

2003

DELAWARE
NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION
Plant of the Year

This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association's Ninth Annual Plant of the Year selection.

The 2003 Herbaceous plant is *Amsonia hubrichtii*. The 2003 Woody plant is *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Yoshino'. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.



Photo by Rick Darke

Amsonia hubrichtii

Narrow leaf blue star was discovered in 1942 in Arkansas by Leslie Hubricht. While not a Delaware native, its golden fall color blends charmingly with the blues and purples of our native asters. *Amsonia* is an upright, bushy perennial that thrives in full sun or part shade. The foliage is narrow, lacy and almost threadlike. Clusters of sky blue flowers emerge atop the foliage when it

breaks ground in April, and continue blooming into May. The foliage adds a delicate texture to the garden. But, the real reason to grow this *Amsonia* is for the stunning golden fall foliage. A drift of *Amsonia* can brighten any fall garden.



Photo by Rick Darke

Cryptomeria japonica
'Yoshino'

'Yoshino' is a handsome cultivar of the Japanese cedar. It has rich bright blue summer foliage that becomes slightly bronze-green in cold weather. 'Yoshino' grows fast and develops a graceful, pyramidal form with little to no pruning. While not a native species, it blends well with our natives having a form similar to Eastern red cedar. It does not seem to be bothered by deer and tolerates light shade so it can be used as either a specimen tree or an evergreen screen.



Photo by Susan Barton