

2023 LSHR Plant Releases

1. ***Curcuma petiolata* ‘Emperor’ ZINGIBERACEAE** (Variegated Hidden Ginger) – Tropical herbaceous perennial that forms bright green and white variegated leaves from underground rhizomes. Produces mostly white to light pink cone-shaped blooms hidden amongst the foliage in summer. Grows to 3’. Prefers part-shade and moist well-drained soil. Moderate to fast growth rate. Dormant during winter but returns in spring. Propagated by rhizome division.

2. ***Neomarica caerulea* ‘Durio Hardy’ IRIDACEAE** (Brazilian Walking Iris) – Hardy herbaceous perennial that forms fans of upright 2” wide, dark green leaves from small rhizomes. Produces 4” deep purple, iris-like flowers borne on 4’ stems in mid-spring. New plantlets form at the end of the stems after flowering. Vigorous grower in moist well-drained soil. A much hardier clone than ‘Regina’. Original plants were started from seeds provided by Chilopo Arboretum, North Korea. Propagated by plantlets and division.

3. ***Rhododendron* ‘Weyanoke Wonder’ ERICACEAE** (Weyanoke Wonder Azalea) – Evergreen shrub with single, white 2 ½” flowers in early March. Southern Indica type Azalea which is a seedling of ‘Fisher Pink’, selected by Buddy Lee. Grows to 8’ x 8’ but can easily be controlled by pruning. Prefers 4-6 hours of sunlight. Prefers acidic, well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Propagated by cuttings or layering.

4. ***Vaccinium corymbosum* ‘New Hanover’ ERICACEAE** (Southern Highbush Blueberry) – Commercial variety Southern Highbush Blueberry developed by North Carolina State University in 2007. Self-fertile variety but will produce higher yields if more than one variety is present. Produces sweet, large fruit of excellent quality in late spring. Semi-upright growth pattern to 6’. Prefers acidic, well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Best grown as a container plant in our area. See the ‘2023 Spring Compost Pile’ for more details on growing Southern Highbush Blueberries in Louisiana. (PP#19990P3)

5. ***Verbena canadensis* ‘Carlos Smith’ VERBENACEAE** (Carlos Smith Verbena) – Herbaceous perennial which produces unique white and lavender bi-color flower clusters with the darker flowers facing inwards. Spreading habit creates a dense groundcover and an excellent trailing container plant. Grows 12” x 24”. Prefers sun and well-drained soil. Collected by LSU Extension Horticulturist, Dr. Carlos Smith. Propagated by cuttings.