

2019

DELAWARE

NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

*Plant of the Year*

This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association's Twenty-Fifth Annual Plant of the Year selection. The 2019 Herbaceous plant is *Packera aurea*. The 2019 Woody plant is *Physocarpus opulifolius*. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

*Physocarpus opulifolius*      Ninebark

Common ninebark is an excellent native shrub for year-round interest. White flowers appear in dense, spirea-like clusters in spring, and give way to clusters of reddish-pink capsules. The clusters eventually turn brown and persist into the winter. The leaves are yellow in the fall. Named for its unusual bark which peels in strips to reveal several layers of reddish to light brown inner bark, ninebark is a popular 'winter interest' shrub. Arching branches give this shrub a mounded habit, and in groups it makes an excellent hedge and provides good erosion control. Bees are frequent pollinators of ninebark. Ninebark grows in full sun to partial shade and has few disease or insect problems. It can be cut back to the ground in late fall for complete rejuvenation.



Photo courtesy of Rick Darke

*Packera aurea*      Golden Ragwort

*Packera aurea* has the unfortunate common name of golden ragwort. It is none-the-less a vigorous and useful native perennial that thrives in moist shady (or sunny) locations, naturalizes rapidly and produces a long and profuse spring bloom. Flat-topped clusters (corymbs) of yellow, daisy-like flowers create blankets of yellow in the early spring landscape. Once it flowers, it is best to cut off the spent flower heads, so you can enjoy the dense groundcover of heart-shaped, toothed, dark green leaves that often have a purplish tinge beneath. Synonymous with and still frequently sold as *Senecio aureus*.



Photo courtesy of Rick Darke



Photo courtesy of Sue Barton