Theodore Klein Plant Awards
Promoting New and Superior Plants for Kentucky Landscapes

Picea orientalis
Oriental Spruce
is a pyramidal conifer that develops pendulous branches with age. It is hardy to zones 4 to 7.
The foliage is unique; needles are relatively short at 1/4" to 1/2", stiff, and shiny dark green. The tree averages 50-60 feet in the landscape. The dense foliage and tight, sometimes pendulous, habit is superior to other spruces frequently found in Kentucky.
Cultivars are propagated by grafting onto seedlings or Picea abies rootstock.

Taxodium distichum
‘Mickelson’
Shawnee Brave™
baldcypress is a strongly pyramidal deciduous conifer that was introduced by Earl Cully of Heritage® Trees, Inc., Jacksonville, Illinois. While baldcypress tend to be very tolerant of environmental conditions Shawnee Brave™ is known to be extremely hardy. Very nice plantings of the species next to a water feature with knees can be seen at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati and the planting of mixed Taxodium cultivars, including Shawnee Brave™, around the lake at Bernheim Arboretum is a beautiful frequently-photographed scene. Fall color is a "worthy" bronze-orange.

Helleborus x hybridus
(H. orientalis)
Lenten Rose Hybrids
are easy-to-grow, winter or early-spring flowering evergreen herbaceous plants that are exquisite in flower and foliage. The large bell-shaped white to purple flowers hang down; some call it drooping. Breeders have created new cultivars that provide a diversity of colors including dark purple, almost black, red and even yellow. The blooms average 3-4 inches wide and have a relatively long bloom duration of 8-10 weeks. Hardy to zones 4-9; hellebores grow 15-18 inches tall. Tolerant of a wide range of environmental conditions, it prefers a partial to full shade site and a moist alkaline soil. The species is grown from seed; the cultivars are divided.

Cladrastis kentukea
Yellowwood
or American
Yellowwood
is a medium-sized flowering Kentucky native tree. The fragrant 1-1.5 inch white flowers found on 8-14 inch pendulous panicles are a delight in May. The leaves are alternate, odd-pinnately compound. The yellow fall color comes at a time when many other trees are already defoliated for winter. The bright yellow beacon of the yellowwood in the gray fall-winter scene found in most woodlands and gardens is a wonderful sight.

The Theodore Klein Plant Award is sponsored by the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association, Yew Dell Gardens and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.
http://www.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/TKPA.html