

# 2024 LSHR Plant Releases

## 1. *Capsicum chinense* 'Biquinho' SOLANACEAE (Little-Beak Pepper) –

Also known as “Sweet Drops” when pickled, biquinho chilies originate from Brazil. They are a rare mild pepper (500 to 1,000 Scoville heat units). It's shaped much like a little beak, rounded at the top with a distinct point and only an inch long. But what makes it even more unique is the intense, habanero-like punch of fruity flavor in each fruit. That's not common for chilies in the mild heat range.

## 2. *Cyrilla racemiflora* 'Josephine' CYRILLACEAE (Red-Stemmed Swamp Cyrilla) –

Leatherwood or titi is a lesser known but potentially useful native shrub or tree that grows in moist but well-drained soils that are high in organic matter and acidic. Growing in hardiness zones 6 through 11, its habit ranges from deciduous to semi-evergreen in the south. This selection grows to approximately 6 feet high by 5 feet wide. Can tolerate different soil types. Blooms in late spring and summer. Profuse bloomers with classic white flowers however may have a pinkish color flower some years. Attracts pollinators.

## 3. *Eubotrys racemosa* ERICACEAE (Sweetbells Leucothoe) –

An upright, suckering, deciduous shrub with glossy, oblong to elliptic, toothed, mid-green leaves turning yellow, orange, and red in autumn. Attractive racemes begin to appear in late winter with fragrant, bell-shaped, white flowers in late spring and early summer followed by light brown fruit capsules. This selection tends to be more compact and have more profuse bloom than the native forms.

## 4. *Iris ampliflora* 'Ming Treasure' IRIDACEAE (Ming Treasure Iris) –

A new hybrid discovery of the past decade, *I. ampliflora* is an unknown interspecific hybrid possibly involving *I. tectorum* (Japanese Roof Iris) and is sterile. The original hybrid was found naturally occurring in the south-central region of China, notable among other species for its impressive large plant and flower size. 'Ming Treasure' is a vigorous selection of this new species and can perhaps best be described as *I. tectorum* on steroids. The plant is significantly larger than most other species of Iris and has a commanding presence in the landscape. Numerous 4½" flowers are mid-violet with a yellow crest and small white signal area, appearing on well-branched scapes.

## 5. *Lyonia lucida* ERICACEAE (Fetterbush) –

This plant is native to the Southeastern coastal plain of the United States, from Louisiana in the west, throughout Florida, and to Virginia in the east, where it may occasionally reach heights of up to 13 feet. Fetterbush grows in the understory of shrubby bogs, wet savannas, cypress swamps, wet woods (wet pine flatwoods), peaty thickets, and stream banks. This selection has a very compact growth habit with mature height of 3 feet and width 4 feet. Grows well in moist semi-shaded areas of the garden. Very glossy leaves. Profuse bloomer with flowers appearing in April. Small white bell-shaped flowers appear under the stems in rows. Clear white flowers with pink coloration at the base of each flower. Attracts pollinators.

## 6. *Vaccinium corymbosum* 'Farthing' ERICACEAE (Southern Highbush Blueberry) –

Farthing is a very low chill vigorous bush with numerous flower buds and flowers very heavily. Flowering is not as late as Windsor, but later than the Emerald and Jewel. The berries begin to ripen at about the same time as Star, Windsor, and Emerald. Berry firmness is good, and the texture is somewhat but not fully crisp. Berry scar and flavor are good. Farthing is partially self-incompatible and requires cross-pollination for a full fruit set.