

DELAWARE
ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN
Plant of the Year

This year marks Delaware's First Annual Plant of the Year selection. The 1995 plants are: *Magnolia virginiana* and *Coreopsis verticillata*.

Magnolia virginiana

(Sweetbay Magnolia)

An elegant specimen plant for the patio, pool or smaller yard. This multistemmed small tree with its open, upright spreading habit offers creamy white, 2- to 3-inch flowers continuously all summer. The flower is prized for its sweet fragrance, and the plant also provides dark red fruit and seeds in late summer. At home in full sun or moderate shade, *M. virginiana* is adapted to most soils, especially wet or even swampy sites, and will tolerate heavy clay soils often found in Delaware. Rick Darke, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens, says, "Magnolia virginiana is a key ornamental anchor for wet sites in this area. Combined with other wet-site natives such as *Clethra alnifolia*, *Ilex verticillata*, *Itea virginica*, *Lobelia cardinalis* and *Viburnum nudum* 'Winterthur,' gardeners will have a successful year-round wet-site landscape."



Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'

(Moonbeam Coreopsis or Tickseed)

Provides a summer-long display of yellow, one-inch, daisy-like flowers on slender stems above a round pillow of lacy green foliage. Sometimes known as Threadleaf Coreopsis, this herbaceous perennial grows best in full sun and is quite drought resistant. Reaching a height of 18 to 24 inches in a rounded clump, it is equally at home in the perennial border, a wildflower garden or a naturalized setting. According to John Frett of the University of Delaware Botanic Gardens, "It is a wonderful complement to coarser textured plants with blue flowers such as *Lobelia siphilitica* and *Salvia farinacea*."



UNIQUE PLANTS FOR
DELAWARE LANDSCAPES