This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association’s Twentieth Annual Plant of the Year selection. The 2014 Herbaceous plant is *Polystichum acrostichoides*. The 2014 Woody plant is *Acer griseum*. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

### Polystichum acrostichoides  
**Christmas Fern**

This fern is best grown in organically rich, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. It will tolerate a dry site better than most ferns. Christmas fern is a local native that looks great in woodland gardens, shade gardens or shady areas of borders, wild or native plant gardens. It’s a good plant for massing on slopes (including dryish, rocky ones) to help combat soil erosion. Christmas fern typically grows in a fountain-like clump to 2’ tall and features leathery, lance-shaped, evergreen (green at Christmas time as the common name suggests) fronds. There are no serious insect or disease problems. But, avoid planting in poorly drained soils. Another big benefit in our area is like all ferns, Christmas fern is deer resistant.

### Acer griseum  
**Paperbark Maple**

This small tree grows in moist, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. It has an oval to oval-rounded habit and is known for its peeling, cinnamon to reddish brown bark. Trifoliate leaves are dark green, but turn red in the fall. Its seed is a two winged samara. It has no serious disease or pest problems. Paperbark maple is a slow grower (6 inches - 12 inches per year), reaching 30 feet at maturity, and is ideal for small properties. It makes an excellent specimen tree and is appropriate as an understory tree in a woodland garden.