Promoting the garden use of native plants is a core part of Mt. Cuba Center’s mission, and since 1988, the Plant Introduction Program has brought many outstanding cultivars to market. Selected for strong ornamental appeal and broad regional adaptability, many of these introductions have risen to become some of the most popular cultivars of native plants available. Plant evaluation and introduction continues today, with several bright prospects for additional introductions in the future.
**Actaea pachypoda ‘Misty Blue’**
Misty Blue white baneberry

Misty Blue white baneberry is an herbaceous perennial, selected for its unique and highly attractive soft, bluish-green foliage. It was discovered in a planting of typical green-leaved plants of unknown origin growing at Mt. Cuba Center. In spring 1” to 2” tall bottlebrush-like clusters of white flowers are borne on stems above the foliage. By September, large, white fruit with dark purple to black spots (“doll’s eyes”) mature on reddish pedicels. It is a carefree, long-lived, 24” to 36” tall plant, growing best in partial to filtered shade in evenly moist, well-drained soils with a pH from slightly acidic to neutral. *Introduced 2009*

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**Ageratina altissima ‘Chocolate’**
(formerly Eupatorium rugosum)
Chocolate white snakeroot

Chocolate white snakeroot is an herbaceous perennial selected by Dr. Richard W. Lighty and descended from a plant found at Winterthur Gardens. It had the darkest burgundy foliage of many seedlings grown over a ten year period. ‘Chocolate’ grows up to 3’ tall and has white inflorescences along with dark burgundy leaves which color best in full sun. They provide attractive contrast and texture throughout the season. It performs best from sun to filtered shade and flowers from early September through early October. *Introduced 1994*

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**Coreopsis tripteris ‘Gold Standard’**
Gold Standard tall tickseed

Gold Standard tall tickseed is an incredibly sturdy and floriferous selection of Coreopsis tripteris. The mature height of ‘Gold Standard’ is approximately 5-6’ tall which is is slightly shorter than the typical tall tickseed. Beginning in late July, a multitude of sunshine-yellow flowers appear above the robust, disease-resistant foliage. The floral display lasts over two months and the resulting seeds are a favorite among goldfinches. ‘Gold Standard’ is a rhizomatous cultivar that spreads slowly—approximately 2’ over three years. This plant was collected from Jefferson County, Alabama, and was named and introduced as a result of its excellent performance in Mt. Cuba Center’s coreopsis trial. *Introduced 2016*

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**Cornus sericea ‘Silver and Gold’**
Silver and Gold redosier dogwood

Silver and Gold redosier dogwood is a yellow-stemmed, shrub dogwood which originated as a mutation on Cornus sericea ‘Flaviramea’ at Mt. Cuba Center. Its leaves are distinctively white variegated; other characteristics are the same as ‘Flaviramea’. ‘Silver and Gold’ is easily grown, adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions, and recommended as a replacement for variegated forms of Cornus alba because it better withstands the hot and humid climate in the mid-Atlantic region. Prune 2 to 3 year old stems to the ground in late winter to encourage new stems displaying brightly colored bark. ‘Silver and Gold’ Received the 1990 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Styer Award of Garden Merit. *Introduced 1988*
**Gillenia trifoliata** ‘Pink Profusion’  
(formerly *Porteranthus trifoliatus*)  
Pink Profusion Bowman’s root

Pink Profusion Bowman’s root is an outstanding pink selection of a typically white-flowered, herbaceous perennial species. It was found in the wild by Paul James of Virginia and sent to Mt. Cuba Center in 1987. Like the species, it grows to 2’ or more in height and has an open, airy habit, though it is more uniform and erect in stature. The stems and calyces are dark red and the newly emerging, deeply cut foliage is a deep red-purple color which later becomes a rich dark green. The flowers are actually bicolored, pink and white, but at a distance give the overall impression of pink. ‘Pink Profusion’ performs well in moist, well-drained soil from light shade to full sun. *Introduced 1997*

**Leucothoe fontanesiana** ‘Greensprite’  
Greensprite drooping leucothoe

Greensprite drooping leucothoe was one of twelve clones of drooping leucothoe, an evergreen shrub, selected for evaluation at Mt. Cuba Center in 1983. It was chosen for its ease of propagation and ability to quickly grow to saleable size and quality under field nursery conditions. ‘Greensprite’ is a solid green leucothoe with narrow leaves possessing undulating edges and attenuated tips which are attractively light catching. Its stiffly arching stems, reaching a height of 4-5’ give it a graceful, elegant character. Pendulous, creamy white, urn-shaped flowers appear in the leaf axils in early spring. *Introduced 1991*

**Pachysandra procumbens** ‘Silver Streak’  
Silver Streak Allegheny pachysandra

Silver Streak Allegheny pachysandra is the most unique and attractive form of Allegheny pachysandra yet to be introduced. It was first observed at Mt. Cuba Center in a planting of unknown origin. ‘Silver Streak’ was selected for its striking silver blotches on a green background in winter. In spring the new foliage emerges a uniformly dark green color, remaining green until early autumn when the silver blotches begin to appear. The foliage of ‘Silver Streak’ remains attractive throughout winter unlike many forms of Allegheny pachysandra that become bronze-brown. ‘Silver Streak’ grows particularly well in part-shade to shade with evenly moist to dry soils. It tolerates a wide range of soil pH from acidic to strongly alkaline. *Introduced 2009*

**Solidago sphacelata** ‘Golden Fleece’  
Golden Fleece autumn goldenrod

Golden Fleece autumn goldenrod was discovered in 1985 as a spontaneous garden seedling in Eden, North Carolina. It was evaluated under diverse conditions at Mt. Cuba Center and determined to be a lowgrowing, compact form of the species. Growing only 18” tall, it is suitable for use as an herbaceous perennial groundcover. Multi-branched stems arise from basal rosettes of broadly rounded foliage and are covered with a profusion of golden-yellow floral spires from mid-September to October. It performs best in full sun with average moisture but is tolerant of a range of conditions from sunny and dry to partial shade. ‘Golden Fleece’ is hardy in zones 3-8. It won the Internationale Stauden-Union’s Award for an outstanding new plant in Switzerland in 1994. *Introduced 1989*
**Symphyotrichum laeve var. laeve ‘Bluebird’**
(formerly Aster laevis)
Bluebird smooth aster

Bluebird smooth aster is an herbaceous perennial, selected for its attractive, pest-free foliage and large (1”) violet-blue flowers which appear in abundance. It was found in 1988 in a Guilford, Connecticut garden as a spontaneously occurring seedling. It has an upright habit to 4’ tall and generally needs no staking. ‘Bluebird’ blooms in September/October in full sun to light shade with a broad tolerance of soil types and moisture levels. *Introduced 1994*

**Thalictrum thalictroides ‘Pink Pearl’**
(formerly Anemonella thalictroides)
Pink Pearl rue-anemone

Pink Pearl rue-anemone is an attractive lavender-pink selection of the typically white flowered rue-anemone. Numerous 1”, upward facing flowers comprised of petal-like sepals are highly attractive in April just as the earliest blooming spring wildflowers emerge. ‘Pink Pearl’ produces its flowers atop 4” to 10” tall stems, with delicate, slightly lobed foliage, reminiscent of maidenhair fern. The wiry stems rise from a cluster of tuberous roots that look like miniature dahlia tubers. ‘Pink Pearl’ should be planted in part-sun to shade in moist but well-drained soil that ranges from slightly acidic to neutral. It typically goes dormant by early summer. *Introduced 2007*

**Symphyotrichum novae-angliae ‘Purple Dome’**
(formerly Aster novae-angliae)
Purple Dome New England aster

Purple Dome New England aster is an herbaceous perennial selected for its compact size, forming a solid purple mound, 18” tall x 24” wide, of semi-double flowers in September/October. Its dense floral display and short stature minimize its lack of resistance to foliar problems. ‘Purple Dome’ was first observed along Pennsylvania Route 100 below Allentown, PA by Robert G. Seip of Lennilea Farm and given to Mt. Cuba Center. It performs best in full sun to light shade in moist, well-drained soil. *Introduced 1989*

**Viola walteri ‘Silver Gem’**
Silver Gem prostrate blue violet

Silver Gem prostrate blue violet is an attractive multi-stemmed herbaceous perennial that was selected for its tidy mound of striking, silvery colored, heart-shaped leaves with contrasting green veins displayed prominently throughout the growing season. The undersurface of the leaves varies from pale purplish-green to burgundy. ‘Silver Gem’ is a low-growing, compact plant reaching 3” to 5” tall with a 10” to 15” spreading habit. While ‘Silver Gem’ is generally deciduous in northern Delaware, basal leaves can remain nearly evergreen where winters are milder. ‘Silver Gem’ grows best in filtered to partial shade in moist, well-drained, neutral to alkaline soils and is drought tolerant once established. ‘Silver Gem’ originated as a natural seedling variant found in Bibb County, AL in 2003. *Introduced 2010*

Additional introductions from Mt. Cuba Center include: