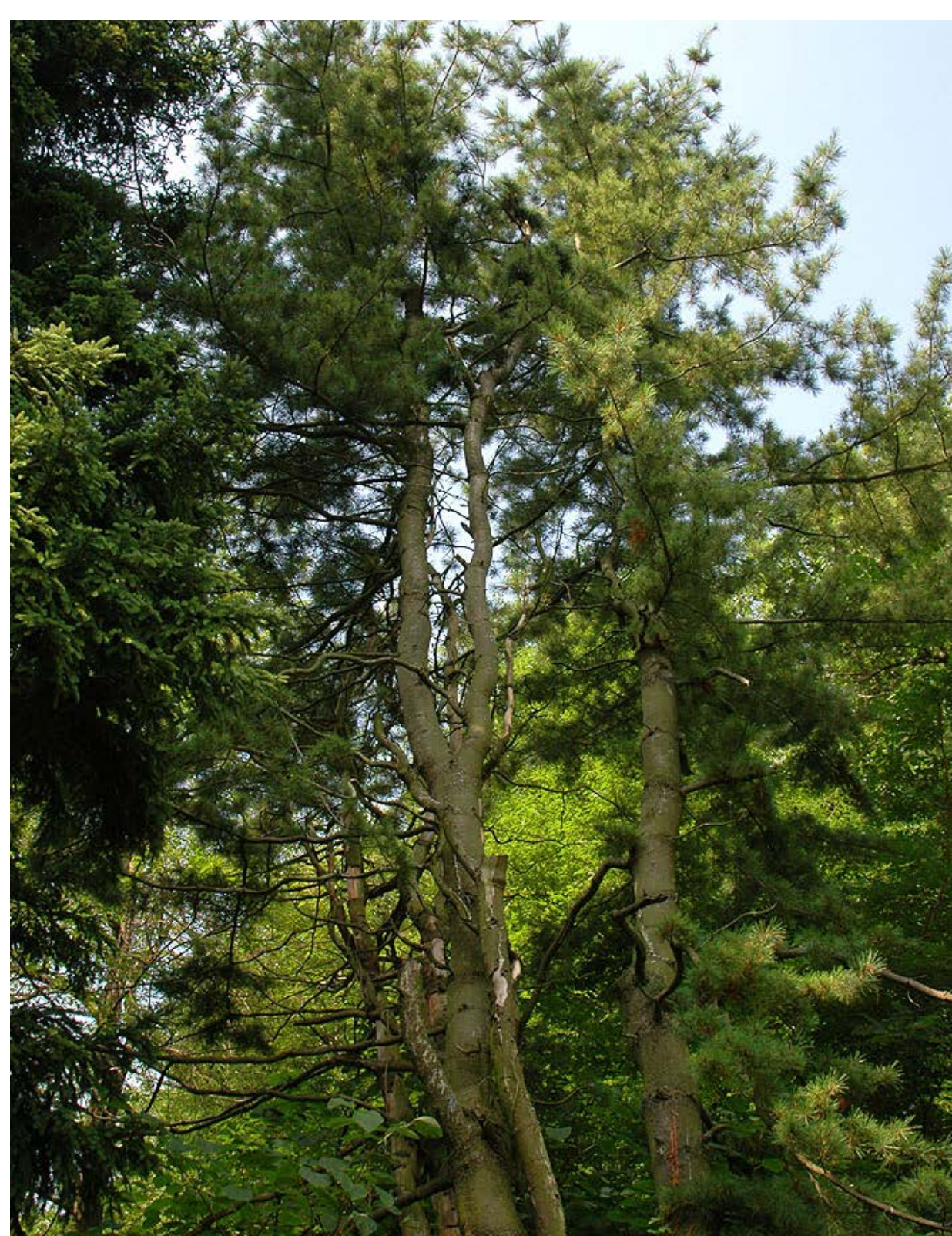
These values primarily reflect records of public gardens since it is nearly impossible to have knowledge of all private collections

- L0 – none known – possibly extinct
- L5 – less than 5 living specimens reported worldwide
- L5 (country) – less than 5 living specimens reported in (country)
- L10 – less than 10 living specimens reported worldwide
- L10 (country) – less than 10 living specimens reported in (country)

## Propagating Nurseries

- P0 – no commercial nursery sources known worldwide
- P0 (country) – no commercial nursery sources known in (country)
- P5 – less than 5 commercial nursery sources known
- P10 – less than 10 commercial nursery sources known









## Pinus strobus 'Contorta' original tree (TC-2012-001)

The popular 'Contorta' of the worldwide trade is actually a clone with highly twisted needles. A few conifer experts know that original 'Contorta' of Slavin had twisted stems and rather straight needles. We photographed the original tree in the lower portion of the Pinetum at Rochester, New York's Durand-Eastman park, confirming the popular 'Contorta' with very twisty, blue needles is absolutely different. Slavin found it at Seneca Park in Rochester but moved it to Durand-Eastman where a worldclass conifer collection, once second in size and scope only to the Arnold Arboretum, was forming. The very twisty trunks of the true, original monoclonal is clear from this photo. There are more images found in our NORL files for subscribers. The imposter clone with the twisted bluish needles should now be called 'Torulose', being a post-1959 plant; causing the sometimes used 'Torulosa', 'Tortulosa', or 'Tortuosa' to be rendered invalid. This original clone needs to be propagated while the original tree remains reachable for scion material and healthy. We do not know of true material in the trade anywhere now (August 2012) and would like to hear of anyone propagating from this original tree.

























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The following plants, primarily of North American introduction, are believed to be very rare and/or endangered.



TAXON	VCG Codes	Notes
Abies nordmanniana 'Durham Dwarf'	L5, P0	Two plants existed at JC Raulston Arboretum, both died before 2010.
<a href="#">Acer</a> saccharum 'Globosum'	L5, P0	 
Acer saccharum 'Senecaense' (A., x senecaense)	L10, P0	
Cercis canadensis 'Bartlett King'	L5, P0	
Cercis canadensis subsp. texensis 'Texas Star'	L0, P0	 
Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa Lovettii'	L0, P0	
Cornus florida 'Magnifica'	L5, P0	 
Cornus racemosa 'Slavin's Dwarf'	L5, P5	 



Juniperus chinensis 'Excelsior'	L5, P0	
Juniperus chinensis 'Fortunei'	L5, P0	
Juniperus chinensis 'Jenkins'	L5, P0	Exists at Holden Arb. #56-264
Juniperus chinensis 'Luptonii'	L5, P0	
Juniperus chinensis 'Montgomery'	L5, P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Andorra Green'	L0, P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Andrewsii'	L0, P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Big Sky'	L0, P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Cascade Valley'	L0, P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Gracilis'	L0 (US), P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Pondera Copper'	L0, P0	
Juniperus horizontalis 'Silver Sheen'	L5, P0	
Juniperus x media 'Arbuscula'	L5, P0	
Juniperus x media 'Green River'	L0, P0	
Juniperus x media 'Stay Low'	L5, P0	
Juniperus x media 'Sarcoxie'	L5, P0	

Juniperus scopulorum 'Gareei'	L5, P0	 1.  denOuden & Boom (1965) describe this as whitish-blue, semi-dwarf, and very compact. This reminds me more of Cupressus glabra 'Gareei' so perhaps it is an error.
		 2.  Oldest living plant in the US is at Cornell Plantations. It is very dark green and narrowly fastigiate. It's obvious not denOuden & Boom's plant. It traces to Chase Brothers Nursery, Rochester NY in 1941.
Juniperus virginiana 'Globosa'	L5, P0	 
Juniperus virginiana 'Reptans'	L10, P0	 
Melia azadarech 'Umbraculiformis Aurea'	L0, P0	Mentioned by Jacobson in NALT (1996) and not reported since.
Metasequoia glyptostroboides 'Bailey'	L0, P0	 
Morus alba 'Nuclear Blast'	L5, P5	 
Picea abies 'Barnes'	L5, P0	 
Picea abies 'Highlandia'	L5, P5	 
Picea pungens 'Coplens' ('Copeland')	L5, P0	 
Picea pungens 'Funky'	L5, P0	 
Picea pungens 'Morden' ('Morden Blue')	L0, P0	 
Pinus nigra 'Pyramidalis'	L10, P5	 1.  Original Rochester clone.

 2.  Christmas tree industry grows a variable strain under this name from seed.

 3.  3. This is not the same as subsp. pallasiana var. pyramidata.

Pinus strobus 'Hinshaw Mutant'

L0, P0



Pinus taeda 'Dixie'

L0, P0



Platanus mexicana 'Alamo'

L0, P0



Platanus occidentalis 'Howardii'

L5, P0



Prunus 'Coleus'

L0, P0



Prunus 'Garnet'

L0, P0



Quercus palustris 'Mills Variegated'

L0, P0



Quercus phyllireoides 'Emerald Sentinel'

L5, P0



Quercus robur 'Fastigiata Special' Girard Nur.

L5, P0

1. May be Q. x rosacea 'Columna' but more likely a less lobed seedling from 'Fastigiata' with 'Holophylla' ('Salicifolia') type leaves.

Quercus velutina 'Rubrifolia'

L5, P0 (US)



Robinia pseudoacacia 'Ohio Prostrate'

L5, P0



Taxodium distichum 'Al's Golden'

L0, P0



*Taxus x hunnewelliana* 'Richard Horsey'

L10, P5



*Thuja occidentalis* 'Affinity'

L5, P0

Listed with USDA-GRIN. No living plants reported.

*Thuja occidentalis* 'Hudsonica'

L5, P0



*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Barton' ('Bart'?)

L0, P0



*Viburnum japonicum* 'Variegatum'

L5, P0

