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

Abies nordmanniana
Nordmann Fir
is one of the very best fir species for the Kentucky landscape. Its dense formal shape, dependable dark green foliage and wide cultural adaptability make the Nordmann Fir a stately lawn specimen. Plants typically grow at a moderate rate to 60-80’ tall and 30-40’ wide. They perform best in a sunny location with moist soil. Excellent specimens can be seen at Yew Dell Gardens (Crestwood, KY) Cave Hill Cemetery (Louisville, KY), Bernheim (Clermont, KY) and the UKREC Botanic Garden (Princeton, KY). Nordmann Fir is happiest in USDA cold hardiness zones 4-6.

Quercus bicolor
Swamp White Oak
is one of our most outstanding native oaks. Growing to 50-60’ tall with an upright oval outline, it makes an excellent shade tree specimen and is also useful in street tree and parking lot plantings. This long-lived species is tremendously adaptable and once established, is tolerant of both wet and dry soils. Summer foliage is a dark glossy green with a bit of yellow in the Autumn. Louisville’s Cave Hill Cemetery has some excellent specimens. It is best adapted to zones 4-9.

Cercis canadensis ‘Appalachian Red’
is a stunning new selection of our native redbud. This 20-25’ tall tree absolutely explodes with brilliant fuchsia pink flowers in Spring; a much brighter shade than the typical redbud. Most at home in sun to dappled shade, ‘Appalachian Red’ will adapt to any average garden soil. Specimens can be seen at Yew Dell Gardens, Seneca Park, Bowman Airfield, and Whitehall House and Gardens. Best in USDA cold hardiness zones 5-8.

Hakonechloa macra ‘Aureola’
Golden Japanese Forest Grass
makes an outstanding bright accent in the lightly shaded garden. Growing slowly to 1’ high and 3’ wide, the elegantly arching blades are striped in brilliant green and gold tones. This exceptional ornamental grass performs best in a moist soil. Plants can be seen in the walled garden at Yew Dell Gardens. It is most at home in USDA cold hardiness zones 5-9.

The Theodore Klein Plant Awards were created to promote superior plants for the Kentucky landscape. The program is sponsored jointly by the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association and Yew Dell Gardens. For more information on the Klein Awards and for a downloadable version of the 2005 poster, go to Dr. Win Dunwell’s UK web site: http://www.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/TKleinPA.html