

1996

DELAWARE
ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN
Plant of the Year

This year marks Delaware Association of Nurserymen's Second Annual Plant of the Year selections.

The 1996 plants are: *Echinacea purpurea* 'Bright Star' and *Viburnum nudum* 'Winterthur'. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

Echinacea purpurea 'Bright Star'

(Purple Coneflower)

A native perennial to the United States, this hardy plant has proven to be easy to grow in many conditions. The pink-purple flowers give a long lasting display from summer into fall. The blooms are held above the dark green foliage. Obtaining a height of 30-36" tall it can be utilized in the back of the perennial border or in a naturalized wildflower garden. As with most coneflowers the *Echinacea* grows best in full sun and once established it can tolerate quite dry conditions. The pink-purple bloom color mixes well with blue and burgundy and ornamental grasses in the landscape. The seed head cones add interest to the winter landscape.



Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur'

(Winterthur Viburnum)

An excellent plant for Delaware, this hardy native was selected and named at Winterthur Gardens, Wilmington, DE. This shrub provides year round beauty with the ornamental features of flowers, glossy foliage, fruit set, and fantastic fall leaf color. Reaching a size of 6 feet tall with 4 to 5 foot spread makes 'Winterthur' an important viburnum for the smaller garden. The lustrous green leaves provide a backdrop for the creamy white flowers in June and the fruit set in late summer persisting into January. The 1/4" fruit change color as they mature starting as pink then blue hues appear, often with various colors in the same cluster. Autumn leaf color is outstanding turning from green to a deep burgundy with the foliage often persisting into December. This native shrub is usually found in wet woodlands, but the selection 'Winterthur' can be grown successfully in various conditions from full sun to even dry conditions.

UNIQUE PLANTS FOR

DELAWARE LANDSCAPES

