This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association’s Eighteenth Annual Plant of the Year selection. The 2012 Herbaceous plant is *Dryopteris erythrosora*. The 2012 Woody plant is *Chionanthus virginicus*. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

### Dryopteris erythrosora

A winner in the moist woodland or shade garden, the autumn fern is an arching, semi-evergreen, vase-shaped fern. New fronds unfurl a striking shade of copper-pink before eventually maturing to glossy deep green by summer. Plants slowly spread over time by short creeping rhizomes creating a striking groundcover when massed. The autumn fern grows in medium to wet soils, in part shade to full shade, reaching a height of 1.5-2’.

### Chionanthus virginicus

The fringetree is a deciduous native large shrub or small tree known for its airy panicles of fragrant, white fringe-like flowers in May. Clusters of dark blue fruit (if you get a female plant) ripen in late summer, providing a food source for birds and wildlife. Most often multi-stemmed, it grows at a slow to moderate rate reaching a height of 12-20’ with an equal spread. Fringetree is easily grown in full sun to part shade in moist well-drained soil. But it will also tolerate extremely dry conditions. It is well-suited to urban sites because of its pollution tolerance. Plant in groups or as specimens in the lawn, or in the shrub or woodland border.