

2024



This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association's Thirtieth Annual Plant of the Year selection. The 2024 Herbaceous plant is *Chrysanthemum 'Hillside Sheffield Pink'*. The 2024 Woody plant is *Aesculus parviflora*. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

Chrysanthemum 'Hillside Sheffield Pink' Mum



Photo courtesy of Robert Lyons

Just as the garden is beginning to look tired, *Chrysanthemum 'Hillside Sheffield Pink'* (also known as 'Sheffield Pink') comes to the rescue with its profuse bloom of single daisy-like apricot pink flowers with golden yellow centers from late summer to frost. Flowers are attractive to butterflies. This tough perennial typically grows 2-3' tall and as wide, and is clump-forming. As clumps expand, 'Sheffield Pink' works as an effective groundcover. It's best grown in moist well-drained soil in full sun. Pinch stems back as needed from late spring to mid-summer to control height and to encourage bushy vegetative growth. Can be divided every 2-3 years in spring or fall.

Aesculus parviflora Bottlebrush Buckeye



Photo courtesy of Rick Darke

Bottlebrush buckeye is a mound-shaped, dense, thicket-forming, deciduous shrub recognized for being one of the best summer-flowering shrubs for shade areas. It will grow 8-12' tall and equally as wide. Mature clumps sucker at the base forming a groundcover below the taller shrub, so you get two plants in one! Native to the southeast, but extremely hardy in Delaware, *Aesculus parviflora* works well as an understory planting in woodland gardens, as a specimen plant, or in a shrub border. Palmately-compound leaves (5-7 leaflets) stay attractive all year turning from dark-green to an attractive yellow in fall. Summer bloom can be quite spectacular featuring upright panicles (to 12" long) of tubular white flowers with extruded red stamens. Flowers are followed by the nut called a buckeye and are not edible. Shrubs grown further north don't produce many fruits.



Photo courtesy of Rick Darke

UNIQUE PLANTS FOR DELAWARE LANDSCAPES