A “New” Spin on Right Plant - Right Place: New Plants by Light and Type
Gary W. Knox
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Plant Trends
- “New” Plants
  - New
  - Improved
  - Newly Available
  - Rediscovered or Underutilized
  - New marketing

Availability?
- “Big Box” stores
- “Good” garden centers
- Specialty nurseries and Internet/mail-order nurseries
- Plant societies
- Breeders and collectors (who do you know?)

Sunny Areas

Trees

Acer saccharum ssp. floridanum
Redbud
Older *Cercis canadensis* cultivars:
- Forest Pansy (purple foliage)
- Silver Cloud (variegated foliage)
- Flame (double flowers)
- Appalachian Red (“red” flowers)

Redbud
Older *Cercis canadensis* cultivars:
- Withers Pink Charm (pink flowers)
- Covey or Lavender Twist™ (twisted branching)
- Traveller (weeping)
- Var. Alba (white flowers)
**New Redbud**

*Cercis canadensis* cultivars:
- Pauline Lily (blush pink)
- Oklahoma (glossy foliage)
- Royal White (larger white flowers)
- Tennessee Pink (more pink than Wither's Pink Charm)
- Variegata (leaves splashed and speckled with white and yellow)

**New Redbud**

*Cercis canadensis* cultivars:
- Little Woody (compact, taller than wide)
- Ace of Hearts (compact, wider than tall)
- Hearts of Gold (leaves emerge red then turn yellow)
- Cascading Hearts (weeping)
- Floating Clouds (streaks of variegation)

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Cultivars of Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*:
- *Ilex vomitoria*, Yaupon Holly
  - Pendula (weeping)
  - Folsom’s Weeping
  - Roundleaf
  - Kathy Ann
  - Will Fleming (upright)

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Keteleeria evelyniana

Unusual Conifers
- Abies firma
- Araucaria angustifolia
- Keteleeria davidiana
- Taiwania cryptomerioides
- Taiwania flousiana

Crapemyrtle
*Lagerstroemia spp.*
- Tree
  - Apalachee (lavender)
  - Fantasy (white)
  - Natchez (white)
- 20 feet tall in 10 years
- Use as tree
- Many widely-available cultivars

Osage
- Osage (pink)
- Sioux (pink)
- Lipan (reddish-lavender; white bark)

Sioux

Apalachee
Red-flowered Crape Myrtles

- *L. indica* Dynamite®: First true red flowers!
  - Stiff, upright growth habit; intermediate in size
- New red-flowered cultivars:
  - Tree: Arapaho
  - Intermediate: Red Rocket®
  - Semi-dwarf: Cheyenne
  - Dwarf: Tightwad Red® and Cherry Dazzle™

*L. indica* Pink Velour™

- Burgundy foliage from budbreak to midsummer
- New cultivars with dark foliage:
  - Burgundy Cotton™
    - White flowers on an intermediate plant
  - White Chocolate
    - White flowers on a semi-dwarf plant
Gresham Hybrid and Other Large-Flowering “Japanese” Magnolias

- Large flowers up to 12 inch diameter ranging from white to purple-red
- Flower after “Japanese” or Saucer Magnolia (to help avoid late frosts)
- Favorites So Far:
  - Jon Jon
  - Winelight
  - Dark Shadow
  - Paul Cook
  - Pink Goblet

Yellow Flowering Magnolias

- Favorites So Far:
  - Butterflies
  - Golden Sun
  - Golden Endeavor
  - Gold Crown
  - Hot Flash
Southern Magnolia:

- **Recommended Cultivars:**
  - D.D. Blanchard™
  - Little Gem

- **New Cultivars:**
  - Alta
  - Miss Chloe®
  - Greenback™
  - Jubilee®
  - Kay Parris
  - Teddy Bear®
  - More . . .

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**Magnolia grandiflora 'Kay Parris’**

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**Magnolia figo**

- **Banana-shrub**

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**Magnolia figo var. skinneriana**

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**Magnolia figo var. crassipes**
**Magnolia insignis**
- Red lotus tree
- White to pink to red flowers
- Small tree, up to 25' tall and 10 – 15' wide, reports of up to 100' tall
- Flowering late Spring, Summer
- Zones 7-9
- Leaves 5 – 6½” x 1 – 2”, bluish underneath

**Magnolia insignis**

**Magnolia insignis x virginiana**
‘Katie -O’

Photo courtesy of Richard Figlar

**Bald Cypress**
*Taxodium distichum*

**Bald Cypress**

*Taxodium species and hybrids*
- Autumn Gold™
- Secrest (dwarf)
- Cave Hill (dwarf)
- Pendens (weeping)
- Cascade Falls (weeping)
- Shawnee Brave™ (narrow)
- Nanjing Beauty (Chinese selection of *T. distichum x mucronatum*)

**Taxodium Distichum Cascade Falls**
*Taxodium Distichum* (PeeVee Minaret)

*Mexican Bald Cypress* (*Taxodium mucronatum*)

Winged *Elm* (*Ulmus alata*)

*Ulmus alata* ‘Lace Parasol’

*Sunny Areas* (Shrubs)

*Ulmus alata* ‘Lace Parasol’
**Abelia x grandiflora**

newer cultivars:
- Confetti® (variegated white)
- Sunrise (variegated yellow)
- Gold Dust™
- Mardi Gras (variegated; stable)
- Silver Anniversary™
- Kaleidoscope
- Canyon Creek (yellow to green leaves)
- Rose Creek (compact)
- Flat Creek
- Little Richard
- Prostrata

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**Abelia x grandiflora**

Rose Creek:
- Compact habit growing up to 3 feet high and 4 feet wide (much better than Sherwoodii)
- White flowers
- Dark green foliage

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**Abelia ‘Rose Creek’**
- Compact habit growing up to 3 feet high and 4 feet wide (much better than Sherwoodii)
- White flowers
- Dark green foliage

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**Abelia ‘Mardi Gras’**
- New dwarfs with red fruit!
- Taylor’s Rudolph

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**Cultivars of Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Ilex vomitoria var. nana:**
- New dwarfs with red fruit!
- Carolina Ruby

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**Dwarf Crapemyrtle Recommended Cultivars**
- Dwarf/Small Shrub
  - Delta Blush (pink)
  - New Orleans (purple)
  - Sacramento (rose pink)
  - Razzle Dazzle™ series
- Houston (pink)
- Pocomoke (rose)
Dr. Mike Dirr (University of Georgia):
**Razzle Dazzle™ Series**
- Derived from ‘Pocomoke’ and similar to it in size and habit
- Resistant to cercospora leafspot and powdery mildew
- Flower colors range from true red to pink to white
- Sizes range from 2’ x 2’ to 4’ x 5’
- Some have new growth that is bronze and/or red-purple fall color

**Tea Olive**
*Osmanthus fragrans* cultivars:
- Fudingzhu (a.k.a. Nanjing Beauty; heavy blooming)
- var. *aurantiacus* (orange flowers)
- var. *aurantiacus* Apricot Gold
- var. thunbergii (yellow flowers)
Osmanthus fragrans Nanjing Beauty

Osmanthus fragrans var. aurantiacus

Pyracantha Saphhire Silver

Rosa Knock Out®

Rosa Pink Knock Out® and Knock Out®

Rosa Double Knock Out® and Pink Double Knock Out®
Primary Pests of Roses in Florida:
- New!: Chilli thrips
- Damage looks like:

Photos by L. Osborne
UF/IFAS

Succulents: Agave etc.

Viburnum luzonicum

Viburnum obovatum var. compacta
**Viburnum obovatum var. compacta** cultivars:
- Christmas Snow
- Compacta
- Densa
- Mrs. Schiller’s Delight
- Reifler’s Dwarf
- St. Paul
- Whorled Class
- Others

**Sunny Areas**

**Perennials**

**Succulents: Agave etc.**

**Aloysia virgata** Sweet Almondbush

**Cynara cardunculus** - Cardoon

**Crinum spp.**
**Hardy Hibiscus**
- Herbaceous perennial
- Top dies after frost
- Cut back in winter
- New shoots emerge from the crown in late spring (March-April)

**Home-Grown Monsters: Native Hibiscus Species**
- *H. coccineus*
- *H. grandiflorus*
- *H. moscheutos*

**Hibiscus Mighty Big Red (11.1 in.; 3-6 weeks)**

**Hibiscus Turn of the Century (6.6 in.; 12-22 weeks)**

**Mimosa strigillosa - Powderpuff**

**Salvia farinacea ’Henry Duelberg’**
Sinningia ‘Apricot Bouquet’ – Hardy Gloxinia

Tecoma stans – Yellowbells

Landscaping Trends

- Container Gardening
  - Especially large containers
  - Also for water gardens and fountains

- “Tropical” plantings
  - Exotic flowers & foliage
  - Tropicals used as annuals

Landscaping Trends

“Tropical” plantings
- Plants like Palms, Elephant Ears, Gingers, Angel’s Trumpet, Calathea, Banana, etc.
Landscaping Trends
- Dramatic plant forms as accents
  - Succulents and cacti
    - Agave, Yucca, etc.
  - Palms and cycads
  - Bamboo and other ornamental grasses
    - Offer different textures and provide movement, even when dormant
- Many of these have low irrigation requirements, even in containers!
**Landscaping Trends**

- **Edibles!**
  - Edible plants: Hard times inspire “Grow your own”
    - Fruits
    - Vegetables
    - Herbs
  - Wide-ranging uses
    - Separate gardens (vegetable garden, fruit orchard, etc.)
    - Incorporated into landscape plantings
    - Container gardening

- **Re-purposed Plants**
  - Food plants as ornamentals
    - Cabbage, kale, swiss chard, leaf lettuce, rhubarb, rosemary, basil, pepper, okra, pomegranate, blueberry, citrus, pineapple, etc.
  - Foliage/house plants used as perennials or herbaceous perennials
    - Begonia, calathea, pilea, cordyline, asparagus fern, etc.
  - Forestry and fiber plants as new accents or ornamentals
    - Bamboo, eucalyptus, ramie, cotton, miscanthus, switchgrass, agave, palm, etc.

**Landscaping Trends**

- **Color!**
- **Container Gardening**
  - “Tropical” landscapes
  - Drama!: Dramatic plant forms as accents
  - Edible landscaping
  - Re-purposed plants
  - Color!

**Shady Areas**

**Trees**

*Chionanthus virginicus*
Chionanthus retusus

Shady Areas

Shrubs

Camellia Species:
- Japonica and Reticulata types
- Sasanqua types
- Yellow-flowered cultivars (C. nitidissima)
- Fragrant cultivars (C. fraterna, japonica and lutchuensis)
- Cold-hardy cultivars (C. oleifera)
- Others

Camellia spp. Frank Houser

Camellia spp. Blizzard

Camellia spp. Scentuous
Camellia *vernalis*  
Eago Corkscrew

Camellia *sinensis*  
Shirotae

Camellia *sinensis*  
Unryu

Gordonia/Franklinia axillaris

**Hydrangea macrophylla**  
Bigleaf Hydrangea

- Cultural requirements - shade, moist soils (not wet); cool winters
- Well adapted to north Florida
- Flower bud development - largely on old wood (formed the year prior to flowering)

**Hydrangeas Reflowering on New Growth**

- Blushing Bride
- David Ramsey
- Decatur Blue
- Endless Summer®
- Mini Penny
- Oak Hill
- Penny Mac
- All Summer Beauty
- Blue Deckle
- Coerulea Lace
**Mahonia eurybracteata**
‘Nari Hira’ in Japan

Photo courtesy of Todd Lasseigne, Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden

**Rhododendron**
Sir Robert Pell

**Shady Areas**

**Perennials**

**Begonia nelumbifolia – B. heracleifolia**

**Lycoris spp. – Rhodophiala bifida**
Hurricane Lily - Oxblood Lily

**Clerodendrum wallichii**
Ctenanthe zebrina and C. setosa

Dianthus ‘Heart Attack’

Drimiopsis maculata and D. kirkii

Justicia brasiliana

Strobilanthes cusea – Asian Bells

Woodwardia orientalis – Asian Chain Fern
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Future???:

- More marketing and branding
  - Woody plants will be developed, grown and marketed like annuals and perennials
- More cultivars of native plants
- More formal, controlled breeding
- Sterile plants

Temptations:

- NFREC Fall Field Day
  - Sept. 19 (Sat.): Birds, bees & gardens
- Agave & Succulent Workshop
  - Oct. 3 (Sat.) at NFREC; sponsored by Gardening Friends
- Rare plant auction: “Plantaholic” Party
  - Oct. 21 (Wed.) at NFREC; sponsored by Gardening Friends
  - Silent and live plant auctions while enjoying party food and “party beverages”
- Plant Sale Extravaganza: most plants donated from area growers; also leftovers from rare plant auction
  - Oct. 24 (Sat.) NFREC grounds; sponsored by Gardening Friends

For more information:

- Gardening Friends of the Big Bend, Inc. (GFBB)
  - GFBB is an NFREC support group sponsoring fundraisers etc. to benefit plant collections, plantings and development of a demonstration and teaching garden
  - Event information and program registration available at the website: www.thegfbb.com

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