

Report to the Herbaceous Ornamental Crop Germplasm Committee
from the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station (NCRPIS), Ames, IA
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Since the HOCGC last meeting in July 2010, the NCRPIS has accessioned 155 new woody landscape plants, 5 new herbaceous ornamentals, including *Aclea*, *Baileya*, *Sanvitalia*, *Sphaeralcea*, and *Vaccaria*, and 4 new Lamiaceae. Many of the new acquisitions are of wild collections of *Fraxinus*, most from New York, Pennsylvania, and Missouri, and of *Cornus*, *Diervilla*, and *Viburnum*. We worked with Mark Bohning in Beltsville to assign permanent PI numbers to 29 woody landscape and 5 herbaceous ornamental accessions.

Regeneration efforts in 2010 and 2011 continued working primarily with woody ornamentals, but also a number of herbaceous accessions including *Baptisia*, *Calendula*, and *Sanvitalia*. In 2010 and 2011, we regenerated 90 woody and 44 herbaceous accessions. Through these activities, along with efforts to obtain large, original seed samples, 219 accessions were made available for distribution in 2010-2011.

At the end of 2011, 44% of 2455 ornamental accessions were available for distribution and 43% were backed-up at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP) in Fort Collins.

In 2010 and 2011, 259 and 484 accessions were distributed, respectively, to fulfill external requests (domestic and foreign) for ornamental plant germplasm (other than for testing in the NC7 Trials). Those most in demand were *Calendula* (103 packets), *Malva* (73 packets), and *Alcea* (49 packets). A large number *Plectranthus* (112 cuttings) were shipped for downy mildew screening.

The 2011-12 winter was very mild and our current spring and summer has been abnormally dry.

Much of my time has been focused on coordinating the ex situ conservation of *Fraxinus* in the face of its destruction by Emerald Ash Borer. We have seed collecting trips planned for Indiana-Illinois (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*) and Iowa (*Cornus rugosa*) for 2012. The NPGS Ash Conservation webpage was released in 2010. Additional projects include collecting observational data on *Aronia* (peak flowering date, flower diameter, peak fruiting date, and fruit diameter), *Fraxinus* (seed width and seed length), *Baptisia* (plant height and inflorescence length), *Salix* (Japanese beetle feeding), and *Ulmus* (Japanese beetle feeding).

A recent trip (July 2012) to a remnant prairie in Story County Iowa resulted in the sampling of a *Phlox pilosa* subsp. *fulgida* for the OPGC *Phlox* collection.

Dr. Dan Barney, former curator at the Artic and Subartic Plant Genebank in Palmer, Alaska, is now stationed at NCRPIS fulfilling the horticulturist position following the retirement of Dr. Mark Widrechner. Dr. Barney will be curating the medicinal, mint, and herbaceous ornamental taxa.