

Ohio Hybridizers and Cultivars represented in the Heritage Garden

There have been many people in Ohio who have been very interested in and have become well known for creating cultivars of plants through hybridizing with human help or through selections from nature's handiwork.

Hybridizing is the process of creating new varieties from already established plants. It is achieved by combining the attributes of one plant with those of another. This is done by fertilizing one plant with pollen taken from another. This action is called a *cross*. The notation identifying a cross is written as *Plant A x Plant B*, in which Plant A is the "mother" of the new plant, i.e., the receiver of the pollen, also called the *seed parent*; and Plant B is the plant from which the pollen is taken, the "father" or *pollen parent*. The resulting *hybrid* is the product of the seed produced in the seed-bearing (mother) plant and will contain varying degrees of the attributes of both parents, yet is recognizably different from each. When these new plants are named and registered with their species organizations, a new cultivar will be born.

A new hybrid can be formed from human intervention or by carefully observing the results of nature. We have cultivars produced by both methods in the Heritage Garden.

Some have unknown discoverers and others are well documented.

Rebeckia laciniata, or **green-headed coneflower**, is thought to be the first plant in North America to be selected for a natural mutation. In this case colonists discovered a double flower plant and selected it for their gardens. It is named 'Golden glow' and can be seen in the Meadow Garden.

Another example of an early selection is the ***Hydrangea arborescens***, commonly known as **Smooth Hydrangea**, **Wild Hydrangea**, or **Sevenbark**, it is a small to medium sized, deciduous shrub up to 3 m tall that is native to the eastern United States. This attractive native shrub is often cultivated for ornamental use. 'Annabelle' is the best known cultivar of this species; it is one of the most cold hardy of the hydrangeas. The cultivar 'Grandiflora' has flowers that resemble snowballs, similar to *Viburnum plicatum*. 'Annabelle' can be seen in the garden between the pergola and the prairie. These are from Dawes Arboretum. Smooth hydrangea was used

medicinally by Native Americans, and later, by early settlers for treatment of kidney and bladder stones.

Alexander Livingston - Tomatoes

Alexander Livingston lived in Reynoldsburg, Ohio from 1821 to 1898. This seed gardener and developer, called the tomato man, improved wild tomatoes by selecting mutations for home growing and the agricultural industry. Alexander Livingston was a careful observer.

Livingston is credited with stabilizing and refining the wild strain of the tomato plant. By the 1840s and 1850s the tomato had developed into an important cash crop. There was a need to make them useful for home gardens and mass agricultural growing. Reynoldsburg hosts the Tomato Festival each year in Livingston's honor.

The tomato is a subtropical perennial treated as an annual and often referred to as a warm season crop. *Lycopersicon esculentum* is the botanical name for tomato and is part of the solanaceae family. Although the tomato is a fruit, for traditional, culinary, and economic reasons tomatoes are classified as a vegetable in the United States. Tomatoes grow in the vegetable garden at the Governor's Residence.

William Kreckler – Peonies

William Kreckler from Troy, Ohio hybridized the Peonies growing along the ADA walkway in the Peony Bed. Dr. and Mrs. Louis Gaker of Hamilton donated some and encouraged Kleim's Song Sparrow Nursery to donate other peonies to the Residence in September, 2004. The peonies in the Heritage Garden hybridized by Kreckler are Peonia 'Bride's Dream, P. 'Camden', P. 'Cincinnati', P. 'Early Bird', P. 'Gratis', P. 'Loves Touch', P. 'Lucky', P. 'Martha Reed', P. 'Miss America', P. 'Nice Gal', P. 'Springfield', and P. 'West Elkton'.

Kreckler, [1900- 2002], started breeding peonies with the purchase of seedlings. His first registered peony was in 1955 and he grew 1300 varieties until 1977 when he sold his entire peony plantation to Charles Klehm and Son Nursery. Kreckler's peonies were the result of human intervention.

For a complete listing of Kreckler hybridized peonies, go to:
http://www.paeon.de/navigation/bree_krekler.html

Mary Lou Gripshover – Daffodils

The mound under the crabapple trees behind the “To Life” sculpture is covered in daffodils that light up the area each spring. In 2004, Ohioans Mary Lou Gripshover of Milford, Leone Low of Yellow Springs, and Daniel Bellinger of Wadsworth gave the Heritage Garden some daffodil bulbs hybridized by them. These narcissus have names such as Ohio, Columbus, Queen City, Aviva, Golden Milestone, Sinai, Rita Dove and Final Curtain, which is the last to bloom each spring. Mary Lou Gripshover also developed one she named ‘Hope Taft’ and added it to this garden in 2006. Jill Griesse and her garden club in Newark OH added a cultivar named ‘Newark’. Ones raised by Marie Aull, creator of Aullwood in Dayton and others from Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown, have also been added. Northern Sea Oats cover the Daffodil Hill in the summer so their leaves can die down naturally.

Gripshover has raised daffodils for over 40 years. She grows 800 to 1,000 daffodils in her half-acre Milford yard. They are a combination of early-, mid- and late-season varieties that will bloom for about two months. Creating a new daffodil takes five-to-six-years from retrieving the seed to seeing a new blossom.

Daffodils come in a variety of sizes and colors. Some are fragrant. They have few pests and the bulbs are long-lived. Daffodil bulbs multiply and when the blooms become less frequent or lose their fragrance, it's time to divide the bulbs.

Daffodil tips from Mary Lou Gripshover, 2004 president of the American Daffodil Society:

Daffodil bulbs should be planted from mid-September until the ground freezes. If it doesn't rain, water the bulbs so the roots will start to grow before it freezes.

Plant only bulbs that feel firm.

Daffodils benefit from a low-nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-10) spread over the

bed in the fall and from fireplace ashes spread over the bed in late winter or spring.

After the daffodils finish blooming, wait six weeks before cutting back the foliage. Do not fold the foliage back and fasten it with a rubber band. In the meantime, plant annuals such as marigolds to hide the foliage.

To read more about Daffodils go to: www.daffodilusa.org

Tony and Dorothy Willott -Iris

Tony and Dorothy Willott of Cleveland hybridized, donated and planted all the Irises under the garden room window in the Iris Bed in 2005. They have bred Pumilas, Middle, Intermediate, and Tall Standard Bearded Iris (a row of each) that bloom in order from the shortest to the tallest. The Irises behind the Osage Orange bench near the Southern Magnolia were also bred by them; the darker flowered one is 'Governor Bob Taft' and the lighter blue one is 'First Lady Hope'.

Here is the list of the Iris planted by the Willotts under the garden room window.

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE IRIS GARDEN As of 13 September 2007

First row facing the house from left to right:

AZTEC GOWN (Willott 2006) IB-re 18 in, Gold
BUCKEYE BABY (Willott 1986) MDB 6 in, Yellow/Maroon
BLUE ASH (Willott 2001) MDB 6 in. White, blue spot
CROWN OF SNOW (Willott 2001) MDB 7 in. White/Maroon
OPAL BLUSH (Willott 2005) MDB-re 7 in. Blue, rose spot
WATERMARK (Willott 2001) MDB 7 in. White green rays
DRUID CIRCLE (Willott 2005) SDB 10 in. White, chartreuse spot
LITTLE DRUMMER BOY (Willott 1997) MDB 4 in. White, blue-violet spot
WEE NOBLE (Willott 1996) MDB 5 in. Deep purple
BURST OF BLUE (Willott 1997) MDB 4 in. White, blue spot
ORANGE ZEST (Willott 2006) SDB 9 in. Bright orange
APRICOT FANCY (Willott 2005) SDB 12 in. Apricot with light violet lines
BEACHWOOD BUZZ (Willott 1998) MDB 6 in. Beige, brown spot
WEE VIKING (Willott 2005) MDB 5 in. Yellow/brown with blue-violet beards
IVORY FASHION (Willott 1996) MDB 5 in. Cream, brown spot
MIDAS MITE (Willott 1985) MDB 6 in. Bright yellow bitone

Second row from left to right:

COOL MAID (Willott 1996) SDB 12 in. White/blue
DAINTY DESIGN (Willott 2004) SDB 13 in. Apricot/white with rose lines and edges
FLAMING EMBERS (Willott 2003) SDB 11 in. Golden tan, red spot
VELVET ECHO (Willott 2005) SDB-re 12 in. Deep purple
SHOUT (Willott 2002) SDB-re 11 in. White, violet spot
ENCHANTED PRINCESS (Willott 2003) SDB 14 in. Pink, blue-violet beards
MOLTEN LAVA (Willott 1992) SDB 11 in. Deep wine red, gold beards
DEWY FRESH (Willott 2004) SDB 12 in. Light blue, green wash
SABRINA'S KISS (Willott 1997) SDB 12 in. Pink, dotted and striped light red-violet
QUAIL HOLLOW (Willott 2001) SDB 9 in. Tan/brown
BLUE PERSIAN (Willott 2004) SDB 9 in. Medium blue
CAMEO CHARM (Willott 2003) SDB 11 in. Coral self

Third row from left to right:

NORDIC CRYSTAL (Willott 1987) IB 23 in. Pale blue self
MAGIC BUBBLES (Willott 1994) IB 24 in. Ruffled bright pink
RADIANT BURST (Willott 1994) IB 24 in. White heavily veined deep purple
VEGAS LIGHTS (Willott 1995) IB 21 in. Yellow/white edged yellow
DREAM WALTZ (Willott 1990) IB 19 in. Ruffled white, yellow beards
MALIBU WILDFIRE (Willott 1995) IB 27 in. Bright orange
BROWNBERRY (Willott 1987) BB 26 in. Creamy-white dotted and veined brown
NORTH COAST (Willott 1989) BB 27 in. Tan/cream edged tan
AURORA'S BLUSH (Willott 1993) IB 25 in. Bluish pink, orange beards tipped blue
MOON SPARKLE (Willott 1982) IB 22 in. Yellow/white edged yellow
PERSIAN WOOD (Willott 1996) IB 22 in. White dotted brown, violet-blue beards
ULTRALIGHT (Willott 1994) 20 in. White dotted and stitched light blue
MENTOR MARSH (Willott 2003) SDB-re 11 in. Yellow/red-brown
SILK AND VELVET (Willott 1992) SDB-re 10 in. Dainty deep purple

Fourth row from left to right:

PEPPER PIKE (Willott 1987) BB 20 in. Cream dotted gold/white edged brown
FESTIVE GLOW (Willott 1996) MTB 22 in. Bright orange-yellow/brownish red-violet
BUTTERFLY DANCE (Willott 2000) MTB 25 in. Medium blue-violet
REFLECTED SUNSET (Willott 2001) TB 32 in. Orange apricot
ICE GODDESS (Willott 1994) TB 34 in. Ruffled white, red-orange beards
MASTER GARDENER (Willott 1991) TB 38 in. Soft peach-pink
VATICAN FLAG (Willott 2005) TB 38 in. White, falls edged yellow, ruffled
DEARLY BELOVED (Willott 1994) TB 35 in. Ruffled pink
PEACH CURLS (Willott 2000) TB 36 in. Ruffled peach
LOVER'S CONCERTO (Willott 2001) TB 36 in. Orange
CHERRY BERRY (Willott 2003) MTB 21 in. Soft red-violet
VIRGINIA LYLE (Willott 1994) MTB 24 in. Light violet
ALPINE VISTA (Willott 2002) MDB 6 in. White/blue-violet

Some of the rows may not be exactly straight.

In 2007, the Willotts replaced some that had died and added a few to the original planting.

Horace and Sue Wright -Iris -

These iris were hybridized by Horace [HW] and Sue Wright [SW] and Earl Hall [EH] of Bellbrook, Ohio over a 30 year period. Horace was the nephew of Orville and Wilbur Wright, inventors of flight, of Dayton, Ohio. Sue continued to register Horace's irises even after his death in 1988 until shortly before her death in 1999 at the age of 96. A garden devoted to their iris is at the Bellbrook Historical Society Museum. The Wright irises in the Heritage Garden were donated and planted by the Bellbrook Garden Club in 2009.

Wright Iris included in the Heritage Garden at the Governor's Residence:

1. "Evelyn Warlick" HW, RE, yellow, named for long-time friend, registered by Susan Blair Wright in 1990.
2. "Wright Flyer" HW, RE, Misty white top, dark blue fall with white beard, registered in 1990 by Susan Blair Wright.
3. "Olympic White" HW, planted Spring, 1999, no description or registration date available.
4. "Brass Ring" HW, very short, brassy gold, added to the Bellbrook garden in 2006, from members who had received this as a gift from Sue Wright in early 1990's.
5. "Many Moons" HW, delicate yellow & white, registered 1972.
6. "Yankee Boy" HW, vivid, bright purple, added to garden in 2006, from members who had received this as a gift from Sue Wright in early 1990's.
7. "Happy Returns" HW, RE, misty blue, registered 1972.
8. "Late Magic" HW, RE, short, dark blue edge with white, late, registered 1983.
9. "Launching Pad", EH, hybridized by Earl Hall, longtime friend of Horace Wright, pale lavender.
10. "Final Fling" HW, RE, white top, pale lavender fall, yellow beard, first rebloomer, registered 1972.

11. “Bus’s Spirit” – Volunteer, plicata (purple & white) found in woods behind Wright’s home and named by Sue. Bus was Horace’s nickname.
12. “Starchy Sue” HW, misty blue, ruffled, very fragrant, Horace’s first hybrid, named for his wife, Susan Blair Wright, registered in 1962.
13. Golden Encore, HW, light orange top, dark purple /orange fall, orange beard, tall.

Dewey Hollister - Ammon’s Blue Passion Flower

Dewey Hollister and his young daughter, Ammon, liked to eat passion fruit in the yard of their New Richmond home and spit the many seeds out where ever they were. Some of these grew into plants and one was noticed to have larger parts and deeper blue flowers than the original native species. Hollister selected this one to reproduce and named it ‘Ammon’s Blue’ after his daughter. ‘Ammon’s Blue’ can be seen on the warm east wing residence Wall Garden with the crossvine. Both species are native of the Bluegrass Region of the state.

Bill Hendricks – ‘Lemon Drop’ *Cornus drummondii*

The rough-leaved dogwood, ‘Lemon Drop’, is a yellow-flowering, yellow-berried form of a northern rough-leaved dogwood *Cornus drummondii*. ‘Lemon Drop’ was discovered by Bill Hendricks of Klyn’s Nursery in Lake County and given to the Tafts by the residence staff for Christmas 2004. The *Cornus drummondii* was named for Thomas Drummond, [ca.1790-1835] a Scotsman who came to America to discover and describe New World plants.

From Bill Hendricks

“*Cornus drummondii* is a native dogwood that can be grown both as a small rounded tree and as a large multiple stem shrub. The tree produces clusters of small white flowers in late spring followed by white fruit ripening in August and lasting into October. The upper surface of the foliage is slightly rough to the touch giving the plant its common name of **Rough Leaved Dogwood**. It can be found native in western Ohio especially in alkaline areas in northwest Ohio. The dogwood can be grown in full sun or partial shade at the edge of a wooded area on well drained sites and is adaptable to both acid and alkaline soils.

The cultivar Lemon Drops™ was found growing as a seedling among a nursery planting of the species at Klyn Nurseries in Perry, Ohio. The tree has the same general

characteristics of the species but with clusters of soft yellow flowers followed by clusters of soft yellow fruit that adorn the tree like lemon drops. The fruit remains showy from mid to late August into October and is attractive to birds. The red pedicels (stems of the fruit) turn a showy red and remain effective against a background of fall foliage in shades of red and burgundy.

Both the species and Lemon Drops™ can be used near a deck or patio, in a container or planter, as a specimen or small under the wire street tree.”

The Melrose apple, *Malus domestica* ‘Melrose’ was selected as a seedling from the Red Delicious and Jonathan apples in Wooster, Ohio at the Experiment Station that is part of OSU. It was introduced in 1944 and is called the ‘official apple of Ohio’. Melrose is one of the most productive apples. It is just about the last apple to bloom and is a good desert apple. The tree is easy to maintain. This apple tree can be found on the fruit tree mound outside the greenhouse in the Heritage Garden. It is more popular in Europe than in the United States.

Siebenthaler- Moraine, thorn less honey locust

The ‘Moraine’ variety of honey locust was the first thorn less cultivar of the original thorn less tree to be patented [1949 by Siebenthaler Nursery in Dayton] Moraine honeylocust trees mature to a height of 40 feet. Along with being thorn less, Moraine honeylocust do not produce seedpods. Mature trees develop a wide-spreading open crown and have dark green leaves that turn golden yellow in the fall. The Moraine variety of honeylocust is highly resistance to insect attack. Bob Seibenthaler spoke about the process this way:

- 1) The locust is thorn less & has no pods
- 2) It was the first patented tree. , Patent number 836
- 3) All previous patents were only fruits and roses
- 4) This tree is vase shaped
- 5) A local (in Dayton Rotary) attorney was the person who handled the process
- 6) A huge advantage to the tree is that grass will grow underneath it.
- 7) Because the leaves are so small, it requires no fall raking of the leaves
- 8) There is no strong fall color. The leaves simply turn yellow and fall off.

An example of the ‘Moraine’ honeylocust was planted during the O’Neill administration in what is now the Governors’ Grove near the Woodland

Garden. The O'Neills were the first Governor's family to live in this home. The tree marker for this native tree cultivar reads:

- N Honeylocust – *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*
- planted by
 - Gov. and Mrs. C. William O'Neill
 - 1957-1959

**Dr. John Pottschmitt - All-American Rose Selection[AARS] rose
“Dream Come True”**

Carl Meyer – All-American Rose Selection [AARS] rose ‘Portrait’

The Rose Garden at the Ohio Governor's Residence by John T. Dickman

First planted by the last private owners, Florence and William Carlile, in the 1940's, the roses were replanted during the Celeste Administration. It was in great need of restoration some 20 years later during the Taft Administration.

The revitalization of the rose garden at the Governor's Residence in 2005 was greatly aided by the generous donation of one hundred and twenty rose bushes by Weeks Roses of Upland, California, and its Director of Research and hybridizer, Mr. Tom Carruth.

For some sixty-eight years Weeks Roses has produced many of the most outstanding and enduring rose cultivars that inhabit the rose gardens of the world. In 1937 Ollie Weeks and his wife, Verona, started a business in Ontario, California, out of Ollie's love of roses. For nearly fifty years Weeks hybridized or introduced through cooperative efforts with rose breeders throughout the world a succession of award-winning varieties, many of which are now represented in the Governor's Residence Rose Garden. Over the years fifteen varieties that have either been hybridized by or introduced by Weeks Roses have been granted the prestigious All-America Rose Selection (AARS) award. Four of these varieties ('About Face,' 'Hot Cocoa,' 'Betty Boop,' and 'Memorial Day'), hybridized by Tom Carruth, received the award within the past six years and are growing in the Residence Garden.

Ollie Weeks sold his business in 1985, but the name was retained and Weeks Roses continues to be a major creator of new varieties and supplier of roses to nurseries, garden centers, and landscapers throughout the country.

ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS

All-America Rose Selections, Inc. (AARS) is a non-profit association of rose producers and introducers of the United States founded in 1938 to evaluate newly hybridized varieties and to award prestigious recognition to those found most worthy. AARS does not market roses but has established twenty test gardens throughout the United States, representing the wide range of climatic and soil conditions. AARS cooperates with the American Rose Society (ARS), although there is no official link between them. Candidate specimens are grown in the test gardens for two years. The roses receive no more special care in these gardens than they would in the average homeowner's garden. They are evaluated four times during the 2-year period for such characteristics as plant vigor, growth habit, hardiness, disease resistance, foliage, bloom production, bud and flower form, opening and finishing color, fragrance, stem strength, novelty, and overall value. The winning of an AARS award is considered to be the equivalent of an Olympic Gold Medal in the rose world.

CREATING A WINNER

The creation of a new, award-winning hybrid rose can take nine to eleven years of development and testing. The experience described by Weeks Roses is typical of this long and arduous journey, which begins with the selection of some 125 potential parent plants. These plants are grown in pots in a greenhouse in the first year of the journey. In 4 – 8 weeks the parental candidates produce their first blooms.

Because the rose flower is hermaphroditic, that is, bears both male (stamens/anthers) and female (pistils/stigmas) reproductive organs, precautions must be taken to assure that the flowers do not self-pollinate. For the plants that have been chosen to become the seed parent, the stamens and anthers bearing the pollen are removed and stored in painstakingly labeled petri dishes. There the pollen is dried and stored for possible future use.

The emasculated flower now bears only the female stigma, the pollen-receiving, seed-producing organ of the bloom. In about a day the stigma

begins to secrete a sticky substance that will capture and nourish the pollen that has been selected as the male parent.

Pollen grains from the selected male parent are applied very carefully by means of a soft, camel-hair brush to the stigma of the selected female parent, and the fertilized bloom is enclosed in a plastic bag to prevent stray pollen from contaminating the cross. The pollination procedure is conducted from April to mid-July. In three to four weeks following pollination, the rose hip, then pod containing the rose seeds, begins to swell and ripen throughout the summer. They are harvested from August through September.

The harvested hips are placed in a blender with water and pulsed to remove the seeds, which are very hard and easily withstand the force of the blender. In fact, the slight scarring that the blender inflicts on the seed coat is beneficial in promoting the germination of the seed. The seeds are wrapped in moist paper toweling, placed in plastic bags, and held at 32°F for 6 weeks to simulate winter.

After the winterization, the seeds are treated with a fungicide and are planted in raised beds of freshly prepared soil in the greenhouse. Some 850 pollen crossings from which come some 200,000 seeds for planting are made each year by Weeks Roses. On average, 40% of the seeds will germinate and begin to bloom in 4 – 6 weeks. Blooms are small, color is imperfect, but the trained eye of the expert hybridizer can already spot the blooms that have the potential to be a winner. Diseased seedlings are quickly discarded. Of the 200,000 seeds planted in any one year, 800 – 1,000 are selected for further consideration.

Three to five years later, perhaps ten to twelve specimens remain for further evaluation. The most promising of these “babies” are sent to the AARS test gardens around the country for their two-year residence and testing. Fingers are crossed and hopes are high that perhaps three or four of them might be deemed commercially worthy, and that just maybe one or more might earn the AARS “Gold.”

It will now take an additional two to three years to propagate a sufficient supply of the winner(s) for the commercial market. Nine to eleven years — a long and arduous journey but well worth the trip!

Ohio is lucky to have two AARS award winning amateur rose growers and they both are represented in the Heritage Garden. Dr. John Pottschmitt from Cincinnati created the All-American Rose Selection [AARS] rose “Dream Come True” and Carl Meyer from Blue Jay, near Cincinnati, hybridized the All-American Rose Selection [AARS] rose ‘Portrait’.

Weeks roses in the first planting in the Heritage Garden during the Taft Administration in 2005.

Grandifloras, Rosas ‘About Face’, R. ‘Honey Dijon’, R. ‘October Fest’
Floribundas, Rosas ‘Lavaglut’, R. ‘Top Notch’, R. ‘Betty Bloop’, R. ‘Easy Going’, R. ‘George Burns’, R. ‘Goldmarie’, R. ‘Lime Sublime’, R. ‘Pretty Lady’, R. ‘Hot Cocoa’

Hybrid Teas, Rosas ‘Barbara Streisand’, R. ‘Chris Evert’, R. ‘Crowd Pleaser’, R. ‘Liebeszauber’, R. ‘Marilyn Monroe’, R. ‘Mellow Yellow’, R. ‘Memorial Day’, R. ‘Moonstone’, R. ‘Neptune’, R. ‘Rosie O’Donnel’,
Shrubs, Rosas ‘Midnight Blue’, R. ‘Outta The Blue’

Dr. James Brown -Canaan fir

Dr. James Brown, Research Forester at OARDC in Wooster did all the original research work on the Canaan fir. Brown is considered "The Father of Canaan". Scientifically, Canaan is a sub species of Balsam Fir and a "cousin" of Fraser Fir. Canaan is an All Ohio Product with West Virginia "roots". Some of the parent seeds were collected in the Canaan Valley of West Virginia. Dr. Brown is a Yale and Michigan State educated native of W.Va. By an Act of the Ohio Legislature in the early 1970's, funds were granted to establish a Christmas Tree Research Position at OARDC. Out of that action the "seeds for Canaan" were sown. Following up on Jim Brown's work, Jack Schmidt, Timbuk Farms, Inc. of Granville, OH and Darwin Pound of Pound's Nursery, St. Louisville, OH commercialized this "new tree". Brown estimates he "invested" \$50,000 to \$100,000 in the project, which ultimately created in excess of \$100,000,000 farm gate receipts from Christmas Tree growers nationwide. At age 75+, Dr. Brown is still actively engaged in managing five Canaan Fir seed orchards located at the Wooster Campus of OARDC, North Appalachian Experimental Watershed and the Pomerane Forest Research Lab, both near Coshocton Ohio. As a "variety" of the balsam fir, the Canaan has three outstanding characteristics: the ability of tolerate less well drained soils than Fraser firs, a late spring bud break [avoiding frost kill back of new growth] and more branches per foot of stem, resulting in a much denser looking tree. The Canaan fir in the Heritage Garden has this name plate and is planted in along the Maryland Avenue fence.

Canaan Fir – *Abies x intermedia* ‘Canaan’
eighth and last holiday “giving tree”

Gov. and Mrs. Bob Taft, 2006

There is a brief OSU/OARDC research summary of
Canaan http://ohioline.osu.edu/rb1191/1191_3.html.

Japanese Cherry Trees

Nellie Taft tree, Sister City Tree, Japan gift tree

A Gift from Japan --

Seedlings were available to communities hosting 2003 Tree City USA ceremonies.

Continuing the gesture of international friendship started by his great-grandfather President William Howard Taft, Governor Bob Taft planted a dogwood tree outside Japan's Upper House of Parliament in 2000. In thanks, the people of Japan gave Governor Taft two cherry trees along with thousands of cherry seeds.

The two trees were planted on the statehouse grounds, while the seeds were germinated at a state nursery. Governor and Mrs. Taft made these seedlings available to Ohio communities hosting the 2003 Tree City USA Awards Ceremonies.

The year-old seedlings are Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*, Rehder). It is a deciduous tree hardy to zone 5, reaching 25 to 40' tall, with an equal spread. It has a medium to rapid growth rate, with a yellow, orange, or red fall color. The single flowers are pink and up to 1.5" in diameter. The fruit is a red to black drupe approximately .5" in diameter. Although not ornamentally important, the fruit will attract birds. It grows in full sun and tolerates a wide variety of soils.

Sargent Cherry is one of the several species that make Washington D.C.'s Annual Cherry Blossom Festival colorful.

The last two of these seedling trees were planted in the Heritage Garden in 2006 at the southern corners of the Family Patio.

The Nellie Taft Yoshino Cherry tree was a clone taken by the US Department of Agriculture's National Park Service and given to the Heritage Garden through the efforts of the Schedel Foundation and Gardens of Elmore, Ohio in 2000. It is a Yoshino Cherry, *Prunus x yedoensis*. After one shipment of trees had to be destroyed, the original tree of this clone was planted by US First Lady Nellie Taft on March 27, 1912 in West Potomac Park. She planted the first cherry tree in an area located several hundred yards to the west of the statue to John Paul Jones. Mrs. Taft then invited Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador to the United States at the time, to plant the second tree. Four years later, 99% of the trees planted around the Tidal Basin were well established and blooming each spring. The first commemoration of the original planting was held in 1927. The second commemoration was a three day affair in 1935. These were the beginnings of the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. It is the focal point on the south side of the Family Patio.