

2004

DELAWARE  
NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION  
*Plant of the Year*

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

The 2004 Herbaceous plant is *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*. The 2004 Woody plant is *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem'. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*

This 12" tall spreading ground cover has intense, dark-blue flowers in summer to late autumn. When the flowers drop they leave behind a collar of maroon sepals that are also showy. Fall color is a wonderful bronze-red. This underused ground cover thrives in sun to part shade. *Ceratostigma* works well with spring bulbs because the foliage emerges late in the spring, allowing the bulbs to take center stage and then providing good coverage for the leaves of fading bulbs.



Photo by Susan Barton

*Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'*

This evergreen magnolia has lustrous dark green leaves and creamy white beautifully fragrant flowers. Dirr claims the fragrance is "better than the best perfume." 'Little Gem' is the smallest cultivar available growing to 20' high by 10' wide in 20 years. It can be grown as a single specimen or treated as a medium-sized screen or hedge. Leaves are smaller than the species (4") and flowers are smaller (3-4") but are borne at a young age. 'Little Gem' will flower continuously from May through October, but flower production slackens in the height of summer heat. This is a Zone 7 plant and should be planted in a protected spot in Northern Delaware.



Photo by Monrovia

Photo by Horticipia, Inc.

UNIQUE PLANTS FOR DELAWARE LANDSCAPES

