

1998

DELAWARE  
ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN  
*Plant of the Year*

This year marks Delaware Association of Nurserymen's Fourth Annual Plant of the Year selection.

The 1998 plants are: *Amsonia montana* (Dwarf Blue Star) and *Fothergilla gardenii* (Dwarf Fothergilla). These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

*Amsonia montana (Dwarf Blue Star)*

This native perennial's unique qualities of rapid spring emergence, blue flowers, compact vertical form and fall color make it a multi-season dazzler. Once *Amsonia* breaks dormancy, it shoots energetically upward forming a strong upright clump one to two feet tall. In late spring, sparkling sky-blue star-shaped flowers float atop the leaves. "It makes a fabulous cut flower," says extension specialist, Sue Barton. In the fall, the foliage is a glowing golden yellow. Plant in moist soils and partial shade to full sun. *Amsonia* has no serious pests. It is a lovely bridging plant between spring and summer, with a grand fall finale.

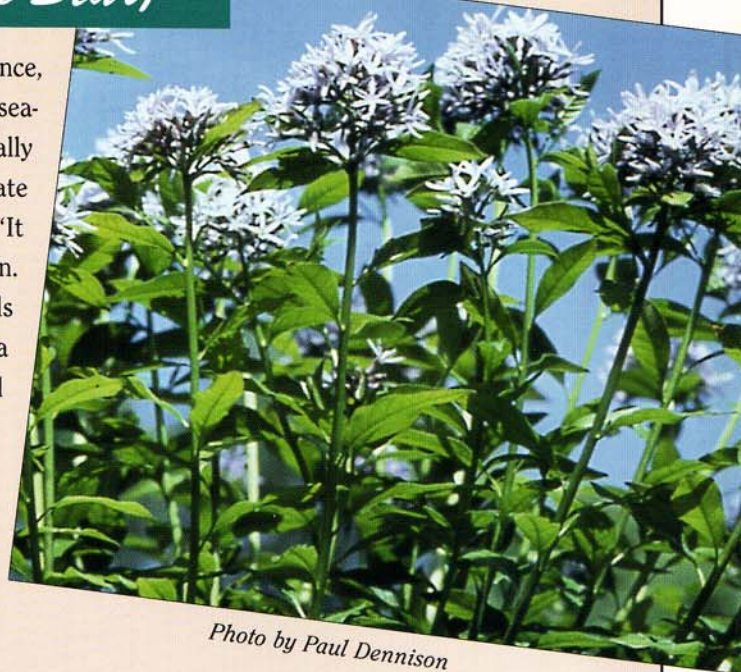


Photo by Paul Dennison

*Fothergilla gardenii (Dwarf Fothergilla)*

*Fothergilla* is an excellent native American deciduous shrub. It grows to a height of 3 to 4 feet and maintains an attractive compact habit. White, fragrant flowers are borne in 1 to 2 inch spikes from April to to early May.

The textured oval leaves turn brilliant shades of wine, orange, and yellow to provide a rich fall display. It may even have multiple colors on one leaf. *Fothergilla* grows best in part shade, but for an intense fall display, full sun and moist soils are a necessity. *Fothergilla* has no serious pests. This small shrub combines well with heather, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Include *Fothergilla* in your garden for its interesting flowers, good summer foliage and outstanding fall color.

UNIQUE PLANTS FOR

DELAWARE LANDSCAPES



Photos by Rick Darke

