

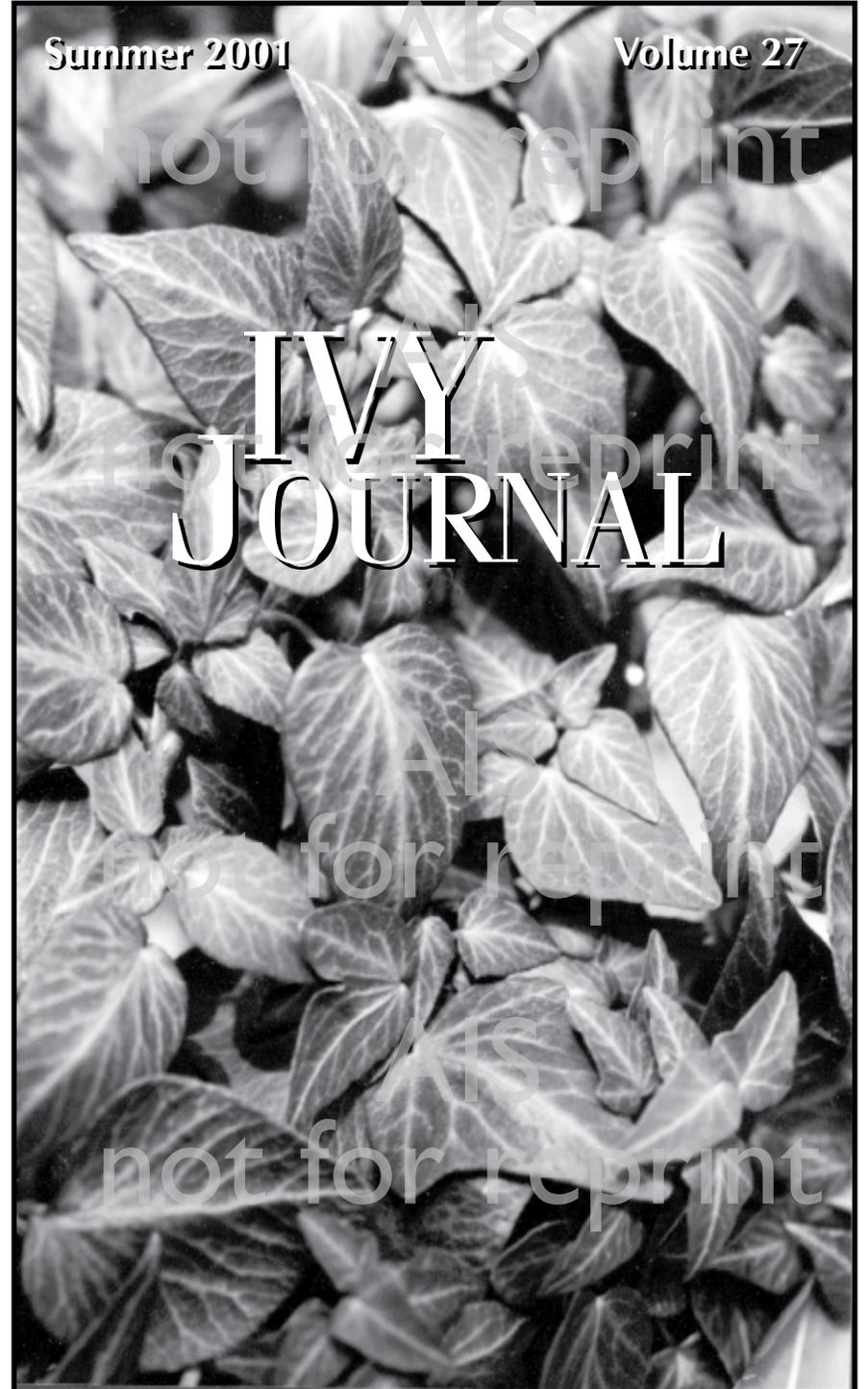
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IVY JOURNAL

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Ivy Journal

Summer 2001

Volume 27

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Cover Photo: *Hedera helix* 'Teardrop' not life size.

Photo by Rachel Cobb

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President's Message

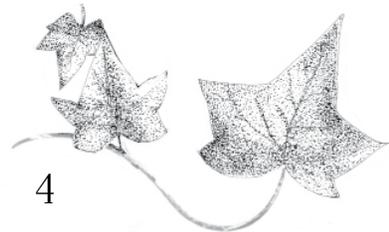
Patricia Riley Hammer

Though this is the last president's message, I will be writing for the *Ivy Journal*; it will not be the last time you hear from me. My term as president of AIS will end this year, and Suzanne Pierot will be taking on the job. Suzanne's dedication and support of AIS goes without question. You all know her as our President Emeritus, and now she is stepping up to the plate again.

The last ten years (that's how long I have had the office) has gone by so quickly, and the honor of holding this job has brought considerable recognition to me and my business. I have enjoyed the job and found the rewards to be numerous. The skills I have gained along the way have helped me to develop and grow Samia Rose Topiary. I must say thanks to all the AIS board members for their constant support and eagerness to get the sometimes tiresome and thankless jobs done. Also, I must extend a heart filled thank you to all you — the members of our Society. Without you, none of our projects would be possible.

These days, it is hard to keep a little plant society alive and healthy, yet it is so important. The thousands of nameless members dedicated to the plants they love are the people who bring us the new cultivars and vital information the industry needs. Most of the time this work goes without appreciation and the credit is often mistakenly given to the commercial marketing companies. Thank you for supporting The American Ivy Society and me.

I do not want to make this sound as though I am leaving AIS — I promise — I am here to stay!



IVY JAPAN

Patricia Riley Hammer

Ivy Japan is the name of a small ivy speciality nursery in Nagasaki, Japan, owned and operated by Mr. Tohoru Tajima. Mr. Tajima is a man 68 years old who refers to himself as an “artisan of ivy.” Now that is a wonderful term — “artisan of ivy.”

Our connection came about through a topiary project I was commissioned to design and develop for Western Village, an old western theme park located north of Tokyo near the Nikko National Park in Japan. My correspondence with Mr. Tajima was through e-mail. He humbly described himself as a farmer. In his own words he echos my passion for ivy, “When the ivies grow pretty well and I can work with them listening to Mozart, I need nothing more.” I found myself instantly enchanted by this Japanese man I had never met.



This photograph was taken of Mr. Tohoru Tajima (on left) during a recent visit by Mr. Toshiro Oba (on right) to IVY JAPAN. Mr. Oba is an ivy grower from northern Japan. Photo courtesy of Mr Toshiro Oba

My vision of Mr. Tajima, from those words on, was of a man at peace with himself wearing a contented smile living and working among his beautiful ivies. I know his ivies are beautiful because he was able to supply Western Village with nearly all the plants needed for our project. All of his ivies were absolutely fabulous. However, it was not an easy accomplishment for Mr. Tajima in the time frame allotted, but his invaluable ivy knowledge and determination turned out to be some of the most important ingredients in a very complicated topiary display.

This project started in the early fall of 1999 when I was approached by Mr. Takuei Yoshida, the American Liaison and Director of

Western Village. Prior to this, Western Village had restored part of the park to create an America Garden Park using several landscape architects from southern California. Included in their plan were several topiary. Mr. Yoshida was instructed to find the very best topiary available for the new garden. Luckily for me, his research brought him to Samia Rose Topiary.

Western Village invited me to come and visit their facility located about 2 1/2 hours north of Tokyo and to make recommendations for the garden. It was an extreme honor for me to be invited and very exciting since it was my first trip to Japan. The trip was carefully planned and my every need was considered long before I left California. Mr. Yoshida met me at the Niritu Airport and became my interpreter and escort for the entire trip. He graciously guided me through many of the complicated but fascinating Japanese customs, avoiding a few of the awkward moments of being a first time traveler in a very different culture. He made sure that I experienced as much of Japan and the Japanese culture as possible in a whirlwind 14 day trip.

Since this project would be the first of its kind and magnitude, there were several steps of protocol we needed to follow. Once I met with Mr. Ominomi, the owner and creative mind, of Western Village. There were also other government officials and important people I had to meet. Although much of the trip was devoted to entertaining me, we did find time to meet the officials in the Department of Agriculture for the prefecture (state) of Toshuga, the High Priest of Toshuga Shrine and the mayors of both Nikko and Imichi City. The Japanese people have a very high regard for artists, and I was the "Topiary Artist" from California. I can say the experience was overwhelming and treasured.

Once all of the preliminary stages were completed such as theme and design, actual planning and orchestrating began. The display would open by October of 2000 and it was already February of that same year. This project required us to plan every detail, gather all the components right down to the frames, pins, irrigation parts, and tools we might need once we arrived in Japan to assemble the topiary. Since it was impossible to ship living topiary or even live plants from California to Japan, we planned to send all the frames and supplies by container ship and have the ivies custom grown in Japan.

During my fall visit, I made sure to take photographs and notes of every ivy I saw growing in Japan. I was very concerned about what cultivars are available in Japan, as much of our success depends on having the right cultivars to design unique and interesting topiary. Also, I was concerned about the climate and how the ivies would perform at Western Village.

The climate in the Nikko area does experience four seasons including hot humid summers and cold winters with days that dip into freezing temperatures. The summers could go up to 95 degrees and the humidity could be nearly 100 per cent. Even though they do get some snow during the winter, the temperature rarely remains below freezing for very long. The area is known for the excellent fall color much like we know in the northeastern part of the United States.

Once I visited the Park I was comfortable that there were at least a few cultivars of ivy to help create interest in the topiary, and it seemed they were happy living in the climate. I found 'Shamrock', 'California-group', 'Glacier'-group, 'Eva', 'Needlepoint'-group, 'Pittsburgh'-group, and to my surprise a few other cultivars I could identify including 'Gold Child', 'Misty', 'Gertrud Stauss' and 'Ritterkreuz'. Once I was back in the states, I sent Mr. Ominomi a copy of The Ivy Book with cut specimens of ivy tucked into the pages and asked him to try and find the cultivars I needed for the project. I limited the number of cultivars to things I had seen or thought he might find. I calculated and estimated how many "pots" of ivy I would need for the forty plus topiary. We were going to make 3 horses, 3 longhorn steers, 1 buffalo, 1 burro, 1 coyote, 16 people and assorted small animals all life size. It was over 1100 pots of ivy in total.

Sending samples and choosing mostly the ivies I saw helped me to feel fairly confident that I would have the ivies I needed. My biggest worry was to end up with the right cultivars or at least something close. I hoped the book and the samples would avoid any tragic errors due to confusion in the names. As we all know, it is hard in the United States to get what you order when asking for ivies by name.

The big surprise for me was that they could not compute what I needed because in Japan, ivies are ordered by the stem — not by the pot size or even by pots. They wanted me to calculate my needs by stems! I was

really set back because this problem created several more problems including how long would the runners be on the stems. It is not just the number of stems that matter, but I was also concerned about the over-all area the 6" pot would cover and the well-established root system the pot will have to help acclimate the new topiary planting. We even took digital photos of our pots of ivy and asked them to compare what they were growing to what we considered a 6" pot to calculate how much ivy would be required. All of this was compounded by language translations. Mr. Yoshida is a terrific translator/interpreter but now we were talking about pots of ivy versus stems of ivy.

It also seemed they could not find growers who could produce enough ivy in the number of different cultivars in the time frame for the project. A very stressful time to say the least. During this stage of the project Mr. Ominomi found **Ivy Japan**. It was like a miracle. Arriving from Japan was a beautiful full color ivy catalog with several excellent color photos of ivy cultivars. The entire catalog was in Japanese but the ivy cultivar names were all in English. Mr Tajima grows about 350 varieties of ivy and I could recognize about 95 per cent of the names.

Once we were able to find a formula and calculate the number of "stems" required, Mr. Tajima went to work to propagate and provide us with the ivy needed. In the end, we used more than 30,000 stems of ivy. **Ivy Japan** provided almost every stem we needed.

Mr. Tajima worked closely with me to help choose cultivars that he felt would be the most successful in the climate in which they would be required to live. He patiently described the early summer humidity and how the small-leaf and compact ivy suffered from the warm moisture. He explained to me that unless these smaller tight growing cultivars did not have fresh air circulated in and around, "the small bushes of these ivies, would get sick from the inside." I knew exactly what he was describing, as we sometimes have a damp warm season and air circulation is critical. He also cautioned me about typhoon season. According to Mr. Tajima, "Every summer, they come regularly with heavy rains. They contain salt of the sea water. The winds and rains often kill well-established ivies whose stock is more than an inch in diameter."

I found it interesting that for him 'La Plata' did much better than 'Midget', and he recommended 'Rochester' in place of 'Pixie.' On one occasion I asked him to choose 5 different ivies that would look like hair for the señoritas. I am sure he has never had that request in the past, and I bet he was concerned that he was not fully understanding my English. Did I forget to mention that all his letters were in English? Not until near the end of the project did he mention that sometimes it took him nearly all day to write an E-mail letter to me.

As the project progressed, I looked forward to his letters. He is a prolific writer and a very gracious person. At one point, he was so concerned about this project that he wrote a letter in Japanese to Mr. Yoshida (who lives nearby in California) and asked him to translate it into English to be sure I was getting the full meaning of his information. That translated letter was nearly 3 pages long and outlined every detailed aspect of the ivy order and the problems we needed to consider. His help was priceless.

In the end, when we arrived in Japan, there was a greenhouse full of beautiful ivies. It was like a virtual candy shop with ivies of all shapes, sizes and colors. He was even called upon at the last minute to ship more ivy to replace a shipment from another grower that was unacceptable. Mr. Tajima provided us with nearly every ivy we used to create 38 life size ivy covered topiary.

Mr. Tajima has collected ivy from around the world. Many of his ivies came from Ron Whitehouse and Russ Windle. All of his ivies are properly named and beautifully cataloged. Mr. Tajima writes often for a trade magazine called Noko-to published by Seibundo Shinkusha Publishing Co., Ltd. Hongou, Bunkyo, Tokyo. I have asked for permission to reprint translated articles in our newsletters or journal. The task of translating will take time. If you would like to communicate with Mr. Tajima by e-mail, his address is: kv4t-tjm@asahi_net.or.jp He is interested in starting a branch of AIS in Japan, and I know he would enjoy hearing from members.



Tree Ivies - An Inspiration In Garden Design

Inger M. Laan

Walnut House Gatton Close Reigate, Surrey England

Having always enjoyed pottering about in my garden, the time came in 1989 that I wished to learn more and follow a garden design course. With a son at university and a daughter at boarding school, I finally had the time. The one year course at the English Gardening School was held at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. It was certainly demanding, but I gained much. Through friends there, I was introduced to the British Ivy Society and, subsequently, to The American Ivy Society. My husband Dirk and I took part in the 1993 AIS annual meeting held at Williamsburg, Virginia. We enjoyed it enormously and joined AIS again in Boston, 1995, Toronto, Canada, in 1998, and in Ireland this year, May 2001.

In 1992, when visiting a number of gardens in the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands, we were introduced to a new way in which to use ivy. This was the arborescent (adult) form, shrubs with wonderful shiny leaves and strong architectural shapes.

In a mainly woodland garden it was used as an evergreen hedging, both for a path as well as separating the woodland from the lawn area (see photo #5). In another garden nearby, we saw arborescent ivies being shaped into large cubes and planted under a pleached lime hedge. This arrangement had the effect of echoing the strong rectangular lines of the house itself (photos 1 & 2). In the third garden, we saw yet another advantageous use of ivy shrubs — as a backdrop to a tightly clipped box ball (photo 3).

At Harseley Court in Oxfordshire, England, the late Nancy Lancaster (an American woman originating from the Blue Ridge Mountains) grew two large specimens of the arborescent *Hedera helix* 'Aglaris Aurea' to give substance to her summer border. These slightly golden balls looked more relaxed and certainly required less trimming than the tradition boxwood balls. It was an admirable choice by a great lady, who in her own way, has added much to English gardening.

In my own small garden I have used arborescent ivies as low hedging around my woodland beds (photo 4). They lend themselves to informal areas as they can be left more or less unclipped. The variety was purchased in Holland and labeled *Hedera helix* 'Arbori Compact', but I think it is (Adult) *Hedera hibernica* 'Deltoidea', because this smallish ivy shrub has rather dark-green heart-shaped leaves much like the juvenile 'Deltoidea'.



Photos 1 & 2: Inger has shaped these arborescent ivy shrubs into rectangular cubes and used them in the landscape to carry the architecture of the house through the garden.

All Photos on pages 10-12 by Inger M. Laan

Photo 4: In Inger's woodland beds adult ivy is used as a low border planting.

Photo 5: As another example of the adult ivy versatility, adult ivy is used as a hedge dividing two garden areas and it works as a backdrop for the garden room.

In 1996 I added two (Adult) 'Angularis Aurea' in beds, which. They have proven to be fully hardy and form a dense mound, which I clip just once each spring. My star performer is the adult form of *Hedera helix* 'Poetica', a tree-ivy with amber coloured berries. The placement at the beginning of a path echos other round shapes in my mixed borders. Unfortunately, the day I went to photograph it the birds had stripped all the amber berries. Maybe this year?

Tree-ivies are such excellent and flexible plants when mixed with herbaceous and annual plants as they re-emerge unscathed after being covered by vigorous neighboring plants all summer to show their shiny green mounds during the winter. For ease of maintenance, flexibility of shape and year-round colour, I would rate these tree-ivies as one of the most useful plants in garden design.



Photo 3: A less formal adult ivy shrub acts as a backdrop to a tightly clipped boxwood ball.

3

'Teardrop' "Ivy of the Year" 2002

Russell A. Windle
Assistant Director of Research

With the ever-increasing popularity of ivies, The American Ivy Society instituted the "Ivy of the Year" program. *Hedera helix* 'Lady Frances' was announced with much fanfare as the "Ivy of the Year" for 2001 (AIS 2000, Hammer 2000).

We are pleased to announce that the "Ivy of the Year" program has been a fantastic success. The virtues of 'Lady Frances' have been published in national magazines and newspapers, as well as in local and regional publications. Commercial growers and homeowners are asking for 'Lady Frances' by name. Many thanks to the publicity committee for a job well done!

INTRODUCTION

The American Ivy Society's "Ivy of the Year" for 2002, *Hedera helix* 'Teardrop', has stood the test of time. Bess L. Shippy, a garden writer who helped introduce many people to the world of ivies, first described it in 1955. This charming ivy has very unique, shiny, dark green, teardrop-shaped leaves that are unlobed, deltoid with a sharply pointed terminal lobe, and have conspicuous green veins radiating out from the base of the leaf blade.

Ivies chosen for the "Ivy of the Year" must be easy to grow, hardy, lush, beautiful and not invasive in the garden. 'Teardrop' fits this bill. Commercial growers have tested 'Teardrop', and it has been tested for hardiness by The American Ivy Society as well. It is an easy-to-grow pot or basket plant, and does well in the garden, where it has survived temperatures even as low as -15 degrees F. (Pierot 1995b).

HISTORY

Hedera helix 'Teardrop' (AIS 88-153, 92-089), is a Heart-Shaped ivy (H) in the Pierot Classification System (Pierot 1974, 1995a). 'Teardrop' was first received by The American Ivy Society in 1988 from a



The American Ivy Society's "Ivy of the Year" for 2002, *Hedera helix* 'Teardrop'.
Photo by Rachel Cobb

nation-wide nursery chain (Franks Nursery in Maryland), and then again in 1992 from The Ivy Guild, Williamstown, Massachusetts. Bess L. Shippy first described 'Teardrop' (under the incorrect spelling, Tear Drop, see End Note 1) in 1955 as an ivy with lanceolate leaves that were prominently veined on plants that were stiff and upright to about 10 inches when the vines would begin to hang. According to Shippy, Terrace View Gardens of Greencastle, Indiana, introduced 'Teardrop'. It has been picked up and described by other authors over the years (Brilmayer 1962; Fearnley-Whittingstall 1992), but never was extensively grown. Even though the description of the original 'Teardrop' was minimal, there is no doubt as to the identity of the plant when one sees a specimen.

More recently, Rosemary Arthur (1995) described a new ivy, *Hedera helix* 'Natashja', which had been at that time recently introduced by a Danish grower. She states that a friend thought that this ivy "might be too close to 'Teardrop' for comfort." Therefore, the next year Arthur (1996) declared that the name *Hedera helix* 'Teardrop' was correct, and that the names, Natashja, and Natasja (an alterna-

tive spelling), were synonyms. The Danish growers had imported 'Teardrop' from the United States, and the Dutch growers from Denmark. But because the name is a terrible name for the Dutch people, [it was] changed to Natasja after an associate at the nursery. The name does not have an 'h' in Holland" (Arthur 1995). The American Ivy Society has received 'Teardrop' under the name 'Natashja' (various spellings): AIS 94-83; 94-137, both from Batson's Greenhouses, Zellwood, Florida.

It is interesting to note that 'Natashja' (various spellings) (AIS 93-126 and others) has also been mistakenly applied to a Heart-Shaped Ivy in the Brokamp-Gavotte-Sylvanian-group (Sulgrove 1986b), with which 'Teardrop' shares its unlobed, elongated leaves and acuminate terminal lobe. The Brokamp-Gavotte-Sylvanian-group does not, however, have the distinctive radiating veins of 'Teardrop'.

This is a good example of how easily the names of ivies can change—and have been changed—over the years, and how important it is to verify names in the trade. This also shows how truly popular and international 'Teardrop' is.

DESCRIPTION

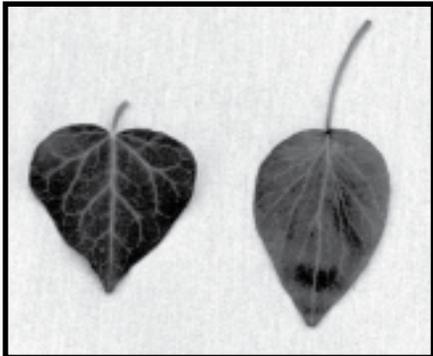
The leaves are shiny, dark green, medium-sized, longer than wide, with prominently raised, lighter green veins that radiate out from the petiole. The leaf shape is unlobed, ovate to deltoid, but with a sharply acuminate terminal lobe, in which the leaf tapers abruptly toward the tip with the sides somewhat concave. Occasionally leaves are produced with one or two sharply pointed lateral lobes (rarely more), especially during rapid growth in the spring.

This unusual leaf shape is probably the result of fasciation in the petiole. Fasciation is when there is a thickening or bundling together of various plant tissues. This can happen in any part of the plant, stem, petiole, or leaf blades. In 'Teardrop' the fasciation appears to be in the petiole, which causes some constriction of the leaf base, which in turn produces the unusual venation pattern. This thickening of the petiole can be exaggerated at times. During rapid growth the plant can grow faster than the fasciation, which may account for the extra lobing on the leaves. The stems are also somewhat thickened and the plant has a stiff upright habit when small. But as the stems grow and become longer, they create a cascading effect. The

plant is self-branching, but pinching helps promote better branching. On occasion, you may also see multiple branches arising from a single node. This is probably the result of the fasciation.

SIMILAR CULTIVARS

A cultivar similar to 'Teardrop' is *Hedera helix* 'Tomboy' (Sulgrove 1986a). 'Tomboy' is similar in both shape and color, although the leaves are about as wide as long, and are more heart shaped with a more rounded terminal lobe. But the venation in 'Tomboy' is different: the lateral veins branch off along the length of the main vein instead of fanning out from the base. The unlobed leaf shape of 'Tomboy' is probably the result of the cultivar being near-adult, not because of fasciation as in 'Teardrop'.



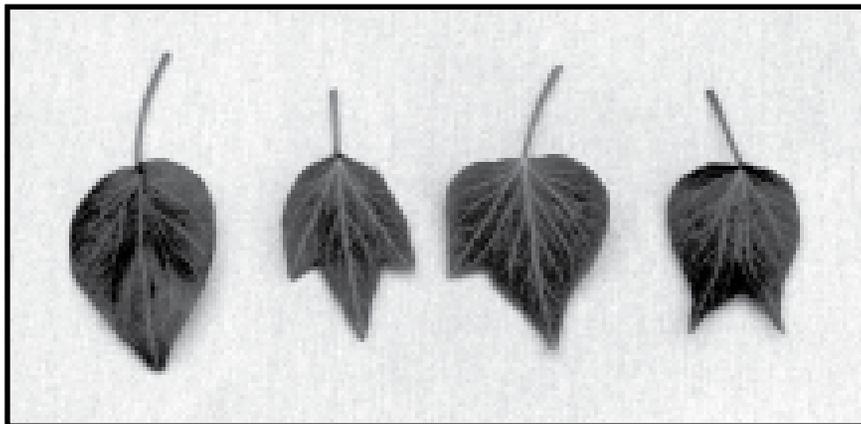
nd has been used as a ground

Left to right, typical H.h.'Tomboy' AIS 88-249 leaf and H.h.'Teardrop' AIS 92-089. Notice the venation pattern.

Both photos by Russell Windle

Below:

Left to right, typical H.h.'Teardrop' AIS 92-089 leaf, and leaves with extra lobing.



and fence cover in central coastal California. It has been grown in southwestern Ohio as a ground cover since 1989.

End Note 1. The Cultivated Code (Trehane 1995) allows for inadvertent misspellings to be corrected (Article 29.2, p. 35).

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Hedera helix 'Splashes' (C, V)

Dr. Sabina Mueller Sulgrove
Registrar

A new, speckled-variegated ivy, was discovered as a sport of 'California' in about 1997, at Vine Acres Nursery, Inc., Clarcona, Florida 32710. This ivy is being named and registered as 'Splashes' by Anna Crevier, of Loganville, Georgia 30052, with the consent of Vine Acres, who has been selling 'Splashes' under the temporary name, "Variegated California" since 1998.

HISTORY

'Splashes' (AIS 99-001) is a curly (C), variegated (V) ivy in the Pierot Classification System (Pierot 1974, 1995). It sported from the cultivar 'California' in the greenhouses of Vine Acres Nursery, Inc. in Clarcona, FL 32710, approximately in 1997. This cultivar is being named and registered, Registration Number 0199001, by American Ivy Society (AIS) member Anna Crevier, of Loganville, Georgia, 30052, with the consent of the nursery. Vine Acres has been selling this ivy under the temporary name, "Variegated California" since 1998.

DESCRIPTION

This cultivar is like its "parent," 'California' (Sulgrove 1986), in that the leaves are small-to-medium-sized, about as long as wide or slightly longer than wide, curly, 5-lobed with blunt tips, and a heart-shaped leaf base. The veins are conspicuous, light-colored and are raised above the surface. There is a slight upward curl in the sinus (valley) between the terminal and lateral lobes, and the lobes curl downward. The variegation on new leaves is creamy white with green streaks, splashes, and blotches, although leaves produced under cool temperatures can be a pale green. As they mature the leaves become green with white and gray streaks and blotches. There is always some variegation visible on even the oldest leaves. The plants are compact due to self-branching, and the leaves nicely clothe the stem.



New Registrations. I. Figure 1. 'Splashes' has curly leaves with raised veins like 'California'. The white-with-green-speckling of the new leaves is still visible even in older, greener leaves. It is a good all-purpose ivy that can be used in baskets, dish gardens, wreaths, and topiary.

Photo of greenhouse-grown plant, April 2001, by Russell A. Windle.

New Registrations. I. Figure 2. A comparison of 'California', 'Splashes', and California Gold'.

Photo of greenhouse-grown plants, April 2001, by Russell A. Windle.



The distinctive feature of 'Splashes' is that it has the pretty, curly leaves of 'California', but with the additional feature of the creamy white new growth with green streaks and blotches that persist on older leaves.

SIMILAR CULTIVARS

'California Gold' (Whitley and Sulgrove 1985) is another variegated form of 'California', but the variegation of 'California Gold' is definitely gold-and-green, with the coloration (gold background overlaid with green speckles and blotches) of 'Gold Dust' (Sulgrove 1981b). 'California Gold' is also slower growing and more compact with runners having shorter internodes.

Other variegated, speckled ivies that might be superficially confused with 'Splashes' are 'Minor Marmorata' (Sulgrove 1981a), but its leaves mature to dark green with only a few gray or white speckles remaining. 'Fantasia' (Sulgrove 1984) also has green and gray speckles and blotches on new leaves, but the leaves, too, mature to all-green but with only the white veins still visible.

USES

'Splashes' makes beautiful baskets, and because of its self-branching habit, can be used in dish gardens, wreaths, and topiary.

SOURCES

'Splashes' is available from Hedera etc., P.O. Box 461, Lionville, PA 19353; phone: 610-970-9175; e-mail: hedera@worldnet.att.net.

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Hedera helix 'Shadow' (M,V)

Russell A. Windle
Assistant Director of Research

Hedera helix 'Shadow' (M,V). [*Hedera helix* 'Henriette', Hammer Mutant #1 1995]. (95-182; Registration number 0195182) This selection of *H.h.* 'Henriette' was selected by Patricia Hammer of Samia Rose Topiary, Encinitas CA.

HISTORY

This mutation has been seen over the years from 'Henriette', but was never segregated out. It was thought to be a seasonal variation and not a true mutation. See photograph in AIS Journal Summer 1995 Vol. 21 page 25, figure A.

DESCRIPTION

Leaves are longer than wide, with predominately three rounded lobes, and a cordate base. The terminal lobe is elongate. During rapid growth in the spring leaves with 5 lobes have been observed. During slow growth in the fall and winter leaves may be unlobed or elliptical. The variegation is a solid gray to a gray-green center with a regular white margin. Leaves are spaced closely on the branch and the plant is highly self-branching. Habit similar to 'Henriette'.



Left to right, stem of
Hedera helix 'Shadow'
AIS 95-182, and stem of
Hedera helix 'Henriette'
AIS 88-072.

Both photos by Russell Windle

Page 23: New Registrations. II.
Hedera helix 'Shadow'.



All about Adult Ivies: An Overview

Cliff L. Coon
Fremont, California

Cliff Coon has been growing ivies in his 1/6 acre lot in Fremont, California, on the mild, east side of the San Francisco Bay since the late 1970's (Sulgrove 1997b). Over the years he has had many of his 350 ivies become adult (Sulgrove 1997c). He is currently growing about 50 adult ivies, and has germinated seed from many of these adults (Coon 1990). Cliff first described a technique for germinating ivy from seed in 1989, and provided an improved method for germinating seed in the year 2000.

Several years ago Cliff received a call from a friend saying that something had happened to the ivy that was climbing his back fence. "It was no longer trailing", the friend said, "but was now growing upright like a large shrub. Was it sick? Had it changed into another plant? What could he do about it?" Cliff assured him that there was nothing wrong with his ivy. It was going through a normal "change of life," entering its adult stage wherein it would produce flowers and fruit.

This article on arborescent ivies is written to provide a better understanding of the adult ivy plants and to encourage wider use. In the article below, Cliff Coon summarizes what he has learned by observing the changes from juvenile to adulthood in various cultivars.

INTRODUCTION

Hedera is one of several genera that exhibit the phenomenon known as dimorphism, that is, juvenile *Hedera* shows different growth habits and leaf patterns from the adult forms. In contrast to the trailing and climbing habits of the juvenile form, mature ivies have no adventitious roots along its stems and growth is generally stiff and upright, forming ivy "shrubs" or "trees." Ivy trees, up to forty feet tall, exist in Europe. Ivy shrubs and hedges, composed entirely of adult ivy plants, can be found in continental Europe, England and occasionally in the United States. Such hedges can be groomed and shaped in the manner of a privet hedge.

The use of adult ivies in ornamental horticulture has received little attention in the United States. At best they are considered oddities,

unworthy nuisances that detract from the juvenile form. In reality, many are exceptionally beautiful in form and color (Figure 1, 2) and deserve greater attention.

INITIATION OF ADULT GROWTH

The factors that initiate arborescent growth in ivies are poorly understood. Whereas some ivies readily produce adult growth, others grow for many years without showing any tendency toward maturity. Although many of the ivy cultivars I have grown have become adult, there are a few cultivars, especially those of the species *Hedera helix*, that have never shown any tendency toward adult growth.

The chemical changes that occur during these dimorphic alterations have not been fully studied. Research (Robbins 1957, 1960) suggests that a decrease in the production of gibberellic acid within the plant triggers adult growth.

Undoubtedly, several environmental factors play a role in producing adult growth. Some observations have been made previously by Sulgrove (1997a).

Some observations I have made are:

1. It is widely observed that ivy will become adult when it reaches the top of an object, such as a wall, fence or stump (for example, Rose 1980/1990). From this evidence it is argued that when climbing ivy stems reach the top of a structure, they are exposed to increased light and wind. This sudden shift in environment triggers morphological changes. The large, lobed leaves, which are more efficient at catching light on a forest floor or on a wall, become elongated, narrower, and lose much of their lobing. Furthermore, the narrowed leaves resist wind damage.

Where ivy has naturalized in forested area, such as in the Santa Cruz Mountains of Northern California and in the Loire Valley of France, mature ivy growth occurs only where the plants have climbed high enough to gain greater exposure to light. It is never seen on the ivy covering the forest floor. This is also true with most ivies used for landscaping in the United States and Europe—mature ivy growth is usually found on plants that have reached the top of a fence, wall, tree, or other structure.

Although reaching the top of a structure may be an important factor in initiating adult growth, it is not essential with some cultivars. Arborescence occurs readily in California on typical *H. canariensis* Hort., typical *H. hibernica*. Large expanses of California freeways are landscaped with these plants, and adult growth beginning at ground level is common. In addition, I have observed adult growth *H. helix* 'Minor Marmorata', 'Tomboy', and 'Crenata' beginning at ground level.

2. A second factor that obviously influences the onset of adult growth is age, that is, older ivy plants are more likely to produce adult growth. When ivies are propagated from seed, the emerging plants are juvenile, and these plants must mature before adult growth begins. Although Heieck (1980a/1990a) has stated that the onset of adulthood takes 7 to 10 years, I have observed that the length of time to reach maturity for plants grown from juvenile cuttings or from seeds varies greatly among cultivars. *H. helix* 'Tomboy' and 'Poetica' reach maturity quickly, occasionally within two to four years. Other cultivars in my garden, such as *Hedera helix* 'Dragon Claw' and 'California Fan', have never produced arborescent stems, even when grown under optimal conditions for almost two decades.

3. A third factor that influences the initiation of mature growth on ivies is climate. In northern climates most ivies never reach maturity. The mild climate of the San Francisco Bay area precludes cold winters and hot summers dormancies, thereby promoting year-around growth. At the least, this encourages ivies to reach to the tops of structures on which they are climbing.

4. An additional factor that might effect the start of adult growth involves a cultivar's propensity for climbing, which is related to the quantity of aerial roots along its stems. As a general rule, ivy cultivars that readily climb are much more likely to produce adult growth than those which do not. An obvious explanation for this is that poor climbers do not reach the tops of structures quickly. For example, *H. helix* 'Dealbata', *H. helix* 'Needlepoint', *H. rhombea* 'Variegata', and *H. nepalensis* (species) are all excellent climbers and exhibit adult growth within a few years of planting.

On the other hand, *H. helix* 'Wichtel' (Sulgrove 1983) and *H. helix* 'California Gold' (Sulgrove 1985) are poor climbers and have not



Adult Ivies Overview. Figure 1. *Hedera helix* 'Glacier'-Group, Adult Form (AIS 94-420). This 4-year-old shrub was developed from a cutting of an adult of a Glacier-group plant that Cliff Coon obtained from a local nursery about 20 years ago. Cliff Coon planted the juvenile ivy in 1985 in the ground in his garden in Fremont, California, where it became adult in 1992 (Sulgrove 1997c).

(Caption provided by Sabina Mueller Sulgrove).
Photo by Cliff L. Coon, October 2000.

produced mature growth under San Francisco Bay area growing conditions. It is also possible that fasciation, which causes thickening of stems and distortion of the leaves because of fusion of tissues, may lengthen time to adulthood, or prevent it from occurring altogether (Sulgrove 2001). According to Sulgrove's "gut" instincts, fasciation, which may be influenced or caused by a virus particle (Butts1983), may slow growth in such a way as to prevent maturation.

5. Other factors which might affect initiation of adult growth, but which have not been studied, are variations in soil composition. These factors include: (a) pH, (b) nitrogen content, (c) phosphorus content,

(d) potassium content, and (e) trace elements.

6. In addition, several general statements, based on my observations, can be made concerning factors that favor the production of mature ivy growth. These are:

- Self-branching ivies are slower to reach maturity than non-self-branching cultivars.
- Miniature ivies rarely reach the arborescent stage. An exception is *H. helix* 'Midget'.
- Curly-leaved ivies become adult less readily than non-curly-leaved cultivars. Exceptions so far are *H. helix* 'Parsley Crested' (Figure 2) and *H. helix* 'California', which can be found here and there as adults in the Bay area.
- Ivies with speckled variegation rarely become arborescent. *H. helix* 'Gold Dust' and *H. helix* 'Minor Marmorata' are exceptions.

VARIATION IN LEAF FORMS AND COLOR

The leaves of adult ivies are always in an elongated form compared to the corresponding juvenile form. Several earlier books on ivies (Heieck 1980a/1987a; Rose 1980/1990, 1995.) state that the leaves of adult ivies are (always) unlobed. While this is generally true, I have seen numerous exceptions, especially among the bird's foot cultivars (the cultivars with very narrow lobes – like the tracks of bird's feet in the snow). The leaves of adult *H. helix* 'Needlepoint', while straplike, often exhibit small lateral lobes. In addition, the leaves of adult *H. helix* 'Pittsburgh' are generally ovate but also have a significant number of leaves that are distinctly lobed. The leaves on *H. helix* 'Koeniger' and *H. helix* 'Lalla Rookh' are always highly lobed and are the best examples of lobed leaves on adult ivies.

In my experience, leaves on arborescent growth are usually smaller than those on juvenile plants, although variations caused by geographical and seasonal influences provide some exceptions. In addition, the leaves of adult ivies are always more elongated when compared to the corresponding juvenile form. Leaves on adult ivy stems become progressively narrower as the inflorescence forms, so that the last few can be nearly straplike. Leaves are always located in a spiral pattern around adult ivy stems, a fact which accounts for the epithet "*helix*" for one of the *Hedera* species. In my garden

I have observed several types of arrangement of adult leaves:

1. Quite sparsely spaced, as with *H. helix* 'Bulgaria' where they are one to two inches apart.
2. Closely set, as with *H. helix* 'Glacier' and *H. helix* 'Midget', on which eight to twelve leaves per inch is common.

Leaf color generally resembles that of the juvenile plant. All-green juvenile ivies produce adult ivies with similar leaf color, as exemplified by typical *H. hibernica*. Variegated juvenile ivies generally produce adult ivies with similar coloring. For example, the adult growth on *H. helix* 'Gold Heart' retains the striking yellow center found on juvenile growth. *Hedera helix* 'Glacier' and 'Chester', *H. algeriensis* Hort. 'Gloire de Marengo' and *H. colchica* 'Dentata Variegata' are variegated ivies that all hold their color in the adult stage. Several ivies with speckled leaves, such as *H. helix* 'Minor Marmorata' and *H. helix* 'Gold Dust', lose most or all of their color. 'Gold Dust' often produces all-green shoots; whereas in 'Minor Marmorata' the variegation is only seen in the newest leaves in which the variegation fades to mostly all-green as the leaves mature. Often when variations in leaf coloring is a result of contrasts in vein color with the blade color, this light color of the veins is also lost at maturity. For example, the juvenile leaves of *H. helix* 'Walthamensis' show a network of gray veins on dark green. The adult leaves, however, are a glossy dark green showing no sign of lighter veining.

[Editors' note: In eastern US 'Thorndale' retains its whitish veins even in adulthood.] It is an interesting observation that the adult of the typical species of *H. nepalensis* retains the gray network of veins found in the juvenile, but the vein coloring is not as prominent. On the other hand, the adult of *H. cypria* loses the distinctive white venation of the juvenile.

SUB-ADULT GROWTH

While the genus *Hedera* displays distinct juvenile and adult phases, some cultivars pass through a prolonged or conspicuous sub-adult phase. In the sub-adult phase, stems become stiffer but do not grow upright; the foliage shows less lobing — and can even become ovate; and the frequency of adventitious roots decreases. Occasionally, a few flowers and berries appear on the ends of these semi-trailing stems, such as in *Hedera canariensis* Hort. 'Sulphur Heart'. The plant passes through this sub-adult stage after one or two years and then produces the typical stems and leaves of an arborescent

ivy. Some adult cultivars, such as adult *H. helix* 'Koeniger' continue to produce a significant amount of sub-adult growth, but in most cases the sub-adult growth disappears permanently.

Hedera helix 'Little Diamond', is a small, ivy that creeps along the ground but produces a mixture of upright juvenile, sub-adult, and adult growth. I have seen single, poorly-formed flowers occasionally appear, but the plant has never been reported to produce typical adult growth, nor has it ever set seed for me, nor has seed set been mentioned by others (Heieck 1980b, 1987b).

SPORTING

As evidenced by the large number of juvenile cultivars in the species *Hedera helix*, ivies mutate or sport easily to new leaf shapes, colors, and growth forms. It is common for a named ivy cultivar to show three or four sports originating from the same plant, especially when grown outdoors. While adult ivies appear to be more stable than their corresponding juvenile forms, they are also susceptible to sporting. The otherwise delightful *H. helix* 'Gold Heart' continually puts out a slightly more vigorous all-green sport which must be removed to retain the gold-centered form. In my experience plants of the typical *H. Algeriensis*, and of *H. Algeriensis* 'Gloire de Marengo' revert back and forth so readily it is difficult to maintain a pure plant of either one, juvenile or adult. Half of the stems of adult *H. helix* 'Gold Dust' display all-green leaves. Adult *H. helix* 'Chester' produces four sports: all-green; cream speckled very lightly with green, green with an almost pure-white border, and a cream-colored-leaved form that is devoid of chlorophyll. To maintain plant uniformity, sports should be removed. With careful selection, sporting stems that show distinctiveness can be propagated separately as new adult cultivars.

DROUGHT RESISTANCE

Like their juvenile counterparts, adult ivies are drought resistant once they are established. In the San Francisco Bay area an adult ivy growing in full sun in the ground requires no water through the dry season, May through October. These ivies, however, do benefit from one or two of deep waterings during the summer.



Adult Ivies Overview. Figure 2. Close-up of flowering branch system, the inflorescence, and leaves of adult form of *Hedera helix* 'Parsley Crested' (AIS 92-077). The leaves of adult 'Parsley Crested' are fan-shaped with an irregularly crenate (round-toothed) margin. The flowers in the panicle [a branched flowering system] of umbels [stalked clusters] are unique in that the stalks are long, making the system quite open, and heavy, so that the inflorescence droops. The greenish petal-like parts of the flowers are very large, as compared to other adults. These petal-like parts, which are really sepals, are very conspicuous (see arrows). In addition, there are conspicuous leaves [bracts] that occur just below the inflorescence. Conspicuous bracts are not common among the currently-known adults. (Caption provided by Sabina Mueller Sulgrove). Photo of a small plant of adult 'Parsley Crested', growing in SW Ohio, by Sabina Mueller Sugrove, October 24, 1992.

IVY INFLORESCENCE AND BERRIES

Hedera is not grown for its inflorescences. When an ivy plant reaches adulthood, globose umbels appear, sometimes singly but usually in compound panicles. An umbel can have as many as 60 flowers. These heads of light green flowers are often overlooked, except that they attract many bees, wasps, butterflies, and flies. The berries, on the other hand, can be quite attractive. Berry color ranges from black to dark purple and dark blue. A few cultivars, such as *H. nepalensis* and *H. helix* 'Poetica', have orange berries, and those of a newly discovered cultivar, *H. helix* 'Sand Hill', are yellow. The orange and yellow berries displayed against the green foliage provided striking winter color. The berries are not poisonous to humans, but rather are inedible. On the other hand, flocks of robins can devour the berries of a large adult shrub in a few hours!

The panicle of umbels also differ significantly among cultivars. Whereas those on *H. helix* 'Deltoidea' are stiff, upright, and very compact; those of *H. helix* 'Brandywine' are open, droopy, and sparse. Some cultivars, such as 'Parsley Crested', have scattered and poorly-formed flowers and berries which do not produce viable seed.

SEASONS FOR FLOWERING AND FRUITING

The flowering schedule for the genus *Hedera* varies according to climate. It is widely reported that ivy blooms in the fall and sets fruit during late fall and early spring. In mild climates, however, this schedule changes radically. In the San Francisco Bay area, ivy flowers and fruit can be found all year around. *H. helix* 'Needlepoint' begins flowering in May and June and berries are still present through the next winter. *H. helix* 'Arborescens' also flowers early. On the other hand, *H. colchica* 'Sulfur Heart' flowers in late fall, and the berries do not mature until the following spring.

PROPAGATION OF ADULT IVIES

Arborescent *Hedera* are much harder to propagate than their juvenile counterparts. In my experience, along with those of several commercial growers, the following factors should be considered when propagating adult ivies.

1. Optimum success is obtained when cuttings are of semi-hardened stems. On the West Coast, November-December is the best time to take cuttings. Under propagating conditions, cuttings taken from new growth tend to root within a few months, while woody cuttings seldom root.
2. Flower and berries should be removed when cuttings are being rooted.
3. Cuttings should be rooted in a sterile medium, such as Perlite, Vermiculite, sand, or sterilized, well-drained soil.
4. Bottom heat of about 70 degrees F. increases the propagation percentage and shortens the length of time for roots to form.
5. Misting is beneficial, although not essential.
6. Rooting time varies among cultivars. A minimum time is about one month. The average time is from three to six months. Some cuttings have been held in propagating conditions for more than a year before rooting occurred.

Adult cuttings almost always produce an adult ivy which shows none of the characteristics of the juvenile. In my experience the arborescent growth of a few cultivars, however, is not stable and readily reverts to juvenile forms. *H. helix* 'Duck Foot' and *H. helix* 'Koeniger' are two such cultivars. When cuttings of adult 'Koeniger' are propagated, they often revert to the juvenile form, and even when they do not, the resulting adult plant produces significant quantities of juvenile and sub-adult growth.

USE OF ADULT IVY AS A SHRUB

After cuttings of adult ivies are well-rooted, they can be used as landscape plants. They form medium-sized, upright, globose shrubs. Pruning and shearing encourages branching, making the plant more compact, giving a denser head, while at the same time keeping the plants at a desired size. Most cultivars respond well to pruning, but I have found *H. nepalensis* to be an exception that produces new shoots only very slowly after pruning.

Whereas most cultivars can be grown as shrubs, a few possess superior landscaping qualities. *H. helix* 'Walthamensis', for example, displays an even growth of dark green, glossy foliage, an excellent foil for the lighter green flowers that appear in the fall. Once

established, it is easily maintained, drought resistant, and the equal of any medium-sized shrub grown for its dark green foliage. Other examples of ivies that make worthy landscaping shrubs are *H. helix* 'Chester', 'Needlepoint', 'Deltoidea', 'California Fan' and *H. rhombea* 'Crème de Menthe'.

Several cultivars are not useful as landscape shrubs, but rather make interesting specimen plants. *H. helix* 'Cockleshell' is a weak-growing ivy that sprawls and needs staking to be an upright shrub. In addition, its dull apple-green leaves are not attractive. Its leaf shape, however, is unique in that many of its leaves are ladle-shaped with their concave side facing upward. After a rain these "ladles" can hold up to a tablespoon of water. The shrub always attracts the attention of those who see it up close. *H. helix* 'Brandywine', because of its legginess and drooping character, makes a poor landscape shrub, but its conical, peltate leaves (similar to ice cream cones attached at their bases to the petioles) that appear in the spring are unique. Other arborescent ivies that make good specimen shrubs are *H. helix* 'Sand Hill' (because of its yellow berries), *H. helix* 'Teardrop', and *H. helix* 'Parsley Crested'.

PROPAGATION OF IVY FROM SEED

Because juvenile ivy can be propagated so easily from cuttings, ivy cultivars are never propagated commercially from seed. This process is not only time-consuming and seedlings do not come true from seed and vary widely in leaf shape and vigor. Because of this variability found among seedlings, it is possible to select new and unique cultivars. Two recent new cultivars selected from seedlings are *H. helix* 'Rotunda' (Coon 1997) and *H. helix* 'Goldfinch' (Coon 2000). I expect in the next few years to introduce more new cultivars that I have selected from seedlings of various cultivars.

The procedure for growing ivy from seed is described earlier (Coon 1989, 2000). Briefly, the method consists of: picking the ripe berries, removing the seeds, soaking them in water, planting them from one-eighth to one-sixteenth inch deep in a sterile growing medium, and keeping them moist with a bottom heat of around 70 degrees F. until germination occurs. Cotyledon leaves appear within 7-28 days depending on the cultivar.

SOURCES OF ADULT IVIES

Hedera Etc., Russell A. Windle, P. O. Box 461, Lionville, PA 19353. Ph. 610- 970-9175. (Retail).
The Ivy Farm, Richard Davis, Rt. 644, or P. O. Box 114, Locustville, VA 23404. Ph. 757-787-4096. (Wholesale).

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The Group Concept in 'Glacier': the Glacier-group

Sabina Mueller Sulgrove
Registrar

There are a number of adult variants of 'Glacier' that differ in the amount of gray in the center, and the width of the white margin that varies from very narrow to wide. These plants may also differ as well in the size of the leaves and the degree of self-branching. These variants occur both in the juvenile state, and are paralleled by the variations seen in adult 'Glacier'. All these variants are encompassed by the designation, Glacier-group, and when referring to the adults, they are known as "Glacier-group, adult forms."

Stable variants that are more similar to a known cultivar than to any other cultivar are grouped together under name of that cultivar, appended by the suffix, "group" (Sulgrove 1995). The Group-designation indicates that the cultivar is variable, and that the specimens assigned to it are slightly different from each other in some way (for example, color pattern variations, leaf size, vigor, degree of branching, or some other feature). These variants more closely resemble each other than they do any other cultivar (Sulgrove 1995).

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Mop-Head of adult form of Hedera helix 'Glacier'-group (AIS 94-420), Growing on a Redwood Fence in Central Coastal California. When a juvenile vine grows to the top of a fence, after a variable amount of time, it becomes adult, forming a branched mop-head of stiff, upright branches that produces branched flowering systems (panicles) of clusters of stalked flowers (umbels). This variant of the Glacier-group (see side bar on p.) was planted in 1985, and produced its first simple, flowering branch 7 years later in 1992. As time passes and the mop-head gets older, there are fewer juvenile stems remaining at the base of the plant. In this case the basal part of the plant is mostly on the other side of the fence, since the fence had to be replaced around the plant in 1997-98.



2001 Brief New Registrations

The following adult ivies are all registered by Richard E. Davis, The Ivy Farm, P.O. Box 116, Locustville, Virginia 23404

Descriptions are written by Sabina Mueller Sulgrove from information provided by Richard E. Davis from plants grown at the Ivy Farm on the Eastern shore of Virginia.

All cultivars listed are forms of *Hedera helix* unless otherwise noted.

The following ivies have been accepted as new Registrations. These cultivars have met the criteria for Registration: distinctiveness, stability, and ease of propagation. Sufficient stock has been produced to ensure survival of the cultivar. The initials in parentheses following the cultivar name refers to the Pierot Classification System, which is described in Suzanne Pierot's 1974, *The Ivy Book*, (Macmillan 1974; Garden by the Stream 1995) and in "Knowing and Growing Ivy" (AIS 1997).

[Editor's Note: All adults of *Hedera* have many, small, greenish flowers arranged in stalked clusters called umbels. These, in turn, are arranged in multiply branched flowering systems called panicles. The fruits gradually darken in color as the season progresses.]

'Garnet' (A).

(AIS 83-204) Registration Number 9983204)

'Garnet' is an adult form (A) of an as yet unknown *Hedera helix* that came to the American Ivy Society as an unlobed, juvenile ground cover in 1983 from the estate of Washington Irving, Sunnyside, in Tarrytown, New York. Rooted juvenile cuttings were planted at the Ivy Farm, Locustville, Virginia, in 1993, and became adult within 2 years. This shrub has unlobed, glossy, medium-green leaves, 1-1/2 to 2 times as long as wide on shrubs that become 6 feet tall and 7 feet wide. In winter the new growth (leaves, stems, and the lower parts of the petiole) in full sun (especially if nutrient deficient) becomes an attractive burgundy color – hence the name, 'Garnet'. Young fruits are produced in panicles in late summer, turn shiny black in winter, and are 3/8-1/2 inches in diameter. The fruits in the terminal umbel in the panicle always abort and the stalks falls off, leaving only scars. 'Garnet' is hardy in central and western Ohio, where it has survived in wooded locations since 1992. The shrubs will produce some juvenile runners; they should be removed.

'Iceberg' (A,V).

(AIS 97-003; Registration Number 9997003)

This adult (A) 'Glacier'-type ivy was discovered growing on a post at Campbell's Corner, Painter, Virginia, by registrant Richard E. Davis. The ivy originally came from a nursery in the mountains of North Carolina in the mid-1970's. This adult form of 'Glacier' is variegated like its juvenile counterpart and has elliptic leaves that are 2 times as long as wide with a narrowly acute to acuminate, pointed tip. The variegation consists of 2 colors of gray-green (rarely 3) streaked in the center and a wide, irregular, white margin. Small, 1/4 inch diameter dull-black fruits are formed in late fall in open, long-stalked clusters. The fruits are extremely popular with a variety of birds. Needs partial shade in southern latitudes and protection from winter sun in the north. Very drought tolerant plant that does well in wooded areas. [Editor's Note: The cultivar 'Glacier'-group as a juvenile has several forms with varying amount of white along the leaf margins. This variation can also be found among the adults. There is another form of adult 'Glacier' that has even wider white margins; likewise, there is a known form of adult 'Glacier' with an extremely narrow white margin.]



Brief Registrations. Figure 1. *Hedera helix* 'Iceberg'. (AIS 87-202; Registration Number 0187204). Close-up of young, developing fruit. The fruits are small and dull black when ripe in late fall. The leaves are about 2 times as long as wide and have sharply pointed tips. The variegation consists of a wide, white margin and a center of 2 (rarely 3) colors of a combination of gray and green. Photographed by Richard E. Davis at the Ivy Farm, Locustville, VA, December 2000.

***Hedera rhombea* 'Crème de Menthe' (A, V).**

(AIS 93-062; Registration Number 9993062)

This adult form (A) of *Hedera rhombea* 'Variegata' is a compact shrub that is slow growing with closely-spaced variegated leaves that have green and gray centers which become solid gray with inconspicuous gray veins as the season progresses. The leaves are small, somewhat irregular in outline, about 1-1/2 to 2 times as long as wide with broad, somewhat rounded tips, and have a prominent, white margin that intrudes into the gray center toward the tip end of the leaf. The white margins become tinged with pink in cool weather. The upright plants produce in winter bluish-black fruits 1/4 to 3/8 inches in diameter in densely packed clusters that persist into early spring. All-white shoots should be removed; all-green shoots are infrequent.

The name 'Crème de Menthe' is registered to designate the adult phase of *Hedera rhombea* 'Variegata'. This ivy was discovered in a foundation planting at an abandoned nursery in Eastern Virginia in 1992 by registrant, Richard E. Davis. It is now being tested for hardiness in central and west central Ohio, Zone 5 (minus 20 °F.)



Brief Registrations. Figure 2. *Hedera rhombea* 'Crème de Menthe'. (AIS 93-062; Registration Number 9993062).

Overview of small plant just past flowering. The short-stalked umbels produce tight clusters of small, dull black fruits in late winter. The leaves are irregular in outline, with a gray center and an irregular white margin that is wider at the rounded tip end of the leaves. Photographed by

Richard E. Davis at the Ivy Farm, Locustville, VA, late fall or early winter.

***Hedera colchica* 'Green Spice' (A).**

(AIS 83-021) Registration Number 0183021

This adult form (A) of *Hedera colchica* was obtained by the American Ivy Society from Patricia Hoyt, Columbia, South Carolina. It came as Guignard ivy, because it came from Guignard Park in Cayce, South Carolina. It was planted in 1993 by the Ivy Farm, Locustville, Virginia, as near-adult cuttings that quickly became adult. The leaves are large, dark green, shiny, heart-shaped to ovate, about as long as wide to 1-1/4 times as long as wide. The stems are stout and bright green. The flowers and fruits are in moderately compound panicles. The dull, black fruit is large, 1/2 to 3/4 inches in diameter and appear to have two-toned dull, black fruit, in which the "cap", the upper half of the fruit, is darker than the lower half at any time of development. The entire plant, like the juvenile vines, are strongly spicy-celery scented. The ultimate height appears to be about five feet tall. The fruits ripen in the spring, split open, and the seeds germinate in the spring. [Editor's note: Hardiness of the adult plants has not been widely tested, but juvenile *Hedera colchica* is hardy to at least zone 5 (minus 20° F.). 'Green Spice' planted in southeastern Pennsylvania (to minus 10° F.) has had very little winter damage. The American Ivy Society has received comments from a number of people indicating that *Hedera colchica* and its cultivars are not as badly damaged by deer as cultivars of *Hedera helix*.]



Brief Registrations. Figure 3. *Hedera colchica*

'Green Spice'. (AIS 83-021; Registration Number 0183021). Overview of 'Green Spice' in late flower or early fruiting. The leaves are shiny, dark green, heart shaped, and the plant is strongly spicy-celery scented. The flowers and fruits are in panicles with many umbels. The fruits are large and dull black when ripe.

Photographed by Richard E. Davis at the Ivy Farm, Locustville, VA, late fall or early winter.

***Hedera helix* 'Deep Freeze' (A).**

(AIS 87-204) Registration Number 0187204

This extremely cold-hardy evergreen shrub (A) is the adult form of *Hedera helix* 'Wilson', which came unnamed to the American Ivy Society as adult cuttings from the University of British Columbia Arboretum in November of 1987. (It was identified by AIS as 'Wilson' in 1992, based on the identification of the juvenile, received at the same time.) Adult cuttings were planted at the Ivy Farm on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in about 1993. The leaves in full sun are about 1-1/4 as long as wide, elliptical in shape and dull dark-green with conspicuous light green veins. In winter the leaves become a dull, olive green. The plant grows just 3-4 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide. It is the earliest and most prolific blooming adult ivy in the Ivy Farm collection. The chartreuse flowers appear in umbels arranged in a very branched panicle on very short peduncles [the stalks to which the umbels are attached]. Flowering begins in June, followed by dull, black fruits, about 3/8 inches in diameter, in the fall. In full sun the leaves are shallowly cupped upward with only a slight rippling of the margin. Like the juvenile plant, stems and petioles are bright

green. 'Deep Freeze' is great for attracting both birds and butterflies. This plant makes a nice specimen plant, foundation plant, hedge, or container plant. Very drought tolerant, and grows in sun or shade. Known to be hardy to Zone 5 (minus 20 ° F.), and probably colder with protection.



'Brief Registrations. Figure 4. Hedera helix 'Deep Freeze. (AIS 87-204; Registration Number 0187204). Close-up of young, developing fruit. The clusters contain many fruit, which ripen to a dull black. The leaves are shallowly cupped upward with only a slight rippling of the margin.

Photographed by Richard E. Davis at the Ivy Farm, Locustville, VA.



**OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION
THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY, INC
WITH REGARD TO THE NAMING OF IVIES**

The Bylaws, Section 3 — Objectives state:
“The purpose of the society is to foster and promote interest in the Botanical Genus *Hedera* (commonly know as ivy), clarify ivy nomenclature, serve as the National Ivy Registry, publish the *Ivy Journal*, and perform research leading to improve culture and wider usage of ivy. The American Ivy Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for *Hedera* by mandate of the International Society for Horticultural Science in 1977.”

Under the “Goals of The American Ivy Society, Inc., Nomenclature,” it has five specific points:

1. Reduce confusion in ivy names.
2. Develop a complete list of known ivy cultivars.
3. Clarify some of the confusion over names.
4. Register new ivy cultivars.
5. Distribute information about ivy.

Under the rules of nomenclature, the International Registration Authority must register ivies under any acceptable name. These Registered Ivies will be listed in the *Ivy Journal*.

In light of the By-Laws and Goals of The American Ivy Society, Inc., the Society declares it is in the best interest of all to maintain the same name, wherever possible, for an ivy whether it in juvenile or adult form. This will create less confusion to the world of ivy. The word Adult may be added to indicate the form of the ivy, e.g. 'Misty,' Adult. In cases where a registered name differs from that preferred by The American Ivy Society, Inc., the name preferred by the Society will be included in the publication in the *Ivy Journal*.



Traditional Ground Covers

V. HEDERA HELIX 'WILSON': AN OLD BUT NOT WIDELY KNOWN HARDY GROUND COVER

Dr. Sabina Mueller Sulgrove
Registrar

This is the fifth article in a series of articles that photograph and describe ivies commonly or historically used as ground covers. 'Baltica' (Sulgrove 1988), 'Thorndale' with 'Hibernica' (Sulgrove 1992), 'Rumania' (Sulgrove 1993a), and 'Walthamensis' (Sulgrove 1993b) were described previously.

'Wilson' is a small-leaved, dark green ivy that was reported to have been discovered in 1936. It was only in the 1950's, however, that Gilson Gardens, of Perry, Ohio, 44081, initially promoted this exceptionally hardy cultivar. In spite of its promotion then, and once again in the late 1980's, 'Wilson' is still not widely planted in Ohio, and has rarely been seen.

HISTORY

Hedera helix 'Wilson' has been touted as one of the hardiest ivies for the Midwest (Gilson 1997). Apparently, it was discovered in 1936 by Wilson's Nursery, Valencia, Pennsylvania, growing up a chimney of a house north of Pittsburgh. In the 1950's Dr. L.C. Chadwick of Ohio State University began promoting 'Wilson'. Edward "Ted" Gilson, of Gilson Gardens, Perry, Ohio, obtained the original stock of Wilson Ivy from either Dr. Chadwick or Dave Dugan (Dugan Nurseries, Perry, Ohio, now defunct) about that time. Thus Gilson Gardens began listing and promoting 'Wilson' in the 1950's as the "hardest ivy" for landscape use in the Midwest (Gilson 1997).

In January 1986 the Ohio Nurseryman's Association once again brought 'Wilson' to the attention of landscapers and nurserymen. In a Plant Selection Committee field trip through Ohio in 1985, 'Wilson' was noted as being far harder than the commonly-used English Ivy ['Hibernica'], 'Thorndale', or 'Baltica', because it survived winters as low as minus 19 ° F (Sydnor 1986). Sydnor noted that 'Wilson' was both harder and more leaf-spot resistant than 'Thorndale', which had been the "standard for cold hardiness in Ohio for some years". He also noted that 'Wilson', however, was not as widely grown as 'Baltica' and 'Thorndale' (Sydnor 1986).



Figure 1. Traditional Ground Covers. Overview of 'Wilson' as a ground cover in SW Ohio. 'Wilson' makes a dark-green flat mat of small, matte, wider-than-long leaves with stout, green stems and a variety of leaf shapes. A single arrow points to the typical stout stems. Double arrows show a stiff stem becoming upright as the shoot becomes adult. Photo by Sabina Mueller Sulgrove, October 22, 1992.

INTRODUCTION

Most of the ground cover ivies are difficult to identify – because they all look like typical ivies! Thus, it takes awhile to sort out the various cultivars which belong to the Pierot Classification of the “typical ivies,” called the Ivy-Ivies (Pierot 1974 and 1995), to which the common ground covers belong. A definitive example of ‘Wilson’ (AIS 97-061) was received by The American Ivy Society from Gilson Gardens, Perry, Ohio, in 1997. Once this named ivy was recognized as distinctive, we could go back through the AIS Research Collection and pick out identical ivies. It is interesting to note that AIS Registrar Sulgrove has only seen ‘Wilson’ as a landscape planting three times since 1997.

Stocks identified as ‘Wilson’ in the AIS Research Collection:

- AIS 97-061 Wilson from Gilson Gardens, Perry, Ohio, October 1997; Standard Reference Plant
- AIS 97-024 ‘Wilson’, Adult of AIS 90-71, from Gillia Hawke, Lebanon, Ohio 45036, Feb 1997
- AIS 90-071 Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois, October 1990, obtained originally from Kingwood Nursery, Madison, Ohio 44057 AIS 87-204 Adult Wilson from British Columbia, now called *Hedera helix* ‘Deep Freeze’ (See 2001 New Registrations, p. 42)

DESCRIPTION

‘Wilson’ (AIS 90-71), Figures 1, and 2, is an attractive, dark-green, small-leaved ivy touted for its hardiness and black-spot disease resistance (Sydnor 1986). The new leaves and stems are bright green and are widely spaced. The stems of ‘Wilson’ are stouter than other typical groundcovers when growing outside. The leaves are smaller than the traditional ground covers of ‘Thorndale’ and ‘Baltica’, and are flat and not shiny, and have a matte, satin finish – as in jewelry — to the upper surface.

The leaves of ‘Wilson’ are three-lobed or heart-shaped, triangular, mostly wider than long or as wide as long, basically with a heart-shaped leaf base. Each leaf, however, appears to be a little bit different from

“Flat” means “NOT Curly.” “Flat” ivy leaves, despite the name, almost always have a slight dip in the blade where the leaf stalk is attached to the blade. “Curly” ivy leaves, on the other hand, have pronounced ripples, waves, undulations, fluting, cresting, or crimping of the leaf margins or involving the entire leaves.



Figure 2. Traditional Ground Covers. Close-up of distinctive new growth on ‘Wilson’. Stout stems are clothed by wider-than-long leaves with green veins, and a terminal lobe with concave sides. Although every leaf on ‘Wilson’ appears to be a little bit different, there are always some new stems that have leaves with concave (curved inward toward the midrib) terminal lobes.

Photo by Sabina Mueller Sulgrove, October 22, 1992.

any other (Figure 1). At least some of the newest leaves have a slightly narrower terminal lobe (as compared to the other lobes) with concave sides (Figure 2), such that the terminal lobe is less massive than the basal (lateral) lobes. In addition, the sizes and widths of the terminal

lobes vary, and there may be a slight unevenness to the blade so that the blade is wavy and the leaves are slightly asymmetrical.

The primary veins are green, but the secondary veins – those that branch off the main veins – are not as noticeable. The dark green leaves become blackish-green as they mature. The hairs on the under surface of the expanding new leaves are very small (with a 10x hand lens), and have very short rays. The stems and fresh leaves have a spicy-fragrant odor when crushed – as do many ‘Hibernica’-types – but the odor is not as spicy or powerful as in the *Hedera colchica* cultivars. It has not been determined whether ‘Wilson’ is a form of ‘Hibernica’ and whether ‘Wilson’ has the tetraploid chromosome number of ‘Hibernica’.

Most green-leaved ivies have a touch of maroon or purple on the stems during the growing season, as well as in winter. In contrast, the stems of ‘Wilson’ are green during the growing season, but under cool temperatures (“winter” in Ohio), the stems – and petioles — are maroon.

‘Wilson’ produces long runners with occasional lateral branches. In summary, the distinguishing feature of ‘Wilson’ are the small, dark green, leathery, wider-than-long leaves with green veins, and the concave-sided terminal lobe on at least some of the leaves. The bright green stems that rarely have a touch of red or purple are also very distinctive and unusual. ‘Wilson’ is most easily identified from outdoor plantings, where the stout, bright green stems with a wide variety of leaf shapes with a matte satin-to-dull-finish are most evident.

SIMILAR CULTIVARS

Another small-leaved, typical ivy-shaped ground cover is ‘Walthamensis’ (Sulgrove (1993)). The leaves of ‘Walthamensis’ are, in contrast to ‘Wilson’, 3- or barely 5-lobed, shiny, and becoming dark-forest-green with whitish veins. In contrast to ‘Wilson’, the terminal lobe of ‘Walthamensis’ is broad, and more nearly like the remaining lobes, despite the small size of the leaves. The overall shape of the leaves of ‘Walthamensis’ is like a small ‘Hibernica’; which is why ‘Walthamensis’ has been called “Baby English” ivy. ‘Walthamensis’ does not have the stout bright-green stems characteristic of ‘Wilson’, but rather has the typical, slightly maroon-colored or purplish, thin stems.

‘Tomboy’ (Sulgrove 1986) is another small-leaved ivy with stout green stems, but its leaves are the opposite of ‘Wilson’s. ‘Tomboy’ is medium-green, unlobed, shiny, ovate (egg-shaped with a point on

the end), and longer-than-wide. In contrast, Wilson’s leaves are dark green, three-lobed, triangular, dull-surfaced, and wider than long. In addition, ‘Tomboy’s stems are stiffer than that of ‘Wilson’.

USES

‘Wilson’ makes a nice, low mat of dark green foliage. It has been noted to be hardy to -19° F. (Sydnor 1986). When mature, the plants have elongated elliptical leaves, and produce black fruit with a slight amount of bloom (granular waxy covering), such that the fruits are bluish black in September and October in southwestern Ohio, long before the other cultivars have finished flowering. Later in the season the fruits appear to be a dull black because the bloom weathers off. The adult form of ‘Wilson’ is being registered as ‘Deep Freeze’ by Richard Davis of the Ivy Farm, Locustville, VA 23404 (see New Registrations, p. 42)

SOURCES

Gilson Gardens (Wholesale and Retail)
P.O. Box 277, 3059 North Ridge Road, Perry, Ohio 44081

Hedera etc. (Retail)
P.O. Box 461, Lionville, PA 19353

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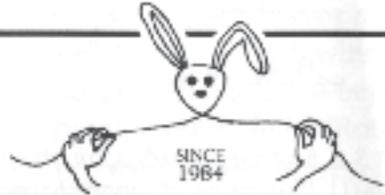
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The Ivy Collections at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Ed Olsen

Ed Olsen has been the greenhouse manager and Ivy Curator at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden since March 1999. The ivy collection was originally donated to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden by Longwood Gardens in 1993.

Over the years the collection was maintained but without a focus or emphasis. When Ed arrived at the gardens, the collection, although in good health, was pretty much the same collection as it was in 1993. The following article was taken from Ed's annual report to The American Ivy Society on the collection.

THE IVY COLLECTIONS AT LEWIS GINTER:

THE STANDARD REFERENCE COLLECTION

The collection at LGBG is broken down into several "categories." The first is the garden's Standard Reference Collection that is maintained in pots. (This collection is also a Regional standard Reference Collection for AIS) It is propagated every two years to maintain juvenility of the collection and to maintain the health of the plants (no overgrown plants here.) The collection was last propagated for this purpose in the fall of 1999 and will be done again in the fall/winter of 2001. With a couple of wonderful donations last year we were able to put the ivy collection in new clay pots. In the past, the collection was put into whatever pots were available and that led to a real mis-matched looking collection. These pots were old, cracked, and in horrible looking condition for a display of the AIS's reference collection. Now the collection is in new 8" azalea pots and looking beautiful. The new pots have really added to the collection.

This collection at Lewis Ginter is at its peak right now. The ivies have just been taken out of the cool greenhouse where they have been all winter and are back in their display home for the summer. For the past year the ivies were grown-on during the winter in a cool greenhouse. What a difference that has made for the ivy collection

this year. The ivies grew wonderfully in the cooler conditions. We did not see any pest problems, and the leaf color and shapes are somewhat more prominent than in past years when the ivies had been grown in a warm greenhouse.

The collection consists of a total of 191 ivy cultivars. This represents five *Hedera* species (*helix*, *hibernica*, *colchica*, *nepalensis*, and *rhombea*.) It also represents 175 cultivars of *Hedera helix*. We added eight new ivies to the collection in 2000 with a purchase from Hedera Etc. at the Philadelphia Flower and Garden Show and the Society's mailing of *H. h.* 'Egret'. We have not purchased new cultivars this year, but I do plan to do so next month.

HARDINESS TRIAL COLLECTION

The Standard Reference Collection is propagated every two years. When it was propagated, the "old" plants were either sold at our volunteer's plant sale, or were planted in the garden. I do not have any solid numbers on this, but I estimate that about 50% of our Standard Reference Collection were planted and maintained in ground beds outside. Lewis Ginter is in Zone 7A. I plan to inventory the ivies in the garden, review their condition and provide that information to the AIS within the year. I know this information will be of great help to the hardiness trial program that the Society has undertaken. This information would also be of value to our commercial sponsors to help market these ivies. Our Manager of Horticulture has indicated he wants to increase the number of ivies planted in the gardens, and I will be working with him and the other horticulturists in getting this done this year.

The garden has participated in the AIS hardiness trials for the last few years. The first few years we did not follow through with the trials as we intended, but in 2000 we were successful in getting it done correctly and measurements were turned in on these in the fall. We are eagerly looking forward to planting the 2001 trial ivies.

THE ADULT COLLECTION

At this writing, our collection of adult ivies is non-existent, but in the near future it should be a wonderful collection of 30-50 ivies. The new collection will come from Cliff Coon with the help of Lucy Tolmach and Filoli in Woodside, California. Pat Hammer has graciously offered to pay for the shipment of cuttings of the

collection to be sent to us. And in January, we have already received a contribution of \$100 from David Clark designated for the adult ivy collection along with an offer to volunteer help for a couple of days. With so much going for this collection, I am very eager to get the cuttings and begin working.

LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

The volunteers at LGBG have a plant sale twice a year. At the sale, which includes 30-50 vendors, the volunteers sell plants that are "recycled" from the garden. They take all the divisions of plants that normally would go on the compost pile, pot them up and sell them. This year things are going to be a little different. In addition to the "recycled" plants, they now have their own 1000 sq ft greenhouse to propagate plants for sale. They are focusing on plants that would be of interest to the community, plants that are rare or unique, and plants not sold by our visiting vendors. For their first project they undertook growing ivies. They have approximately 300-400 ivies growing in 4" pots for the spring sale in April. About 200 of these are the "Ivy of the Year", *H. h.* 'Lady Frances'. We were able to propagate these from the generosity of Pat Hammer, Samia Rose Topiary, who provided us with large hanging baskets used as stock plants. The rest of the ivies are cuttings from our collection that were taken over the winter. Each ivy is correctly labeled and carries the AIS stock number. I plan on working more with the volunteers on this project by providing signage to go with the ivies that would highlight AIS. Also, for the plant sale, the volunteers plan on making small topiaries using ivy.

PUBLICATIONS

In February a local county weekly newspaper ran an article on the Ivy of the Year. I supplied some of the information about The American Ivy Society and additional information about 'Lady Frances'. Our spring newsletter, *Garden Times* spring 2001, will highlight the ivy collection at the garden. This will be sent to our members at the end of March. The article will also have a plug for Ivy of the Year and let people know they can buy 'Lady Frances' at our plant sale. Our public relations department is working to get local and regional newspapers to write articles about the ivy collection, and, hopefully, that will come to fruition soon.

FUTURE PLANS

We plan to increase the numbers in the standard collection this year. Although no exact number has been set, I would like to aim for about 10 new cultivars. We hope to have better control over our outdoor collection this year by documenting what ivies are in the ground and by increasing the numbers planted. The participation in AIS hardiness trials will continue with an emphasis on trial protocol. The adult ivies will soon increase the value of our collection. Not only will LGBG have one of the largest, most accurate and complete collections of juvenile ivies, we will have one of the largest and complete collections of adult ivies. Our volunteers are planning to continue to use ivy production for their plant sales, and that should help raise the level of public awareness of new and interesting cultivars of ivy. And lastly, we hope for more publicity in a local and regional newspapers. In addition, my future plans include working with our interpretive coordinator to provide informational material on the ivy collection to hand out to our visitors. I am hoping to replace the labels used with the Standard Reference Collection to have unified and attractive labeling on all the pots.



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