

## HEIRLOOM PLANTS

### **BLUE FALSE INDIGO – *Baptisia Australis*** – (Bartram, Philadelphia 1787)

Description: native perennial, has violet-blue spikes of pea-like flowers, 12 - 24 in. long in June to July. Grows to 3-4 ft. in both height and width. Foliage is attractive after blooming. Fruit is a bluish-black pod 1 in. long with stems that turn a silvery gray and break off from the roots when seeds mature. Cherokees, other Indian tribes and early colonists used it as a blue dye. Roots were used in medicinal ways.

Culture: needs full sun to light shade and well drained soil. It is tough but does not transplant well, so care should be taken in its placement. Once established, it is low maintenance, drought resistant and seldom has insect or disease problems. Attracts butterflies & bees; deer ignore it.

### **SWEET PEPPER BUSH – *Clethra alnifolia*** – (John Bartram, Philadelphia 1751)

Description: native deciduous shrub with a wonderful fragrance, long lasting flowers, good yellow fall foliage and winter structure with seed pods lasting all winter. Very late to leaf out in the spring, it flowers in mid summer for 6 weeks. Its fragrant flowers attract butterflies and pollinators. Grows 3-10 feet tall.

Culture: requires neutral to mildly acid pH, is moderately salt tolerant and grows in slightly wet areas. Shade tolerant, it prefers dappled shade but can grow in full sun. Deer resistant and generally trouble free.

### **GAS PLANT – *Dictamnus albus*** – (John Custis, ca. 1741)

Description: perennial, grows 16-39 in. high x 2-3 ft. wide. Blooms in June – July. The five-petaled flowers are pale purple to white with long projecting stamens and form a loose pyramidal spike. Has glossy green lemon-scented leaves and emits a substance that is flammable.

Culture: plant in well-drained, heavy soil with organic matter in full sun or light shade. Slow growing, deer resistant, and attracts butterflies and birds.

### **MALTESE CROSS – *Lychnis chalcedonica*** – (Goldwaite & Moore, Philadelphia 1796)

Description: perennial, grows 2-3 ft. tall and has dark green leaves, opposite each other on a hairy stem. Its rounded bright orange to red flower head has many florets with five petals in a cross shape in each floret. It was brought to Europe during the Crusades by the Knights of Malta and can be found at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home.

Culture: grows in full sun to part shade, in loose, rich soil that drains well. Drought tolerant. It needs deadheading for continuous bloom, and is attractive to butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Staking may be required.

### **MOSS ROSE – *Rosa centifolia cristata*** – (Winter, New York 1844)

Description: deciduous shrub, also called Chapeau de Napoleon or Cabbage rose. Large (2 to 3" across), pink, globular, fragrant, double flowers with about 100 broad petals

curving toward the center and blooming in clusters. Blooms only once a year. Grows 4 to 5 ft. tall x 3 to 5 ft. wide. Grown for use in rose oil and perfume.

Culture: needs full sun. Root stock must be planted deeply to survive. If it dies back to the ground, it will come back in the spring.

**MOCK ORANGE** – *Philadelphus coronarius* – (Prince, New York, 1771)

Description: deciduous shrub, 10-12 ft. tall with profuse, sweetly scented white bowl-shaped blossoms with prominent stamens. Fast growing with arching fountain-like form; fits especially well in corners. Blooms in early summer and its leaves are said to taste like cucumber. Arbor Day Foundation has very small bare rooted plants.

Culture: needs full sun or partial shade, good drainage, regular to moderate watering. Drought tolerant once established, it is adaptable to a wide range of soils. Deer resistant.

**PEONY ‘FESTIVA MAXIMA’** – *Paeonia lactifolia Festiva maxima*– (Hovey, Boston 1852)

Description: herbaceous perennial. Early flowering double with pure white fragrant flowers with splashes of crimson stripes in the center. Peonies are referred to as “century plants” as many old varieties have persisted in private gardens and the nursery trade.

Culture: does best in sun with soil with good drainage. Plant eyes on roots 1-2” below the soil surface. Patience!

**SNOWBERRY** – *Symphoricarpos albus* – (John Bartram, Philadelphia 1807)

Description: native shrub, 4 ft. tall. Flowers are pink in small clusters that turn to large white marble-like-berries on a delicate stem, lasting long after foliage has fallen. Listed as endangered on the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Culture: accepts poor soil and exposed sites; drought tolerant. Prefers full sun or dry shade; good for holding hillsides. Self-propagates, may easily become a hedge.